

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, February 28, 1975

No pollution in sight

Abracadabra! Idaho Power cleans up stacks

"Our truth of nowadays is not what is, but what others can be convinced of; just as we call 'money' not only that which is legal, but also any counterfeit that will pass."

—Montaigne 1578

by Jeffrey Fereday

Selling a coal-fired power plant to the public is anything but easy. They are an expensive product, unsightly, polluting, and controversial. They give local planners fits. Advertising to promote such an enormous undertaking requires lots of money. It is different than selling Wonderbread or encyclopedias or going door-to-door for a brush company. The concepts are tricky. It's best if you can keep the issues simple and can avoid advertising certain facts. In promoting their Pioneer plant, for instance, Idaho Power Company has chosen to sell us on the idea of the "clear stack," and they have gone out of their way to make it easy for us to understand.

In Idaho Power's "This Is Pioneer" brochure, a confident and ever-smiling Reddy Kilowatt perches on an electrostatic precipitator, his three-fingered hand raised toward a drawing of a smokestack. The smokestack is labeled "99 plus % clean," and we are assured that "electricity and the environment can be compatible." Reading further in the pamphlet, we find that electrostatic precipitators, the only kind of pollution control equipment proposed for Pioneer, are each "larger than a football field" and have "more than 26 acres of dust-collecting plate surface." It's all very nice. Simple.

Within the last six months, over 200 people from Southern Idaho have been flown to the Jim Bridger power plant near Rock Springs, Wyo. Labor leaders, businessmen, farmers, and town mayors have been taken along to witness the miracle of the "clear stacks" at the plant. The pilgrimage is conducted by company officials who are interested in impressing people with the antipollution equipment used at Bridger. Electrostatic precipitators used at Bridger are essentially the same as those to be installed in Pioneer, and its coal has generally the same chemical properties as the coal to be mined for use in Pioneer. These devices do indeed remove over 99% by weight of the particulates coming up the stack. They remove the blackness from the stack gas. But what really comes out of that stack?

A letter from Norman A. Huey, chief of the Technical Support Section of the Environmental Protection Agency's Denver office, dated December 4, 1974, explains what actually does come out of those clear Bridger stacks. Consider EPA's findings. "Current emissions from Unit Number 1 (500 megawatts) are these: Particulates — 325 lbs/hr., SO₂ — 5874 lbs/hr., NO_x — 3514 lbs/hr. These

(Continued on page 4)



DANGEROUS AIR? Above is the Four Corners power plant near Fruitland, N.M. Laymen tend to measure air pollution by the volume of smoke they can see coming out of stacks. Idaho Power Company is using that tendency to try to fool the people of the state into welcoming a power plant to Boise, claims Idaho environmentalist Jeff Fereday.

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The staff at the office. From top left Mary Margaret Davis, Marge Higley, Joan Nice, Marjane Ambler, and Bruce Hamilton.

This list of Friends of High Country News includes everyone who has made a monetary contribution to the paper since our last report to the stockholders (see back page).

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"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, NOTICE HOW CLEAN OUR STACKS ARE OF VISIBLE POLLUTANTS... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN? LADIES?"

Letters

YANKEE INGENUITY

Dear HCN:

The question of conservation of energy is one of the major topics dominating national discussion, although not in the context of which I write. Inasmuch as beneficial tax depletion allowances are now granted for mineral fuels consumption, I urge that the proposition be advanced that development of solar and other non-mineral energy sources should receive equal state and national priority through equal tax benefit consideration. A tax benefit granted to non-mineral energy application will serve to give real support to newly developed non-mineral energy sources.

What seems to be the most generally accepted panacea to the "energy shortage" is to let the people in Washington solve the problem through expenditure of untold sums of money for various "studies" ad nauseam. Whereas, I suggest that the home heating problems (and perhaps others) will be solved, when they are solved, by the person with an idea in his home workshop.

It might just come about like Zing Gone Zing. He started out to make an overcoat and wound up with an umbrella. This is not to say that the thousands of inventors and people with ideas will accidentally discover many and varied solutions possible, but none the less, it's a thought. The problem is not going to be solved by all of us sitting around and waiting for Washington to solve it.

The tax benefits can apply to construction of housing when solar or other recognized energy sources are used as the primary heating unit in any structure. Adequate controls and fixed energy unit values could be easily determined by application of the standard b.t.u. readings.

For example, the solar heating unit designed and built into a new dwelling may, in the early stages, cost the purchaser more than presently charged by the trade for a standard forced-air system. A "promotion allowance" (rather than a "depletion" allowance for mineral fuels) would act as a powerful incentive to builders and consumers alike. Also, the builder could be required to pass a portion of his tax credit on to the consumer. It is important that both the consumer and the builder be vitally interested in adopting new forms of energy for heating.

A national award system could likewise be established which would save our consumers millions of dollars by the federal and state governments cooperating in what might be even termed a "contest." This could be done by establishing an award system whereby a person developing a unique and non-mineral consuming form of energy would be required to actually demonstrate the feasibility of his idea or device for a certain period of time, perhaps for six months. If the idea or device proved practical, the person developing the thought would be entitled to an award, special financing for manufacture, or a tax deductible allowance to provide real incentive to carry on the work.



Guest Editorial



N. M. air regs—a victim of political force

Reprinted from the New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water Newsletter, Feb. 1975.
by John Bartlit

The most notable environmental event of 1974 in New Mexico, to me, was the rehearing and overturning of N. M. sulfur dioxide standards at the request of Kennecott Copper Corp. The history was that the Environmental Improvement Board had weighed three thick volumes of technical evidence gathered at public hearings in May 1973 and in October 1973 had approved tighter air quality standards for SO₂. Kennecott and Phelps Dodge Corp. immediately went to Governor King to ask for a rehearing which resulted, of course, in a reversed decision.

The episode was as significant as a revelation of the polluters' character as for the resulting air pollution. Up until this descent to brute political force, most polluters in this state in their fight against pollution controls, could make a plausible showing of playing by the rules, of having concern for legal rectitude and for substantial evidence in the hearing record, technical detail, appeal under the law, etc. But when Kennecott lost their case, they did not go to the court of appeals, as set forth in the law, they went to the Governor. When they failed to get their way using rules, they got their way however they could. That is significant.

Other polluters, though not instigators of the action, went along to get what they wanted. Some of the more honorable ones, such as Public Service Co. of New Mexico, may have dragged along reluctantly; but they all went and none cried "Foul" on Kennecott.

The rehearing last January was itself a revelation. To hear a distinguished corporation like Ken-

necott, with world offices in midtown Manhattan, seriously testifying in Santa Fe that N. M. standards would require them to build an air-conditioned smelter inside an Astrodome was, to me, like hearing Nixon on tapes or Wilbur Mills onstage at the Pilgrim Theater. It was sad, like sickness.

The 1974 rehearing permanently altered our opinion of several important N. M. institutions.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Some of the news media indicate that the national government will be expending millions, if not billions, of dollars for "low-cost" family housing in the near future. Such a program would provide an excellent medium for the establishment of incentives to utilize non-mineral energy fuels.

Perhaps states, such as ours, which enjoy a high percentage of sunshine might consider such a program with the idea of it penetrating to the Congress. Also, individual state promotion of such a concept could well entitle the participating states which attain specified goals to receive additional considerations from the Congress to correct housing shortages.

Perhaps someone will "piggy-back" these thoughts, and I hope they will, with the idea that Yankee ingenuity is still a dominant force in our country and that our government should be recognizing such a fact.

In closing, the thought comes to mind that when automobiles became available to the American public, there were dozens of different makes, models, and mechanical applications involved. So what if we do come up with dozens of different types of non-mineral fuel developments? All I can say is "the more the merrier."

Sincerely yours,
Elmer C. Winters
Lander, Wyo.

"SQUELCH" THE GREEDY

Dear Editors:

While visiting in the East over the holidays, I read of your newspaper and of the efforts being made to "squelch" the greedy, money-hungry big business for whom our wilderness country means nothing.

I've traveled through your country several times and I am well acquainted with Colorado. I am enclosing a check for a years subscription to your **High Country News**.

More power to you and the best of wishes and good luck for success in your efforts.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Rolland E. Maxwell
Huntington, Ind.

"ECOLOGY BIBLE"

Dear HCN,

Bless you and the fine job you are doing. I would appreciate more on Solar Energy.

Enclosed find another years subscription for the "Ecology Bible," which I consider a more proper name for the **High Country News**. At least it should appear on your Masthead.

Yours in Survival,
Harold M. Capps
Lakewood, Colo.

LET'S DO IT FOR GEORGE

To the editors,

My wife and I somewhat gleefully noted the recent announcement of the imminent retirement of the eminent president of Montana Power Co. — George O'Connor. Since Montana Power seems to have assumed the role once held by the Anaconda Co. — that of corporate predator in Montana — and since Mr. O'Connor has personified that predation, my wife and I thought it would be nice to honor Mr. O'Connor.

This, we have initiated in our home the observance of **The George O'Connor Hour**. Each evening for one hour we switch off as much electricity as possible. That means — of course — no lights, no six cent stamp! Yes, our sacrifices have been many,



T.V. and no electrical appliances (save the refrigerator). While disconnecting our lives from electricity for a whole hour each day is a strain, we feel no sacrifice is too great to honor Mr. O'Connor. "Let's do it for George" has become a rallying cry in our home.

Our action has required a heavy investment both emotionally and financially. Somewhat fearfully we have begun to converse with each other in the absence of the "boob tube." By the light of our oil lamps, we have been writing to our distant relatives and friends. Imagine our shock upon attempting to mail those letters and discovering the demise of the but so are the rewards. We have rediscovered silence, books, and — once or twice — each other.

It is our hope that by sharing our thoughts with you, others will also choose to so honor Mr. O'Connor. If **The George O'Connor Hour** becomes popular across Montana, perhaps Montana Power will be swept up by the spirit and with a cry of "Let's do it for George" will set aside a large portion of east-central Montana as the George O'Connor state grassland. What an electrifying idea!

The concept is boundless. Perhaps there are others out there in electricity land who will write in with their ideas.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Bohlig
Wisdom, Mont.

* * *

Dear HCN:

We enjoy the papers and are more optimistic now about Wyoming's future — at least there are a few people who care!

Keep up your great coverage on solar energy!

Mrs. Ronnie Neal
Laramie, Wyo.

LOVE OF UNSPOILED BEAUTY

Dear Friends of Wyoming,

I am very happy to renew my subscription to **High Country News** for the year 1975. As a former resident of Wyoming I have a great love for your state and its unspoiled beauty as I always look forward to returning and renewing my memories of the past.

You are to be congratulated for your forthright and courageous efforts to protect that magnificent land from the ravages of exploitation and development. Once you have relaxed your guard the battle will have been lost and one of the last unspoiled areas in America will be irretrievably destroyed.

Most sincerely,
Penn H. Holsapple
Dover Plains, N.Y.

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Idaho Power. . .

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quantities are expected to be typical for each of the other three units."

So out of the Bridger stacks come thousands of pounds of sulfur dioxide every hour, and thousands of pounds of nitrogen oxides, and substantial amounts of very small and invisible particulates. These are recognized as harmful air pollutants. The precipitators, which remove most of the visible — and least harmful — particles, become, if not the best pollution controllers, at least a near-perfect public relations tool.

The stacks are clear-looking, and no doubt they are impressive to visitors, especially when combined with a plane flight and a free lunch. Imagine, if you will, the awe-inspiring sight, standing beneath a five-hundred-foot-high smokestack from which nothing in the way of emissions can be seen. After seeing nothing for himself at Bridger, Robert MacFarlane, president of the AFL-CIO, testified at the recent coal plant hearings that there was nothing but blue sky visible through the plume. It was the type of experience that led Mayor Hancock of Jerome, Ida., to conclude (as reported in Idaho Power's Pioneer brochure), "There was nothing coming out of the smoke stack. We'd be foolish if a similar plant is not permitted in Idaho, and if we had the room, I wouldn't object to the operation right here in Jerome County." Tom Prescott, a skeptic who apparently was converted by the revelation, declared, "The operation absolutely floored me, it was very technical, but I could see no pollution. Unless some other factors enter the picture, I can't see where it could possibly endanger the environment." The Idaho Power brochure entitles these testimonials with the words, "Seeing is Believing."

