

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

Vol. 9 No. 11

Friday, June 3, 1977

Lander, Wyoming

Canadian project may pollute U.S.



THE WHEAT HARVEST during the drought is expected to be dismal. However, the effects of air pollutants from the Poplar River plant may last much longer. Farmers in the area fear they may lose as much as 25% of their normal yield since emissions from the plant will blow their way.

Mary Hunter Austin defended the deserts with gusto

© 1977 by Peter Wild

As the stagecoach struggled through the sand in Red Rock Canyon, a figure stepped out of the midnight shadows. The driver's gun hand went to his hip as the stranger called out, "Ye got anybody on board that can pray out loud? We got a man here's pretty badly hurt." The driver peered into the darkness, suspecting a trick.

"I could pray," said the woman next to him on the boot. In a few moments she was kneeling over a wounded man by a campfire, victim of a shootout among desert travelers. "Repeat after me," she whispered. "Christ Jesus, forgive my sins..." The man mouthed back the words faintly, the last hope of a departing spirit. The pathos of the situation, the gentle heroism of the woman, would have warmed many hearts at the turn of the century.

A few years later the same woman, bedecked with the paraphernalia of a Paiute princess, sat writing in a wickiup built in a tree. She had joined the bohemian crowd of Jack London, Ambrose Bierce, and Lincoln Steffens at their art colony in Carmel, Calif. Recently estranged from her hus-

band, the author was penning the earliest of 30 books of feminism, conservation, and a mysticism based on "aesthetic patterns in the landscape."

The two scenes may seem opposite, antipodes of a woman in revolt against her

(continued on page 4)



Mary Hunter Austin
Photo courtesy of Bancroft Library

by Marjane Ambler
and Dan Whipple

A massive Canadian energy complex along the U.S.-Canada border in Saskatchewan is becoming one of the most complex legal controversies that the West has ever faced. At issue is the exporting of pollution across international borders and a tangle of claims and counter-claims by three sovereign nations, a state government, and ranchers.

The Saskatchewan government through the state-owned Saskatchewan Power Company is now building the first stages of what could be a large, integrated energy complex eight miles north of the Montana border.

Only one 300 megawatt coal-fired power plant is under construction, but full development of the coal resource in the area, as outlined in a Canadian planning document, calls for a total of four 300 megawatt power plants by 1986 and later three additional power plants totaling 3,600 megawatts, two 250 million cubic-foot-per-day coal gasification plants, two 12,500 ton-per-day synthetic ammonia or urea plants, and two 7,500 ton-per-day ammonia plants. Called the Poplar River Project, the complex will be built along the East Fork of the Poplar River, which flows from Canada into northeastern Montana.

Preliminary studies indicate that the project's potential for polluting the air and the water passing over the border into Montana and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation is serious, and both Montana state officials and Fort Peck tribal officials are alarmed. They have relayed their concerns to the U.S. State Department; however, the international treaty that covers water disputes between the two countries does not cover all of their concerns, such as air pollution, Indian water rights, or, by some interpretations, even water pollution.

The state of Montana and the Sioux and Assiniboine tribes are becoming increasingly frustrated as they watch the Poplar River dry up while the representatives of the two countries debate about divvying up the water. Their frustration has resulted in passage of a futile state law to control Canadian pollution and is forcing the tribes to consider taking their water grievances to Canadian courts.

NO INJURY ALLOWED

The Canadians have built a dam on the East Fork of the Poplar to store 32,000 acre-feet of water for power plant cooling. The storage has reduced the flow of the river so much this summer that tribal

spokesmen say you can wade across it. The average annual flow of the East Fork of the Poplar at the international border is only 11,000 acre-feet.

Water disputes between the U.S. and Canada are settled under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. The treaty is enforced by the six-member International Joint Commission (IJC).

The Boundary Waters Treaty contains two provisions that are pertinent to the Poplar River. First, where water crosses an international boundary, the upstream interests can control the flow, but they are liable for damages to downstream users. The second relevant provision states, "boundary waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other."

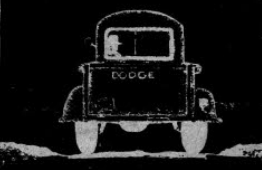
Despite these provisions in the treaty on water quality, the IJC discussions on the Poplar have so far been limited to dividing the water between the two countries. The Montana state government and the Fort Peck tribes have urged the commission to consider both air and water quality as well, but until recently, it has refused to undertake such studies. Indian water rights have also been virtually ignored by the IJC.

A special task force on the project, set up by the IJC, urged a 50-50 apportionment of the water from the entire Poplar River — the Middle Fork and West Fork, as well as the East Fork. The Canadians argue that the U.S. interests could get their 50% out of the other two tributaries, while the Canadians could take nearly all of the East

(continued on page 6)

Edward Abbey's
journey home

Book review, page 16.



Drawing by Jim Stiles



HCN Letters

CLIVUS MULTRUM DEFENDED

Dear HCN,

If the true purpose of your article on the Clivus Multrum in your 3-25-77 issue was "to find out how efficiently the Clivus is working" as your reporter told me, the article would not have ignored half our conversation. Since I was your only source of information, your article should have reflected my opinion, not your reporter's. It may have also been interesting to report on new developments for wastewater treatment, etc.

Specifically (addressing quotes from your article):

1. "The first toilets supplied were really junk." I said that, and it's true; however, I was referring to the toilet stool only! Most people call the Clivus a composting toilet and confusion obviously could result. Furthermore, to be fair it should have been mentioned that it has saved about 60,000 gallons of water in its three year life.

2. "On the third, the wooden chute..." It was actually a wooden chopping block — chutes are either fiberglass or metal.

3. "Nelson said he has had some problems with odors..." I made it quite clear that although we have had an odor from our Clivus, it was only for a few hours during the entire year of 1976. That's a lot less than you have with your toilet!

4. "The tank, too, was 'very fragile'..." Out of context. I said that in reference to the effect of disinfectant upon the ecosys-

tem within the Clivus Multrum, not the tank's structure, etc.

5. "Two months ago... sold a Clivus to a couple in Kalispell and the main office still hasn't sent them a garbage unit." I didn't say that! Within my territory it is my responsibility to supply customers with equipment — not Clivus Multrum USA's. The garbage unit they were waiting for was one I designed and had not yet built. Shortly after our interview, they received one.

I don't really expect an article at this late date amending your first but shall rely on the judgment of those who visit our home and inspect our Clivus Multrum (No. 017).

With all its problems — potential odor, fruit flies, and compost flies, it still is a far superior system for dealing with human waste and organic garbage. Think about it the next time you flush your toilet!

Glenn Nelson
Clivus Multrum, Northern Rockies
205 Meadows Road
Whitefish, MT 59937

EAST NEEDS COOPERATION

Gentlefolk:

The article about Dr. Jerry Plunkett (HCN 5-20-77) was very encouraging.

