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Jeffrey City, Wyo.

Women face boom town isolation

by Mary Trigg

The women of Jeffrey City, Wyo., are tough. They have always had to be in order to live the kind of life that a mining town 60 miles from the nearest city provides.

Charlie Smith, who lived in Jeffrey City during the '50s, remembers "Badlands" Mary Wells. "Badlands" Mary, who was reputed to have been in numerous fights, got into a spat one night with two women, mother and daughter, and she "knocked 'em both flat," Smith says.

The women in Jeffrey City today may not be engaged in that kind of activity. But they are equally spirited, and have had to undergo the hardships, frustrations, and loneliness of a small mining town in Wyoming.

One finds comfort in the freedom that a boom town offers them in raising their children. Others complain of the lack of freedom in living in a one-company town where no one owns their own home. The frustrations are many. Traveling miles to a town with adequate shopping or with a movie theatre, a shortage of job opportunities, the lack of a satisfying social life, the severe winters, and, for some, the dreariness of miles and miles of sagebrush.

Jeffrey City, owned and operated by Western Nuclear, a uranium mining subsidiary of Phelps Dodge, has experienced substantial growth in the past several years. With the current boom in uranium prices, it is preparing itself for more growth in the next three years. Its present population is reported to be between 1,100 and 1,500, and current projections indicate it will grow to 2,500 by 1979, a possible doubling in less than three years.

Before there was a Jeffrey City or a Western Nuclear, back in 1931, Beulah

"You can't buy a pair of shoes, other than sneakers, here in Jeffrey City."

Beulah Peterson Walker traveled with her husband and two sons from Nebraska to homestead in Wyoming. They built a log cabin and opened a gas station and post office for the ranchers of that area and called it Home on the Range. Shortly after Western Nuclear opened in 1957, the town was renamed Jeffrey City.

Back then, mere physical endurance was perhaps the biggest challenge. The winters



MODERN PLAINSWOMEN. Beulah Peterson Walker (left) and Barbara Ransom have chosen to live in the small Wyoming mining town of Jeffrey City. Walker came as a homesteader in 1931. Ransom settled there five years ago and now works as a warehouseman for Western Nuclear.

were severe and the isolation even more pronounced. But, says Walker, a 67-year-old great grandmother, "I have never known what it is to be lonesome. I was just very, very busy; I had no time to be lonesome. . . . They (the people from the East) would ask me, 'What do you do for a livin'?' I said, 'I'm squirtin' gas, that's what I'm doin' for a livin'.'"

Even now Walker has more to do than she's physically able to, and she can't understand other women feeling bored. "The

ladies here can be as busy as they want to be," she says. "If they stay home and do like all wives are supposed to do, they got plenty to keep 'em busy."

JUST SNEAKERS

The area and the town have changed considerably since Beulah Walker arrived, but through the years, Jeffrey City has remained just as remote.

"The isolation is far more telling than anything else here," says Jonette Malloy,

personnel director of Western Nuclear. "That, basically, is the hardest thing to get used to. . . . You can't buy a pair of shoes, other than sneakers, here in Jeffrey City."

Malloy, who has been in Jeffrey City for nine years and is the only woman in a management position at Western Nuclear, sees the town in a positive light but admits that she found being so far from other towns and from her family back East hard to adjust to. "It's a place," she says, "where you're thrown on your own resources. You have to entertain yourself, not depend on your husband, or on your kids — just yourself."

The women of Jeffrey City have reacted in different ways to the limitations of a small town. Some are determined to get out and participate in activities while others prefer the refuge of their homes.

Two years ago Western Nuclear called a meeting for the women and asked them to explain what would make them happy in Jeffrey City. Many of the workers who had left the company had said that their wives were not happy.

The only things they asked for, according to Malloy, were for their children. The end result was a swimming pool and tennis court funded by the company.

"The majority of women in Jeffrey City stay home all day due to the lack of job opportunities in a town this size," Malloy says. Presently there are about 15 women working at Western Nuclear, out of a total work force of approximately 450. One

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Uranium firm wrestles with growth

by Mary Trigg

The residents of Jeffrey City, Wyo., don't like the term "boom town" applied to their town. They're tired of unflattering publicity.

"I resent that Jeffrey City is being singled out for problems that other communities have," says Jonette Malloy, personnel director of Western Nuclear, the uranium company that owns and operates Jeffrey City. "If you want to do an article on Jeffrey City and Western Nuclear," Malloy told *High Country News*, "don't start with the idea that we're that different."

Jeffrey City's history goes back to 1931 when Beulah Peterson Walker, her husband, and two children homesteaded the area. They built a log cabin, opened a gas

station and post office, and named the place Home on the Range. For many years, Home on the Range was the focal point for the surrounding ranching community and a



stopping off point for travelers between Rawlins and Lander.

In 1956, Robert Adams, a restaurateur from Rawlins, formed Western Nuclear with the financial aid of Dr. C.W. Jeffrey, an eccentric millionaire also from Rawlins. Construction began on a uranium mill that year. The town was soon dedicated and renamed Jeffrey City.

Western Nuclear, which brags of having the first uranium mill in Wyoming, has grown over the years into a thriving operation. It was acquired by and became a subsidiary of Phelps Dodge Corporation about five years ago. It consists of a home administrative office in Denver, Colo.; a sulfuric acid plant in Riverton, Wyo.; several

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HCN

Letters

CLOUDSEEDING CONFUSION

Dear HCN,

Your July 2, 1976, issue had a short article on p. 13 called "Montana wants pennies from heaven." It listed an address where one could write for a 500-page report on BuRec's 5 year study in southwest Colorado:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Va. 22161.

I wrote the address given, and they requested the exact title of the document. I have enclosed their reply to me in case others have had the same problem.

Lee Carlman
Libby, Mont.

(Editors' note: Sorry for the inconvenience if the item wasn't clear. It could be the study isn't complete yet. It's called "Ecological Impacts of Snowpack Augmentation in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado." It was prepared for the Bureau of Reclamation by natural scientists from Colorado State University, the University of Colorado, and Fort Lewis College.

It was associated with the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Pilot Project, a five year cloud physics research program to determine the effectiveness of seeding winter weather systems for increased snowfall and spring runoff. It was coordinated by Dr. Harold Steinhoff of CSU.

Glad to know you're interested!!

DESIGNATING WILDERNESS

Dear HCN,

Concerning Dave Foreman's article "Designating wilderness — asking for destruction?" (HCN, 6-4-76), a couple of points should be made. There is no question that administering agencies, in particular, the Forest Service, have used the ill-founded logic that if an area is designated as wilderness it will be overused, thus it should not be considered for wilderness allocation. Using this dead end logic, I do not understand why the Forest Service does not end timber harvests in order to prevent various environmental perturbations. Obviously, very few foresters would propose this program.

I find myself in conflict with Foreman concerning solitude and wilderness recreation, however. Wilderness is not simply a recreational resource, as Foreman noted. But with respect to recreational use the historical and legislative intent is to provide recreation on a dispersed level — substantially different than other recreational resources. On a historical basis this was one of the foundations of Bob Marshall's thinking. I do not think it matters that solitude is only mentioned once in the Wilderness Act (for that matter, the primary outputs of wilderness — inspiration, wildlife habitat, watershed, airshed etc. — are not even mentioned once). Solitude also provides, given the already discussed sensitive nature of wilderness, the major protection for that resource. Solitude equates fewer users, which, in turn, equates less impact and more sensible resource protection.

There are two answers to these problems and they must be initiated simultaneously:

1) better management of people on an inter-and intra-wilderness basis and 2) a vast increase in wilderness acres. The answer does not rest in reducing the historical intent and quality of the system by maintaining solitude is only mentioned once in the Wilderness Act, therefore, "All parts of a wilderness — and all wilderness areas — do not necessarily have to provide solitude as part of the visitors experience," as Foreman maintains.

Contrary to Foreman, I suspect the addition of formal wilderness may create new wilderness users. There is evidence that as we increase the supply of an amenity resource demand will increase (off-road vehicle use is a good example). Eventually, of course, the present 10-15% increase per year in wilderness use, over the whole system, we are now witnessing will decrease as a result of the decrease in population growth. Use will continue to grow, but it will more nearly approximate the growth rate of the population (see *The Economics of Natural Environments*, Krutilla and Fisher, 1975, Resources for the Future).

I am less concerned with the problems of the "neon sign syndrome" than the potential reduction of quality within the system. If the wilderness system now and in the future degenerates into a system radically different than the dreams of Bob Marshall and Aldo Leopold and no longer is substantially different than other recreation resources, then I fear resource managers and Congresspersons may be less inclined to consider wilderness a viable resource. Why consider wilderness when it is nothing more than a semi-primitive playground?

I do not find myself in disagreement with Foreman concerning substance. My disagreements are on issues of management and allocation as factors affecting one another — not separate problems. I, like Foreman, live for the day when we have 1,000 — maybe 2,000 — wilderness areas in this country.

Dick Carter
Salt Lake City, Utah

LIVING ROOM FOR GRIZZLIES

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Does the grizzly bear stand even the slimmest chance of survival in the wild? (See HCN, 7-30-76).

The president of the Cody Country Sportsman's Club, Jay Ward, irately exclaims that placing aside living room for the grizzly will deprive "us" of hunting (the bear itself), fishing (which is a very important source of food for the grizzly, and fish are abundant in so many other areas of the West), hiking (which can be successfully executed in vast areas of this great country), and picnicking (which is enjoyed from coast to coast today and everyday). Mr. Ward insists that the authority of the federal government is ominous. I assure Mr. Ward and the thousands that think as he does that he is the ominous breed of American when it comes to the preservation of wildlife. Wildlife which is just as much mine as it is Mr. Ward's and the hunters of America.

If the Secretary of the Interior is required by our Endangered Species Act to designate and to carry out the establishment of critical habitat to help protect the grizzly from becoming an extinct mammal, then THAT IS WHAT MUST BE DONE! Laws are made by man, agreed, but laws are made by those men and women who are intelligent enough to realize that animal life on this earth is essential and very vital to our existence. The laws relating to PROTECTING wildlife must be enforced



and totally adhered to. Animals have rights, too!

The people who find themselves selfishly worried about their "sporting" activities being curtailed in designated grizzly critical habitat will have to find other areas to ride their recreational vehicles through and other areas to throw their beer cans. The "true" outdoorsman and woman knows that specified areas are vitally necessary for certain species of wildlife to survive; including space for normal growth, movements, and normal territorial behavior. We have won the battle against Nature, and now we must realize our insanity. It is time to make repentances and reversals in the direction of the animals which share this planet with us.

Biologist John Mionczynski indicates that grizzly bears can live in almost any region of the northwest. It is in fact human intervention and competition that has caused the grizzly to become a seriously threatened species. Well, for that one reason and fact, the grizzly should now have the necessary land set aside as critical habitat and federal mandates and laws to protect the remaining bears!

How many bears does the public want? In what areas will the public tolerate bears? Ski Yellowstone, a sub-division being built in a grizzly habitat just west of Yellowstone National Park? The bears have no chance to answer these questions, for they cannot speak. However, there are a few human animals who can raise a voice in their behalf, for we have a right to speak. Declare the adequate areas critical habitat

for the grizzly bear and declare the area "off-limits" to human animals who would threaten the mammals. Let not an "ominous" being be allowed into the living room of a mighty dwindling creature.

Carole Cotton
Miami, Fla.



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Editorials

HCN

Hearing half a story not enough

Two contradictory articles in Denver's two major daily newspapers recently pointed out the need for more objective, well-researched reporting. The issue involved was the proposed Lake Catamount resort development near Steamboat Springs — a combination reservoir, ski hill, golf course, 10,000 bed recreational community. In this case kudos go to **Rocky Mountain News** staff writer Richard J. Schneider. **Denver Post** Business Writer Jack Phinney deserves attention, too — for demonstrating how incomplete (and, therefore, inaccurate) a news story can be.

Schneider, in an August 28 edition of the **News**, detailed the major shortcomings of the development in an article entitled, "Land use board orders Yampa River dam probe." Phinney, apparently talking only to development boosters and failing to take heed of Schneider's article which appeared a day earlier, wrote a glowing endorsement, "Resort area plans announced," in the August 29 edition of the **Post**.

Phinney quoted a local businessman backing the resort, Marvin L. Crawford, as saying, "Our initial studies indicate it will be possible to create an outstanding ski area." He predicted it will become one of the major skiing areas in the United States.

However, Schneider noted in his article that the ski area idea "paled Friday (August 27) at the disclosure of reports by the U.S. Forest Service and a private consultant which concluded that the mountain wouldn't be a viable site for a commercial ski area."

Phinney quoted Crawford as saying that the proposed reservoir will have no detrimental effect on downstream water quality. Schneider notes that the Colorado Division of Wildlife believes that the trout fishery downstream from the dam would be damaged.

Crawford told Phinney, who in turn told all **Post** readers, that the development "places great emphasis on environmental values." **News** readers learned from Schneider that the Division of Wildlife believed the resort would destroy a significant amount of elk winter range.

Phinney noted that some opposition to the dam has sprung up since work started on it, but he relied on Crawford's characterization of the opponents — "a half-dozen young people in Steamboat who are simply against growth in the area."

Schneider revealed in his article that the "half-dozen young people" actually included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (which ordered dam construction activities halted because the developers didn't get required certification from the State Division of Water Quality Control), the Colorado Land Use Commission (which ordered an investigation into the dam construction), the Routt County Planning Commission (which has opposed the project from the start), a local businessmen's organization called Club 200, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and a number of conservation organizations including the Sierra Club, Colorado Open Space Council, Wilderness Society, and Wilderness Study Group of the University of Colorado.

Overlooking or ignoring the environmental news aspects of the story would have been bad enough, but a further comparison of the two stories reveals that business writer Phinney even overlooked critical business angles.

Phinney quoted Lake Catamount master plan designer Fredric A. Benedict as saying "there is no other undeveloped site in the state that has such a combination of factors to insure a financially successful recreation project."