Could the statements made by these Bridger visitors have been made by men who were told exactly what comes out of the Bridger stack? They saw, and apparently believed. If so, they were spectacularly deceived.

Any discriminating reader of Idaho Power's Pioneer advertisements will find comfort, I am sure, in the fact that the plant's electrostatic precipitators will be larger than a football field and have more dust collecting surface than the acreage of a fair-sized Idaho farm. But to publish advertisements that call precipitators "air cleaning" devices and label smokestacks "99 plus % clean" is, to put it kindly, highly inaccurate.

Idaho Power likes to toss around the 99% figure and talk about the efficiency of their precipitators, but they do not tell people that precipitators are, in large measure, cosmetic. To make up, as it were, for the overall inefficiency of devices that can produce only a clear-looking stack, the company engages in a very efficient, if uncomely program of misrepresentation.

The company is being deceptive in the extreme when it publishes an ad like that which appeared on page 6-D of the December 29, 1974, issue of the Idaho Statesman. It reads: "A coal plant is so clean that they have to turn off the air cleaners to make smoke." The article states that "dust removing equipment" of an unspecified type had to be turned off in order to make the smoke plume visible. If the implication intended by this ad is not to convince the public that the Pioneer plant at Orchard will not emit pollutants, then I would like to know what is intended.

Trips to Jim Bridger, newspaper ads, brochures, even public speaking tours in which company officials refer to the marvelous phenomenon of clear stacks — all are paid for in the company's advertising budget. Chalk it up to "public information." But advertising by a utility, an expense incurred in the operation of the company, is paid for, ultimately, by the ratepayers. It is not an expense absorbed by the profits accruing to the stockholder. Ads touting

clear stacks masquerade as "institutional" or "consumer" advertising, two categories that are not generally restricted by public utilities commissions, and are, therefore, allowed under operating expenses. But regulatory commissions are beginning to take a closer look at utility advertising practices, and many have disallowed various types of electricity promotion.

Of course, it may be argued, and well argued, that some forms of advertising should continue as allowable in operating costs. Advertising that encourages conservation, for instance, has been upheld and commended by public utilities commissions around the country as an expense properly passed on to the electricity (or gas) user. But who is to pay for the ratepayers' deception? Unfortunately, few regulatory agencies have addressed themselves to this provocative question.

I recommend that every person who pays a

monthly bill to Idaho Power go to the nearest company office and pick up a copy of the slick "This Is Pioneer" brochure which his rates helped finance. One will find there no mention whatsoever of sulfur dioxide emission, and none of the small particulate matter. Mention of nitrogen oxide is made only as assurance that its emission will be minimized. No documentation is offered.

The pamphlets, as do the newspaper ads, assure us that the plant will "meet the standards" of air quality. But in "meeting" the standards, an area must suffer very polluted air. The standard is the pollutant concentration level that borders on the dangerous level. It was established as a guideline for very polluted areas to attain in their efforts to clean up to an acceptable level. It is hardly appropriate to apply these standards to the air of Southern Idaho.

There is presently a petition circulating, without

A coal plant so clean
they have to shut off the
air cleaners in order to make smoke!

Invisible Smoke Air Tests Foiled By Utility Plant

HUNTINGTON, Utah (UPI) — The Utah Division of Health, checking antipollution devices at Utah Power & Light Co.'s new Huntington Power Plant, found them to be too efficient.

North American Weather Consultants, an environmental studies company investigating air movement and gas concentration in the Castle-Dale-Emery County area, found they couldn't gather samples from the smoke plume because it was not visible.

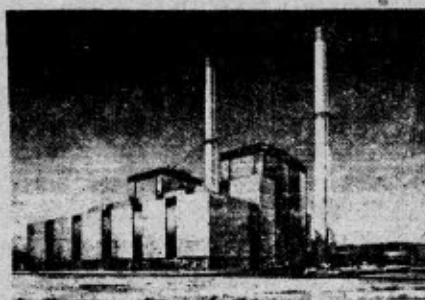
The investigation was being conducted prior to construction of a separate two-unit power plant with an 860-

megawatt capacity. The Huntington plant, with a capacity of 430 megawatts, was selected for the sample study because it is in similar terrain to where the new plant is to be located.

North American officials said when a plane was sent to collect data, the pilot discovered dust-removing equipment had removed the plume, and he was unable to locate the area from which samples were to be taken.

UP&L officials asked for permission to shut down part of their pollution control equipment to make the plume visible, and the Division of Health agreed.

THE IDAHO STATESMAN
December 9, 1974



PIONEER

It was designed by Stearns-Roger, Inc., the same people who are designing Idaho Power's proposed Pioneer plant.

Idaho Power Company

A CITIZEN WHEREVER IT SERVES

Your questions or comments are invited. Call your local manager, or write: Public Information Department, Idaho Power Company, Box 70, Boise, Idaho 83721.

MORE IS DIRTY THAN MEETS THE EYE. Above is an advertisement which appeared in a December issue of the IDAHO STATESMAN. While the smokelessness lauded is certainly a virtue, the ad fails to mention the emissions which can't be seen and which its "antipollution devices" won't touch — sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and small-sized particulates. They are emitted by one 500 megawatt unit of the Jim Bridger plant in Wyoming at the rate of 5,874 lbs./hr. (SO₂), 3,514 lbs./hr. (NO_x), and 325 lbs./hr. (particulates), according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Bridger plant has the same devices as the Huntington plant and the proposed Pioneer plant, electrostatic precipitators. Precipitators can collect the large-sized, visible particulate matter which makes smoke, but they do not affect the more harmful, invisible contaminants.

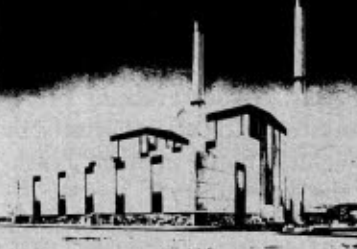
the aid of advertisement, that offers county residents a chance to make their wishes known to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare on the question of clean air where they live. The petition calls for the establishment of "Class I" air by the county, a classification that, while it would not necessarily limit growth, would tolerate only small increases in the ambient levels of two pollutants — sulfur dioxide and particulates. But Idaho Power hasn't promised to measure up to those standards. Class II and Class III areas are also a part of the federal air quality plan. Class III is a level beyond which human health, vegetation, and property might be endangered.

I do not claim that Idaho Power's Pioneer, if built, will pollute our air down to that standard. But there has certainly been no evidence yet produced by Idaho Power or anyone else that can show that it will not. And the company has never denied that sulfur dioxide and other pollutants issue from their stacks at Bridger, but the combined effect of omitting this information from their ads and the clear stack claim amounts to a serious breach of the public trust.

Despite all their assurances, Idaho Power cannot rightly promise, and has not proved, that the Pioneer plant will not seriously pollute Boise's air, or Mountain Home's, or the air of Twin Falls. Indeed, their actions to date would suggest that there is more than good reason to suspect that the plant will pollute. For if it could be shown that, despite the enormous amounts of pollutants coming out of the "clear" stacks, the dispersal conditions are such that humans and other air users would never be harmed, then the company would have no need to construct an advertising campaign that is altogether evasive and misleading. They could, without corporate camouflage, tell us straight out exactly what will be coming up those smokestacks.

So here we have Idaho Power. Its advertising campaign promotes the Pioneer coal-fired power plant on the basis of a promise to meet standards which, if actually met, would add pollution to our ambient air in unprecedented amounts; their ads tell us of clean smokestacks that are not really clean at all; they take visitors to Bridger and show them

This is Pioneer



WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?
No major hydroelectric sites are available to us for development.
Nuclear plant costs would substantially increase energy costs, and require 12 to 14 years lead time.
Technology is not yet available to utilize geothermal, solar, wind power, etc. for a commercial plant large enough for our area's energy requirements.
It is Idaho Power Company's obligation to provide the electricity required by its customers. That is not a matter of choice.

USE PER CUSTOMER Up 26%

PROJECT INDEPENDENCE

- Proposed to be built in Idaho
- To be built by and owned by Idaho Power Company
- To be built largely by men and women from the Idaho Power service area
- To serve the needs of customers of Idaho Power Company
- To support local and state tax rolls
- To utilize low-sulfur Wyoming coal

99+% clean ... and to comply with all existing state and federal air and water quality regulations

"We must develop coal, our most abundant energy resource. We must substitute coal for oil and gas in electrical generation and industrial processes." FEA Administrator John C. Sewell, August 2, 1974

ELECTRICITY AND ENVIRONMENT CAN BE COMPATIBLE

You've always had the electricity you need

PROS AND CONS. Here we have two specimens of public information. At left are excerpts from Idaho Power's "This is Pioneer" brochure — financed ultimately by the ratepayer. At right is a bumper sticker — paid for by a group of people who find Idaho Power's material misleading and inaccurate.



"To make up for the overall inefficiency of devices that can produce only a clear-looking stack, the company engages in a very efficient if uncomely program of misrepresentation," claims Jeff Fereday of the Idaho Conservation League.

Perhaps what the company has in mind is something of an ultimate fiction. Perhaps, if after the plant is built, people begin suffering from the various afflictions brought by dirty air, or if crops are being affected, the company will mount an ad campaign to convince the people that the pollution from which they suffer is not coming from the clear stacks of Pioneer.

Jeffrey Fereday is a staff member and lobbyist for the Idaho Conservation League in Boise. A Boise native, he earned his degree in political science from Columbia University. In the summer, Fereday is a smokejumper in McCall, Idaho.

Book review—The Outermost House

by Henry Beston, Ballantine Books, Inc., New York, 1971. \$.95, paper.

Review by Peter Wild

Henry Beston, as chance would have it a resident of Thoreau's state, withdrew to the natural world, too. In the 1920s he spent a year in a cottage he had built for himself on the outer beach of Cape Cod, where he could watch the waves breaking on the sandy edge of the continent after rushing across the North Atlantic. There he got to know the village people at Eastham and enjoyed the visits of the hardy coast guardsmen as they made their rounds up and down the beach from nearby Nauset Station. But central to his experience he spent most of his time "lounging," as Walt Whitman perhaps would say, contemplating the moor, the changing dunes and the sea, and the animal life around him.

As might be expected of such as account, the structure of *The Outermost House* is chronological, beginning in the fall when he first sets up house on a dune some 30 feet from high tide and concluding in the nostalgia of late summer, when he wistfully looks back on his stay and considers his return to society. Sounds a bit ordinary.

What makes *The Outermost House* singular is that it was written by a singular man, one who had an almost religious insight into the world around him, and who was blessed with the capability of making vital to the reader what was vital to himself. Throughout its pages is the feeling that a lone

man, for a year at least, has come to grips with the woof and warp of the natural world and found a place and peace in it.

We are fortunate to have this inexpensive reissue by Ballantine Books. The book, first published in 1928, is a classic in the genre. One those concerned with the environment need to come back to, as I see it, for two reasons other than the aesthetic and vicarious pleasures of the reading. First, *The Outermost House* shows us where we have come, how much we have lost in a mere two generations; second, in Beston's enthusiasm can be seen a warning.