My concern about energy development in the West takes a somewhat different twist from yours. Living here in one of the more densely populated states, having seen the controlled panic of the first of what are to be many shortages of space heating fuel is the basis for it. During our month and a half near shutdown economically and institutionally here last winter, the energy suppliers were crying that the well was dry.

Those cries could have been a spur to some leadership and innovation in space



heating methods, but spring has been hot and the gas companies are crowing that larger supplies are in our future, so that needed push to our solving the problems of our precarious future has vanished.

What this conjures in my mind is that same panic we saw last year unbridled and leading to a real rape out there.

What we need is some very real coordination between the people here who are concerned about space heating problems coordinating with those out there who are like minded.

Richard S. McCutchen
Columbus, Ohio

SUPPORT CARTER

Dear HCN,

I hope you will keep emphasizing the need for letters in support of Carter's environmental policies. People are slower to write in favor of something than to complain. He will need all the backup he can get to stand up against the Congressional recoil, especially on the pork barrel projects.

Duane Howe
Dubois, Wyo.

DISPELLING MYTHS

Dear Editors:

Congratulations on a fine and sensitive article in your April 22 issue on the Indian water suit in Wyoming. I was very impressed by the depth and sensitivity of your report by Marjane Ambler. Indian tribes are being pressed on all sides by pressures seeking to diminish their sovereign rights, and articles such as yours are helpful in dispelling myths that are used by racist and economic interests.

A copy of your article has been sent to John Mohawk, editor of *Akwesasne Notes* (a newspaper on Indian issues), Mohawk Nation via Roosevelttown, New York 13683. I would encourage you to solicit articles on Indian issues from John as he is both extremely knowledgeable and a fine writer.

Elizabeth Furse
Indian Program
American Friends Service Committee
Seattle, Wash.

A CONSERVATIONIST'S LAMENT

The world is finite, resources scarce

Things are bad and will be worse.

Coal is burned and gas exploded,

Forests cut and soils eroded.

Wells are dry, and air's polluted

Dust is blowing, trees uprooted

Oil is going, ores depleted

Drains receive what is excreted

Land is sinking, seas are rising—

Man is far too enterprising.

Fire will rage with man to fan it

Soon we'll have a plundered planet.

People breed like fertile rabbits

People have disgusting habits.

Moral:

The evolutionary plan

Went astray by evolving man.

THE TECHNOLOGIST'S REPLY

Man's potential is quite terrific;

You can't go back to the Neolithic.

The cream is here for us to skim it—

Knowledge is power, the sky's the limit.

Every mouth has hands to feed it,

Food is found where people need it.

All we need is found in granite

Once we have the men to plan it.

Yeast and algae give us meat

Soil is almost obsolete

Man can grow to pastures greener

Our future looks more lush than leaner.

Moral:

Man's a nuisance, man's a crackpot,

But only man can hit the jackpot.

Anonymous poems, printed courtesy of

Arthur H. Doerr and The Rotarian.

You can help HCN get some much

needed exposure to new readers by

hanging up the poster-insert found in

this issue of HCN. Just hang the poster

on your favorite wall or bulletin board.

The posters will be coming in the next

four issues, too. Just imagine: HCN

posters on 20,000 bulletin boards all

over the country! Thank you.

High Country News tells you to

Hang it on the wall!

High Country News T-shirts have arrived!



High Country News

environmental watchdog of the Rockies
Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520

Silk-screened by hand to give a quality impression. T-shirts are 100% cotton. Order your exact size; shirts are a little large to allow for shrinkage. (Eagle motif is from an original drawing by Carol Snow.) When you buy a HCN t-shirt, you help out the paper financially and you'll help spread the word around, too. Shirts are white with black print. Frontal image.

Now in blazing colors.

HCN t-shirts are now available in colors: pure white, light blue and hot orange, all with black images.

Quantity	Size	Adult	Shirt colors (select white, blue or orange).
YOUTH	Small (24-26)	Small (34-36)	My first choice is _____
	Medium (28-30)	Medium (38-40)	My second choice is _____
	Large (32-34)	Large (42-44)	please check one of the following:
		X-Large (46-48)	_____ If the above colors are not available, hold my order until more shirts are in stock.
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Editorials

HCN

June 3, 1977

Cost v. benefit — save alluvial valleys

Recent press reports lead one to believe that the only thing left to argue about in the federal strip mine bill is the degree of protection to be extended to alluvial valleys. Rep. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) introduced an amendment in the House that would completely ban the mining of valley floors to protect valuable agricultural land and subsurface aquifers. Backed by the Administration, the House passed the so-called Baucus Amendment.

Most of the ruckus raised in opposition to the Baucus Amendment has come, predictably enough, from companies that have mines in alluvial valley floors, or are planning them, or from ranchers who want to lease their private coal in alluvial valleys. Through a quirk of legal history, much of the coal in alluvial valleys is privately owned, while much of the rest is owned by the federal government.

Operating mines with land in alluvial valleys will be grandfathered out of compliance with the new law, if passed. Of the planned mine expansion between now and 1985, only about 3% of the available coal lies in alluvial valleys.

There seems to be a wealth of misinformation about the alluvial valley issue, either through misunderstanding or deliberate misrepresentation. But, considering the available data, it seems clear that the nation would not suffer a massive shortage of coal if alluvial valley mining were banned. So, what is all the fuss about?

Briefly, money. The **Sheridan** (Wyo.) Press reports in an editorial that the Decker mine in Montana would be denied a permit for the east Decker expansion if the ban goes through, costing Decker \$20 million invested so far. Also affected would be

Peter Kiewit Sons' plans for the Whitney mine, nearly one-third of which lies in an alluvial valley of the Tongue River north of Sheridan. The coal was sold to Decker by Whitney Benefits, a charitable trust based in Sheridan, which, coincidentally, has some interlocking board members with Peter Kiewit Sons, owner of Decker and the proposed Whitney mine.

According to most interpretations of the Baucus Amendment, mining around alluvial valleys would not be prohibited, so the east Decker expansion would probably be allowed. The Whitney site lies almost one-third within an alluvial valley, however, and probably would not be economical to mine with that much land declared off limits. So, Peter Kiewit Sons may have a white elephant on its hands.

There are indeed some costs to banning alluvial valley mining. Some companies will lose some revenue; some ranchers will lose a chance to get rich. However, in the rush to air-condition Detroit with Western coal, it seems forgotten that there are costs to mining, too.

Granted, there is a national energy shortage. But, the companies and the government have already allocated a large part of the Western range to producing coal to alleviate that shortage. Now, for three percent of future production, the companies want to dig up what even opponents of the amendment agree is among the best agricultural land in the West.

Much is made of the region's "duty" to produce energy. The region also has the

duty — and we believe that it's a higher one — to produce food.