However, Schneider noted in his article that "the developers apparently have a controversial backup plan for their 'recreational' lake in the event the land development fails, as at least two others have in the same area (Steamboat Lake and Stagecoach both recently went bankrupt).

However, Schneider noted in his article that "the developers apparently have a controversial backup plan for their 'recreational' lake in the event the land development fails, as at least two others have in the same area (Steamboat Lake and Stagecoach both recently went bankrupt). They plan to sell the water storage rights to an energy company, probably the Colorado-Ute Electric Association."

Schneider reported that several of the Lake Catamount investors were involved in a development near the Steamboat Springs Ski Area called Storm Meadows East, "which has at least two major foreclosure proceedings against it."

Phinney quoted the Steamboat Springs Chamber and Resort Association describing Storm Meadows as "one of the finest



PLEASANT VALLEY, near Steamboat Springs, Colo., is the site of the planned Lake Catamount resort and reservoir (see editorial).

and most successful condominium projects in all of Colorado."

Phinney's article seems to us to be an honest, but regrettable journalistic blunder. We don't have any reason to believe the **Post** is trying to deceive its readers to sell Lake Catamount lots, but this mishap should serve as a warning to the **Post** and to us. We all need to talk to as many people

as we can on all sides of an issue before we form our judgments. We need to search out the "half-dozen young people" who are protesting a project and find out who they really are and if they have a legitimate gripe. Environmentalists need to listen to more than just their fellow environmentalists. We all need to become investigative reporters in search of truth. —BH

Ford makes parks pawns

Whenever a watchdog is thrown a bone and begins to get the royal treatment from those he is watching, he stiffens. Something's up.

The Interior Department made extraordinary efforts to get conservationists to Gerald Ford's speech in Yellowstone National Park Aug. 29. HCN and a large number of conservation organizations received telegraphed invitations, to the speech and to a free beef barbecue in the park after the program. Still stunned by the shock of the telegram, we received a call from Interior, wondering if we would be able to make it.

Why, after all the years of indifference to conservationists' ideas, suddenly this gracious welcome to the Administration fold? After spending what we must admit was a pleasant day (socially) in the park, we concluded that, just as we had suspected, Ford was running scared from Jimmy Carter's environmental appeal and thought he could use us and other conservationists to win a few votes in November.

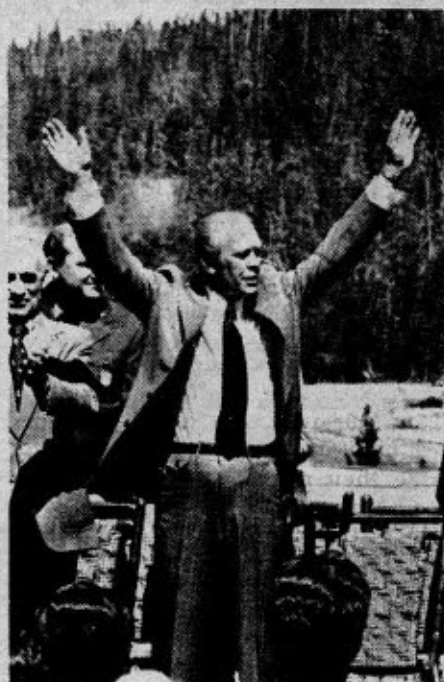
We most certainly weren't invited to hear a meaty speech. Tan and relaxed, Ford was still in a vacation spirit after his trip to Vail. While we were genuinely interested to know what scraps Ford would throw to conservationists in this election year, we had to endure tales of the weather and Ford's summer job in Yellowstone Park 40 years ago.

What meat there was in the speech was disappointing. His promise to double park acreage over the next 10 years through acquisitions in Alaska was not so much a historic shift in the Administration's attitude toward land preservation and management as it was another insult — the truth dressed up for election purposes. After all, Congress had mandated adding that Alaskan acreage in 1971. And the land is already federally owned. It is just a matter of putting it in the bailiwick of this or that federal land managing agency.

Ford's commitment of money and manpower to the parks was a positive step, although not a big enough one. But when we asked for specifics, there was no one to provide them. Ford left soon after the applause died down. He smiled and shook a few hands, but he answered no questions.

Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe did stay for an informal press conference after the speech, but he maintained he didn't know the details of the plan. He didn't know what lands were to be acquired under the proposed legislation, and he didn't know if Ford would sign the bill to expand Land and Water Conservation Act revenues, the most likely source of funding for such an acquisition program.

Not even the most glorious barbecue in the sun beside awesome Old Faithful could make up for the lack of facts from the Administration. Representatives of the Environmental Policy Center, the Wilderness Society, the National Parks and Conservation Association, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Sierra Club were around to dispel any illusions people might have had about Ford's conservation record. They reminded members of the press about the Administration's attacks on past park budgets, strip mining legislation, the Clean Air Act, and offshore oil regulations. In the end, Ford's attempt to be a sensitive, beauty-loving conservationist for a day didn't fool anyone. —JN



GERALD FORD made what he called a non-political visit to Yellowstone National Park at the end of August. The event was full of election year flavor nevertheless.

HCN presents Jeffrey City, Wyo.

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Wyoming women

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woman works in the mine as an air sampler, but there are no female miners. It's not apparent whether this is due to a lack of job opportunities or whether the women won't take the jobs that are available. According to Malloy, no women have applied for the mining jobs.

Malloy went on to say, "I think the opportunities are here if you're a man or a woman. . . . Eventually there will be other women in the company. It's not a good community for single women, and often women who want these jobs are single or divorced. A lot of married women only want to work — until you offer them a job." She also says that a lot of men would not want their wives working in the mine or the mill because it's very heavy and dirty work.

For Linda Badger, finding work has not presented a problem. After she and her husband and two children moved to Jeffrey City, she was a cook in each of the restaurants in town. A year ago she started the "Hidden Talent Gift Shop," which she runs by herself.

"It's hard for women here," Badger states emphatically. "That's one of the reasons I started the shop . . . to provide some place for ladies to sell their art work." She takes work on consignment from the women of Jeffrey City as well as other towns.

There are a variety of clubs and activities available to women in Jeffrey City including homemakers, Girl Scouts, bowling, swimming, arts and crafts, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), and pinochle. There have even been yoga and karate classes offered.

The problem comes for women who aren't interested in these types of activities or for women who find it difficult to get out of the house. One woman compared many of the Jeffrey City women to the people of

their problems there than perhaps anyone else. The school often refers her to children who are having problems, and then she goes to their homes to talk with the parents. "I think it would be unfair to put the people of Jeffrey City in one category," Klemm says. Some have very little education and others are very well educated; some stay for many years while others move on after several weeks.

While she sees many people with problems in Jeffrey City, she says there are probably not any more than in other towns. The people have been receptive and anxi-



LINDA BADGER — started the "Hidden Talent Gift Shop" to provide a place for women to sell their art work.

ous to know what they can do for their children, she says.

"But I have never found community cohesiveness there. There are some groups for women but nothing on a large scale. If you don't have a hobby, it's hard to find things to do. Those who've depended on

"It's a place where you're thrown on your own resources. You have to entertain yourself, not depend on your husband, or on your kids."

medicine in several cities, she came to Wyoming to practice.

Although she is technically retired and is "doing the things I never had time to do before," Dr. Mary still practices medicine on a limited basis in her home, seeing on the average four or five people a day. "I'm sort of a community convenience," she sighs, "but it makes me feel useful."

Perhaps the fact that she has been working in a profession traditionally reserved for men, makes it easier for Dr. Mary to adjust to Jeffrey City. "It's hard out here for a young woman with children whose husband is changing shifts. . . . I think a lot depends on your cultural background and what you are used to doing. If your social status is such that you can't adjust to this down-to-earth living, it's rather difficult," she says.

She doesn't find loneliness to be a problem. "The practice of medicine is a lonely life, so you learn to be content and not to make too many demands on people."

There are women in Jeffrey City who have problems coping with the loneliness. For them there is some help. Some go to see Dr. Mary while others go to the Jeffrey City clinic, which is presently staffed by Gerri Anderson, a registered nurse, and Ed Dobie, a physician's assistant.

About 40% of their patients are women, and they say approximately five percent of them come because of emotional problems. These women are referred to one of two social workers or to an alcoholic counselor who come to town once a week. A psychologist also does counseling in the school.

Gerri Anderson says frankly, "Every town has its problems. Here you have more time to think about them. . . . It's extremely hard on women out here; there's nothing for them to do."

Anderson came to Jeffrey City with her husband and daughter two and a half years ago to take the nursing position offered by Western Nuclear. She gives physicals to the new miners, does what she can for the victims of mining or mill accidents before they are sent 60 miles to the nearest hospital in Lander, and helps the men's families. Once she took care of a horse bitten by a snake until the vet came from Lander. "I'm a little bit this, and little bit that," she says.

Anderson says that although there are many families with a variety of problems in Jeffrey City, there apparently isn't much wife beating — probably less than most towns of its size. Neglect of children turns out to be more of a problem. On the average, five women a month come into the clinic with some sort of emotional problem, and if it's too bad, they usually pack up and leave, says Anderson. Dobie has the impression, however, that there are more there, especially in the winter, who would like some sort of counseling.

Some of the older women agree that life is probably hardest for young women in Jeffrey City who have small children.

Shawna Music is an enthusiastic 22-year-old woman with a four-year-old and one-year-old child. Married when she was 17, she moved to Jeffrey City where her husband now works in the mine as a hoistman. He often works the graveyard shift, 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

While her husband was asleep in the bedroom, Music confessed, "I thought I was going to mind it here, but really I don't mind it at all. You don't have to worry about your children as much."

When her husband was working under-

ground, she was concerned about his safety. "They don't talk about it (concern over safety) a lot, but I think it's there all the time."

Music likes to get out of the house to play pinochle, to go to a TOPS meeting, or to a Girl Scout meeting. She says that Western Nuclear has tried to organize things for the women, but the lack of enthusiasm is the problem, not the lack of opportunity.

NOT FREE TO FIX UP

Sherril Larson, 29, is a newcomer to Jeffrey City. She and her husband and two children came from Missouri a year ago. She says, "I'd just as soon be in Missouri. . . . I don't like all the sagebrush here. You don't really feel free to do what you want in your place, like fixing up the house or taking care of the lawn, because it's owned by the company. If it wasn't a company town, more people would build their homes and feel more permanent."

Darcie Kahila looks at Jeffrey City through the eyes of an "old timer." A 20-year-old woman with a two-year-old daughter, she moved with her family to Jeffrey City 11 years ago.

"I like Jeffrey City as a whole, but the turnover is big. . . . You make new friends, and within a month they're gone," she says.

Many women see the high turnover as a major problem, and most said they do very little socializing. "There's no entertainment for couples," Kahila says, "except the bars."

Jonette Malloy explains, "I think a company town per se is harder on the social life. Working with the same people as you socialize with is an odd thing. . . . You are constantly with the same group of people."

LIKE IT — A LOT

For Pat Reed, Jeffrey City offered a change in lifestyle and at the same time a real challenge. Just out of school and mar-



GERRI ANDERSON, R.N. — "Every town has its problems. Here you have more time to think about them."

ried, she and her husband moved to Jeffrey City a year ago to teach. He teaches children with learning disabilities and she teaches physical education.

"When I first came here for an interview, I said to myself, 'I don't know if I can do it.' . . . But in all truthfulness, I think I like it — an awful lot," Pat Reed says.

One of the things she likes about a small town is being able to get to know the kids

"Don't think Jeffrey City is all there is; do what you want to do. Don't think you have to get married at 16."

Appalachia. "The women I've seen," she says, "are sort of on the 'heady' side: women with not much education, with two or three kids, who can't get out of the house."

FIGHTING FEBRUARY BLAHS

Irma Klemm, a social worker with the Fremont County Counseling Service in Lander, goes to Jeffrey City once a week and is more familiar with the women and

others have a hard time," she says. The community cohesiveness may develop in the future, Klemm predicts, with better housing and more planning.

Many women who can't get out of the house become depressed, particularly in the winter when they experience what they call the "February blahs." Sometimes they turn to their friends, but often they stay in the house where Klemm finds them through their children.

The Jeffrey City "Shopping Center" is one large building housing the Hidden Talent Gift Shop, a beauty shop, and an arts and crafts center. Dr. Mary Irvine is one of the prime supporters, as well as an instructor, at the center. She maintains she'll teach anybody anything they want to learn — painting, sewing, needlework, quilting, pottery.

DOWN-TO-EARTH LIVING

"Dr. Mary," as she is known to most people, has been in Jeffrey City for two years. Like many of the Jeffrey City women, she has lived in towns and cities across the country. She was a registered nurse in 1936 when she decided to go to medical school in Detroit, Mich. Twenty-six years old at the time and married, she managed to get through medical school in six years, taking some time out to have a child. She was the second woman to intern at Detroit Receiving Hospital. After practicing



DR. MARY IRVINE — "If your social status is such that you can't adjust to this down-to-earth living, it's rather difficult."

she teaches, although some of them are there for only a short time, sometimes only a few weeks. One child had moved nine times in a year. "This makes for some instability," she says.

"This is a male-dominant town," Reed says. But she's making her contribution towards female assertiveness. This past year was the first year for girls' competitive basketball.

"I've pushed my girls quite a bit," she says. "I've told them, 'Don't think Jeffrey City is all there is; do what you want to do. Don't think you have to get married at 16; go to college if you want to.' I'd like to see equality at school. If it starts here, it's better."

HECK OF AN EDUCATION

As one of the few single women in Jeffrey City, Barbara Ransom, a 28-year-old widow, has had some special problems to overcome. She and her husband, Floyd, came to Wyoming from Utah five years ago and settled on a ranch three miles east of Jeffrey City. They felt comfortable, and life was good to them, she says, until Floyd was killed in a truck accident 15 months ago. Barbara was left with two children (ages eight and six) and no money for five months while she waited for Social Security payments.

She asked Western Nuclear for a job and was told there were no openings. However, Jack Hawn, general mine superintendent, heard about her situation and offered her a job hauling and trucking supplies to the different mines. She is now a "warehouseman."