The solace that came easily to Henry Beston would be difficult and expensive for many of us to find today. It is shocking to realize that only 46 years ago a man could stand on the beach of one of our presently most crowded states, on Cape Cod nonetheless, now annually overrun, and feel alone, feel what is most lacking in our world, a sense of wonder. Twice a week or so Beston trudged across the dunes to pick up his few groceries and then returned with them on his back, and savored every mile of it. With our National Parks and their concessions, freeways and campers, we've come a long way. But we share his hours of delight spent watching the changing waves — a whole chapter on waves, a remarkable literary feat in itself — his close attention to bird migrations, the shadows on the sands, his empathy for a deer stranded through a night in an ice floe. It is a painful book. Our loss is evident; we live deprived, out of contact in a world

with its own unique set of frustrations and terrors.

Yet in our time of activism one is tempted to fault Beston for his gentlemanliness, his naivete. He shares Rousseau's idea that in order to fulfill himself man needs to live in harmony with nature, be a function of it, and he realizes that even in his time his fellow citizens, those in rural Eastham included, suffer from a lack of contact with basic life processes. He admits the world is sick but does nothing to change it. After a year he goes back. Was, then, his 12-month venture a mere romantic flight, an extended recess from inevitable realities? Worse, he has faith that of themselves things will change for the better. For example, he comes across an oil spill, far less common and extensive in that day than in ours, and witnesses the pitiful effects on sea birds. His reaction is to editorialize, "... let us hope that all pollution will presently end!" (Exclamation point mine.)

Yet *The Outermost House* was written at a time when there was no Friends of the Earth, no Zero Population Growth, and the Sierra Club was primarily an outing organization. In the perspective of our very recent awareness of the environmental crisis he can not be condemned more than others for his lack of foresight. We tend to forget that up until the middle of the last decade most people saw the nation's modus operandi as coming up roses. Some still do. The moral of the Oedipus legend comes clear: generations will be paying for their fathers' ability to kid themselves.

Do it yourself

People move into land planning

by Monty Grey

People live in communities. Whether it is Lander or Lightning Flat or Evanston or Esterbrook the community shapes the lives of its citizens, while they give it its essential character. Most Wyoming citizens like the places they live or they wouldn't be there — places closer to doctors and dentists with shorter school bus rides and more shopping aren't hard to find. One cost of growth may be the loss of what is good about our communities. One tool for keeping what is best about Wyoming communities while development occurs is land use planning.

The purpose of this article is to describe, in practical terms, how YOU can influence the future of your community through the planning process.

THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL PLANNING

The basic building block of local planning is the planning commission. The commission is appointed by the county commissioners or the town council. Its role is to **advise** the county commissioners or town council on matters relating to the growth and development. The planning commission can make no binding decisions.

Planning commissions may take an active role in community growth management without professional support — the willingness of citizens to devote time and energy to planning has been demonstrated in many areas — but the complexity of planning problems sooner or later will require full-time attention.

The short term solution has always been to hire consultants. In Wyoming, state assistance from the Wyoming Department of Economic Planning and Development has normally been too widely dispersed to effectively serve any one community. Consultants are always willing to help, but there are problems. Most local planning commissions do not have the time or expertise to evaluate the work of a consulting firm. Also, the long term commitment of consultants to communities is questionable — to put it quite simply they don't live there. The long term solution to the complexity of planning is to develop a local professional staff.

A local planning staff is a second basic building block. The role of the staff is to gather the information needed for sound decision making and to present it to the planning commission, the county commission or town council, and the public.

The county commission or town council begins the local planning process by appointing a planning commission. They also have the final say on any proposals for community growth management made by that planning commission.

The planning commission, as an advisory body of citizens, may ask that the city or county provide advisors to the advisors — consultants or a local professional, planning staff.

Finally, there are the citizens (that's YOU!). Law requires only a minimal role for citizens in the planning process — this article encourages you to make it the **leading** one.

ACCESS TO THE PLANNING PROCESS

How can you involve yourself in planning in your community? There are several approaches. The one to take depends on where you or your group stand in the local political scene.

You can start with the planning commission. Do you know any of the planning commissioners? Do you share common interests with any of them? Input from friends, neighbors, and members of their own organizations (Farm Bureau, Lions, or whatever) is the best kind. Informal discussions can pave the way for public presentations at planning commission meetings or hearings. All planning commission meetings are open to the public, and most are very informally run.

Even if you do not know members of the planning commission, an appearance at a regular meeting can be effective. The truth is that citizens rarely show up. Any kind of interest will be appreciated by the commissioners who put in hours of often unacknowledged service to the community.

If you're mad enough, you can always picket a planning commission meeting — that has yet to happen in Wyoming, and it might be good for everybody. The possibly negative reaction to such action must be considered, however.

The ultimate step in influencing the planning commission is to get on it — then you can vote. Appointments are staggered so that an opportunity presents itself each year. If you don't think your "candidacy" would be successful, you can, at least, try to influence county commissioners or town councilmen in their choice. Lobbying for appointments is so seldom done that your chances are really quite good — there won't be any competition to speak of, and there will clearly be some shock value in your interest.

The Planning Commission probably is the best point of access to the process — either through personal contact with its members or appearances at its regular meetings.

There are obstacles to communicating with planning commissions, of course. They are not always representatives of the public. In one county where the median age is 27, the median age of the planning commission is 50. This same commission has no women. While more than half the population of that county lives in cities, none of the planning commissioners do, and while only 14 per cent of the work force is involved in agriculture, 60 per cent of the commission is. Citizens should take a close look at the make-up of local planning commissions and try to influence appointments that will insure representation for all segments of the community.

Or, try the planning staff. The professional planner has an obligation to assist anyone who wishes to have input to the planning process. Being full-time, the planner also tends to be fairly accessible. He should have time to listen.

Perhaps the best approach is to drop into the planning office on a "fishing" expedition. Make general interest in planning known and try to find out just what the planner is (or is not) doing. Your interest will most likely be appreciated — it isn't any secret that planners are not the most popular folks in Wyoming. If you have any input to the program committee of organizations you belong to, your second step might be to get the planner invited to make a presentation at one of the meetings. As you go about establishing rapport, remember that the planner may be "fishing," too, fishing for support for pet ideas of his own. Your support for such ideas is sure to get through to the planning commission — some of your own might get through with them.

Influencing the planning process through the planning staff is an indirect approach, but it can be successful. The planning commission is dependent on the staff for a good part of its information about what the problems are and how they should be solved.

A good planning staff will create formal means for citizen input. These means might include public opinion surveys and the establishment of advisory committees representing different interests or different parts of the city or county. The planning staff should also make a point of communicating its activities through regular press releases, appearances on radio talk shows, and presentations to organized groups (with opportunity for lots of give and take). Unfortunately, planners in Wyoming have very often been slow to undertake such activities.

A recent audit of local programs and the Wyoming

Department of Economic Planning and Development by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development pointed to serious deficiencies in citizen participation. If your local planning program is not responsive, express your concern to local elected officials. If the program gets federal dollars — and most do — draft a letter to your congressmen and send copies to the HUD Regional Office in Denver and DEPAD in Cheyenne. It is up to you to make the local planner responsive — or make him an ex-planner.

By working with the planning commission or planning staff, citizens can avoid the position of responding to proposals they had no say about in the formative stages.

Or, speak up at public hearings. A public hearing is required for most actions taken by a planning commission. Any recommendations on comprehensive plans or growth management ordinances, for instance, must be the subject of a hearing before they are certified to the county commission or town council. The commission or council must then hold its own hearings as well. Keep in mind, however, that public hearings are probably the worst point of access to the planning process. The reason is simple.

When an ordinance or a master plan is finished and ready for the hearing, the planning staff and planning commission will have a great deal of time and energy tied up in it. Criticism of the proposal will, in effect, be criticism of the people making it. The best hearing to concentrate on is most likely the one before the county commission or town council — they will have less personal stake in the ideas being considered.

This has been a crash course in how to wield influence in the local planning process. The major points of access and how they might be approached should be clear in the reader's mind. Personal experience with local politics will modify the points made to match your own situation. It cannot be emphasized too much: you must know the personalities involved, especially in small communities.

Now, suppose you are successful. You are on the local planning commission, and 73 friends come to every meeting to jeer at your opponents. Now what? What can planning do to make your community the kind of place you want to live in?

WHY BOTHER?

To put it as simply as possible, planning is a five-step process.

—It begins with the **identification of problems** facing the community.

—**Information** about those problems is gathered.

—**Alternatives** for dealing with the situation can then be discussed in light of the facts found.

—A **decision** as to which alternative will best serve the community is made.

—Finally, the decision is **implemented**.

We all go through this process in routine living. A decision about how to drive to work or about what to cook for supper involves all these steps. Unfortunately, in many places, far less attention has been given to the choice of living environments than to the choice between ham salad and hash!

Planning makes the choices facing a community obvious. It gives citizens the opportunity to measure their notion of a good place to live against future possibilities. And, once the choices have been made, planning gives the community legal tools for making the desirable future happen. Planning is a tool for keeping what is best about Wyoming communities.

But, planning won't work unless YOU do!

Monty Grey has a graduate degree in land use policy and administration, and experience in planning at both the state and local levels in Wyoming.

At the ping pong table and the podium

High Country News-7
Friday, Feb. 28, 1975

The Idaho Conservation League

by Susan Whaley

Something that really bothers Ken Cameron, president of the Idaho Conservation League, is this country's tax structure.

"Our tax structure is a suppression of the people's voice," Ken states. "The system says that if you've got a profit motive, you can lobby, and if you don't have it, you can't influence legislation."

Ken has dealt with this problem for some time having started in environmental affairs as a member of Trout Unlimited. He recalls having to be

Photos by Susan Whaley



Ken Cameron

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careful what he wrote on that organization's stationery so that his opinions would not affect Trout Unlimited's tax status. He felt that many times his opinion lost clout because it came from an individual rather than a member of a strong organization.

As president of the Idaho Conservation League since its inception two years ago, Ken has found that the ICL's non-tax-deductible status has made some funds hard to get. The ICL presently depends mainly on membership dues and donations. He also feels it is difficult for small organizations like the ICL to take advantages of tax breaks like big business can and to compete against well-financed lobbyists for the attention of the legislators.

Last month, the ICL held a successful event to raise support for its activities. The group sponsored an Environmental Fair on the Boise State University campus, Jan. 21 and 22. The fair attracted several hundred students and townspeople who gathered to talk with state government representatives, spokespersons from local environmental and political groups, and with industry representatives who set up displays and handed out literature to the public.

The ICL's fair brought people together to discuss environmental issues, many of which are in the form of legislation coming up in this year's Idaho legislature. Tough questions were the order of the day and issues were discussed from both sides of the fence.

In a lighter vein, ping pong matches were held between industry representatives and environmental representatives. Blue grass music and old-time fiddling kept the fair crowds entertained and the aroma of homebaked goods filled the air.

The Environmental Fair was the project of Belle

Hefner, ICL staff member, assisted by Jeff Fereday, assistant coordinator of the ICL's Boise office. Fereday and Marsha Pursley, coordinator, have registered as lobbyists for the ICL.

Fereday, Pursley, and the volunteer members of the ICL will work on legislation the ICL Board of Advisors has designated as priority legislation for this year. The board consists of members of the ICL who are elected by the entire membership. There is at least one board member from each of the nine areas established by the ICL in Idaho. Each area contains four to five legislative districts. The board meets once a year to set the legislative priorities for each upcoming legislature.

This session, the ICL will push: a land use package of seven bills; a power plant siting bill, important in light of Idaho Power Company's proposal to build a coal-fired steam plant near Boise; and a bottle bill, patterned after Oregon's anti-litter legislation.

Besides its lobbying activities, the ICL's Boise office, located in the basement of the YMCA just a few blocks from the capitol building, serves as an information center where environmentally concerned persons can drop in and receive information on a variety of issues. The staff and their volunteer help keep current on legislative developments by regularly monitoring committee meetings and the floor activities of the legislature. When important developments occur, the staff sets in motion its state-wide telephone network. A telephone call is made to key persons around the state who then call five people. Each of those calls another five until all members are informed and can then urge that their legislators take a particular action.