Ranchers and farmers are already complaining about the dearth of water for irrigation and stock-watering in this drought year. This won't be the last drought year, yet the coal companies want to tamper with aquifers without knowing whether these underground water-bearing

formations can ever be reclaimed.

Three percent of the West's coal won't be missed. The costs of mining alluvial valleys far outweigh the benefits. The Senate has adopted a weaker version of protecting alluvial valleys that will leave much to interpretation. Congress should adopt the Baucus amendment — a ban on the stripping of the nation's agricultural wealth — as the strip mine bill goes through the conference committee.

—DSW



Guest Editorial

HCN



National Wind Energy Potential

Estimated Power Density

- 150 watts m^2
- 200 watts m^2
- 300 watts m^2
- 400 watts m^2

Annual average wind speeds are in mph

Wind power people dance to federal tune

by Mike Jakubcin

For the few of us attending this year's American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) conference in Boulder, Colo., with the expectation of gaining some practical "intermediate technology" information, the proceedings were a bewildering surprise.

One government-sponsored researcher after another presented concepts and data which, in my opinion, were over-precise and generally irrelevant to the needs of folks concerned with producing their own electricity in a de-centralized fashion.

A conversation with Mike Evans, the affable editor of **Wind Power Digest** and executive secretary for AWEA, gave me a background of the events leading up to this conference. After several years of relatively unsuccessful efforts to develop utilization of wind energy conversion systems independently of the federal government, the handful of small production people and other members of AWEA have accepted the idea that: "There is no way a new industry can step into the energy field without federal incentives being provided."

H. H. Marvin, director of ERDA's Solar and Wind division, made this statement at the conference, and it seemed to me to be a succinct explanation of the context in which the meeting was held. Thus, this conference was designed to satisfy the bureaucratic need for standardization, technical feasibility studies, and so on.

The pervasive spirit of the technicians grappling with their various areas of expertise seemed somewhat akin to a discus-

sion of the merits of the wheel. The lesson, once again, is that in order to secure government funding one must dance to the government's tune.

Obviously, there are dangers in accepting government funds, of which AWEA seems well aware. Evans acknowledged them in our conversation, as did Richard Katzenberg, president of AWEA, in his quarterly report. "We need to draw that fine line between (1) governmental assistance and encouragement and (2) governmental interference and over-involvement," he said.

AWEA members seem to be fairly confident they can maintain such a distinction. Perhaps, after several years of relatively fruitless struggle to succeed without government aid, they feel they have no choice.

For me, the conference was an introduction to the various parties who have assumed responsibility for the widespread development of wind as an energy source in the U.S. The methods of development are as diverse as the people involved. One effect of governmental involvement will be to overlay this diversity with an ordered structure.

Such an overlay can prove beneficial to the many people seeking alternatives to the present suppliers of electricity. On the other hand, the bias of government toward centralized approaches to satisfying people's needs is well established, and not to be underestimated. How AWEA fares in its relationship with the federal government certainly merits further scrutiny.

The cost of cars

"Auto industry lobbyists say that under the administration proposal (for the Clean Air Act controls), the average sticker price of all new cars would go up \$350," the Associated Press reports.

The same newsstory quotes Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) as saying the auto industry is waging "one of the most incredible lobbying campaigns that Congress has ever seen."

We wonder if the auto industry would like to share with us how much of the cost of a new car reflects those lobbying costs? —MJA



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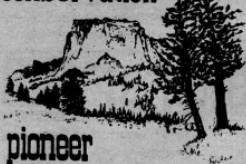
Mary Austin...

(Continued from page 1)

prescribed role. To some degree this is true. But if anything characterizes Mary Hunter Austin it is not the disparateness of social reprobation, ill health, or the constant searches of her life, but integration, the harmony of earth and man.

In her, some of the intuition and mysticism of a John Muir combined with the practical, headstrong qualities of a Gifford Pinchot. As an intellectual woman, she

Conservation



was by necessity a rebel. But she did not fill the image of what the media today projects as the jet-setting, liberated woman. She preached — and mostly lived — responsibility, whether in matters of sex, social reform, or the beleaguered land.

Mary Hunter Austin was born in 1868 in Carlinville, Ill. Her father, a lover of books and a former captain in the Union Army, practiced law, but he died when Mary was 10. From then on her mother scrambled to make a living, desperate to maintain the family's respectability on her husband's pension.

At the time, women were kept as precious possessions of their spouses. When thrown out on their own resources, however, they and their families suffered "the strange indignities offered to widowhood by a society which made out of the wife's economic dependence on her husband a kind of sanctity which was violated by his death; dependence that made widowhood, when it happened, little less than improbity."

Like many former frontier towns, Carlinville was just entering what it considered to be the mainstream of American culture. Mary grew up in a climate concerned with appearances. She would spend a good part of her life pointing to their falseness. The most modest homes of the time hid the legs of their pianos under chintz ruffles, despite — or perhaps because of — the realities of local bawdy houses.

Even in childhood she was different — bright, stubborn, sensitive — a child apart. Often she couldn't distinguish between fact and her imagination. She said she saw things others couldn't and was punished for lying. When she was a girl of five, God appeared to her under a walnut tree — not a very good start for a woman in a rigid society. Whether she did see spirits, have premonitions, and read the future in a crystal ball, as she later claimed, is not crucial. The point is that from her youth she refused to be a docile martyr to prejudices.

The prejudices made life difficult for those unwilling to bend. In later years, when she was campaigning for the innovations of juvenile courts and probation offices,

her brother threatened to throw her out of his house unless she stopped talking about causes "injurious to domestic propriety." When the first fruit of her marriage was a retarded child, her mother reacted self-righteously. "I don't know what you've done, daughter, to have such a judgment upon you."

Yet she loved her family and for years struggled to keep it together. Actually, there was little else she could do. In the main, the only profession for an unmarried woman, besides teaching, was the street.

After Mary graduated from local Blackburn College in 1888, her mother took her to California, where her brother was working in a drugstore. The three filed homestead claims at the southern end of the San

family. His likable qualities were soon outstripped by wild schemes of getting rich on an irrigation project in the remote Owens Valley. He ignored his mounting debts, while his wife struggled to keep bread on the table and bill collectors from the door. So far, her life was little different than that of thousands of other pioneer women.

Yet it was during the ill fortune of the California sojourn that the sensitivity toward the land and its people that would make her famous came to the fore. While she crossed the continent with her mother, male passengers in the crowded immigrant car entertained themselves by gawking at female underwear on clotheslines, guessing at polygamous households.

Even then Mary was discovering something quite different. As she recounts in

bring her dried meadowlarks' tongues, which make the speech nimble and quick." All this — material that later would appear in books that Eastern critics raved over — she was absorbing.

Meanwhile, the young woman faced an uncertain future: her marriage was falling apart, her mother was dying. Yet her confidence grew in an "inherent drive," an inward swelling. The same year that her daughter Ruth was placed in an institution, the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Cosmopolitan*, two of the nation's major publications, bought her stories about the West.