"I'm getting one heck of an education," Ransom exclaims. She was the first woman to start working in the warehouse. "Very few men have put me down," Ransom says.

She explains that the men approve of a woman working with them who really needs the job to support a family, as she does. They resent a woman working who takes a job away from a man who needs it.

According to Ransom, the female secretaries at the company only make half of what she does. She says she couldn't support her family on that salary. She doesn't mind the heavy, dirty work because ranching is very similar in that way.

Her voice fills with sadness when she talks about her husband's death and how the town got together to build a casket for him. Several tributes and a song were written about him. "Where else could a man be a legend in his own time?" Ransom asks.

Now in the process of finding herself and



JONETTE MALLOY — "I resent that Jeffrey City is being singled out for problems that other communities have."

The younger women often talk of moving to a bigger town, and some of the older women talk about moving when their husbands retire.

adjusting to a new life, Ransom says, "I think a single woman can make it here; she's just got to be damn careful. It's a lonely, lonely life." Before the town started growing, she says, "you could go to a bar if you were a woman, married or single, but now it's harder . . . it's better not to."

Ransom works on the average of nine hours a day at the company and makes the same money as her male partner. "On equal pay, I agree with that," she states. "But there's so much a man can do that a woman can't. I do the very best I can . . . but I wear my earrings and my makeup for extra help. I don't want them to forget I'm a woman."

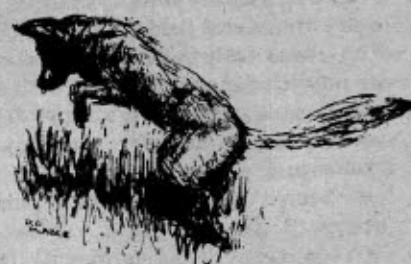
SPECIAL STAMINA

Women everywhere have problems in their everyday lives — whether they're in New York City or Jeffrey City, but the women of Jeffrey City need a special kind of stamina to help them live where they do. Those who can't make it in a small mining town in the middle of Wyoming move on.

Most of those who stay, however, don't think of Jeffrey City as a permanent home. The younger women often talk of moving to a bigger town, and some of the older women talk about moving when their husbands retire. As Pat Reed says, "We're just kind of ridin'. We may be here 10 years or move next year."

Beulah Peterson Walker, who has seen

Home on the Range go from a population of four to 1,500 is perhaps one of the few women who plans on staying. "My youngsters keep wanting me to move to town," she laughs, "but this is my home. I'm more content out here. We built this house . . . it's just my home."



Mary Trigg is the producer of an environmental radio program, "Common Ground," which is heard over 50 stations in the Minneapolis, Minn., area each day. For her work on the program, Trigg won an award in July 1976 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for her outstanding contributions to environmental quality. For her vacation from that job, Trigg volunteered to spend a month in Lander and Jeffrey City, Wyo., working on this story and helping with other work at HCN. She holds a B.A. from Grinnell College in Iowa in American Studies.

Growth wrestle...

(continued from page 1)

small exploratory operations in Spokane, Wash.; and Casper, Wyo.; and four underground mines and an open pit mine and a mill in Jeffrey City.

STRAINS WITH GROWTH

According to Don Sparling, resident manager of Western Nuclear, the total work force in the Jeffrey City mining and mill operation is now around 450. He expects it to peak at about 650 employees by 1979. This would mean that Jeffrey City's population could almost double to 2,500.

Population could more than double if other companies who've shown an interest in the area's uranium reserves decide to settle in Jeffrey City. Companies actively exploring in the area include Utah International, Kerr-McGee, Atlantic Richfield, and Pioneer Nuclear. Teton Exploration and AMAX have been active in the area in the past.

John Gilmore and Mary Duff of the University of Denver Research Institute concluded in their study on growth management in Wyoming that "... in the unmanaged growth situations an annual growth rate of 10% strains local service capabilities. Fifteen to twenty percent seems to cause breakdowns in local and regional institutions, e.g., the housing market, the labor market. Quality of life then declines, and this affects industrial operations which depend on a stable and satisfied work force."

The difference in Jeffrey City, officials at Western Nuclear maintain, is that their growth is planned. "Our goal," says Sparling, "is to have a good stable work force and provide what they need. . . . We have very good schools. We'll have plenty of housing;

we have very few on the waiting list — 50 houses this year will be made available for occupancy. We have plenty of water and adequate sewage."

A large turnover, however, is still a big problem both for the company and for the town. Western Nuclear will not reveal what its turnover rate in employees is, but they indicate that it is high. The high rate is also evident in town. Pat Reed, physical education teacher at the school, says that many of her students are there for only a short time, sometimes only several weeks.

SPOONFED WITH MILLIONS

In order to provide what Jeffrey City needs, Western Nuclear has invested millions of dollars in the town for housing, education, medical services, and recreational facilities. "I'm sure this company does more (for its town) than any other company in Wyoming," says Malloy.

Many of the residents agree. Says one woman, "The company almost spoonfeeds its people. They go out of their way to be nice and to try and help them out."

"Of course," says a former resident of Jeffrey City, "it's to their (the company's) economic advantage to establish a nucleus of permanent workers, so they have to provide good services."

The housing in Jeffrey City consists of trailers, one-story houses, newly built townhouses, and small houses called "salt boxes" by the residents. Several of the streets were paved last year, and trees have been planted recently. Most residents agree this has improved the town considerably.

In 1958 an elementary school was built and in 1968 the junior high school was added. Up until three years ago, high school students were bused 60 miles to Lander. Since weather conditions were

often bad, some of the students boarded in Lander.

This year a bond issue for \$500,000 was passed to add high school classrooms. Western Nuclear provided money for an indoor swimming pool, band room, and shop facilities, which were built in 1975. According to Don Bryngelson, school superintendent, if the population should double in the next few years, there will be adequate educational facilities with the added classrooms.

According to Bryngelson, it costs more for students to go to school in a small town. Western Nuclear, he says, has figured out the difference between the cost of attending school in Lander and school in Jeffrey City, per student, and pays that difference to the school district.

Late in 1975, Western Nuclear refused a request by the Lander Valley School Board to finance construction of a new high school. A spokesman for the company said Western Nuclear did not feel it should pay for the school because it has already financed other education projects in Jeffrey City.

OWE YOUR SOUL?

The people of Jeffrey City don't like to be compared to Rock Springs, Wyo., which some experts refer to as the "classic boom town," or to other company towns. "It used to be true," says Malloy, "that you really did owe your soul to the company town."

But not so in Jeffrey City, says Malloy.



Jeffrey City, which is not incorporated and thus not eligible for any national or state funds. Residents rent lots for trailers, or rent a house or town house from Western Nuclear. Their rent is then deducted from their paychecks.

There is limited private business in Jeffrey City — the mercantile, cafe, and filling stations. "We encourage private industry in Jeffrey City for growth," says Sparling.

No one wants to predict if and when Jeffrey City will become incorporated. Sparling says, "The people didn't appear to go for it when they looked at the economics." Some of the residents feel, however, that if they were to own or build their own homes, it might increase the number of permanent residents and reduce the turnover rate. Some also complain of not feeling free to fix up their homes because the company owns them.

There is no town governing body, only a town manager employed by Western Nuclear. A community council was organized, which apparently is a coordinating body with no power. Malloy, when asked what the council does, replied, "I'm on it, but I don't know. It is not in any sense a governing body." Western Nuclear makes any decisions concerning new facilities for Jeffrey City, she says.

AND WHEN IT'S GONE?

A question that is ultimately raised is how long Western Nuclear will be in Jeffrey City. "What happens when the ore is gone in 20, 30, 40 years?" one resident asked. "It's a one industry town."

Western Nuclear is somewhat vague when confronted with the question. Sparling says, "Our reserves now are more than they were 20 years ago so we expect to stay for a substantial amount of time."

6-High Country News — Sept. 10, 1976

Conservation pioneer, part II

John Wesley Powell explores West

© 1976 by Peter Wild

Though John Wesley Powell had enlightened supporters, most of the reforms he proposed weren't accepted during his lifetime. He did succeed, however, in creating a public uproar by airing his message — and in leaving a significant scientific legacy in several fields — largely because of an event early in his career that caught the public's fancy and clothed him with a certain authority. For this quiet and persistent man the adventure was a matter of intellectual enrichment, though it might have been a calculated stroke of public relations.

Green River, Wyoming. May 24, 1869. A few men step blinking into the bright morning from the station eating house, where they have stuffed themselves with Ah Chug's canned-apple pie. They troop down to four boats tied below the railroad bridge. Ten men get in and with little ceremony throw off the ropes. As the current pulls them into the main channel, they wave their hats. On shore the onlookers wave back; some shake their heads. The tiny craft bob around the first bend and are gone. One of America's last great explorations has begun.

The odds for success — even of coming out alive — aren't good. Ahead lies one of the few blank spots left on the map of the continent, the untraveled gorges of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Where the only way out is the other end of the Grand Canyon, three states away. Where, they have been told, the canyon walls are so sheer there will be no places to beach their boats. Where they will plunge over waterfalls more furious than Niagara. According to the wisdom of the day, they might as well be casting off for Hades.

Worse, John Wesley Powell, the five-foot-six man in the lead boat, already is missing one arm, smashed by a minnie ball in the battle of Shiloh Church. Worse, the expedition is short on equipment. What it has was begged from a variety of government agencies and private institutions, which looked upon Professor Powell from obscure Illinois Wesleyan University as a crackpot. But worse of all, no one seems to care. "No one was willing to spend much time listening to a college professor who wanted to float off, probably to his death, on some Western river."

August 30, 1869, a hundred days later. Four men, an Indian, a Mormon named Asa, and his two sons, are fishing at the confluence of the Virgin and Colorado Rivers. Months earlier John Risdon caught the public's attention by claiming to be the sole survivor of Powell's abortive adventure. The Governor of Illinois wept as Risdon choked out the story of how he left the group to hunt, only to see the four boats shoot over a mammoth waterfall into a whirlpool. From his vantage point he stood helpless as hundreds of yards below him the maelstrom ground men and boats to bits, while — Risdon always tearfully added — the noble Powell stood at the helm with jaw set, a brave sailor to the last. The morbid account is picked up by newspapers and electrifies the nation, then after a few weeks Powell is forgotten.

Meanwhile, out West in Salt Lake City, Brigham Young, perspicacious leader of the Mormon Church, has instructed Asa to look for any "relics" of the party that might come floating out of the lower end of the

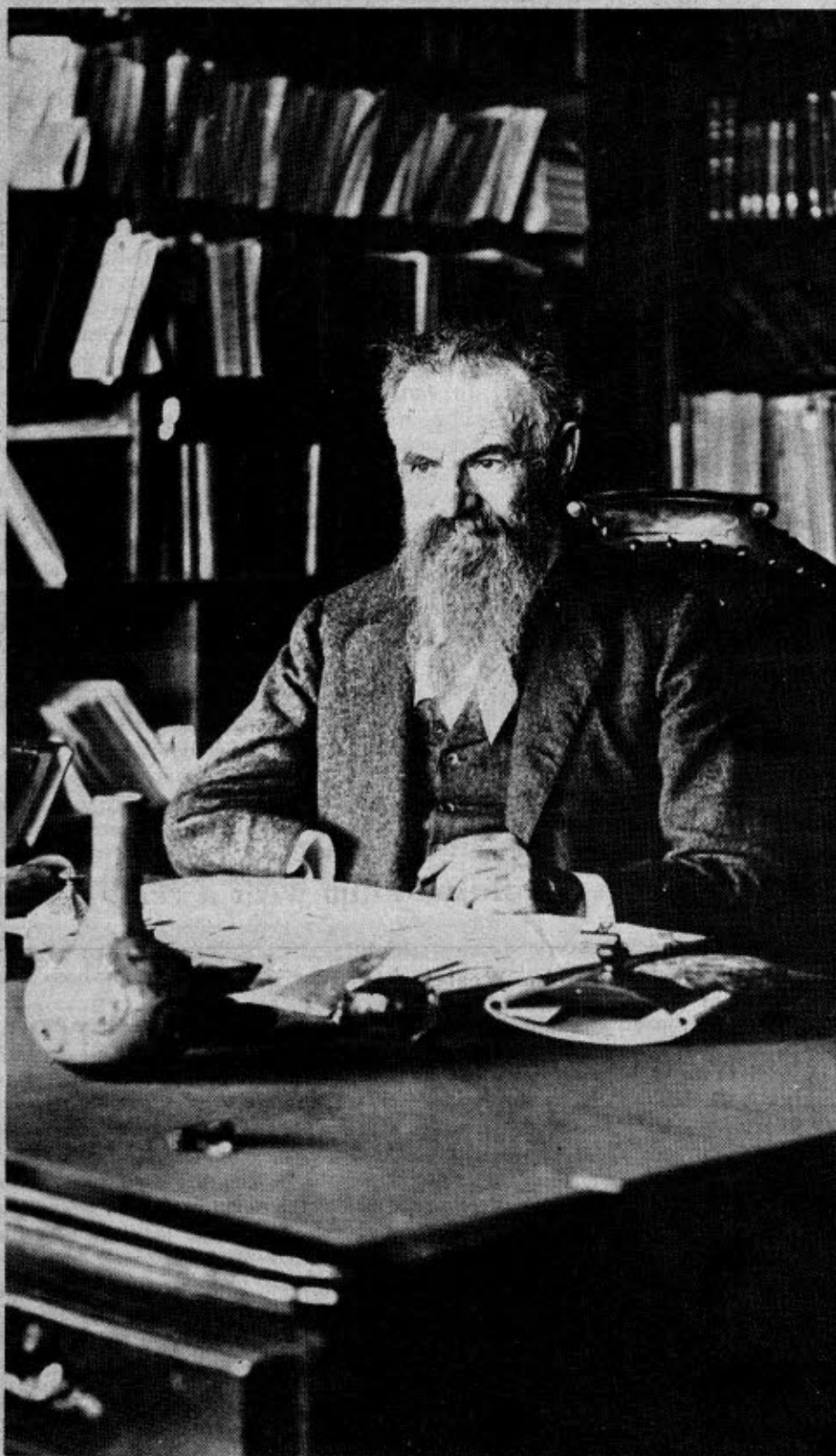


Photo courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey

Powell was a supreme politician. He knew how to consolidate gains and he had the ear of President Grant.