The ICL newsletter is also a valuable tool for dispensing information, according to Ken Cameron. The newsletter follows the movement of certain bills through the legislature and alerts members to what action is needed on them. A newsletter is published every 10 days during the legislature and is sent to approximately 700 people around the state.

When the legislature is not in session, the Boise office continues to be a source of information on



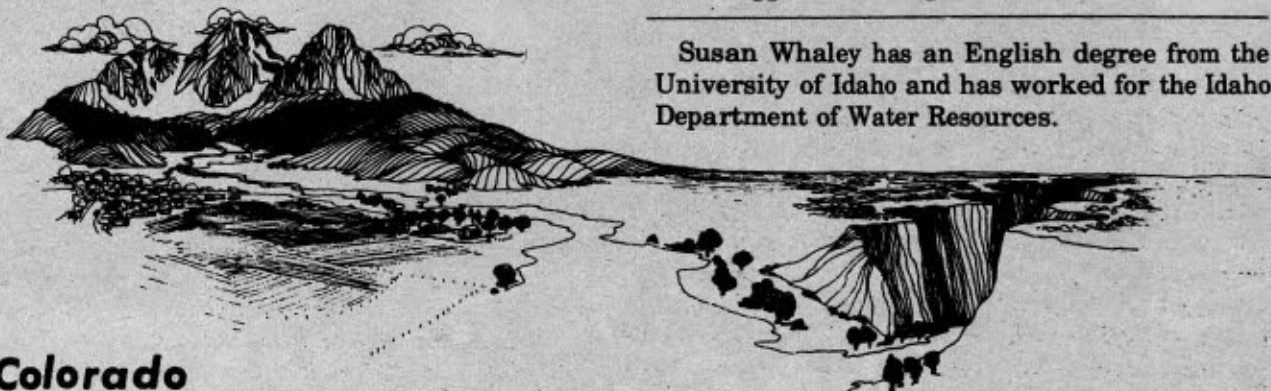
Marsha Pursley

Idaho environmental issues. Voting records of legislators are compiled and the tabulations are sent to hometown newspapers. According to Ken, the ICL feels there is often a lack of information going back to the people and that a legislator's voting record should be made available to his or her constituency.

The services of the staff in the Boise office are always available to already existing organizations as well as to private citizens. The staff gives guidance and procedural advice to groups or persons who may not be familiar with effective means of dealing with legal and legislative entanglements. The staff and volunteer members of the ICL give testimony at public hearings and provide a place where such testimony may be researched.

The Idaho Conservation League provides a valuable service to all citizens of Idaho who are concerned with the environmental quality of their state. The struggle to maintain Idaho's natural resources where they are yet unspoiled and to correct the damage where damage is already done will be ongoing for many years. Most certainly, the Idaho Conservation League can be counted on to stay in the struggle for as long as it takes.

Susan Whaley has an English degree from the University of Idaho and has worked for the Idaho Department of Water Resources.



Colorado

Transportation bills may aid mass transit

This is the fifth anniversary for the introduction of a **Department of Transportation** bill in Colorado. For the last four legislative sessions, the measure has been defeated. Environmentalists hope this time the bill will pass.

The DOT bill would coordinate planning and implementation of all forms of transportation in one state agency. The DOT would be a mechanism to seek alternatives to individual passenger car transportation, thereby saving energy, alleviating traffic congestion, and reducing pollution. Opposition in past years has come from rural legislators who fear an overemphasis on urban mass transportation and from airlines which fear a fuel tax. The bill, HB 1128, is supported by Gov. Dick Lamm.

A companion bill, HCR 1004, would place the question of use of the **Highway Users Trust Fund** (HUTF) before the voters in 1976. The proposed

amendment to Article X of the Colorado Constitution would allow money from the HUTF to be used for public transportation as well as for the traditional uses — construction, maintenance, and supervision of the public highways.

In other action, HJR 1006, a resolution requesting **removal of the ban on predator poisons**, has passed the House and is before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Land use legislation in Colorado will not be the fiery issue that it has been for the last three years in the legislature. The general attitude seems to be wait and see how last session's local land use bill (HB 1041) works. Colorado Open Space Council lobbyist Marilyn Miller Stokes says proponents and opponents of land use have reached the same conclusion: "Leave the bill alone in the 1975 legislature — and watch it fail or succeed, or at least sort out what has failed or succeeded in the 1041 process."

8-High Country News
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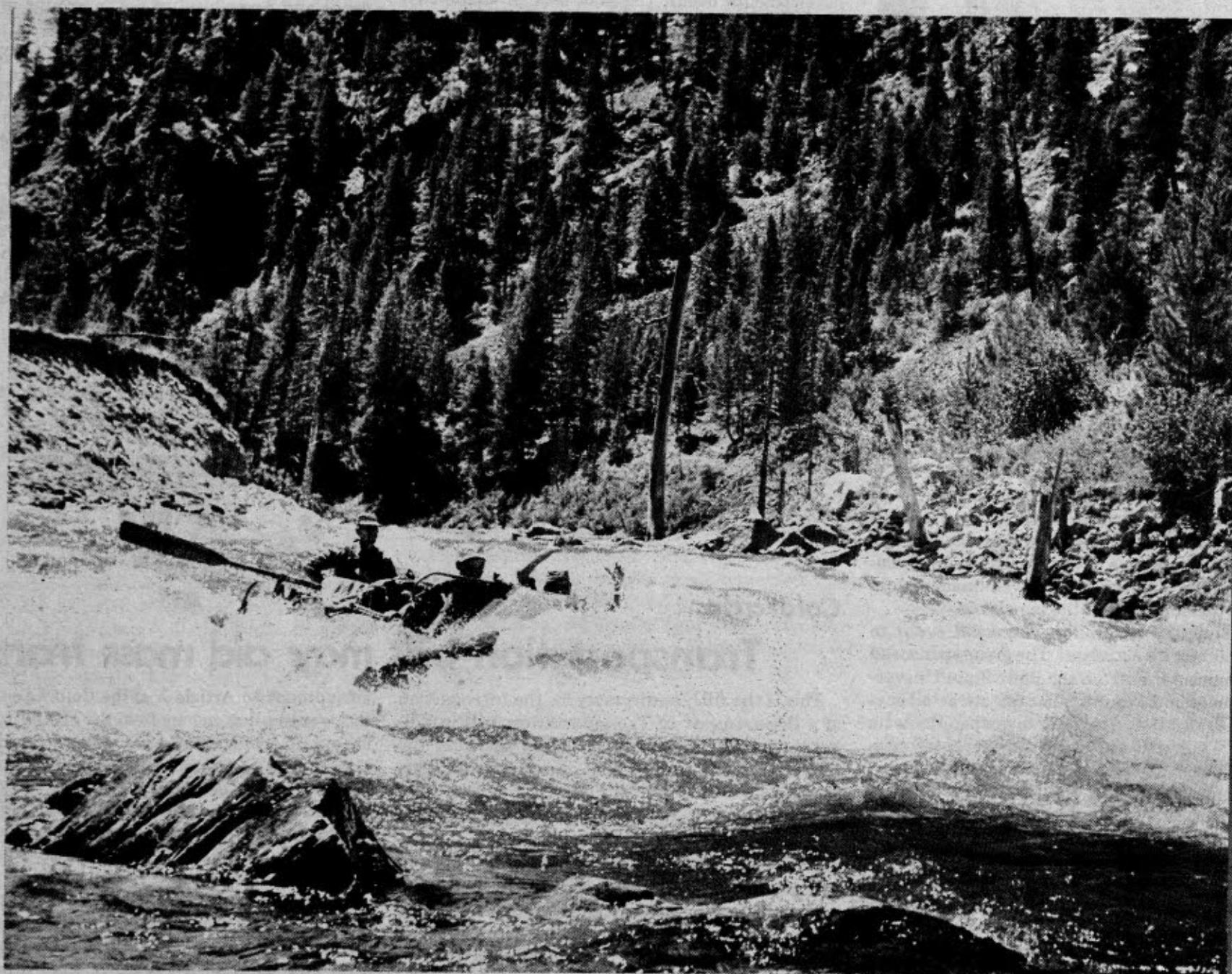
RIVERS FOR EVERYONE. River runners include people of all ages. Because of the growing numbers, consideration has been given to forbidding repeat trips for passengers on some rivers. Above, Green River in Dinosaur National Monument.

Photo by Bruce Hamilton.



MOTORS OR NOT. One of the questions to be considered in making river use decisions is whether or not motors should be outlawed for river rafts in wilderness areas. Above, a sweep boat on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

Photo by Verne Huser.



OVERPOPULATION THREATENS THRILLS. Float trips have become so popular they threaten to destroy the resources that make them unique, according to Verne Huser whose new book, *RIVER RUNNING ON YOUR OWN* (Regnery), is coming off the press early this year. Above, running Bull Trout Rapids on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho.

Photo by Ernie Day.

River running

By Ernest H. Linford

It may seem a bit early to be thinking about shooting the rapids or floating down a stream on a raft, but many commercial boating outfits are already booked up for the coming season. And non-commercial groups are making feverish preparations to assault whitewater or less embroiled stretches of rivers this coming spring. Like other forms of sport open to professionals and amateurs, boating has suffered in recent years from "over-population" and in some cases from insufficient controls.

A serious outbreak of dysentery along the Colorado River inside Grand Canyon National Park awhile back frightened both administrators and outfitters into taking more precautions to control pollution from boating parties.

Members of river boating parties lately have complained louder and more frequently about filth piled up at campsites on some rivers. On several streams there are no outhouses, and some environmentalists oppose such comfort stations on the grounds that they are out of harmony with the wilderness or natural concept.

It has been recommended that boating groups carry chemical toilets and that they patrol streams and shores for litter.

Some guidelines were agreed upon last November at a meeting of the Western River Guides Association at Reno, Nev., but many problems and areas of conflict remain. One example: what is a private (non-commercial) boat trip? Many guides run what may be semi-commercial trips — so-called expense-sharing. Some of these are not much different from commercial ventures.

The delegates to the river guides association meeting agreed that commercial and non-commercial use of rivers should co-exist on runnable rivers, neither to the exclusion of the other.

The delegates asked management agencies to encourage and facilitate a longer river-running season to spread the environmental impact and increase the ceiling on rationed rivers. They also considered limiting the number of repeat trips.

Problems related to river running have increased even more rapidly than the

numbers of boat passengers or trips. In addition to outbreaks of dysentery, major fires have been caused by campers, notably along the Yampa and Green Rivers. Several drownings have dramatized the need for more responsibility on the part of the outfitters and tighter supervision by the agency administering the land and water involved.

Higher prices and-or shortages of fuel may slow down the proliferation of boat trips, especially those using motors, but hard core boating enthusiasts are bound to find their way to most popular stretches of good water this coming spring and summer.