In 1903 Houghton Mifflin published what is her best loved and perhaps most insightful book about man's relationship to the earth, *The Land of Little Rain*. Writing as a profession for a woman, especially for an estranged woman, was still not considered a respectable undertaking, but her friends at Carmel provided the sympathy that she needed to follow "the Voice," as she called it, that now was asserting itself.

And the art colony overlooking the Pacific, though certainly a homey place for literary eccentrics, was not as risqué as some outsiders liked to believe. Most of the flights were of a spiritual sort. John Muir, as unbacchanalian a character as one might imagine, was a frequent visitor. Austin interpreted him through her eyes: "I know something of what went on in Muir... for him, quite simply, the spirits of the wild were angels, who bore him on their wings through perilous places."

In time, tourists overran Carmel. Briefly, Austin was reunited with her husband. Then began the traveling that plagues many American writers in their search for definitions of themselves and the continent, "... shuttling to and fro from east to west of the American scene..."

In Italy she experienced something bordering on religious ecstasy and a temporary relief from the cancer eating away at her body. In London she met George Bernard Shaw and lectured before the Fabian

As an intellectual woman, she was by necessity a rebel.

"Not the law, but the land sets the limit."

—Mary Hunter Austin



Mary Hunter Austin

Photo courtesy of Bancroft Library

Joaquin Valley. With many Americans, they saw the West as their golden hope.

And with many Americans, they discovered that their small ranch was a bust in the arid country. The "first winter rack-boned cattle tottered in the trails and died with their heads toward the stopped watercourses." For the next few years the family moved about in search of stability. Mary suffered a collapse from malnutrition and emotional strain. She taught school.

In 1891 she married Stafford Austin, a ne'er-do-well from a wealthy California

her autobiography, *Earth Horizon*:

"All that long stretch between Salt Lake and Sacramento Pass, the realization of presence which the desert was ever after to have for her, grew upon her mind; not the warm tingling presence of wooded hills and winding creeks, but something brooding and aloof, charged with a dire indifference, of which she was never for an instant afraid."

In the San Joaquin Valley she listened to the stories of General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, who had known Kit Carson and had carried the first official news of California's gold to Washington. She befriended cowboys and the Basque shepherds, whose flocks ranged across the Sierras. As her neighbors gossiped and her husband grumbled, she dug wild hyacinth roots with the Paiute women — untouchable for whites except for purposes of rape. The Indians repaid her kindness; when Mary's child failed to develop normally, one woman walked for a good part of a day, "to

Society. New York's New Theater produced her play with a Native American theme, *The Arrow Maker*. All the while, from the energy often generated by unsettled living, came books, *Isidro* (1905), a romance of California's missions; *A Woman Of Genius* (1912), one of three feminist novels; and, later, books on mysticism, poetry, folklore. In the opinion of T. M. Pearce she was "the first truly prominent woman writer from the American West."

In 1924 she moved to Santa Fe, N.M., and built a house, Casa Querida (Beloved House). She spent the final decade of her life there, writing 10 last books.

Wherever Mary Hunter Austin went, decked out in Navajo jewelry and a monstrous flowered hat atop her hefty body, she caused a stir. It wasn't only the way she dressed. Her mysticism, her campaigns for social reform, her romantization of the American Indian had an appeal to many intellectuals of the day, an appeal that bordered on faddism.

Carl Van Doren declared her "of the breed of prophets." From today's perspective the praise seems frantic. Some of her theories, for instance that genuine poetry reflects the rhythms of the natural environment, may have appeal, but often they (continued on page 5)

Her mysticism, her campaigns for social reform, her romantization of the American Indian had an appeal to many intellectuals of the day.

Her greatest contribution is her writing, which helped lay the basis for the popular environmental concerns of today.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

On the Canadian border the water is clean
And the air is as pure as you ever have seen
But at Poplar they dug
And pow'r plants will chug
And the smoke plumes will drift un-
less we get mean.

DAMS COMING, BUT POLICY, TOO. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus has acknowledged that congressional opposition may thwart President Jimmy Carter's effort to eliminate funding for 18 federal water projects. However, he says a water policy could emerge from the fracas. "There's a chance we may not get anything out of this (the controversy over Carter's 'hit list') except for an up-to-date water policy, and that alone would be very significant," he says, according to a copyrighted story in the Denver Post.

FLUOROCARBON BAN. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have an-

nounced a plan to ban fluorocarbon gas from aerosol spray cans by April 15, 1979. Under the program, the manufacture of fluorocarbons for the spray can market would cease by Oct. 15, 1978. Companies couldn't use the gas as a propellant after Dec. 15, 1978, and spray cans containing the gas couldn't enter the market after April 15, 1979.

June 3, 1977 — High Country News-5

POPULATION PROBLEMS. A National Wildlife Federation survey reports that conservationists see population growth as the nation's top environmental priority. However, programs to encourage population control rank only fifth among efforts to cope with problems.

Grants to bring low-income people 'appropriate' technology

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is looking for good projects to back with cash.

The center has \$1 million to offer in fiscal year 1977 to groups or individuals with a plan for bringing simple, low-cost, useful technology within the reach of low-income people, who are the hardest hit by high food, energy, and housing costs. Since this kind of technology is designed to suit people's needs rather than to maximize profits, it is called "appropriate technology."

NCAT will fund qualified projects for a maximum of one year. Most grants are expected to be under \$10,000, but a few larger grants will also be awarded.

NCAT hopes to offer low-income people the kind of community self-reliance that was common in this country before our capital intensive, centralized industrial system took hold. The technologies that the group is particularly interested in include:

- energy conservation
- generating power from the sun, wind, or water
- producing food through intensive organic or hydroponic gardening
- recycling wastes through composting toilets or methane digesters
- developing community cooperatives

and worker-managed community industries

Low-cost, decentralized systems may eventually be needed by everyone, not just low-income people, NCAT says.

NCAT is funded by a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Community Services Administration. The total is divided approximately into thirds to fund: 1) the grant program, 2) the training of community workers, newsletters, a national magazine, workshops, conferences, and a toll-free phone to provide technical assistance in appropriate technology, and 3) a technical research staff that will research and evaluate small technologies.

NCAT is interested in funding projects that will develop, evaluate, or disseminate small-scale technologies, that will educate community action agencies and low-income communities about these devices' potential, that will build industries or utilities based on small-scale technologies, and that will overcome social and institutional barriers to the utilization of appropriate technologies.

For more information write to James F. Schmidt, executive coordinator, NCAT, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Mont. 59701. Ask for the center's "Program Announcement" of March 30, 1977.

Mary Austin...

(continued from page 4)

are out of line with the facts. She loved to drop names: William Butler Yeats, Herbert Hoover, Robert Frost. She dabbled with Mexican revolutionaries.