Grand Canyon. Instead, Asa sees six battered but cheering men rowing toward him. Risdon was a fraud.

Just two days earlier, however, fearing the maws of the last cataracts, four men left the expedition in an attempt to scale the walls and reach the nearest Mormon village. Unknown to Powell, they lie bloated in the sun, riddled with Shivwit arrows. In addition to the men, Powell is short one boat, the flagship Emma Dean, shaken beyond repair in the rapids below the Little Colorado River. But for that, the expedition is a total success.

Asa sends the Indian trotting off to the little town of St. Thomas, which flashes the news to the world via the *Deseret Tele-*

graph. The newspapers go wild. Powell has entered the labyrinths of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, a 35-year-old unknown, a maimed, self-educated farm boy from the Midwest. He has emerged triumphant over all handicaps — the stereotypic hero of the 19th century.

As sensational and scientifically useful as his venture proved to be, the trip was the beginning of a reform campaign, not the end of a career, an early high point that would become symptomatic both of Powell's accomplishments and his personality throughout his next 25 years of public service. As even his enemies would later admit, Powell was a gentle, noncompeti-

tive man. Typically, when the four men deserted his party on the Colorado, he offered words of encouragement and a generous share of the meager supplies. As a measure of his character, in the years ahead he never accepted military escorts for his small survey crews, preferring to befriend the various tribes, winning their trust by showing deep respect for their cultures. An instant celebrity after the canyon adventure, he carried the fame with dignity.

Furthermore, he was a realist. He knew that his planned studies would depend on further knowledge, and that the massive amount of information he needed about the West — the kind that would support the conclusions of his *Arid Lands* volume — could be gotten only by financial aid from the government. He shrewdly divided the next 10 years between explorations of the Rocky Mountains and lobbying forays to Washington, D.C., to support them. He made 30 trips to Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah, mapping, documenting the water and mineral resources, recording Indian cultures, sending back crates of plants, animals, and artifacts to the Smithsonian. He was discovering a country that most Westerners, viewing their new land through exploiters' eyes, never saw.

His successes made enemies. Other scientists resented his acclaim. More debilitating, Western Congressmen representing the banks, railroads, and land speculators began to look askance at the appropriations for expeditions whose leader went around informing the public that its Western treasure house was being

According to the wisdom of the day, they might as well have been casting off for Hades.



Sweetwater County Museum

rified by special interests. They began to see the political implications of a science that refused to obey their commands to speak only when asked how to extract riches from the Rockies as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

Nevertheless, Powell himself was a supreme politician. He knew how to consolidate gains. He had the ear of President Grant, his commanding officer during the Civil War. Riding the wave of apprehension created by his *Arid Lands* report of 1878, Powell persuaded Congress to establish the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.), thus uniting several independent studies under one agency. It was a sleight of hand long in the making by the scientist. Instead of rushing in to become its new director, however, he engineered the appointment of a brilliant young friend, Clarence King, to the post. The move allowed Powell to sidestep any political furor resulting from the birth of the U.S.G.S. It also allowed him to pursue his studies of native cultures as head of the newly created Bureau of Ethnology, tucked away beyond the reach of politicians in the Smithsonian Institution.

Within a year King resigned — himself a victim of the gold mania — and Powell quite naturally became head of both agencies. His stature grew over the years as both bureaus issued voluminous studies recording the West's unique heritage. William Henry Holmes referred to the Bureau of Ethnology publications as, "... among the most important contributions to human history ever made by an individual, an institution, or a state."

Yet Powell never was able to drive the exploiters from the field. Regrouping in order to protect their monopolistic practices, they launched attack after attack on Powell through slashing various appropriation bills. For two decades he had sat with patience and dignity through similar battles, infuriating his adversaries with his candor.

Now he was 60, and the stump of his amputated arm kept him in constant pain. He longed for time to write, to stroll the beaches and poke around in the shell heaps left by Indians. Because the battle focused largely on him as a reform personality, in 1894 he quit, thus saving the causes he supported from further reductions in funds.

For further reading, John Upton Terrell's *The Man Who Rediscovered America* is a substantive biography. Those interested in Powell's role in the intellectual development of the nation will enjoy Wallace Stegner's *Beyond The*



USGS photo courtesy of Sweetwater County Museum

An early event in Powell's career caught the public's fancy and clothed him with a certain authority.

Hundreth Meridian: John Wesley Powell And The Second Opening Of The West, a scholarly book with a beautifully modulated style.

In contrast to most government documents, *Arid Lands* is exciting for its directness and clarity, as Powell coolly opens the Pandora's box that puts Congress in an uproar. Libraries list the volume under its full title, **Report On The Lands Of The Arid Region Of The United States**.

CONSERVATION PIONEERS

This is the second article in our series by Peter Wild on early Rocky Mountain conservationists.

Wild horse roundup ruled illegal

A federal judge has ruled that a proposed wild horse roundup in Idaho cannot take place. U.S. District Court Judge Charles Richey ruled that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management was "arbitrary and capricious" when it drew up plans to capture and remove 200 horses from federal land near Challis, Idaho.

BLM, in an environmental impact statement on grazing in the Challis area, had proposed keeping roughly the same amount of livestock on the range, but reducing the wild horse herd to protect the vegetation from overgrazing. Richey ruled that the Wild Horse Protection Act required a "minimum" of management for horses, and one way to meet that requirement was to reduce the number of cattle on the range.

"We're concerned because the wild horse is the only animal that has been selected to be rounded up," said Lorne Greene, star of the television show "Bonanza" and vice chairman of the American Horse Protection Association, a plaintiff in the suit. The other plaintiff was the Humane Society of the United States.

BLM officials maintained that wild horses in the Challis area were multiplying at such a rate that something had to be done. The BLM estimated the size of the horse herd at about 500 and planned to capture and find homes for 200 head to protect the range from overgrazing.

Harry Finlayson, BLM district manager for the Challis area, called the judge's ruling "arbitrary and non-professional." BLM Associate State Director Larry Woodward told the *Idaho Statesman* that complying with the ruling may put some cattlemen out of business because of required lives-

tock reductions to provide more forage for horses.

Finlayson told HCN that the BLM might have to rewrite the Challis grazing environmental impact statement (EIS) in light of Richey's ruling. The Challis EIS was the first BLM grazing EIS and was to have served as a model for other impact statements prepared by the agency. Finlayson said that Richey also implied that a separate EIS on wild horse management might have to be prepared for the Challis area by the BLM. Impact statements are required by the National Environmental Policy Act for all "major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

Humane Society national president John Hoyt told the Gannett News Service that Richey's ruling will serve as an important precedent for wild horse management throughout the West. Finlayson said Richey's hands-off ruling calls for no professional management at all and cattlemen, wildlife, and range quality will all suffer.

Finlayson doubted that the BLM would appeal the case.



USGS photo courtesy of Sweetwater County Museum

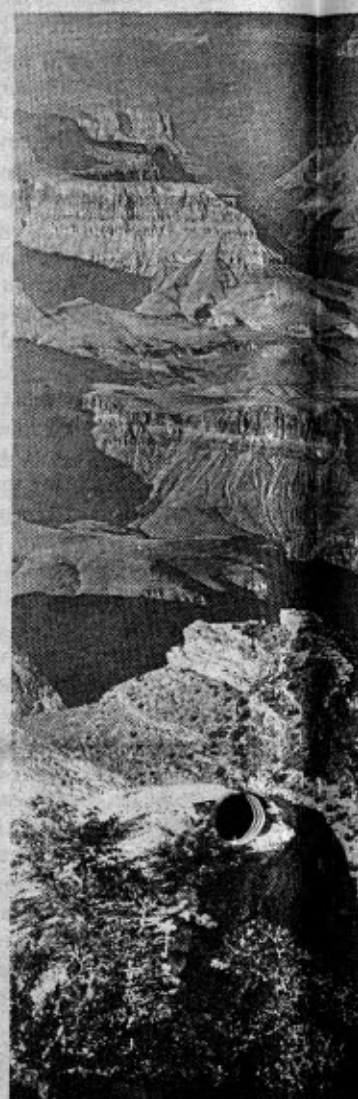
The newspapers go wild. Powell has entered the labyrinths of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, a 35-year-old unknown, a maimed, self-educated farm boy from the Midwest. He emerges the stereotypic hero of the 19th century.



At the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert lie the dunes of White Sands. Surrounding the dunes are shrubby areas of creosote bush, mesquite, and saltbrush. Of particular interest and beauty is the

tall-stalked soaptree yucca (*Yucca elata*) whose basal leaves and tall stalks cast long shadows across the sand in the late afternoon.

THE DES



Grand Canyon National Park region, is situated between the South and North Rims. The view from the South Rim

Review by Bruce Hamilton

"The real desert... is not for the eyes of the superficial observer or the fearful soul of a cynic. It is a land which reveals its true character only to those who come with courage, tolerance, and understanding."

—Randall Henderson
On Desert Trails

Truck drivers, and others who spend long hours on the open roads of the West, should envy the naturalist. While most naturalists don't have a CB radio to keep them awake, they are rarely bored as they travel. Even the desert—that "vast empty landscape"—is full of life to the alert observer. "Lgb's" (little gray birds) flushed from the borrow pits and "insulator birds" (hawks and other birds which perch on utility poles and are easily mistaken for insulators) challenge the driver to come up with plausible identifications. Once you've

mastered the birds, reading the rocks—trying to figure out the geologic history of an area—offers a new challenge. For night desert drivers there is an endless parade of owls, deer, cottontails, kangaroo rats, mice, skunks, coyotes, and other creatures that venture into your headlights.

On the road, or on foot, all it takes is curiosity, a quick eye, and an acute ear to transform the desert from a wasteland into an educational arena.

Russell Butcher has the curiosity, eye, and ear to truly appreciate the wonders of America's deserts. He also has the drawing, writing, and photographic ability necessary to pass his sense of wonder on to the readers of his newest book, *The Desert*.

The Desert is a quick survey of the highlights of the West's main deserts—the Chihuahuan, Arizona-Sonoran, Colorado, Mojave, Great Basin, and Painted. Butcher

acts as a guide to easily accessible places in each desert—pointing out some birds, mammals, reptiles, plants, and the geologic and cultural history along the way.

This is not a comprehensive work. It is only able to whet the appetite for desert adventurers. It is another expensive, coffee-table, nature appreciation book competing in an overcrowded field. The confirmed desert rat will find this book too superficial. But anyone unexposed to the joys and mystery of arid land will find this a valuable introduction.

Butcher dwells on the beauty of the desert in his text, drawings, and photographs. He treats you to the cactus bloom, rather than the thorns. He has encapsulated a lifetime of pleasant desert experiences in a few pages—and left out the details of unquenchable thirst, overheated cars, dust storms, and freezing nights. The

back of the book does contain two pages on common desert hazards, but the main text jumps from one interesting discovery to the next. Anyone traveling to the desert on a short trip and trying to see one-tenth of what Butcher describes will be sorely disappointed.

What Butcher fails to convey is that the desert is mostly glaring sun, scorched rock, and silent sand. What makes studying desert natural history so satisfying is the serendipitous occurrence of beauty amid the tedium. Walking along a dry wash and unexpectedly coming upon a lush green hanging garden and a seep. Having a prairie falcon swiftly appear and then disappear forever over a high barren canyon wall. If you go to the desert and meet it on its own terms, the little you do see will be precious, awesome, wonderful. If you expect more, you'd do better to visit one of the desert botanical gardens and museums listed in the back of the book.



DESERT

by Russell D. Butcher, The Viking Press, New York, 1976. \$17.50, hard cover, 128 pages, black and white drawings, color photographs.



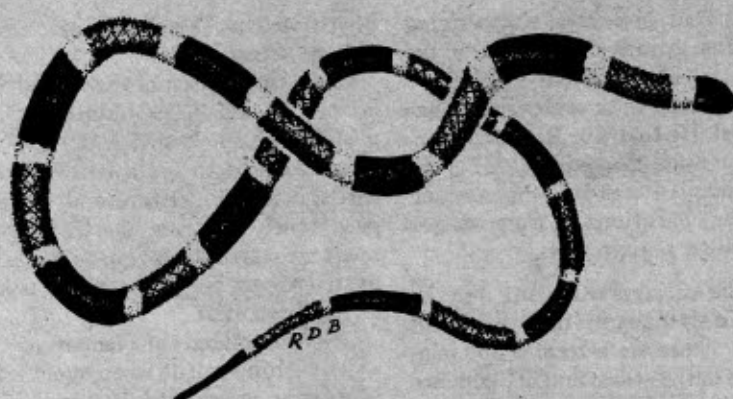
...al Park, perhaps our most famous desert
...en the Mojave Desert and the Painted Desert.
...n Rim in late afternoon is breathtaking.

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Preserving the deserts from man's incompatible activities is an active concern of Butcher's — but one he does not dwell on in **The Desert**. Butcher alludes to strip mining in Death Valley, the hazards of overgrazing, and the problems of misusing off road vehicles. In the back of the book he lists a few conservation organizations working to protect the desert.

The most eloquent call for conservation of our desert heritage in the book is offered by Congressman Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.) in the introduction. Udall details the immense problems we face and then writes: "For man, accustomed to bringing nature under his dominion, it is at once a humbling and uplifting environment — humbling because the hardness of the land and the vestiges of forgotten civilizations scratched upon its surface remind him of his own mortality; uplifting because in the solitude of these vast spaces he can gain new insight into himself and his relationship to the world."



Sept. 10, 1976 — High Country News



All photos and drawings from
THE DESERT by Russell D. Butcher.



A refreshing fall of water beneath the fan palms of Borrego Palm Canyon.