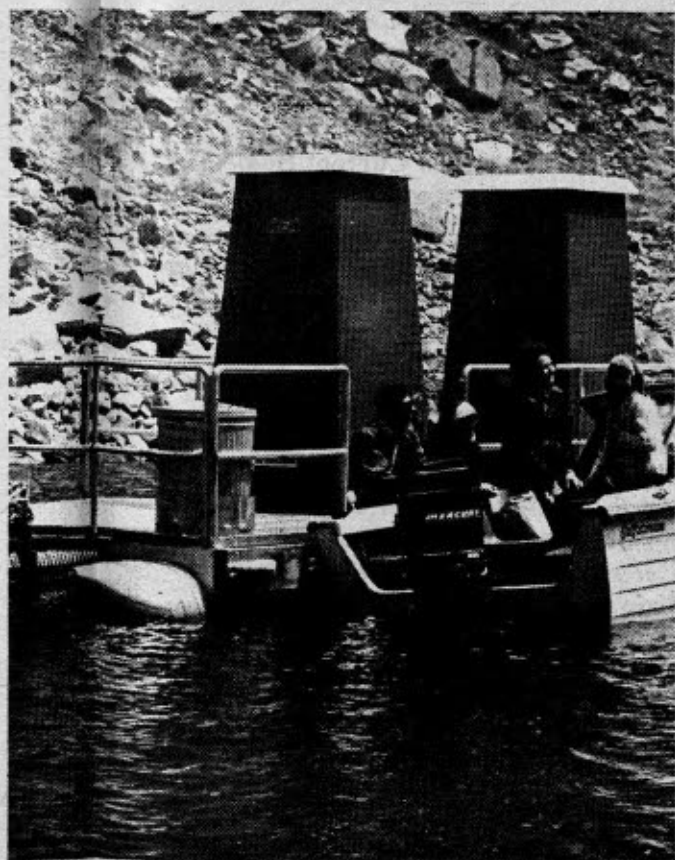
Partly because it had to cope with the problem earliest, the National Park Service was first to control river running, but the Forest Service has moved rapidly with its own regulations where heavy use has created serious problems. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which administers much land through which flow many popular boating streams, lags behind the other administrative agencies because it lacks authority and trained personnel.

One boating enthusiast says the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Selway, both managed by the Forest Service in Idaho, are among the best-controlled rivers anywhere. He adds: "The Forest Service and the BLM, working together, seem to have gotten a good handle on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River in Oregon."

The Park Service is said to be doing a good job on the Yampa and Green Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument and on the Green and Colorado Rivers in Canyonlands National Park. The BLM administers the Green in Desolation Canyon and the Colorado through Westwater Canyon. The BLM is having trouble in the latter canyon, where boaters resist any regulation, probably because they are accustomed to having complete freedom there.

In Utah, the legislature is considering a resolution that asks federal officials not to outlaw use of motors on river rafts in wilderness areas nor to limit the number of patrons on white water expeditions because of the detrimental effect on the Utah tourist industry.

decisions
s. Above,
e Huser.



COMPLAINTS OF FILTH. As the number of boating fans increases, sanitation becomes a problem. Some people object to having outhouses set up since they think they are out of harmony with the wilderness concept. Some believe that boating groups should carry chemical toilets. The above facilities are provided on major tributaries to Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Photo by Jeff Clack.



MIDDLE FORK CONGESTION. On the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho (shown above) float trip traffic has more than tripled in the last five years, according to Verne Huser in his book, *RIVER RUNNING ON YOUR OWN*. More people have floated the wild rapids of the Colorado through Grand Canyon during the 1970s than during the entire previous history of the stream.

Photo by Verne Huser.

10-High Country News
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Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

An alliance of western governors has been organized to add strength to their unanimous concern about energy development in the West.

The 10 governors emerged from last week's mid-winter National Governors Conference not only with a statement of concern but with a new Denver-based organization that formally groups them solidly against rapid energy development.

"We're pretty much in accord, I think, all of us, as to what the problems are and what the solutions might be," Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler told this column, "and hopefully, by uniting, we can convince Congress that we're right and we should be considered."

The coalition is called, at least temporarily, the Western Governors Regional Energy Policy Office. Its staff will be operating in Denver by mid-March, the governors hope. A Washington D.C. representative is likely, and Montana Gov. Tom Judge said William Ruckelshaus, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency and now a Washington-based lawyer, has indicated an interest in providing legal help to the group.

The governors chose New Mexico's newly-elected Gov. Jerry Apodaca to head the group. Apodaca, Judge, and North Dakota's Gov. Arthur Link began last week to screen applicants for the job of staff director. Former federal energy administrator John Sawhill was reported earlier to be interested in the job, but now is considered out of the picture.

Judge said he wants somebody with a "low profile," which would allow the governors to take a "high profile." Apodaca agreed, saying a relative unknown would be "more acceptable" than someone who has achieved notoriety. "We don't want a developer of policy," Apodaca said, adding, "There's a lot of quiet work that has to be done."

The 10 governors, all Democrats — from Wyoming, Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada — adopted articles of incorporation to create the organization.

They agreed on a statement supporting "broad federal guidelines" regulating strip mining, but ones that allow state regulations to be tougher. No more federal coal should be leased, the statement advises, until a strip mining bill is adopted.

The statement calls for "discretionary, front-end" federal money to "enable impacted communities to develop the necessary facilities prior to extensive population influxes."

Energy conservation, it says, should be not only "an alternative to gaining energy self-sufficiency, but rather the cornerstone of each alternative examined." It calls for the federal government to spend more money to research energy sources that don't involve western minerals.

The office is intended to help states in the region coordinate their activities — and demands — in a number of areas.

Judge said those include some "very important issues that relate very directly to the Western states, such as water, the pre-emption of state authority on utility siting, air and water pollution control laws, federal leasing of lands, research funds for the West (and) impact funds."

The project will receive \$200,000 to \$300,000 of federal money channeled through the Old West and Four Corners Regional Commissions, federal-state liaison agencies.

Before departing from their meeting in Washington, the Western governors were visited by Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp, who told them he'd like to see the new group establish a relationship with the Appalachian Regional Commission, since that area — rich in strippable coal — shares many of the energy problems with the West.

State policy complete

Montana speaks up on energy

As one of the richest of the energy-rich western states, Montana has become the first state to produce a comprehensive response to the energy policy tug-of-war between Congress and the President.

Twenty-five per cent of the nation's coal reserve lies under Montana's grassy eastern plains, where the coming of heavy industrialization associated with intensive strip mining is creating much concern and conflict.

Strip mine coal production now under way in Montana will triple to 50 million tons a year by 1980 and would be double that figure by 1985 under President Gerald R. Ford's Project Independence goals outlined in his State of the Union message.

In the **Montana Energy Policy Study** produced for the 44th Montana Legislative Assembly, the legislature's Environmental Quality Council has consolidated energy information in a 300-page report and proposed frameworks for state and national energy policies.

The study, conducted during a two-year Ford Foundation grant period, proposes a federal energy policy that would distinguish between energy demand and energy need, recognizing the huge waste inherent in the nation's energy consumption patterns.

Also offered is a state legislative energy policy guide to insure Montana energy supplies while promoting the state's long-term economic stability and environmental quality.

Without taking strong counter measures to protect Montana's long-range agricultural plans and environmental quality, the study observes, "the state's energy future will be determined by the federal government and energy conglomerates whose actions are based on expedience."

The energy study notes that Montana produces over 12% of the nation's wheat (half for export overseas) and other vital food commodities, and warns of critical trade-offs between agricultural production and energy development hinging on the needs of both for water from the semi-arid Yellowstone River basin.

The study questions whether the energy crisis must be met with water-consumptive heavy industry in rural Montana (far from the sources of energy demand), even while Montana agricultural interests plan to add 150,000 acres of new irrigated land by 1985.

The "energy crisis," the study notes, is a crisis of policy, a failure to resolve long-standing conflicts in priorities between domestic energy consumption and energy production.

Reputable scientists have called President Ford's energy independence plan essentially impossible. Whatever national energy policy eventually is enacted will fail to achieve the optimum balance between Montana's social, economic, and environmental goals, without prompt state action to assert its point of view, the study says.

Specific state energy policies are recommended in the **Montana Energy Policy Study**, including:

—New pricing structures on energy to encourage conservation, especially conservation of dwindling natural gas supplies, and incentives to encourage the switch to more plentiful energy supplies (coal) by industry.

—Immediate new rules and eventual legislation to put strict controls on uranium mining and milling.

—New incentives, including price deregulation, on the production of domestic oil and gas.

—Adoption of a conservative and tough-minded coal strip mining policy that would recognize the extreme difficulties in achieving adequate mined land reclamation.

—Insistence on load center coal conversion (the co-called "export only" policy), to limit in-state

energy facilities to those needed to satisfy Montana's residential, commercial, and industrial demands.

The national energy policy, according to the study, must distribute the energy production burden equitably, while allowing the states to control the siting of facilities considered absolutely necessary after a tough national energy conservation program is initiated.

With a goal of two per cent annual energy growth nationally, the United States could maintain economic stability and environmental quality, according to the energy study.

The **Montana Energy Policy Study** also conducts the first analysis by a state of the cost to society of using low-energy western coal to fuel utilities and industries adjacent to high-energy underground coal reserves in the eastern half of the nation.

"Markets for Montana coal would be restricted greatly if the entire energy cost of mining, transportation, and reclamation (not just availability and profit) were taken into account in sales of coal," the study says. In this sense of "net energy," western coal is a poor buy for the nation as a whole.

Montana coal sold in Illinois and Texas (as is being done now) in lieu of (say) West Virginia coal, represents a huge waste of energy, the study concludes.



Mining towns swing

A 1973 article in the **Survey of Current Business** says that local economies most dependent on heavy manufacturing and mining, especially coal mining, are the most sensitive to business cycles such as recessions.

The Northern Plains area has suffered comparatively little from business fluctuations since World War II — without energy development. Personal income has been "very well maintained" during all four recessionary periods since 1948, the article states.

The article, by Robert B. Bretzfelder, introduces a measure of sensitivity to business cycles called "cyclical swing." Cyclical swing measures the difference in the rate of growth of non-farm personal income during recessionary and expansionary periods. That difference reflects the stability of an area's economy.

Wyoming's economy has been less affected by recessions than the economies of 44 other states. Cyclical swing in West Virginia — which has the largest coal mining employment of any state — was three times that in Wyoming. Cyclical swing in Pennsylvania, where both heavy industry and coal are important, was three and one-third times that in Wyoming.

Both Montana and North Dakota show even less cyclical swing than Wyoming. Montana's swing was one-twelfth that of West Virginia's.

North Dakota doesn't really fit on the scale — income grows faster during recessions than expansions there.

ENERGY PRODUCTION AND LAND USE

Although President Gerald Ford has not included federal land use planning funds in his budget proposals for Fiscal Year 1976, congressional leaders think they can get a bill through if they include energy siting provisions. President Ford has announced a ban on any new spending — except for energy. Rep. Morris K. Udall is preparing the House's combination land use-energy bill. Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) is introducing a Senate land use bill, which is expected to take the same form as the bill he sponsored that passed the Senate last session.

Environmentalists say they will take a close look at energy siting provisions before supporting a bill. "If an energy siting title does not include federal override of state and local authority, then we can probably go with it," John Burdick of the Sierra Club told Land Use Planning Reports. Environmentalists are very unhappy with a land use bill proposed by the Ford administration which they say was written from an energy point of view rather than an environmental one. The draft bill would give veto power on siting energy facilities if local communities don't want them. Congressional hearings on federal land use legislation will be scheduled for about mid-March.



This photo of an energy land use conflict in eastern Montana by Terry Moore.

High Country News-11
Friday, Feb. 28, 1975

The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

PEAT FUEL REDISCOVERED. The energy crisis has led one New Englander to rediscover the value of peat as a fuel source. Francis Jeffers of Leominster, Mass. told the *Mother Earth News* that peat is competitive "where other fuels are unavailable or just too blamed expensive." The major drawback is that peat is about 95% water by weight so transportation costs are prohibitive unless the material is dried on site. Peat is partially decayed and compacted vegetation found where the soil is wet enough to retard oxidation. There are an estimated 80 million acres of peat in the lower 48 states.

EASTERN LOW SULFUR COAL PLENTIFUL. No responsible survey has suggested that Eastern low sulfur coal is in short supply; it is only high-priced, says Norman Kilpatrick, director of the Surface Mining Research Library in the West Virginia statehouse. Thirty-five billion tons of low sulfur coal is still recoverable in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia, he says. And according to a 1971 Bureau of Mines study, almost two billions tons of low sulfur coal in the East is easily surface minable. The Bureau of Mines study is entitled "Strippable Reserves of Bituminous Coal and Lignite in the United States."