Was she a poseur? Partly — to the extent that one rebel swings away from the norm in order to confirm a new identity. Kevin Starr offers an explanation: "She had a flair for the theatrical, desiring to bear witness to her values through the drama of her life." Some of her closest friends thought her at times "ridiculous," but they

In her, some of the intuition and mysticism of a John Muir combined with the practical, headstrong qualities of a Gifford Pinchot.

loved her all the same. They recognized that the flamboyance was only the glittering surface of Austin's intellectual toughness, genuine warmth, and unique vision.

As a conservationist, paralleling Joseph Wood Krutch, she gave part of her time to activism. The Owens Valley lies on the arid eastern slopes of the Sierras. Around 1905 the Bureau of Reclamation joined with Los Angeles in a scheme to divert what little water the local ranchers had to the needs of America's prototypic city. With her husband, Austin protested what she saw as a perverting of nature for the sake of urban growth. Gifford Pinchot, utilitarian head of the Division of Forestry, jumped into the fray in support of development. William Mulholland, head of Los Angeles's water department, reflected the attitude of government agencies toward the project by regretting that there weren't enough trees in the Owens Valley to hang the rural population.

As would happen in many future conservation battles, the large monied interests easily won out. T. M. Pearce recounts the early blow to Austin's faith in humans' ability to live in harmony with the earth. To her, "A megalopolis like Los Angeles held no greater promise for human fulfillment... than a fruitful valley where farmers, vineyardists, cowboys, sheepherders, ranchers, prospectors, and miners made a living close to the soil. The rights of small communities matched those of heavy industry and a moving picture colony."

Her own words are more bitter: "She was stricken; she was completely shaken out of her place. She knew that the land of Inyo would be desolated, and the cruelty and deception smote her beyond belief." Years later she wrote a stinging account of the sacrifice, *The Ford* (1917).

To support its sprawl, today Los Angeles eyes larger and larger chunks of the West. While she was a resident of Santa Fe, the governor of New Mexico appointed Austin

to the Seven States Conference, then considering Boulder (Hoover) Dam. Though the conference was packed with dam boosters, she argued against the project, calling it a "debacle." Then she quit in disgust at their greed and lack of foresight.

Again as with Joseph Wood Krutch, her greatest contribution is her writing, which helped lay the basis for the popular environmental concerns of today. Many of her 30 volumes suffer from typical literary flaws. Yet her finest achievements are the books about the earth: *The Land Of Little Rain* (1903), *Lost Borders* (1909), *The Flock* (1906), *The Land Of Journeys' Ending* (1924), *One Smoke Stories* (1934). They have little of the improbable plots and strained editorializing that detract from the others. In the books about nature she is at home; her literary form and philosophy are one.

If she had written nothing else, *The Land Of Little Rain*, one of the magical books about the West, would be enough. Writing in a desert backwater of technological civilization, she revealed, as would Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*, "the tutelage of the earth," the spiritual harmony arising out of physical harmony with the land.

At times as sharp-eyed as Emily Dickinson, she saw elf owls, "speckled fluffs of greediness," floating through the desert night in search of lizards and mice.

Commenting on the sparseness of desert growth above the earth, she referred to massive root systems: "The real struggle for existence, the real brain of the plant, is underground," thus combining a lesson in natural water conservation with a pleasant turn of phrase.

She knew, though the Bureau of Reclamation and the Seven States Conference would smirk at the sentiment, that "Not the law, but the land sets the limit" — a lesson that John Wesley Powell would have applauded, that the nation is only beginning to learn. For her, the physical world had its corollary in the psyche.

Carl Van Doren sums up the philosophy that echoes Emerson and Thoreau: "... she knew that round every man lies his own desert, separating him from his nearest neighbor. If he will pause long enough, receptive, he may be flooded by a wilderness of thought and feeling in which there is the prospect of wisdom."

In 1950 Houghton Mifflin reissued *The Land Of Little Rain* with an extensive photographic portfolio by another lover of the Sierras, Ansel Adams. *One Smoke Stories* will delight both children and adults. It gathers folktales from Austin's heroes, the Indians, cowboys, and Mexicans rejected by technological society. Though the last part suffers from petty gossip, Austin's autobiography, *Earth Horizon*, is worth reading for its insights into her life.

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Poplar River...

(continued from page 1)

Fork. Although the IJC hasn't ruled on the apportionment yet, the argument is virtually moot since the dam has already been built, and the reservoir is filling. The Canadians seem to be doing as they please, and negotiating later.

In testimony before the IJC last year, then-Montana Lieutenant Gov. Bill Christiansen said that the state of Montana supported the water apportionment plan, provided it included a study of water quality impacts.

INDIAN CLAIMS IGNORED

The tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, 30 miles south of the project, claim that the entire negotiating process has ignored Indian claims on Poplar River water, which, under U.S. legal tradition, should be considered an "existing use." Clark Madison, the tribes' planner, testified at a March 31 hearing before the IJC, "we oppose any apportionment of the Poplar River between the United States and Canada that limits the tribes' prior existing perfected right to the entire flow of the Poplar River. . . . Secondly, the tribes oppose an apportionment at the present time; quantity cannot be separated from quality." Madison further urged that, if an apportionment had to be made, a 70-30 split favoring the U.S. would be more equitable.

Tribal water rights are the U.S.'s



NORMAN HOLLOW: "We don't think it's right to play national politics with our area."

strongest card in the negotiations with the Canadians, Madison believes. He says that the IJC has apparently moved from a position of considering them "absurd" to thinking that they might have a significant impact on the negotiations.

Madison says that under the Winters Doctrine, which resulted from a U.S. Supreme Court decision on Indian water, the tribes have rights to all waters bordering or traversing their reservations that they can put to beneficial use. The Fort Peck rights date back to at least 1873, when the

reservation was established. "The rights of the tribes clearly predate any other users in the basin in Canada or in the United States, plainly including Saskatchewan Power Company," he says.

He also contends that the Winters Doctrine guarantees that the water will be of usable quality: "If water quality is so poor that crops cannot be successfully grown . . . then no quantity of water, however large, would satisfy the Winters Doctrine rights of the tribe."

If the Winters Doctrine rights aren't granted, the tribes have the legal right to monetary payments for any rights that are condemned, he says.

"If necessary, the tribes will request the U.S. to protect their right in court against any and all junior users. As trustee, the U.S. would be obligated to honor such a request. Under Article II of the 1909 treaty, such a suit could be brought in the appropriate Canadian court. Since Canadian law is closely similar to American law, we believe our rights will be vindicated in Canadian courts," Madison says.

Both Saskatchewan and Montana officials disagree with this theory, however. Saskatchewan's deputy minister of the environment, Grant Mitchell, told HCN, "We've taken the position that, when you come to issues like that, our government is dealing with the United States. The claims that the Indians have on the Poplar River are entirely a U.S. issue."