"Near the upper end of the palm oasis, where the clear stream squeezes between giant boulders, a modest waterfall drops a few feet into a pool below. Here in the otherwise parched desert, beneath the canopy of bright green palm fronds, the sight and sound of gently falling water cast a magic spell,

heightening realization of just how valuable water is to all life. This palm grove, stream, and wildlife are but a microcosm of the whole earth. In a hostile environment especially, you come closer to understanding just how delicately balanced the world's life-support systems are."



What makes studying desert natural history so satisfying is the serendipitous occurrence of beauty amid the tedium.

10-High Country News — Sept. 10, 1976

Mines cited (finally) for ignoring Colorado regs

by Marjane Ambler

A county attorney in Colorado is asked to look into criminal charges against Energy Fuels Corp., Colorado's largest coal producer, and Peabody Coal Co. for mining without state permits. Two other small coal mines are ordered shut down.

To the uninformed reader in Colorado, it looks like coal mining companies are suddenly becoming defiant of government regulations.

However, many of the newly publicized violations have been occurring for years, and the headlines proclaim only that the government is finally starting to do something about them.

Asked what has created this new atmosphere of enforcement in a state where there has been virtually none in the past, state officials and environmentalists give different answers.

The head of the state Department of Natural Resources feels the state has been making gradual progress toward reclamation enforcement since the administration of Gov. Dick Lamm took over. The department chairman, Harris Sherman, a Lamm appointee, sees enforcement as one of the major accomplishments of his department.

However, some Colorado environmentalists think enforcement has been much

too gradual. They believe it's monitoring by conservation groups that has forced the department, in some cases, to do its job.

Sherman admits that enforcement has not been good. He told the *Rocky Mountain News* in June that about half of the surface coal mines and 80% of the sand and gravel mining operations in Colorado are violating mining permit laws.

However, he explains that until July, he had only three staff members charged with enforcement. There are a total of 500 mining operators in the state, and applications from the larger producers take as long as two weeks for one person to process, according to the *News* article. Colorado is coping with less than one-third the budget of either Montana or Wyoming for mining regulations, although the level of coal development is very similar.

Sherman told HCN, however, that he believes a new emphasis on reclamation has been one of the major achievements of his department. He explains that he established three priorities: convincing the legislature of the need for a larger budget, writing regulations, and working to get a new reclamation law passed.

"When you're facing a situation with virtually no staff, no budget, and no regulations, you've got to start somewhere,"

Sherman says. "I feel we've made considerable progress."

Carolyn Johnson of the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) Mining Workshop praises the spirit with which the department worked to get a good mining law through the legislature and to recruit a good staff. However, she thinks enforcement efforts could have been made earlier, even recognizing the constraints of the budget and staff.

"He has treated enforcement as a luxury — something you do when everything else is in order, which of course never happens."

One of the ways to get enforcement is to enforce," she says.

She points out that any law enforcement starts from the premise that not every lawbreaker will be caught — that a few being penalized will serve as examples.

"When we got Peabody shut down, you should have seen them flock in," she says, referring to companies which then filed for permits or permit revisions that they might have otherwise ignored. Peabody closed one of its mines for a week in May because the company wouldn't be allowed to get a new permit for another mine if one were in violation. The Routt County attorney is now considering criminal action against the company, and a decision is expected soon.

The Peabody situation illustrates her point. Almost a year before the Land Reclamation Board took action, a state staff member had written a memo to inform the board that Peabody was mining without a permit. The COSC Mining Workshop and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) asked that enforcement action be taken and then formally filed a complaint with the board in November of last year. At that meeting, Sherman said it wasn't fair to blame the operators because regulations were unclear, according to a *Denver Post* report of the meeting.

After researching agency files, the two

groups discovered that Energy Fuels Corp. also was mining without a permit.

Johnson points out that mining permits are crucial since they're the only guarantee the state has that the company will mine and reclaim properly. A *Rocky Mountain News* article said that Energy Fuels has the best reclamation in the state. Johnson says they've taken the steps toward reclamation that are most likely to succeed. However, she says, when the company has not posted a reclamation bond, there's nothing to stop the company from abandoning all its efforts.

HOPEFUL SIGN

Under the new law which both the environmental organizations and the state department had helped push through the legislature, the staff has been expanded and a new board appointed. Formerly, board members were all state employees. Now there are five members appointed by the governor — two representing industry and three representing conservation and agriculture.

The first official action of the new board when it took over this summer was to close two small strip mines that didn't have permits. The state had known the two didn't have permits for some time.

Johnson commends the board for its action and Sherman in particular for making the motion to close the mines. She explains that her praise isn't motivated by a desire to close all the mines in the state, as she and her cohorts have been accused of. Instead, she says she is pleased because the action is an indication that the board might enforce the law.

Sherman is also optimistic about enforcement in the future since the staff has been expanded. He hopes the legislature will further expand the staff and the budget in the next session.

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

As the congressional curtain draws to a close, environmentalist forces are staging a dramatic final act to rescue the strip mining bill from the clutches of adjournment.

Not only are odds lopsidedly against their effort, there is some question about whether it is even good theater; there is always next year's curtain call.

However, they insist, nothing should be taken for granted about next year. Jimmy Carter, who has endorsed the bill, may not be president, they warn, and congressional committees that have worked on the bill will not be the same.

As environmentalists began their frantic effort, they were expressing confidence that the bill's obstacles would be quickly overcome in the short time Congress has before it adjourns in October for the elections.

For the third time in this session of Congress, the House Interior Committee last week reported the bill to the full House. The 28-to-11 vote was identical to the one taken in February. The bill was blocked then by the House Rules Committee, which schedules bills for the House floor.

If the bill reaches the floor, environmentalists are optimistic that election-year pressure will force previous opponents to vote for it. The House failed by three votes last year to achieve the two-thirds required to override President Ford's veto.

The coal industry is unwilling to concede such an occurrence. William E. Hynan, vice-president of the National Coal Association, told *Reckoning* that campaign pressure would affect the vote "a little bit, but not much. Probably some moderate Republicans are more likely to stay with the President than before, and moderate Democrats (who previously opposed the bill) perhaps will swing the other way."

Environmentalists say they're assured that once the House approves the bill, Sen-

nate leaders are "all ready" to quickly pass the bill in the same exactness, avoiding a joint conference and sending the bill again to the President.

For another veto? Not likely this time, insisted John McCormack of the Environmental Policy Center. A veto this time, he said, will mean "Ford will give him (Carter) an issue. For what? For a measly bill everybody wants him to sign anyway."

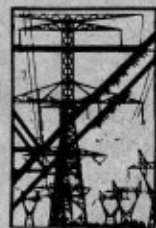
The day before the House Interior Committee action, the Interior Department proposed strip mining reclamation standards for federal coal in Wyoming that are identical to Wyoming's regulations.

Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.), the strip mining bill's chief sponsor, has suggested that the government could face court challenges of that policy to allow federal land to be reclaimed one way (according to Wyoming's state standards) in Wyoming and another way elsewhere.

Even if that does not happen, the strip mining bill would affect the state. It would subject Wyoming's enforcement to federal oversight, McCormack explained, preventing a governor who is "in the pocket" of industry from being irresponsible.

Also, the bill contains some social impact money for areas affected by coal development, plus the controversial section allowing land owners the ultimate right to forbid strip mining on their land for coal owned by the federal government.

(Editors' note: On Sept. 7 the House Rules Committee voted to put off any decision on the strip mining bill until Sept. 15. The Environmental Policy Center believes key swing votes are held by Reps. James Delaney (D-N.Y.), Gillis Long (D-La.), B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.), and Morgan Murphy (D-Ill.). The chairman of the House Rules Committee is Ray Madden (D-Ind.). All representatives can be reached at the House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.)



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

LEASE SALES POSTPONED. U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Curt Berkland is ordering state offices to cancel all planned coal lease sales until the Interior Department figures out how to deal with the Mineral Leasing Act recently passed by Congress, according to *Coal Week*. The sales were originally scheduled with only Interior's administrative regulations in mind. After the implications of the act are analyzed, no further major leasing delays are expected. The only major possible exception is the provision under the new regulations which allows governors to hold up sales in national forests.

SYNFUELS VOTE DELAYED. The House Rules Committee voted to postpone a decision on the synthetic fuels subsidy bill until Sept. 15. The bill would offer loan guarantees and price supports for oil shale and coal gasification plants. Conservation groups are urging Rules Committee members to kill the bill. A list of key Rules

Committee members is in this issue's *Reckoning* column.

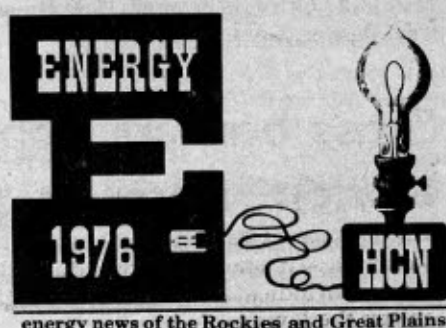
PLUTONIUM NOT SECURE. All 15 of the facilities handling plutonium or highly enriched uranium have security deficiencies, according to a study by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the federal agency responsible for maintaining such security. Reps. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and Paul E. Tsongas (D-Mass.) say this indicates a "failure of the Commission to make hard choices about security in the nuclear industry." The two say the commission should either decide the threat to security is overblown and present precautions are adequate or that more stringent measures are needed. The two representatives chaired hearings held in February on nuclear plant security. Transcripts of the hearings were released recently.

TVA NOMINEE REJECTED. The Senate Public Works Committee has rejected President Gerald Ford's nominee, Thomas L. Longshore, for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) board. Longshore, the second Ford nominee for the board rejected by Congress, was opposed because of his position with Alabama Power Co. TVA policy on buying Western coal and on nuclear power is expected to be affected by whomever is finally chosen since the two present board members are often at odds on these issues. Democratic Presidential nominee Jimmy Carter has asked Congressional Democrats to hold up all pending appointments until after the election.



WHEATLAND CRIME RATE RISING

Construction of the 1,500 megawatt Missouri Basin Power Project plant in Wheatland, Wyo., began just this summer, but the town is already apparently beginning to feel the impact of the people who started arriving in the town over a year earlier. The local chief of police, Don Weldon, reports a 30% increase in the crime rate. Platte County Sheriff Einer Mickelsen's figures show a 100% increase in the number of prisoner jail days over last year, according to the PLATTE COUNTY RECORD TIMES. Mickelsen says, "I see the impact as a challenge and I'm looking forward to it."



KIEWIT WITHDRAWS APPLICATION. Peter Kiewit Sons' Mining Co. has withdrawn — for the time being — its application to mine coal in the alluvial valley of the Tongue River in Wyoming (see HCN, 8-27-76, page 10). The company says it wants to correct "major procedural problems," which will include notifying adjacent landowners. The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) which has filed a protest against the mine, says it hopes the company will do "additional homework" on the problems inherent in mining alluvial valley floors.

AIR CLOUDS PAWNEE FUTURE. The Colorado attorney general's office is asking a district court to prevent construction of the proposed Pawnee Power Plant until a decision is made on air pollution control for the facility. The Public Service Co., which is planning the facility, has appealed to the district court asking it to invalidate a section of an air pollution permit which requires sulfur oxide scrubbers. The PSC says that only federal standards for sulfur oxide apply and not the stricter state standards. The attorney general's office says PSC's appeal invalidates the air permit so the plant should not proceed, according to a Denver Post report. The plant would be built near Brush, Colo.

GEOTHERMAL RESCUE. Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) has asked the federal government to consider a pilot geothermal project in Sugar City, Idaho, which was ravaged by the Teton Dam flood. In his letter to the Energy Research and Development Administration, Church said, "The need to rebuild an entire community presents an excellent opportunity to structure a complete geothermal heating system."

WYOMING NOT SATISFIED. Despite the fact that the Interior Department has told Wyoming it will accept its regulations for strip mining federal land in the state, the state is continuing with a suit against the department. The suit seeks to determine whether Wyoming can enforce its laws on reclamation of federally-owned coal land. Federal regulations say stricter state standards, such as Wyoming's, would be applied to federal lands unless it is in the "overriding national interest" for them not to apply.

BOOSTING THE COAL KITTY. The chairman of the Western Governors Regional Energy Policy Office (WGREPO) thinks the organization might work toward raising state coal taxes in the member states up to the 30% level which his state, Montana, assesses. Montana Gov. Tom Judge told HCN he thinks it's a shame for Montana to get 30% of the mine mouth price of coal while North Dakota gets only 52 cents per ton. WGREPO's next meeting will be in Billings, Mont., Oct. 7-8.

TWO PLANTS FOR ONE BOOM. Montana-Dakota Utilities has confirmed that it plans to apply for a second 440 megawatt coal-fired power plant which will likely be located near Beulah, N.D. MDU and four other companies hope to begin construction of the first plant, Coyote I, next spring near Beulah and complete it in 1981. A MDU official says, "The second Beulah unit could be begun as the first is completed so there would be a construction crew there for a continuous eight years." Neither plant has received approval from the state public service commission yet.

COAL TO FUND CONSERVATION. A state advisory council has recommended giving a \$100,000 grant from Montana severance tax funds to a program to help inventors and small businesses develop energy-saving ideas and products. These businesses could provide new jobs through new industry in the state. The grant would be given to the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute (MERDI) at Butte, Mont., which is headed by Dr. Jerry Plunkett.

Sept. 10, 1976 — High Country News-11

Citizen watchdogs must be stubborn

Monitoring by the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) Mining Workshop and by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has revealed illegal mining and has encouraged enforcement by both the state and the federal agencies responsible for regulating strip mining in Colorado.

How do they do it? Carolyn Johnson and Brad Klafehn of the Mining Workshop discussed with HCN some of their tactics, which other citizen watchdogs might find useful, and warned of the many roadblocks that others may be confronted with.

Although they had been monitoring the Colorado Land Reclamation Board since October 1974, they didn't see any major enforcement action until this summer. Johnson and Klafehn say their successes resulted from months of tedious work immersed in agency files and from knowing the laws better than many of the government employees themselves.

They persisted even when they encountered the "shifting file system" of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the "emergency atmosphere" of the state lands office.