EAST'S COAL EYED. Despite the fact his company has leased coal deposits in Montana, a Consolidation Coal Co. official has said that expansion of the coal industry in the East may be the quickest way to lessen dependence on foreign oil. "Despite the high costs and long lead times of developing eastern deep mines," said Consol's vice-president, L. James Heugel, "the coal industry must expand in the East where existing and potential markets are located." Heugel made the remarks this month in a presentation before the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers in New York.

AEC SEES BRIGHT BREEDER FUTURE. In January in one of its last official acts, the Atomic Energy Commission issued a proposed final environmental impact statement for the liquid metal fast breeder reactor. In the statement, the AEC said that the breeder program can be developed as a "safe, clean, reliable, and economic power generation system." The agency estimated that breeders will begin commercial operation in early 1990s. The technology's problems "are not expected to be significantly different from those inherent in other nuclear fuel cycles," according to the statement. Energy Research and Development Administration chief Robert C. Seamans will review the study and determine whether it should be adopted as the final statement.



POWER PLUGS PULLED. On Sunday, Jan. 26, more than half of the customers of Potomac Edison Co. turned off all their light switches and electrical appliances to protest the power company's plans to raise electric rates in the economically hard-pressed area. The 15-minute blackout was one of many protests western Maryland residents have made lately in response to rate increases. Potomac Edison has just announced plans to increase electric rates by 22 per cent — the third increase by the company in the last four years.



Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



TWO MORE RESERVOIRS. Government offices in Wyoming have received information about two new reservoirs in the northern part of the state. The first, the proposed Middle Fork Reservoir on the Powder River, would include 50,000 acre-feet. Half of the water would be used for irrigation and the other half for Carter Oil and Atlantic Richfield coal operations. The second reservoir would be 225,000 acre-feet on the Nowood River near Tensleep, Wyo. The Big Horn County regional planning office said that reservoir may not be built. If it is built, the water may be used for the coal fields in the Powder River Basin, requiring a transbasin diversion through the Big Horn Mountains.

SUN AND EARTH POWER. A combination solar-geothermal electrical generating plant was proposed for Idaho this month by a California research firm. In a presentation to the Idaho Nuclear Power Commission the firm, Aerospace Corp. of El Segundo, offered to pay half for a \$15,000 study on the potential of geosolar energy for Idaho. The firm believes that heat from the sun to increase the temperature of underground water could make geothermal wells up to 20 times more efficient in generating electricity.

BOULDER WIND HARNESED. Two Boulder, Colo. inventors — Elias Stein and John Saylor — have built a windmill that they claim is at least 13% more efficient than any other one they've seen. Their eight-foot diameter wind generator produces power in winds as low as 10 m.p.h. and has withstood gusts up to 90 m.p.h., according to the *Denver Post*. Their eight-foot model puts out 5,000 watts of power in a 27 m.p.h. wind.

GEOTHERMAL WEST. New Mexico geothermal experiments indicate that the 13 western states could rely on dry geothermal heat to meet their energy needs far into the future. Scientists at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory have estimated that an ultra-hot dry rock of 550 degrees F. or more which underlies 95,000 square miles of the 13 states is capable of generating electric power on the surface.

If you aren't successful in finding more oil and gas, don't blame me, because I'm going to turn you loose over all outdoors.
Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton
1974 Annual Meeting
Society of Petroleum Engineers

CARTER MOVES ON WISHFUL THINKING. The Carter Mining Co. has said it will go ahead with plans for a new coal mine in Campbell County, Wyo. despite a court injunction temporarily halting any development of federal coal deposits in the eastern portion of the Powder River Basin. Three other Campbell County coal mines are affected by the decision — Wyodak, Atlantic Richfield, and Kerr-McGee. The Interior Department has also been ordered not to allow construction of the 113-mile railroad spur from Gillette to Douglas which would serve the mines. A Carter spokesman says as much work as possible will be done at the mine site, without actually beginning mining. The Sierra Club obtained the injunction in federal court in Washington, D.C.

METHANE FOR MONTANA. Helena, Mont. may be burning methane produced from animal manure in the future. Richard Klinger, an attorney for the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, received approval from the city commission to use a \$1,500 federal grant to study the feasibility of the project. Now the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development must act on the request.

IDAHO LABOR FOR POWER. The Idaho AFL-CIO is supporting Idaho Power Co.'s proposed coal-fired power plant near Boise. At an Idaho Public Utilities Commission hearing AFL-CIO President Robert Macfarlane attacked environmentalists as "posey-pickers." "We support any kind of steam plant," Macfarlane said. "By the time that plant is built, I am sure the need will be there."

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Friday, Feb. 28, 1975

Wyoming

Air regulations threatened by senators

The most explosive issue at the Wyoming legislature came as a complete surprise to most observers.

Before most people in the state realized that air regulations were a legislative concern, the Senate Mines, Minerals and Industrial Development Committee was holding unannounced meetings on the state's regulations with representatives from Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) and the Department of Environmental Quality.

The issue centered around a group of angry utilities (with PP&L in the spotlight) and strict sulfur dioxide regulations passed by the Environmental Quality Council last month. Although the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) told them they should look to the state's Administrative Procedures Act and to the courts for relief, PP&L took their complaints to the legislature.

The newly passed regulations would require scrubbers on some existing fuel-burning equipment and on most new equipment in the state. PP&L said that requirement would raise electrical rates by 30%. The DEQ criticized the company's accounting methods and said that the rate increase would be more like 10%.

Sen. John Ostlund's Mines, Minerals and Industrial Development committee held a meeting on Feb. 18 with speakers from the DEQ and PP&L. Ostlund said that he was disappointed that the two factions had not resolved their differences. He assured the press and the public that until all the facts were resolved, he would take no action on the matter.

Nevertheless, only one day later, a measure had been drafted by Ostlund, had received a do-pass in a secret committee session, and was ready to be addressed by the Senate. The measure was in the form of an amendment to the Environmental Quality Act revisions. It would have placed a moratorium on any state air quality regulations on sulfur dioxide for a period of two years. Ostlund sponsored the amendment, but a PP&L official, Gary Reed, later explained to a House committee that the moratorium was his idea.

The amendment was passed 21-8 and the entire bill was passed by a narrow 16-14 in the Senate.

Ostlund said he was disturbed by conflicting testimony he had heard from the state's DEQ and from PP&L. He felt that requiring expensive clean-up equipment on plants in Wyoming could endanger the ratepayers' pocketbooks and the economic stability of the country as a whole. "I'm not trying to put fear in your minds," said Ostlund on the Senate floor. "But it is time to recognize, after all these years, that the free world can go down the drain just like anyone else."

On the other side was Donald Lamb, chairman of the state Environmental Quality Council, the board responsible for passage of the strict air regs. Lamb said he was "utterly shocked and dismayed" that members of the Wyoming Legislature would usurp the authority of the Environmental Quality Council and weaken the effort to maintain the high quality of our environment.

At a press conference held Feb. 21 the Wyoming Citizens Lobby charged that PP&L had brought the "big lie technique" to the state. Charles Scott, Natrona county rancher and fiscal expert for the group, said that PP&L "used totally illegitimate accounting procedures in obtaining figures which would point to a 30% increase in power rates if it has to comply with the new air standards."

Scott also said that PP&L has had "a tremendous capital expansion program and this could well be an attempt to blame some of the rate increases they're going to need to cover it on environmental costs."

The House Mines, Minerals and Industrial Development Committee considered the bill this week. At a committee meeting, Rep. Warren Morton called the actions of the Senate mines committee "ex-

cessive and irresponsible."

On Feb. 26 the House committee voted to remove the Ostlund amendment and to add one of its own. The new amendment, proposed by Morton, provides that a variance may be granted if the Environmen-

regional legislative review

Utah

Solons rule on DOT, coal tax, predators

The Utah Senate approved Monday a bill to create a **Department of Transportation** — a bill which was supported by the Unita Chapter of the Sierra Club. The bill merges all transportation functions within a single agency. The study which led to the formulation of the bill placed great emphasis on the need to plan and implement programs to tie public transportation in with highways, terminals, and parking programs.

Bills to **tax the mining industry** are meeting mixed reactions in the Utah Legislature, and at least one is not expected to pass. According to the **Deseret News**, a Senate committee yielded to heavy opposition from the Utah Taxpayers Association and from mining industries when it voted to give an unfavorable recommendation to the bill to **tax non-metals**.

The bill, SB 177, one of several aimed at taxing non-metal minerals, would place a two per cent severance tax on industries producing coal, salt, sand, gravel, and other non-metals. Jack Olsen, representing the Utah Taxpayers and the Utah Manufacturers Associations, said the money generated by this fee is not needed and would place an "unbearable" burden on the public utilities and small mining companies.

Another bill being considered, SB 6, would apply the ad valorem (property) tax to such industries as coal mining and the extractive industries on the Great Salt Lake.

by Jack McLellan

Proponents of two conflicting **predator control** programs appeared before the Utah Senate and House Energy and Natural Resources Committees on Wednesday, February 12. SB 114, drafted by wool growers, would expand traditional predator control functions and place more power in an enlarged Utah Department of Agriculture board, dominated by livestock interests. HB 162, prepared by the Council on Utah Resources, would transfer predator control authority and responsibility from the agriculture department to the wildlife resources division. The predator control program would be incorporated into its overall management of wildlife in the state.

Transfer of predator control functions from the agricultural department to the State Division of Wildlife Resources was favored 6 to 1 by over 250 persons who overflowed the hearing room.

Joseph H. Francis, director of the agricultural department, said the responsibility for conducting the predatory control program should rest with the agency most concerned, "and not with an agency

tal Quality Council determines that the state of technology is "insufficiently advanced to achieve the objective level without causing undue economic hardship on the owner of the facility" or if developing technology would render available equipment obsolete in the near future.

On the same day, Feb. 26, Pacific Power and Light Co. took the new air regulations to court — a remedy which the DEQ suggested should have been tried before political force was exerted. PP&L filed suit in district court in Rock Springs. A PP&L spokesman said the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council acted in "excess of its powers" by adopting the regulations without first having shown necessity.

(Editors' note: At press time, we are unable to bring you up to date by reporting action on this bill by the House as a whole. We will include the information in our next edition. For a parallel situation in New Mexico, we recommend you take a look at the guest editorial on page 3.)

whose responsibility and duties are to propagate, protect, and conserve all species of wildlife." Francis added that the Utah predator program is the most effective and best-operated program in the United States and that SB 114 would further improve it. He said that legislatures of each of the 11 western states have assigned predator control to their agriculture departments.

Lonnie Johnson disagreed, however. As chairman of the wildlife committee of the Council on Utah Resources, he stated that the wool growers' bill is a threat to all wildlife in the state. Past predator control programs, he said, have not been effective from a cost or from a biological standpoint. He stressed that the council recognizes that effective predator control is necessary, but feels it should be under the wildlife resources agency to fit into overall, coordinated wildlife management.

During the week following the hearing, a Senate committee changed Senate Bill 114 to define predators as only coyotes and bobcats. This would limit species that could legally be controlled by the Department of Agriculture.

The Utah Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee also changed the composition of the damage prevention board, another controversial aspect of the proposed bill. Now the board would have a chairman and vice chairman from the Department of Agriculture and the Division of Wildlife Resources. The Utah Wildlife Federation now supports the bill, according to the **Deseret News**. The bill must be passed by the Senate and the House.

North Dakota

Four bills introduced to encourage use of sun

Although the debate over coal development has received center stage in North Dakota, the legislature is considering several bills concerning **solar energy**.