Robert Lohn, chief counsel for the Montana governor, agrees. "Whatever the status of an Indian nation, it is inferior — legally — to the status of the U.S. government as a whole . . . or as a judge ruled in a recent court decision in Montana, 'the tribe is sovereign to the extent that Congress allows it to be.'"

Agreeing that the tribes have rights to water under U.S. law, he said Indian water rights — or any other water rights — are largely irrelevant to IJC proceedings. The IJC doesn't divide water according to who has legal rights to it, but according to "fundamental fairness." While the commission is interested in knowing about such rights so that it can know what residents of each country have counted on for future use, the legal rights are not binding, he says.

While recognizing that the 1909 treaty allows entities in one country to sue in the other country's court, Lohn says it is unlikely that the Winters Doctrine would apply there. "This is one of those rare esoteric questions that is not so much a discussion of legal precedent as of political philosophy."

Although the legal arguments for the tribes' suit are more complex than other potential plaintiffs', any U.S. citizens would have to prove that they had been "substantially damaged" in order to collect any payment for damages under the Boundary Waters treaty. The 1909 treaty is generally thought to allow some pollution and some damage. In fact, the U.S. State Department itself is doing its best to promote exactly this line of thinking in its arguments over potential American pollution of Canadian waters by the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota.

A State Department memo to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on this subject says that the treaty "does not provide that there can be no degradation per se of transboundary waters."

So, the U.S. State Department's justification for U.S. pollution may work against U.S. citizens and Indian tribes trying to recover payments for damages from the Canadians.

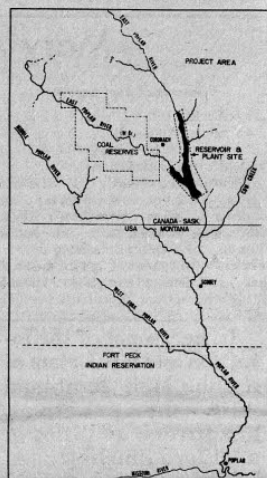
UNUSABLE FOR AGRICULTURE

Damages are expected. The question, apparently, is only one of degree. The Poplar River Basin is devoted largely to ranching and raising cereal grains and alfalfa.

The Poplar River is already high in concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) and boron. A staff report for the Montana Environmental Quality Council says that if the quality of water is reduced as much as is anticipated, the resulting increase in concentration of pollutants could make the East Fork unusable for irrigation of either cereal grains or alfalfa and, perhaps, even for stock watering.

The report also says that relatively minor alterations in the stream could destroy the status of the main stem of the Poplar River as one of the few worthwhile warm water fisheries in Montana.

Although only a limited number of irrigators might be directly affected by the lowered quality of the East Fork, other



THE SITE OF controversy. The first 300 megawatt power plant would be located eight miles north of the U.S. border on the East Fork of the Poplar River. It also is just 30 miles north of the Fort Peck Reservation boundary.

ranchers are concerned that the pollutants might also damage underground water supplies, according to Bob Schneekloth, chairman of the Three Corners Boundary Association (TCBA). The association of farmers and ranchers was formed as a result of concern in northeastern Montana over the Canadian proposal. Schneekloth says that the underground waters and prevailing winds in the area move from the northwest toward the southeast.

"We've been offered assurances that the ground water won't be affected," he says, but he's skeptical, especially since the province also made assurances about the safety of the dam. "We were one day short of disaster," he says. The reservoir, which was expected to fill in two years, filled up in three days because of an unexpectedly large spring run-off, and no spillway had been built.

The ranchers are most concerned about air quality, however. Schneekloth cites studies that show crop yields can be reduced as much as 25% by air pollutants unless proper air pollution control equipment is used. Schneekloth says that most farmers wouldn't be able to absorb such a large crop loss and stay in business.

HOW LARGE A PROJECT?

Canadian officials call the development described in the planning document a "red herring," saying that there are no "present plans, even preliminary ones" to complete all of the power plants and gasification plants originally projected. The Montana residents aren't reassured by

A look at the IJC

by Mike Jacobs

Reprinted from the Onlooker

The International Joint Commission is a peculiar creature of diplomacy. The six-man tribunal was created by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, itself a unique document.

According to the commission's annual report for 1975 — the latest available — "The Boundary Waters Treaty is unique in the history of the United States and Canada and in the relations between two independent states. . . . The IJC was an unusual international body when it was established and it still is; not only in its composition but in the way in which it operates. The operating concept assumes that solutions to problems in which the two countries have different — even opposing — interests should be sought, not by the usual bilateral adversary negotiations, but in the joint deliberations of a permanent tribunal composed equally of Canadians and Americans."

"The commissioners act, not as separate national delegations under instruction from their respective governments, but as a single body seeking common solutions in the joint interest, and most important, in accordance with the agreed rules or principles set out in the treaty. Significantly, all commissioners make a solemn declaration in writing that they will faithfully and impartially perform the duties imposed under the treaty. The effect of this declaration is to give the commissioners a sense of the primary loyalty they have to the treaty system while they are serving."

The treaty was negotiated between the U.S. State Department and the British [Foreign] Office, which in the absence of an established external affairs ministry in Canada, acted for Canadian interests. The treaty was

"created out of specific political needs of the two governments: Canada's desire to handle its own intra-continental affairs instead of being subject to Britain's desire to intervene on their behalf on a conflict-by-conflict basis; the United States' desire to enter into an agreement with Canada so that it might find a home for its very nationalistic interpretation of international law," according to Peter Pantaleo, who is on the staff of the North Dakota attorney general.

"While the desire for a workable system of conflict resolution played an important part in inducing the parties to come to an agreement, it was secondary to the above-mentioned political ends that both countries were desirous to achieve," Pantaleo says. "In analyzing the functions and procedures of the commission, the conclusion that conflict resolution was not that important to the drafters seems inescapable."

The performance of the IJC against this background is remarkable. Boards subsidiary to the commission now oversee water quantity and quality disputes along the 5,000 mile border. In its 65-year history, the commission has considered 105 separate disputes. In only three cases has the commission divided on national lines. The annual report boasts, "Thus, the faith of the two governments in the principles and procedures of the treaty and its traditions has been amply justified."

The Boundary Waters Treaty contains a provision for binding decisions by the commission. These require prior approval from both governments. However, the provision has never been used. Normally, the commission makes recommendations to governments, which become the basis for further negotiations between the governments.

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Saskatchewan's promises, however. They believe that even the one plant under construction now will cause serious disruption. And it seems likely that a second plant will be built.

The Saskatchewan Power Company is planning only minimal air quality controls on the first plant. According to a spokesman for Saskatchewan Power, the 300 megawatt unit will have a precipitator to remove fly ash, but no scrubbers for sulfur dioxide removal. The company is looking for a site for another 300 megawatt unit. The reservoir behind the dam on Poplar River contains enough water for two plants, according to Environment Minister Mitchell. The company is also looking at two potential hydroelectric sites.