Klafehn says that BLM employees are always friendly but when he's searching for a particular piece of information that might be embarrassing to the agency, it's "somewhere else" — sometimes in a lost file or in another office. "That kind of action is unnecessary. Whether it's deliberate or inept, it creates suspicions and wastes their time," Johnson says. If she didn't have years of experience with such tactics, she would be tempted to give up after such encounters, which she considers attempts to demean the citizen.

The state is more cooperative although equally unorganized, the two charge. "They do as well as they can given the condition of their files," they say. Klafehn says that in the past, there's been an emergency atmosphere in the office: the

agency has felt that it's its duty to process applications as quickly as possible for the benefit of the coal companies.

"They thought it was their job to promote mining. It isn't. It's not to halt mining either — it's to enforce the law," Johnson says. In some cases, she has had to read the law to the state staff members.

Both were quick to point out that many individual employees in both state and federal offices are helpful and cooperative, and others help with tips.

After all the Watergate exposé publicity, the public may expect some government employee to get caught up in the intrigue of serving as a "Deep Throat" and "leak" information to the press or to citizen action groups. Johnson says she gets calls, but she doubts it is prompted by a melodramatic impulse. She admits that one time she did get a call from someone using a code name at a pay phone.

However, usually she feels the employees who call are motivated by a sincere concern that a particular issue isn't being handled properly by the agency. "What really turns them on is if it's an issue they really care about and have been working on," she says.

More surprising, perhaps, is the number of calls that come from other mining companies or from miners, reporting illegal mining and leasing practices. Although some United Mine Workers union members have worked against them at Land Reclamation Board meetings saying how many jobs would be lost if a mine were closed down, individual miners have worked with the Mining Workshop in some cases. Johnson speculates that both the miners and the helpful mining companies are concerned that a bad record by one mining operation rubs off on everyone in the industry.

Johnson says she always checks out such tips, especially if they are offered anonymously.

'Corporate Connection' reveals ties of energy, banking interests

Did you ever wonder what kind of money is behind some of the companies mining coal in your state? The Colorado Open Space Council Mining Workshop found out and has published the results in a 28-page document called "The Corporate Connection." The workshop staff plans to prepare a similar analysis of other Western states. The project is funded through the Environmental Defense Fund.

In Colorado, they found that 18 companies control 75% of the public acreage under lease. Almost two-thirds of the leased acreage is held by leaseholders which share corporate directors with the 50 largest companies in the country.

Brad Klafehn, who wrote the report, points out that these interlocking directorships are important for several reasons. They defuse many coal companies' pleas that they can't afford to comply with mining and environmental regulations. They point out the control that a few companies have over fuel prices: 71% of the leased coal lands in Colorado are held by firms that also are involved in competitive energy sources such as oil, natural gas, or uranium. Their influence over the marketplace is increased by their intimate financial relationships with major national lending institutions and with railroads.

For example, Union Pacific, which ranks sixth among the transportation companies in the nation, controls nearly 6,000 acres of Colorado coal leases.

Media skeptics may be interested to see that CBS, Time, Inc., and the Washington Post each share a director with several major coal leaseholders.

Before the COSC Mining Workshop study began, nobody in the state had compiled information on all the public coal leasing in the state. Consequently, the concentrations of power were not easily discernible. Klafehn says readers will learn from the study that the majority of corporate decisions regarding the development of coal in Colorado are not made by small operators in Craig, Paonia, Pueblo, or Denver, but by multinational energy companies based in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Pittsburgh. He says this illustrates the importance of Coloradans making their own rules to control coal development.

"The Corporate Connection" is available from the Colorado Open Space Council Mining Workshop at 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo. 80206. The price to individuals and non-profit groups is \$1.50. The price to corporate or governmental organizations is \$5.

12-High Country News — Sept. 10, 1976

Can funds be found for the unhunted?

by Mark Peterson

A tax to support non-game wildlife programs?

That's just one of the answers state agencies are considering to the problem of finding funding for non-game (not hunted) species of wildlife. These species have long taken a backseat to the comparatively generous funding of game species. After almost 40 years of this lop-sided funding arrangement, there are signs of change at local and national levels.

Since 1937, wildlife programs managed by state conservation agencies have been funded almost exclusively by revenues from hunting and fishing licenses and taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. As a result, state programs have been slanted chiefly towards maintaining or increasing stocks of game species sought by hunters and fishermen. This was done at the expense of the great number of non-game wildlife which have been largely neglected. In recent years however, there has been an increasing public interest in all species and some state agencies have begun modest non-game programs. Their efforts have been hindered by legislatures reluctant to appropriate funds for adding research and management personnel, or for preserving critical habitats for these species. Consequently, state agencies have begun to look elsewhere for funds.

In an attempt to generate additional revenue, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) began selling conservation stamps to the public in 1974 at \$5 a piece. This low-profile effort received little fanfare or public attention, and has achieved little success.

Another voluntary approach is being proposed by the Colorado Non-game Advisory Council. It is currently drafting a



NEGLECTED? Programs for non-game species such as this raccoon are funded far below levels for game species. For example, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's 1975-76 budget is \$16.1 million to manage 185 game species, but only \$135,582 for management of at least 700 non-game species.

Photo by Stouffer Productions, Ltd.

bill that would allow a Colorado resident the chance to indicate on the state income tax form the desire to channel \$1 of their tax return money to the non-game program. This proposal, if adopted, is expected to earn \$350,000 in the first year.

DOW is also eyeing another approach. It feels that people who utilize wildlife in a non-consumptive way (such as bird watching, animal photography, etc.) would be willing to contribute money to maintain the wildlife quality they enjoy. DOW is now suggesting that a 10% tax be placed upon such items as binoculars, field guides, bird feeders, and special photographic equipment. The projected revenue from this tax would net the state about \$750,000 each year.

A similar bill is being drafted on the national level. However, it could be several years before this national tax system is implemented.

These proposals are only in the formulaic stages. Yet if any one of these programs is passed, it could well mark a new beginning for research and management of our non-game species.

(Note: Stamps to support Colorado's non-game management program may be purchased for \$5 at the Colorado Division of Wildlife office, or by mail: 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colo. 80216.)

Grass barriers stop erosion, store water

Tall wheatgrass barriers around fields not only control wind erosion, but also store ground water, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

For the past eight years, a USDA research station in Sidney, Mont., has been studying the value of tall wheatgrass barriers. USDA researchers now believe that the grass barriers can store enough additional water to support more intensive cropping systems than crop-fallow rotations.

Many farmers in the semi-arid West store water in the soil by summer fallowing — leaving the soil plowed but unplanted. With fallowing, 60-80% of the winter precipitation still evaporates, runs off, or percolates below crop root zones. When water percolates below the root zone, saline seep often develops.

USDA test results show that fallowing may not be necessary. In comparison tests, grain production from test fields using an intensive cropping system and tall wheatgrass barriers was 30-69% higher than from fields using a conventional spring wheat and fallow rotation.

Continuous cropping used 71-80% of the average precipitation, while crop-fallow rotation used only 30%.

Future studies will focus on soil fertility and other problems which may arise with intensive cropping systems in the West.



'environmental initiative' without addressing the critically important natural resource bills which Congress is considering, appears to be the height of hypocrisy," she said. Heller said that Ford had recently opposed provision in the Clean Air Act designed to prevent significant deterioration in national parks and wilderness areas. She also pointed out that he has vetoed strip mining legislation twice.

John W. Grandy of Defenders of Wildlife charged that the Ford and Nixon administrations have "kept our wildlife refuges and national parks in the breadlines for years."

"It's difficult to interpret the Bicentennial Land Heritage Act as a magnanimous new initiative when Congress already judged the President's fiscal year 1977 budget request for fish, wildlife, and parks \$135.3 million short of public expectations — and that was a compromise. We only hope this proposal is a sincere commitment to needed policy changes, and not simply a carrot-on-the-stick in a politically sensitive year," Grandy said.

Too late?

Ford seeks more dollars for parks

President Gerald Ford used the occasion of his recent "homecoming" to Yellowstone National Park to propose a \$1.5 billion Bicentennial Land Heritage Act to fortify national parks, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas over a 10-year period. He called the bill "the soundest investment in the future of America that I can envision."

Ford also used the occasion to voice support for an Administration bill which would double the size of the national park and national wildlife refuge systems and increase the size of the national forest and national wild and scenic river systems by adding 83 million acres of publicly owned primitive land in Alaska. This action was mandated by Congress in the Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Ford's Aug. 29 visit to Yellowstone drew about as many visitors as a good eruption of Old Faithful in mid-July, according to one park service official. Forty years before, Ford had been in Yellowstone working as a summer ranger.

The \$1.5 billion which Ford has asked Congress to authorize would be spent in part on acquiring new land in Texas, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Alaska, New Jersey, Indiana, Arizona, and Nevada. It would also be used to develop new areas, help cities upgrade parks that have fallen into disrepair, help develop existing park lands and refuges, and provide more staff for these areas.

The program calls for \$141 million to be spent in acquiring new lands over the next

10 years. Its critics in Congress point out that this amount is miniscule when compared with Congress's proposed \$8.5 billion for land acquisitions over the next 10 years.

Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) says that in the past Ford has opposed legislation for increasing the revenues in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which would provide the money for these acquisitions.

The evidence is "almost overwhelming" that Ford's proposal was intended "to deceive and mislead the American people until after the election," Bennett said at a recent hearing on the Bicentennial Land Heritage bill before the Senate Interior Committee's parks and recreation subcommittee.

Conservation leaders who came to hear Ford's speech in Yellowstone were equally skeptical of the gesture for their cause.

"We're licking their bootstraps because he's promised \$1.5 billion for parks," said Vim Wright of the Colorado Open Space Council in Denver. "To put that in perspective we must remember this is the same president who was also pushing six billion in loan subsidies for the synthetic fuels industry."

Barbara Heller of the Environmental Policy Center said that the President's bill has almost no chance of passage, because it was introduced so late in the session.

"To propose a parks program at the end of the legislative session and to tout it as an



Western Roundup

HCN

City-farm water sharing plan promoted

Water rights wars are springing up throughout Colorado, pitting Western Slope against Eastern Slope users and agriculturalists against the cities that are condemning their water. In the midst of the battlefield, there's an island of hope in the Northglenn area where farmers and that city are trying to agree on a unique scheme for cooperation. The Farmers' Reservoir and Irrigation Co. (FRICO) is hoping to let the city borrow its irrigation water and return 10% more water than was borrowed. The city would use the water, collect the waste water and storm runoff, treat it, and recycle it back to the farmers for agricultural use. A Northglenn attorney told the *Denver Post*, "This is the first time in the metropolitan area that an urban area and a rural area (agreed) to work together so both can survive." A major stumbling block to the agreement still exists — two other Denver suburbs, Thornton and Westminster, want the same water and have filed suit to condemn and claim it. FRICO held a vote last month to see if its shareholders wanted to go ahead with the Northglenn deal. The contract was approved by the shareholders as a whole, but the Sandley Lake Division (where the water would come from) failed to approve the plan by a clear majority. Three major shareholders — Thornton, Westminster, and Rocky Mountain Fuel and Iron Co. — succeeded in blocking approval temporarily. FRICO officials say the Northglenn deal isn't dead. They hope to get more farmers out to vote and hold another election. Meanwhile, if Thornton and Westminster succeed in condemning the farmers' water the Northglenn deal would be nullified.

House omnibus wilderness bill advances

The House Interior Committee has passed two bills to designate wilderness and wild and scenic rivers in the West. HR 15446, an omnibus wilderness bill, would establish 20 new wilderness areas across the country and seven new wilderness study areas. Five new wilderness areas would be set aside in national forests, including the Glacier (also called Tom Fitzpatrick) Wilderness in Wyoming, and Manzano Mountain and Sandia Mountain Wilderness in New Mexico. The bill would establish 15 wildernesses in national wildlife refuges including Red Rock Lakes in Montana and Simeonof in Alaska. One of the seven new wilderness study areas would be the Great Bear in Montana. The House wild and scenic rivers bill, HR 15422, includes the Flathead and Missouri Breaks in Montana. The Senate does not have identical bills under consideration, but it has already considered most of the same areas in several separate pieces of legislation. If the Senate accepts the House versions, passage is possible this year, according to Rep. John Melcher's (D-Mont.) office.

Utah gravel pits free from regulation

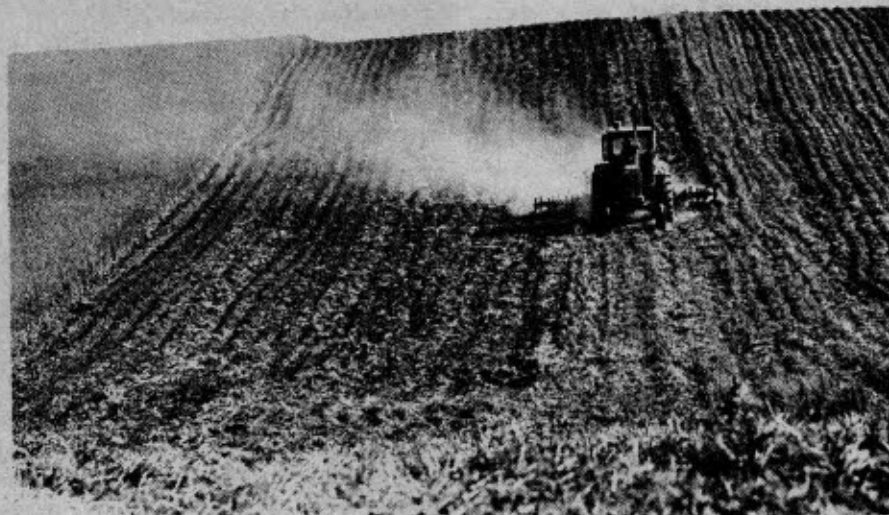
Gravel pit operators in Utah are nearly free from governmental regulations, according to *Deseret News* Environmental Editor Joe Bauman. "The Mined Land Reclamation Act, passed almost without dissent in the 1975 Legislature, was primarily intended to deal with gravel pit operations, by far the largest stripmining operation in the state," reads a *News* editorial. "But because sand and gravel were not specifically mentioned in the new law, the State Department of Transportation secured an opinion from the Attorney General's Office that gravel pit operators didn't fall under the law's provisions." Without state control, regulation is up to the counties and is "usually a hit-or-miss proposition. It depends on an operator's willingness to cooperate," writes Bauman. County officials told the *News* that gravel pits under Transportation Department contract were among the least likely to obey county gravel pit rules or do adequate reclamation.