HB 1520 provides for a tax on coal sold for use in North Dakota, the funds to be used for solar energy research. SB 2439 provides for tax exemptions on solar energy equipment which is used to heat or cool buildings. HB 1527 would set up a revolving fund to give low interest loans to persons who use innovative ways to heat and cool residences. Solar, wind, or methane power are mentioned as deserving of these low cost loans. SCR 4042 directs and authorizes the Legislative Research Council to make a study of the state of the art in the development of alternative energy sources across the country.

Western Roundup

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Friday, Feb. 28, 1975

BLM game range takeover opposed

Twenty-five major conservation organizations from across the country have joined together to protest Secretary of Interior Rogers C.B. Morton's decision to hand over sole jurisdiction of three western wildlife ranges to the Bureau of Land Management. Morton has decided to give BLM authority over the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range in Montana, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range in Nevada and Oregon, and the Kofa Game Range in Arizona. A fourth area, the Cabeza Prieta Game Range in Arizona, would be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Morton's new plan. Since the 1930s the ranges were jointly administered by the BLM and the wildlife service. The BLM managed the lands largely for livestock and mineral development uses while the FWS managed wildlife species. When reorganization was contemplated, conservationists urged that all four ranges be given over to FWS. Conservationists maintain that the lands were originally set aside to "protect wildlife species that depend on the vanishing wilderness of the desert and high plains, such as the desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, bald eagle, and peregrine and prairie falcons." The 25 organizations feel that the BLM will favor mineral extraction and livestock production over wildlife values on the game ranges. "Turning any of these wildlife ranges over to BLM is absolutely unacceptable," the groups told President Gerald R. Ford. "We urge you to overrule Secretary Morton's decision. . . ."

Lamm chooses canyon route for I-70

A winding, 12-mile canyon road may be designated as the corridor for Interstate 70 east of Glenwood Springs, Colo. After 12 years of controversy the designation, recommended by Gov. Dick Lamm to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), still leaves wide open the question of whether a four-lane superhighway will be built there. A proposed alternate route over Cottonwood Pass "would result in irreparable damage to the land and water of western Colorado," Lamm told the DOT.

Lamm has asked his state's Congressional delegation to draft a bill which would exempt the corridor from certain restrictions placed on interstate highway design. Relaxed interstate standards would allow builders to construct a canyon road without a wide median strip and broad shoulders. But Lamm has said he tentatively supports the idea of a four-lane highway. He doesn't think the DOT will permit a two-or three-lane interstate.

Lamm says he hopes state highway engineers will be able to produce plans for the canyon which are "imaginative." Three consulting firms hired by the state have recommended elevated bridges, tunnels, and double deck parkways for the canyon corridor.

A dissenting opinion has come from a group called Citizens for a Glenwood Scenic Corridor, led by Mark Skrotski of El Jebel, Colo. The group claims to have collected the signatures of 20,000 citizens who are opposed to any four-lane highway in Glenwood Canyon. Skrotski favors widening the existing two-lane road and adding a third pull-over lane for sightseers.

Grass diet builds cheaper beef

Northern plains grass-fattened beef could yield good flavor and high protein at a better price than traditional grain-fattened beef, says Gov. Arthur A. Link of North Dakota. Feeding cattle grain has been criticized for its energy costs and as a waste of food fit for human consumption. Link met with Montana Gov. Thomas L. Judge and several Montana agricultural leaders this month to discuss the future of integrated cattle production and processing in Montana and North Dakota. "We are entering an era where we can finish the animal in the Northern Great Plains," Link says. Developing consumers' taste for leaner beef is the next step, the governors agreed. Grass-fed beef is lower in fat content, a quality commonly called "tenderness."

Bighorn transplant in Hells Canyon

A dozen bighorn sheep have been transplanted into Hells Canyon, just downstream from Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River in Idaho. Archaeological diggings in the area have revealed that the early Indians in the area were heavily dependent on bighorns for food. Each of the transplanted sheep will wear a radio collar so that biologists can monitor sheep movements and judge the success of the transplant. If the experiment works, a second transplant is scheduled for this winter.

Bunker Hill caught polluting again

The Bunker Hill Co. of Kellogg, Idaho is polluting the Coeur d'Alene River with zinc and cadmium seepage from its settling pond, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA has given the firm 30 days to submit a plan to halt the pollution. Last fall the same company was criticized for emitting excessive amounts of sulfur and lead air pollutants and for exceeding the limit for zinc and lead discharged into the river through its effluent pipes.



KTWO, FRIENDS OF EARTH CLASH OVER CANYON

Proposed highway construction in the Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area recently became the subject of a dialog between a Wyoming television station and the Friends of the Earth Northern Plains representative. On Jan. 29, 1975, KTWO-TV broadcast an editorial commending Wyoming environmentalists for not becoming "ideological fanatics" while criticizing two Montana environmental groups for "selfishness" and "obstructionism." The Montana Wilderness Association and the Montana Wildlife Federation brought suit against the National Park Service and Montana Department of State Lands over the proposed highway between Lovell, Wyo., and Fort Smith, Mont.

The editorial accused the organizations of denying the general public access to the recreation area so that "the wildlife and wilderness types continue to enjoy it in relative solitude, without distraction from those who cannot afford four-wheel drive vehicles." The response came from Ed Dobson of the Friends of the Earth, an organization which joined the controversy recently as a friend of the court. Dobson said that much of the recreation area is not inaccessible to the driving and boating public although some of the boat launching and recreational facilities are hard to get to during wet weather. KTWO accused the two organizations of "seizing upon every flimsy excuse imaginable to throw up administrative and legal impediments" to the road. Dobson explained that the purpose of the litigation is to bring new information to bear upon park decisions regarding new highway construction. He said an archeological study team has discovered that the Bad Pass Travois Trail there is possibly the most important archeological complex in the Northern Plains states. The trail was used for thousands of years by Indians in their seasonal migrations. Dobson also mentioned high construction and maintenance costs, the objections of the Crow Indians to the road, and the question of gasoline consumption priorities.

National Park Service Photo



14-High Country News

BULLETIN BOARD

SUMMIT ON COAL

Coal development policies in the West will be the focal point of a conference March 20 featuring S. David Freeman, former White House energy aide. The meeting of citizen groups, industry, and government officials will be at the Regency Inn in Denver, Colo. It will be jointly sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment (ROMCOE) and the Federation of Rocky Mountain States. Louis W. Menk, board chairman for Burlington Northern Railroad, will also speak. Tickets for the "Summit on Coal" are \$45, which includes a luncheon. For more information contact ROMCOE, Kathy Hauther or Steve Grogan, (303) 757-5439.

NEW MEXICAN'S GUIDE

"There is a right way to live in the 1970s if you care about our corner of the earth," says the New Mexican Citizens for Clean Air and Water. To elaborate, they have published a book entitled *Our Corner of the Earth, A New Mexican's Guide for Environmental Living*. The book is available for \$2 from N.M. Citizens for Clean Air and Water, Box 4524, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106.

ADOPT A STREAM

According to the Izaak Walton League, 75 streams have been adopted by various conservation groups in Maryland alone. To encourage such "guardianship" the IWL has launched a nationwide "Save Our Streams — Adopt One" program. The IWL has prepared a kit for conservation groups that want to join the program and survey, monitor, enhance, and protect a watercourse. Kits are \$3.25 from: Save Our Stream's Coordinator, Izaak Walton League of America, Suite 806, 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Va. 22209.

WHOLE EARTH OFFSPRING

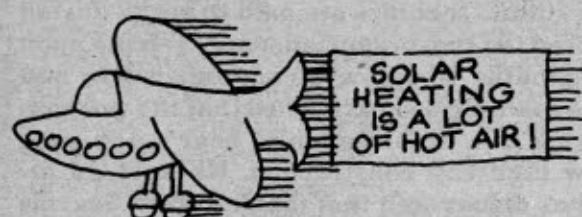
CoEvolution Quarterly, a supplement to the *Whole Earth Catalog* is full of information on alternate energy, shelter, crafts, and survival. Subscriptions (\$6 for four issues) are available from 558 Santa Cruz, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025.

SURVIVAL KIT

The "Dover Survival Kit," which includes a catalog of books on handicrafts, nature, farming, herbs, food, and household arts is available free from the Herbert Shrentz Co., Box 83, Irvington, N.Y. 10533.

THREE VOLUMES ON ENERGY

Energy and Human Welfare — A Critical Analysis, edited by Barry Commoner, Howard Boksenbaum, and Michael Corr is available from Macmillan Publishing Company. This three volume work is the result of the efforts of the Committee on Environmental Alternations, in collaboration with the Scientist's Institute for Public Information. The three volumes cover I) The Social Costs of Power Production, II) Alternative Technologies for Power Production, and III) Human Welfare: The End Use of Power. Price \$40.00 per set, or \$14.95 per volume.



SOLAR MYTHS AND FACTS

A short booklet entitled, "Myths and Facts about Solar Heating," is available free from the International Solarthermics Corp., Box 397, Nederland, Colo. 80466. It's an interesting bit of public relations material from a company in the solar heating business.



Photo by Lynne Bama

Tierra (incognita)

I work with tumbleweeds & dust
telling people they've come the wrong way.
This land has never been pictured.
(Get inside the wind, you'll see)
it moves too fast, it moves too slow,
you can never keep up with it.

If you're dying to, not if you want to,
take on the tone & age of bones.
Get as hard as them, as hard as parched corn,

yet singing, "Time & time & time again,
time again, we've lost our way."

Those of us remaining here know good directions
are hard to come by.
We assume the way tierra gives,
what she breathes into us, molds out of clay.
Like earthenware, tierra holds, & preserves us,
a bit of her taste rubs off on us,
she gives us a scent to follow.

—Gary Nabhan

Coalition now opposes all coal strip mining

The Coalition Against Strip Mining, a Washington D.C. lobbying organization that represents several conservation, agricultural, and deep mining interests, has decided to back a phase-out of all coal strip mining. After meeting in Washington in January the Coalition moved behind the substance of West Virginia Congressman Ken Hechler's phase-out bill rather than the reintroduced strip mine regulation bill that was passed last session, but vetoed by President Gerald R. Ford.

During the transition between enactment of phase-out legislation and the return of all coal production to safer and more efficient deep mining, the coalition supports immediate regulation of strip mining, incorporating these points:

- ban on steep slope mining.
- no mountaintop removal.
- ban on mining in alluvial valley floors in arid and semi-arid regions.
- ban on mining in National Forests and National Grasslands.
- Mansfield Amendment (no strip mining when

surface and minerals are under different ownership).

—right of surface landowners to refuse to be strip-mined against their will.

—support dependent sovereignty status of Indian lands and peoples as set forth by the Supreme Court.

—rights of citizens to sue to enforce the legislation.

—supervision of the phase-out by the Environmental Protection Agency, not Department of the Interior.

—no new starts of strip mining.

—recognition of regional problems in phasing out stripping.

—increased funding for improved deep mine safety and efficiency.

—fees charged to coal producers to fund restoration of lands already stripped and abandoned.

—strict standards to designate lands too valuable for other uses to be stripped, with authority to designate such lands unsuitable for stripping.

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"Don't pollute the air," was the cry,
So they cleaned up the stacks and the sky.
Trees still wouldn't grow,
Which just goes to show:
There's more to clean air than meets the eye.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Mail to: High Country News, Box K, Lander, WY. 82520
(To send a complimentary copy to a friend, include his/her address.)

The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies
Twenty-five issues each year.
Enclosed is \$10. Start my subscription now!



WHAT IF THEY HAD A BOOM AND NOBODY WANTED IT? RIFLE CONFRONTS A DESTINY NOT ITS OWN

AN ENVIRONMENTALIST'S GUIDE TO THE PRIMARIES

During the past two years the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) has been involved in an extensive project of recording and evaluating the environmentally related votes of members of the Colorado General Assembly. COSC has on file a matrix of over seventy notes on key environmental concepts, from the following remarks:

Essential reading in Colorado
Every week

STRAIGHT CREEK

2051 York St., Denver 80205

Eavesdropper

15

U.S.—CANADA FORM COALITION. Fourteen conservation organizations in the U.S. and Canada — with a combined membership of a million persons — have formed a joint International Environmental Council. The organizations will meet in Washington, D.C. in March to pursue areas of common interest, including fossil fuel resource development in the Arctic and the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota.