There seems little chance that the air pollution control equipment on a second plant, if built, would be any better than that on the first. "In Canada," Mitchell says, "scrubbers are not required. There is presently a Canadian task force working on the subject, but it does not appear that they would require them." Asked why he thought the company wasn't responding to the public pressure to install the scrubbers,

the kind of climatic conditions that we have here. It becomes a tough question of whether this (environmental control system) investment of \$20 million, or whatever, is worth the results."

Because the Canadian plant will lower air quality and use up water, Fort Peck planner Madison says the tribes are concerned that the project will predetermine the level of development both on and off the reservation. Giant potash deposits that stretch far into the province and down into the U.S. need water to be developed, and the ranchers in the area, while opposing the Poplar River project, aren't so sure they want to turn their backs on a source of revenue that could keep many of them from bankruptcy. The area also holds extensive coal deposits, and neither the tribes nor the ranchers have ruled out mining as a potential source of future revenue. The tribes have what Madison calls the most successful Indian industrial complex in the country. However, their unemployment level is still 57%. The tribe is now conducting studies as part of its Overall Economic Development Plan, looking at potential for irrigation, energy development, outdoor recreation, fisheries enhancement, and-



POPLAR RIVER DAM. Saskatchewan Power Co. built this dam, expecting it to fill in three years. No spillways had been built. Within three days after water started flowing into it, it was full, throwing downstream residents into a panic. A sudden change in weather got them through the crisis, and this spillway was added.

Photo by Jeff Tafon and courtesy of the WOLF POINT HERALD.

"If necessary, the tribes will request the U.S. to protect their rights in court against any and all junior users — including Canada."

— Clark Madison

he pointed out that Canada is a sovereign nation and the company is required to respond only to that country's requirements.

Mitchell had a similar reaction when called by a *Billings Gazette* reporter for his reaction to a law that Montana passed to forbid Canada from polluting Montana air and water. He laughed, saying, "I can't help thinking of the reaction we'd get if a Canadian province tried telling the Americans how they should do things in their country."

Montana attorney Lohn explains that Montana realizes it can take action only within its own boundary. But Montana's position is that the state could sue an entity in Canada, and if it didn't appear in court, then the state could take action against any property the entity might have in the state, such as a truck being repaired. His preliminary research indicates, however, that such a suit could not be brought against Saskatchewan Power Company since the company is a crown corporation, in effect owned by the province. However, the law could be applied in other Montana-Canada pollution disputes, he believes.

USE UP THE CLEAN AIR

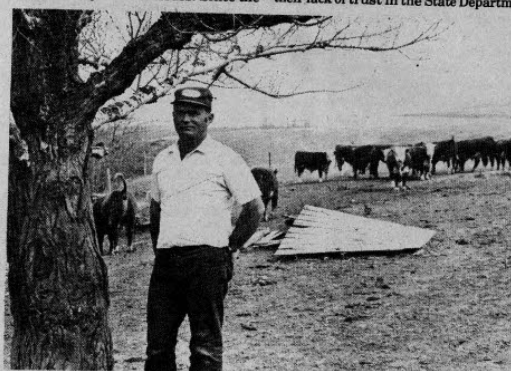
A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study on the air pollution implications of just one 300 megawatt plant at the Poplar River site predicts that the generating plant would "use up" the clean air. Under the significant deterioration provisions of the Clean Air Act, once clean air is degraded by a certain amount, no other pollution facilities can be built unless the first cleans up. It is not clear how this would apply to the Canadian plants.

In addition, despite the controversy surrounding the water allocation, the Canadians say they still plan to use a wet cooling system, even though two other types of systems — cooling towers and air cooling condensers — use much less water.

But these systems are more expensive. Mitchell says, "They (Saskatchewan Power) looked seriously at those systems. The main reason they rejected them was that the technology hasn't been proven to the satisfaction of Saskatchewan Power in

flood control. Although the studies aren't complete yet, it is already clear the tribes could use the entire natural stream flow of the Poplar River for these developments.

Both the tribes and the ranchers fear that the future of their area is not being given enough weight by the U.S. State Department in negotiations with the Canadians on the Poplar River issues. Since the



BOB SCHNECKLOTH cites studies that show crop yields can be reduced by as much as 25% by air pollutants from power plants.

department is the official spokesman for the U.S. in all international negotiations, Indians, ranchers, and the state of Montana must depend on it. The area residents are afraid that there will be trade-offs on the Garrison Diversion controversy, saying, in effect, we'll accept your pollution if you'll accept ours.

"We don't think it's right to play national politics with our area," Norman Hollow, tribal chairman for the Fort Peck Reservation, says.

Montana Attorney Lohn, who has attended many of the IJC meetings as Montana's representative, says the IJC would have to be thinking of its general responsibilities for the whole border in each of its proceedings. However, he re-

futes the contention that the IJC would be influenced by offers of trade-offs. "From what I've seen, they don't operate like that. They try to address the specifics of each problem and try to achieve what is fairest in each case."

The head of the Three Corners Boundary Association, Bob Schneckloth, is also skeptical of the State Department's efforts before the IJC. "My personal feeling when I listen to them in a meeting is that I'm amazed we ever won a war." Because of their lack of trust in the State Department,

did seem concerned at the last meeting March 31 about who represented the Indians since normally only state and federal agency technical people are included in task forces. Lohn said that because of all the questions about Indian sovereignty, he couldn't say Montana represents the tribes. In fact, the state and the tribes are now in an uneasy truce after the tribes protested the state issuing water permits from Fort Peck Dam, which is just off the reservation. The state now issues only "provisional permits" that specify they are "subject to all prior Indian reserved water rights."

Lohn believes the level of IJC concern indicates that as other task forces are set up, there is a possibility the IJC will ask that Indian representation be included.

At least one more task force will likely be set up before the IJC will make a decision. Lohn reports that the IJC, acting on a State Department recommendation, will be considering adding a water quality study. The air quality question may be added later also, but Lohn said it is much less likely.

Schneckloth says that "all the hollering" from the ranchers, the Indians, and the state has succeeded in getting the EPA to start a \$400,000 study to predict what the impacts of the plant might be. The study is expected to go into all transboundary effects, including air pollution.

Lohn estimates that it might be as long as a year before any final decision will be reached, judging by the time taken for the water quantity study. The IJC decision is not binding but is given to each country for its consideration.

COALITION — FOR AWHILE

The participants in the odd coalition opposing the power plants — the Indians, the ranchers, and the state government — realize that their alliance is only temporary. Soon the Indians will be battling the state and possibly the ranchers over water rights. Ranchers who are leaning toward potash development on their lands will be embroiled in conflict with their neighbors, perhaps defending the potash processors' rights to degrade the air.