EPA says phosphate EIS inadequate

Hearings are planned early in September in Idaho on a draft environmental impact statement on proposed phosphate development in Southeastern Idaho. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said the draft is inadequate. EPA recommends that separate environmental supplements be prepared for each mine and processing plant. The statement covers the overall development program for 16 mines. EPA asks for discussion of the impacts of processing plants operated by leaseholders outside of Idaho such as the existing Stauffer plants in Silver Bow, Mont., and Leefe, Wyo., and the proposed Alumet plant in Southwestern Utah. EPA says the U.S. Geological Survey should provide more information before inviting a decision by the secretary of Interior. Stabilization of mill tailings which might be radioactive was another area of concern for EPA.

Farmers Potash Co. alias protects BN

As public wariness of some large corporations grows, some corporation officials seem to be getting increasingly uncomfortable with their own names. The Northern Plains Resources Council has looked under the covers of the innocuous-sounding "Farmers Potash Company" and found Burlington Northern and CF Industries. The council says the companies reserved the name just long enough to file their water application with the state and to issue a press statement before allowing the name to expire. The companies filed for up to 7,000 acre feet of water from the Poplar River to mine and process potash in northeastern Montana. The potash is being watchdogged by a new affiliate of the resources council, the Three Corners Boundary Association. The northeastern Montana group will also be monitoring Canadian energy development on the Poplar River. The address for the group is Box 676, Scobey, Mont. 59263.



FAVOR FARMING OVER COAL

A survey conducted by the North Dakota State Planning Department indicates that less than half the people of the state want to encourage oil and coal development in their state. Protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources were the top goals, followed by reducing unemployment, increasing job varieties, and increasing family incomes. "The two major reasons stated over and over again for feeling North Dakota has become more desirable as a place to live are: a) clean environment, especially the air, and b) lack of crowding, or wide open spaces," the survey says. The survey was conducted to find out what North Dakotans want their state to be like on its 100th anniversary of statehood in 1989. A large majority of the 8,000 North Dakotans surveyed favor farming and ranching and processing of agricultural products as desirable industries for growth, according to the *ONLOOKER*. Photo by Mike Jacobs

Coloradoans gear up for bottle bill vote

Coloradoans will get a chance to vote on a bottle bill on their November ballot. Amendment 8, if passed, would place a mandatory five cent deposit on all beverage containers and require that they be either refilled or recycled. The pro-amendment campaign is called SCAT — Sensible Coloradoans Against Throwaways. It claims the amendment would reduce litter, save energy, and conserve natural resources. The anti-amendment forces — called the Colorado Resource Recovery Committee — say the amendment will cause unemployment and raise the price of beverages without significantly reducing the litter problem. Right now SCAT is ahead in the polls. Richard E. Powell, a publicist for Ball Metal Container Group and chairman of the Colorado Resource Recovery Committee, told the *Rocky Mountain News* Coloradoans are "very vulnerable to demagogic claims about improving the environment." Powell's committee is planning a major ad campaign to come from behind and defeat the amendment. SCAT is poorly funded, but it hopes to get a boost when former Oregon Gov. Tom McCall, a champion of bottle bill legislation, comes to Colorado late this month to stump for the amendment.

Boise Cascade blasts cut allowance

Boise Cascade has blamed environmentalists for its decision to close a lumber mill in McCall, Idaho, and predicts that other mills in the southwest area of Idaho will also have to close. The mill manager is urging area residents to write Idaho's delegation to Congress, where timber reform legislation is now pending. Boise Cascade says its decision was prompted by the Forest Service decision to reduce its annual allowable cut. But Archer Wirth, Payette National Forest timber staff officer, says the planned rate for harvesting is necessary to maintain an even flow of timber, according to the *Idaho Statesman*. He said the Forest Service's national policy is "absolutely opposed" to a more rapid rate of harvest. He said in the long run the Forest Service policy is "better for the people of the United States and Boise Cascade, too." If old trees were harvested more quickly now, there would be less timber to feed the mill in the future. Dan Lechelsky of The Wilderness Society said economic factors — not environmental — made it necessary to close the mill, which was the major employer in the town. Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.) pointed out that the mill is very old and likely not as efficient as newer mills. A Boise Cascade official said that two other factors led to the decision to close the mill — high freight rates and environmental standards which would require modifying the wigwam burner at the mill.

Boulder slow-growth petition advancing

A petition drive to put a growth-control measure on the Boulder, Colo., ballot in November is going "fantastically well," Councilman Paul Danish told the *Denver Post*. The plan, devised by Danish and patterned after a similar one used in Petaluma, Calif., would limit the city to 450 building permits each year for five years. Most of the permits would be allocated to the city center to reduce urban sprawl. The plan would hold down Boulder's growth to about two per cent per year.

14-High Country News —Sept. 10, 1976

HCN Books

An attached solar greenhouse

Review by Joan Nice

A New Mexico couple has published a book for those who are tired of reading about solar energy and who are ready to build.

An Attached Solar Greenhouse by W. F. and Susan Yanda is a design, construction, and operation manual for people interested in low cost food production utilizing solar energy. The Yandas describe a greenhouse model which provides growing space for at least 10 months out of the year at an elevation of 6,250 feet in New Mexico. The structure can be built for \$2.50 a square foot or less.

While the 18-page booklet leaves the details to the individual do-it-yourselfer, it contains some of the key concepts for greenhouse success:

— "It is necessary that the greenhouse have considerable mass in order to perform properly. (About 2 gallons of water or 80 pounds of concrete per square foot of glazing.) If this is done, the unit will maintain temperatures as high as 30 degrees F. above outdoor lows in the winter."

— "Notice that the south face of the unit is tilted between 60 degrees and the vertical. This maximizes winter sun and reflects a large percentage of summer sun off the

front of the greenhouse. Thus overheating is less of a problem."

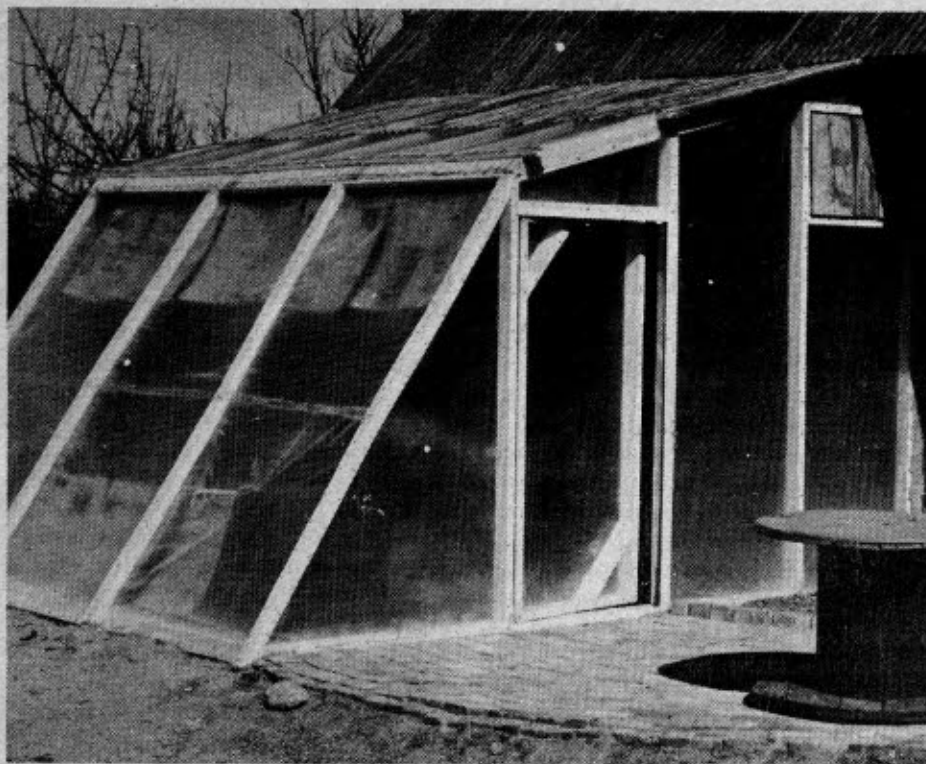
— "If you have a massive west wall that absorbs eastern sunlight all day, paint it dark. In the photo the back wall is a dark blue. Behind the plant bed in the left foreground, is a reflecting panel of tinfoil. This reflection behind the plants promotes faster growth, and leaves the majority of the dark wall to absorb heat."

To provide vegetables for a family, the Yandas suggest a 160 square foot south-facing structure and choose fiberglass as the covering. (For an in-depth discussion of the desirability and cost of various greenhouse coverings — polyethylene, vinyl, fiberglass, and glass — see the September 1976 issue of **Organic Gardening and Farming** magazine, published by Rodale Press, 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, Pa. 18049. The issue costs 75 cents and devotes 16 pages to solar greenhouses.)

The Yandas' booklet grew out of their experience with the Solar Sustenance Project funded by the Four Corners Regional Commission. Through the project, the Yandas helped low-income families in New Mexico design and build solar greenhouses. Construction is described step-by-step in both English and Spanish.

The booklet makes no attempt to minimize the possible pitfalls in creating a healthy enclosed ecosystem. The problems of plant pest plagues, temperature extremes, and maintaining just the right amount of moisture and fertile soil are all discussed briefly. However, the rewards for success will look exciting to Rocky Mountain people struggling with marginal growing seasons. For such people, the Yandas' planting schedule reads like a dream from bananaland. For instance: Mid-January, plant cold weather crops; mid-February, plant tomato starts; mid-March, plant melon and cucumber starts; mid-August, start vegetables for fall and winter harvest!

The booklet is available for \$1.50 from The Lightning Tree, publisher, P.O. Box 1837, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.



LOW COST GREENHOUSE. Bill Yanda's home-built solar heated greenhouse at Nambe, N.M., elevation 6,250 feet. A booklet by Yanda tells how you can build one which will provide fresh vegetables all year long for a cost of \$2.50 a square foot or less.



Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

Utah added to HCN Campaign

In the May 7, 1976 issue of HCN we printed some ads and asked our readers to place one of them in their local paper. Valerie Kaminski sponsored ads in two papers in Park City, Utah. Thank you, Valerie.

We've reached 10% of the states so far. Let's keep it up! (We are considering some sort of prize for the state with the most ads.)



Prints

by Jay Clark
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Classifieds

For sale. Used wood. Good for building. Call (307) 332-4817. Rainbow Enterprises.

* * *

Service Directory. Starting with its issue of October 22, High Country News will offer advertising space in the form of a service directory. For details, write HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

Scratchboard prints

Unsigned: \$10.

Signed: \$20.

heavy stock paper

Size: 11 x 14 untrimmed

Send order to:

HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520



FINKLEA EXONERATED. While there are "weaknesses" in the Environmental Protection Agency's study of the effects of sulfur oxide emissions on human health, ambient standards for sulfur oxides should not be relaxed, according to a report by the House Science and Commerce Committee. In an article in the L. A. Times, EPA administrator John F. Finklea had been accused of distorting data to prove that sulfur oxides harm human health. The House report absolves Finklea of any wrongdoing and says that Finklea's "CHESS" studies definitely confirm an association between sulfur oxide emissions and adverse health effects.

FTC IRE INDEX RISING. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has not taken kindly to Kennecott Copper Corp.'s foot-dragging in divesting itself of Peabody Coal, which the FTC ordered five years ago. The FTC has asked the federal appeals court in Denver to issue a contempt citation and fine Kennecott \$100,000 a day and each of its directors \$1,000 a day until the divestiture is completed. The court denied Kennecott's appeal but has not acted on the contempt motion, according to the **Wall Street Journal**.

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDS WATER ACT. The Senate Public Works Committee has voted to exempt normal farming and ranching activities from Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. An attempt to protect valuable wetlands, Section 404 requires the Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits for the disposal of dredge and fill material.

SYNAPSE DOMES: Economical, energy efficient homes. Exclusive residences to greenhouses and barns erected and finished to your satisfaction anywhere in the Rocky Mountain area. All wood component panel shell kits shipped anywhere in continental USA — eight sizes. Solar heat, shakeshingles, foam insulation optional. Blueprints available. Write or call for information and prices: P.O. Box 554-H, Lander, Wyoming. 82520, (307) 332-5773.

Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) proposed the exemptions in response to farmers' and ranchers' fears that their normal activities would be subject to unnecessary government regulations.

EPA WITHDRAWS FROM ANTI-LITTER GROUP. The Environmental Protection Agency has withdrawn from Keep America Beautiful's advisory board following charges by environmental groups that Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is a "front group" for bottlers and the throwaway bottle and can industry. The charges grew from concern that KAB is putting increasing emphasis on promoting litter cleanup rather than resource recycling. William F. May, chairman of KAB's board and also chairman of American Can Co., reportedly told members at a recent KAB meeting, "We must use every tool available to combat bottle referenda this year in Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Colorado where Communists or people with Communist ideas are trying to get these states to go the way of Oregon." Others on the board of directors are the presidents of Pepsi-Cola, Coca-Cola, National Can, the U.S. Brewers Association, the Glass Blowers Association, and the vice-president of Continental Can.

TAXING THE HEAVIES. Next month Canada will start imposing new taxes on automobiles according to how much they weigh, according to an editorial in the **Deseret News**. The newspaper suggests the U.S. should emulate the idea. The heavier the car, the heavier the tax, since heavier cars guzzle the most gasoline and oil. By imposing the new tax, Ottawa hopes to encourage the auto makers to produce lighter and more efficient cars. The **Deseret News**, a daily newspaper in Salt Lake City, Utah, suggests the revenue generated by the tax should be earmarked for research on new energy sources.