SEWAGE INTO OCEAN. The Environmental Protection Agency is considering plans to dump up to 180 million pounds of sewage sludge into an uncontaminated stretch of ocean 12 miles south of Fire Island, N.Y., this year in an attempt to judge if the sludge is lethal to marine organisms. The move has been advocated by EPA research scientists in Corvallis, Ore.; however several EPA staff scientists have objected to the proposal.

OIL DRILLING ON GREAT BARRIER REEF? A royal commission has recommended that oil drilling be permitted on the Great Barrier Reef off Australia, and already environmental critics of the decision are up in arms. "The reef is the most significant marine national park in the world. There is no proof that drilling wouldn't result in damage. And to damage a world asset like the reef would be quite untenable," says Dr. F. H. Talbot of the Australian Museum.

FARMLAND DEVELOPMENT BAN. "The California legislature is giving serious consideration to a state imposed ban on all development in prime agricultural lands," says **Land Use Planning Reports**. Officials in the U.S. Department of Agriculture say the proposal, AB 15, would be the most drastic step yet taken by a state to preserve agricultural lands.

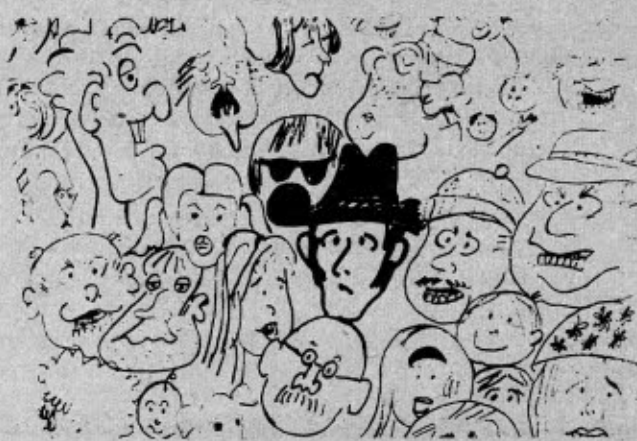
GREAT PROFIT IN WASTE. Waste reclamation offers "great profit opportunities for business as well as solutions to many of the severe economic problems facing the United States in the next 25 years," according to a new report from the National Credit Office in New York. **Reclamation 1975-2000: A Key to Economic Survival**, says waste reclamation can relieve "growing hunger, increased pollution, rising costs, heavier demand, and shortages of materials."

CAR OVERPOPULATION. Dr. M. King Hubbert testified before Congress that the world population of automobiles is doubling about every 10 years. Posing a problem, Dr. Hubbert suggested taking "one American-sized automobile and double it 64 times. Then stack the resultant number of cars uniformly over all the land areas of the earth. How deep a layer would be formed?" Answer: 1,000 miles deep!

NORTHERN PLAINS COAL

an audio-visual presentation

Coal development is booming in the West. Strip mines, thermal power plants, and coal gasification plants of unprecedented magnitude are planned for the region. What are the consequences? The presentation offers a point of view differing, and complementary to that found in utility advertising and is helpful in balancing perspective.



Who are the coal developers and where do they operate? Is land reclamation working in 1974? What impact can be expected upon air and water resources? Can climate changes occur? What will happen to the rancher and his way of life? How is electricity demand related to the planned generation and mining facilities? What are some alternatives?



Northern Plains Coal was written and produced by Gary Matson, and narrated by K. Ross Toole, Montana historian, lecturer, and author. Information background for the slidefilm was obtained from scientific reports, impact statements, on-site visits, and from the mining and utility officials themselves. An annotated bibliography provides detailed notes and sources. The program is intended for students beyond junior high age and for general audiences.

Rental policy

Rental period is three days. With order, specify date needed. Three days in-state and seven days out-of-state allowed at end of rental period for transit.

Description

Northern Plains Coal. 137 slides (35mm) and tape cassette. Duration one hour; divided into two one-half hour segments. Designed for a two-period presentation for the classroom or other groups. Audible cue for manual slide advance.

Prices

Rent — \$15. Purchase — \$95.



MATSON'S, P. O. BOX 308, MILLTOWN, MONTANA 59851.

(406) 258-6286

16-High Country News
Friday, Feb. 28, 1975

With help, we're getting by

Report to the HCN stockholder — the reader

Every six months or so we have a check-up — a financial examination to determine the health of the **High Country News**. We then try to relay this to you, our readers, in a "report to the stockholders." The **High Country News** couldn't exist without your full support. Consequently, we feel we should let you know about our successes and our troubles and invite you to help us determine new directions.

The past six months have been a period of major transitions for the paper. Six months ago our editor and friend, Tom Bell, left the **HCN** office here in Lander to start up a self-sufficient agricultural homestead in Halfway, Ore. Tom continues to be in close touch with the paper as its publisher and a regular columnist, but his day-to-day presence is sorely missed.

To help fill the void created by Tom's absence, we hired an associate editor, Marjane Ambler, in October. Marjane has proven to be an excellent writer and an extremely dedicated staff member. It's hard to find someone willing to spend weekends at the typewriter or to stay after-hours on press week pasting up the paper for the small salary we can afford — but somehow we succeeded and all our readers have benefited from the choice.

In December we decided to start taking selected advertising to help us offset rising production costs. We hope to fill up no more than one page out of our 16 with ads to help defray costs.

Jumping into advertising has made us face some hard decisions. We took the step because we felt we needed the money, but more than once we've had to turn down advertisers whose product conflicts with our editorial stance. We've also anguished over the space we've devoted to ads. It's hard enough squeezing two weeks' news into 16 pages without any ads.

On the brighter side, the paper has been blessed with the volunteer help of August Dailer, our advertising manager. August comes to **HCN** from West Virginia, a state that has seen the profits and problems that a mining economy can bring. He has a degree in advertising and has taken a great deal of the burden of this new job off our shoulders.

The paper's finances remain a frustration. In the past six months we spent \$13,888.48, but only took in \$13,249.63 — a net loss of \$638.85. In addition, we paid off \$1,600 in back debts, which still leaves \$3,300 to be paid. We still have some money for hard times tucked away in a savings account at the bank (about \$10,000) and we are paying about \$200 a month on these debts out of that money.

Like many of you perhaps we don't see any way we can balance the budget this year. We'll just have



Tom and Tommie Bell.

to start digging into the savings. We dream of paying August Dailer for his help, of covering travel expenses (these still come from the pockets of the staff members), of taking on new part-time correspondents, of initiating a major subscription drive, of making the paper a few pages larger, and eventually of increasing staff salaries (now at \$300 a month) — but these plans must remain dreams as long as our cash balance remains in the red.

The reasons for the red ink aren't hard to track down. **High Country News** is small — too small to be self-sufficient. We don't have enough subscribers to help meet the bills — and with costs for mailing, newsprint, etc. rising, that elusive goal of breaking even seems to have moved out of reach for now.

Being small is a double-edged sword. Not only are our revenues small, but also our effectiveness is limited. How can we reach more people? It's a costly and a time-consuming task that we, with our limited resources, are unable to give due attention to. We need any and all suggestions.

A year ago in January we had 3,140 readers. In January 1975 we had 2,896 readers. For the last year, we've continued to fluctuate around the 3,000 level — a level that doesn't quite pay for itself. To increase circulation we are trying advertising in other publications and sending out sample copies. But all those efforts have been able to do is make up for most of the readers we lose that do not renew.

One of the factors that has always been an important part of the **HCN** budget is contributions from "Friends of High Country News." Each month we are elated to find that some of our readers can scrape together a contribution to help us along — despite the bite inflation is taking from their own bank accounts and businesses. We can't overemphasize the importance of the contributions to our continued

operation. Our budget prospects would be dismal without the kind boost provided by the numerous "Friends of High Country News." (To show our thanks, we have listed on page two those who have sent contributions since the last report to the Stockholders on Sept. 13, 1974.)

We feel it is equally important to identify "Friends of High Country News" who help the paper in other ways. For instance, there's our prolific book reviewer, Peter Wild, who never asks for a cent of pay, only that we "send more books for review." We also are indebted to reader Howard W. Dellard who sends us his used copies of environmental publications — a recycling task that saves the paper \$100 a year in subscription fees.

Another contribution that saves us time and money is the newspaper and magazine clipping service that many of our readers provide. Every week we receive timely articles of interest from all corners of the country. Several of our most prolific clippers that deserve special note are Doris Cook, Bill Fry, Dave Olson, Dorothy Nice, and Sally Forbes.

Other free labor which should be properly recognized includes our free artists, photographers, and writers. Phil Benson, Charles Nations, Carolyn Johnson, David Sumner, Lynne Bama, Carol Harlow, Bart Koehler, Gowen Green, Bob Child, Gary Nabhan, Carol Snow, Barbara Brown, Carlos Stern, Terry Moore, Ernie Day, Vim Wright, and Ernest Youens are just a few of these "Friends."

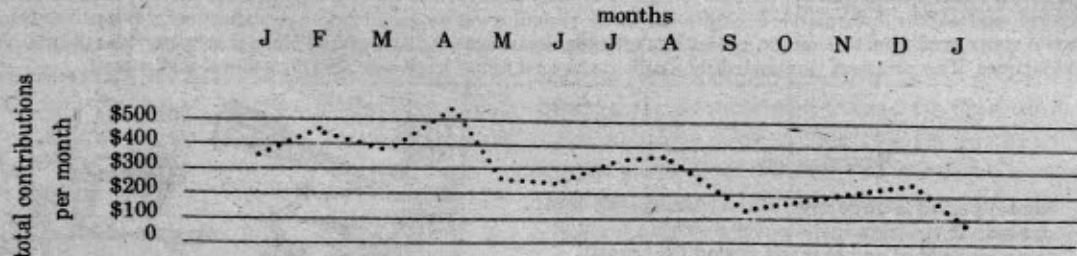
A final contribution that cannot be overlooked is the warm reception we often find when a staff member is on the road getting a story. Motels and restaurant meals are often unnecessary expenses for our staff members because of the kindness readers and friends have shown. (Our love of camping out has also helped keep expenses down.)

So there you have it. We give you the bad news about our finances because, we still need your help. We need new subscriptions, renewed subscriptions, donations, and advice. We need people to help us find advertisers and newsstand outlets. We need people to peddle **HCN** door-to-door and at meetings on a commission basis. The paper can only grow, get better material, and gain a level of financial stability with a giant staff-reader effort. We can't do it alone.

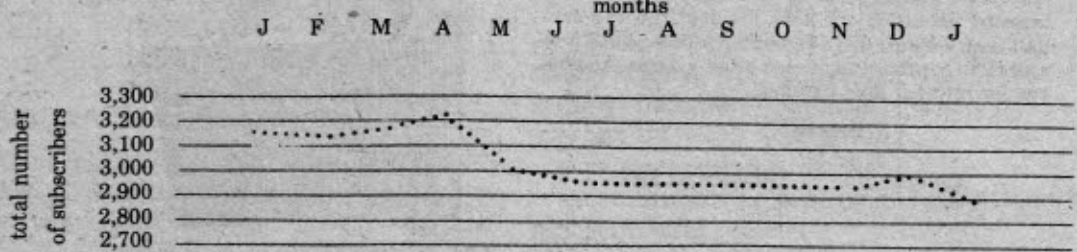
We also give you the good news that our spirits are as high as ever. We're determined to put out the best newspaper we know how for as long as we are able and for as long as we are needed.

—the staff

CONTRIBUTIONS



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