Teenagers work hard for Utah forest conservation

by Ann Schimpf

Thirty-five teenagers in Logan, Utah, spent eight weeks this summer proving that, if given a chance, kids really do work. Their chance was the Youth Conservation Corps, a federally funded program designed to provide gainful employment for teenagers in improving their environment. In their case, the program was administered by the Logan Ranger District of the Wasatch National Forest. Other YCC camps in the region are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various state agencies, and many other National Forests.

The Logan YCC corpsmen improved miles of trails in the Wellsville mountains, constructed a hiking hut, built a two-mile self-guiding nature trail complete with footbridge and rest benches, constructed miles of range fence, cleaned up campgrounds, built visitor platforms, and painted buildings. Many of the projects were located in remote areas and could only be accomplished by backpacking in all tools and equipment to establish high country camps.

For many of the youths it was their first formal work experience. As one mother stated after closing ceremonies, "I was not so sure I wanted my daughter working out in the woods, but this has been the best thing that has ever happened to her. She has gained self confidence and enthusiasm I have never seen in her before."

For the Logan corpsmen, spike camp — the week-long high country work project — was a highlight. Each corpsman spent three of his eight weeks on spike camp. For some of them that meant the awesome challenge of a six mile, 3,000 foot climb carrying 40-60 pound packs. In the words of one corpsman, who insisted half way up that she was going to die, "The whole world



UTAH YOUTH TACKLE EROSION. Youth Conservation Corps members worked this summer to help prevent erosion from the Logan River in Utah. The YCC program includes educational sessions and social events, as well as conservation labor.

is like the Wellsville's. It has its ups and its downs. But just like me, we all make it somehow."

The Logan group was divided into five seven-man crews. After a mile-and-a-half jog every morning, the crews loaded into old Air Force buses and departed for their

various projects. Sometimes Forest Service personnel would accompany them to projects to provide necessary expertise. But most of the time YCC adult crew leaders and their untrained, but enthusiastic charges carried through with things.

Not every day or every hour was for

work. About 10 hours a week were allotted to environmental education activities. One week the Logan crew spent a day at the Bear River Bird Refuge. Another day they traveled to Ogden, Utah, to meet Forest Service YCCers from Salt Lake City for a day of urban investigation activities.

Most of the time, however, environmental education activities related directly to their work projects. For example, they chose the interpretive spots on the nature trail they built and designed the nature brochure. When planting trees in an old clearcut, they did tree ring counts and growth analysis. The goal of the Youth Conservation Corps program is to contribute to the United States' future environmental well-being by helping to educate its youth.

During the August 13 closing ceremonies of the YCC camp, one of the corpsmen chose as a solo piece "The Impossible Dream." It was an appropriate choice. For whether the dream was digging through solid rock to bury a fence post, or hiking up the Wellsvilles, or completing the morning mile-and-a-half all the way without walking, or tolerating such epicurean spike camp delights as oatmeal macaroni or 6 a.m. reveille, or learning to care for someone you did not think you could stand; each YCCer achieved some impossible dream this summer.



HCN

Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Home on the Range became active
When miners found it attractive
They all have CBs
And color TVs
And the whole place is radio-active.

BLM ADVISORY BOARD

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking nominations of individuals within New Mexico to fill two vacancies (wildlife and state government) on its Multiple Use Advisory Board. The Multiple Use Advisory Board provides advice and counsel to BLM's state director. The board meets at least four times a year in varying locations in New Mexico and members serve without compensation but receive reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses. To be considered, individuals must have experience and knowledge of the public-land use being represented.

Nominations should be mailed to Doyle Kline, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1449, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501, and should be accompanied by a biographical sketch of the individual.

IDAHO RESOURCE MEET

The seventh annual Idaho Conservation Convocation will study "Idaho's Wealth: Our Natural Resources" Sept. 13-15 at Coeur D'Alene. The meeting is sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idaho Federation of Women's Clubs.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The Colorado Outdoor Space Council (COSC) has scheduled a conference to be held Oct. 1-3 at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs

near Nathrop, Colo. Entitled, "Where should the environmental movement go in the next five years?", it will be open to all interested persons. Special emphasis will be placed on techniques such as lobbying, working with the media, organizing volunteers, and agency accountability. Enrollment will be limited to approximately 100 persons. If you would like to attend, send your check for \$25 (includes two nights lodging and five meals) along with your name, address, and phone number as soon as possible to: COSC, 1325 Delaware St., Denver, Colo. 80204.



LOW-COST SOLAR WORKSHOP

The San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association is planning one or two day workshops on building low-cost solar heaters. Upon completion of the workshop, participants can count on leaving the workshop with enough knowledge to build their own. Tentative dates are two Saturdays in Sept. and-or Oct. There will be a small fee. If interested send your name and address to: San Luis Valley Energy Association, Box 748, Center, Colo. 81125. Please indicate your experience with the basics of carpentry and whether you prefer Saturday or weekday meetings.

WYOMING CANDIDATES

A question and answer session for Wyoming's four congressional candidates is planned in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association in Lander Sept. 21.

Sen. Gale McGee, Rep. Teno Roncalio, Malcolm Wallop, and Larry Hart have

been invited to participate in the convention: "Energy: Critical Choices Ahead." The questions posed to the candidates will relate to this theme. For more information, call (307) 234-6152.

WYOMING REGS HEARING SET

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has scheduled a public hearing for Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. at the Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne to discuss the Interior Department's proposed rule making for Wyoming coal reclamation standards. Verbal comments must be held to 10 minutes. Written comments may be submitted until Oct. 26. Contact Jim MacNair, Office of Public Affairs, BLM, Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

WASHINGTON LOBBYIST NEEDED

Friends of the Earth, a national conservation organization, is seeking an Assistant Legislative Director for Energy who would lobby on energy-related issues in Washington, D.C. Experience in lobbying, political work, or other public-interest activity are preferred. People interested in applying should send a resume and a cover letter (including references) to Jeff Knight, Friends of the Earth, 620 C Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

COAL FORUM

Federal Energy Administrator Frank G. Zarb will be the keynote speaker at a day long coal forum in Denver on Monday, Sept. 20, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Brown Palace Hotel. Top-level speakers for federal and state energy agencies and public interest groups are expected. About four hours will be provided for direct public participation. Anyone interested in participating should contact Luther Clemmer at the Federal Energy Office, Denver Regional Office (303) 234-2165.

Boom Town Ladies

This issue of High Country News is now available in quantity at the reduced rates below.

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16-High Country News — Sept. 10, 1976

Emil and Penny Keck

Largest wilderness in capable hands

by Peter Wild
in collaboration
with Everett Peirce

"This fellow was running around the airport in such a hurry he didn't even have time to tell me his name. Oh, brother!" Penny reflects on her first meeting with the fire control officer of the Nezperce National Forest.

A few weeks earlier, Emil Keck had sat in the ranger station at Moose Creek reviewing applications for summer lookout on Shissler Peak — and nearly fell out of his chair. There before him was Penny's application, the first he'd seen from a woman. Having worked in the mountains of northern Idaho and western Montana since 1930, Emil was a legend in forest camps. Now his mind raced through all the reasons for rejecting a "girl" for the lookout job — foremost of which, he now admits, was what it would do to his image if he had a female employee to boss around. Yet he finally had to agree with others involved in hiring that the application was too sound to turn down. The Nezperce National Forest hired the student from Portland State University and sat back to see what would happen between Penny Kummrow and Emil Keck.

In typical backwoods fashion, he began by testing her. While offering a diffident

His mind raced through all the reasons for rejecting a "girl" for the lookout job.

greeting at the rural airport in Grangeville, Idaho, Emil noticed that some of the horse feed they were to fly in to Moose Creek had spilled on the hangar floor. Emil figured he'd find out if Penny was the real farm girl described on the forms and asked her to hold the grain sacks while he filled them. She naturally grasped the sacks with the tops turned down, as farm people do. Emil was happily surprised.

He laid plans for more rigorous testing, however. On his first inspection tour of Penny's lookout, he followed the fine print in the rule book and admonished her for dust on one of the shelves. His satisfaction at discovering the peccadillo was short-lived; Penny exploded at the pettiness. Thereafter, every time Emil climbed the tower, he found himself impressed with a person who, like himself, not only did a job well but also had the confidence not to tolerate harassment. At the end of the fire season they were married.

As a result, the portion of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness that lies within the Moose Creek Ranger District has been in the strong but loving hands of Penny and Emil since 1967. The Wilderness Area — 1.25 million acres southwest of Missoula — is the largest preserve of its kind in the continental U.S. and ranges from 1,750 to 10,000 feet. It overwhelms visitors with its variety of wildlife, rows of snowcapped peaks, and countless alpine lakes.

Taking care of the forest and assuring that its wilderness values are preserved in the face of growing public use is the couple's job. Though Penny and Emil do get

summer help, they are the only full-time Forest Service residents of the wilderness. Their responsibilities range from maintaining lookouts and the hundreds of miles of trails to conducting a guard school for seasonal employees. During the two-week session the couple passes on its unique skills — skills which in other places are fast dying out — in woodsmanship, fire fighting, and survival. Most of their time, however, is spent alone out on the trail where their difficult, often dangerous jobs demand close teamwork.

In winter they build bridges in wet, snowy weather, handling huge timbers with nothing more than simple tools. On almost all chores — whether dynamiting boulders from a trail or fighting fires — they cooperate on an equal footing. Only in camp are responsibilities divided; there Penny does the packing and cooking, Emil the dishes.

Usually several days' trek from the nearest road, they know that their survival depends on fitness. A typical day begins before dawn with a four-mile run in heavy logging boots. After catching their horses and mules, they pack them with gear and lead the string 15 miles along the boiling Selway River, clearing trail of rock slides and fallen trees as they go. At Shearer Guard Station, a one-room cabin at the end of a meadow, they unsaddle and feed the stock, have dinner, then take mules up into the mountains to retrieve gear left by smokejumpers. Long after sunset they're heading back using miners' lamps to see the narrow trail. At Shearer once again, they perhaps have a late snack, then fall into sleeping bags long after midnight, only to get up at five o'clock to run four miles and... As Emil says, it's not a job for an "eight-to-five."

Yet, because Forest Service regulations prohibit one relative working for another, Penny does not get paid. She does her job because she loves the wilderness, loves the man who once issued her a demerit for dust on a shelf in a remote lookout.

Unlike most Americans, the Kecks have



EMIL AND PENNY KECK. As to the future of wilderness, both are adamant about preservation; their watchword is simplicity.

no permanent home — at least not in the traditional sense. Penny says that home is, "... wherever you are on any night," wherever the job takes them. In a way that the nation is only beginning to appreciate, they feel privileged: "The problem on the outside," according to Emil, "is too many people jammed together. Here each individual is conscious of the job he is doing for the sake of the job and how it in a small way helps the country."

Camped deep in the pines of the Selway-Bitterroot, they feel they can, "... live their lives better here than anywhere else." Twice a year when they visit civilization, they simply clear the trail to the edge of the wilderness, then catch a ride to Grangeville. Even when pressed, Penny insists she doesn't miss anything in city life. Emil, however, has a weakness: he confesses that on occasion he gets a hankering for "... the jelly-filled doughnuts in the bakery at Albertson's."

As to the future of wilderness, both are adamant about preservation; their watchword is simplicity. Aside from supporting

an adequate trail system, both agree that, "The human being is the only threat. The least amount of management of a wilderness area is the best management." Emil believes that the service has made the right move in this direction by going to peripheral management whenever possible, taking personnel out of the wilderness and moving them to the portal areas.

However, he expresses concern that administrators might, "... go to the computer instead of the field," in a misguided attempt to encourage more wilderness travel. Despite their love of solitude, Penny and Emil are not misanthropes. Hikers who chance on them leading their pack string find them warm, helpful, articulate. Yet they know that preserving the nation's remaining wilderness will take sensitivity and self-restraint on the part of the public.

Emil will retire in a year. Between him and Penny the couple has over 60 years of experience in forestry. Whoever hires Penny will also have Emil. They stay as a team. Hopefully it will be tramping the trails of the Selway.

Dear Friends,

Fall is here in the high country. This morning we brushed the frost off the bicycle seats before climbing up and slipped on mittens until the exertion warmed our hands enough to grip the handlebars without them. Soon the shortening days will force us to put our bikes away for the winter.

The other bicycle traffic dissipated a few weeks ago. This summer there was lots of it since Lander was on the Bikecentennial route. The first morning when we saw a bicycling couple approaching from half a mile away, we were elated. Our enthusiasm grew as through the summer we saw more and more — one morning 19 — cyclists in the 10 mile stretch between the HCN office and home.

We're sure they didn't count on some of the eccentricities of Wyoming — the snow they awoke to June 18; the long, sage-filled miles wheeling past

the grazing antelope; the pickup trucks which whizzed past them with rifles hanging in the window, no doubt bringing apprehension to city dwellers who had seen too many movies; the 50 mile-per-hour winds as they pushed up Beaver Rim.

We also suspect many of them will remember Wyoming — and the other states they traversed — more fondly than the tourists whose cars rushed them from Old Faithful to the rodeo in Cheyenne, impatiently gunning their motors as the bicycle traffic slowed their passage over Togwotee Pass.

When they ride in their cars, only the already-convinced lovers of the West will see the beauty of the endless empty plains of much of Wyoming. The Winnebago tourists are insulated from the elements — but also from the greetings of the meadowlarks, the scent of the sage, the friendly ques-

tions of the curious. They usually won't loiter to hear the tales of Wyoming winters from the proprietress at Muddy Gap or to play pool with the locals at the bar in Dubois as the bicyclist is more likely to do.

The leisurely, lingering pace is addictive. We suspect those bicyclists will never be quite so willing to rush across the country, encapsulated in their cars again.

We also hope their encounter with Wyoming and the West will help them understand why we want so much to protect it.

In this issue is another free poster for you if you still know of a wall in some public place that needs a little help. The badger photo is by Dick Randall; we forgot to mention that Randall is with Defenders of Wildlife.

—the editors

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