But this time, the issue seems to be clear. All the problems are on the southern side of the boundary, which they share, and the benefits on the other side.

This article paid for in part by the HCN Research Fund through tax deductible donations by our readers and friends.

Lohn reports that several IJC members

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Lower Middle Fork of the Salmon River

Photo by Ernie Day

The homeland of the Nez Perce was the drainages of the Clearwater, Salmon, and Snake Rivers, a land as lush as it was wild.

Carl Brown is director of Mother Nature's Public Relations Office, a natural history writing and illustrating service based in Lake Fork, Idaho. He specializes in curriculum development for schools. He has a master's degree in plant ecology and has worked as a resource technician for the U.S. Forest Service.

(Editors' note: Before you decide to go camas gathering, beware a similar poisonous plant, the mountain death camas. Blue camas (*Camassia quamash*) is almost indistinguishable from death camas (*Zygadenus elegans*) when not in bloom. The Nez Perce, we are told, sometimes would mark with sticks the dreaded death camas plants growing in a field of blue camas. When in bloom, distinguishing between the two is no problem. The death camas has a small yellowish-white flower no bigger than half an inch across. The blue camas flower is sky blue and larger than half an inch across. Blue camas is found only on the western slopes of the Rockies to the Pacific Coast, while death camas is more widely distributed.)

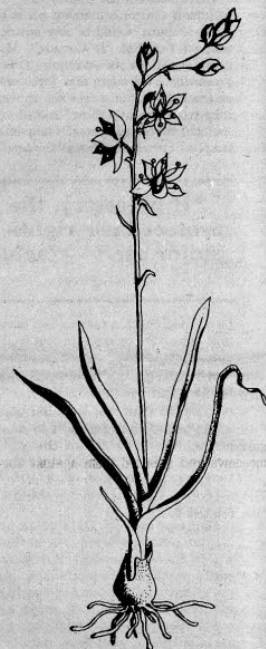


The Camas Prairie, near what is now Grangeville, Idaho, was one of the Nez Perce tribe's major harvesting areas. Conflicts began when the white settlers drove hungry pigs across the camas fields used by the Indians.

Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo

Blue Camas

Blue Camas, a starch onion and the real go economy. With four times beans and 50% more protein was a staple in the Indian



BLUE CAMAS

CARL BROWN

by Carl Brown

Smohalla, a Nez Perce orator, summed the life-view of his people when he stated, "My young men shall never work. Men who work can not dream, and wisdom comes in dreams. You ask me to plow the ground. Shall I take a knife and tear my mother's bosom? You ask me to dig for stone. Shall I dig under her skin for her bones? You ask me to cut grass and make hay and sell it and be rich like the white men. But how dare I cut my mother's hair?"

The Nez Perce lived as dramatically as they spoke. They captured stallions from marauding Spaniards and bred them to produce the tireless Appaloosa. With such mounts they crossed the Rocky Mountains, invaded the plains, and took buffalo from the fierce Blackfoot.

The Nez Perce were horsemen equal to any of the plains warriors, and they fought fearlessly with powerful recurved bows forged from the horns of mountain rams. Even the Nez Perce war dance rang of bravery. Not having one of their own and

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as, like gold to the Nez Perce

Why bulb related to the gold in the Nez Perce is the protein content of protein than calf's liver, it is in their diet.

thinking it a good idea, they stole theirs from the war council of the Crows, the warriors whom they most admired.

Nez Perce prowess in war is legendary. It was they, in defense of their homeland, who repeatedly outwitted our best generals and humiliated our best cavalry.

That homeland was the source of Nez Perce power and pride; the drainages of the Clearwater, Salmon, and Snake Rivers, a land as lush as it is wild. The Nez Perce disgust of work was not one of laziness. They hated work because they had inherited a boundless wealth from the land. They viewed the work of the white man as a senseless toil that desecrated the land.

Nez Perce wealth was strewn across the valleys and piled into snowy mountains. Theirs was a land of deer and elk, of moose and bear, of sheep and goats. They hewed winter lodges from massive spruce and dug canoes from gentle cottonwoods. They lived on the grassy banks of the greatest steelhead and salmon runs on earth. But other nations with similar resources had come and gone while the Nez Perce prospered. Why were the Nez Perce an exception?

The answer is that such were but the frills of the Nez Perce economy. The real gold of the Nez Perce lay in, the wet meadows and shielded them against the periodic famines that decimated other Western tribes. This was camas, a starchy bulb related to the onion. A meadow of camas rippled with the grandeur and color of an ocean.

Each summer the Nez Perce gathered from near and far to harvest and preserve camas. It was a time of reunion, a time of celebration. Because the women refused to allow the men to help in such a crucial task, the men were free to do as they pleased. What pleased them most was to pit their favorite ponies against one another in head-on-head races. Extra glamour was added as the proud owners bet their worldly possessions on the outcome. Evenings were spent around campfires, joining in communal feasts and swapping stories about the last time a man had won, or lost, his worldly possessions.

Nutritional analysis indicates that camas is to other vegetables what the Appaloosa is to other horses. It has four times the protein content of beans and half again the protein content of calf's liver.

Camas is a gentle reminder of our interactions with the Western tribes. After struggling across the Continental Divide, the Lewis and Clark Expedition happened upon a camas harvest on the Weippe Prairie of Idaho. The Nez Perce welcomed them, sheltered them, and made gifts of camas and ponies to speed them on their adventure. The Nez Perce were so intrigued with stories of the Bible that they set off in the other direction to round up a missionary to tell them more.

A half century later Ed Pierce discovered gold on the Clearwater, and the Nez Perce were driven from their home. Shortly thereafter a handful of Nez Perce declared war against the army of the United States. It began when they were refused their ancestral right to harvest a field of camas.



Mountain sheep kids exploring the Salmon River
Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo



Mule deer
Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo



An Idaho mountain goat
Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo

Nez Perce wealth was strewn across the valleys and piled into snowy mountains. Theirs was a land of deer and elk, of moose and bear, of sheep and goats, and spruce and cottonwoods. They lived on the grassy banks of the greatest steelhead and salmon runs on earth. But all these things were merely the frills of the Nez Perce economy.



A cow moose and her calf and yearling come out of the waters of northern Idaho's Wild Horse Lake in the Nez Perce National Forest
Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo

10-High Country News — June 3, 1977

Is the Park Service wedded to a slip-shod concessioner?

by Lee Catterall

National Park Service officials are not counting on Yellowstone Park Company turning over a new leaf but, as time goes on, may find it increasingly hard to serve the company an eviction notice if it should want to.

The Park Service released a report recently that characterizes the company as a ripoff operation that rewards bonuses to its bosses while paying meager wages to workers who provide shoddy services to a captive public. At that, its profits are described as only "reasonable," a million and a half dollars yearly less than they should be.

The company is owned by General Host Corporation, a New York-based conglomerate that until two years ago ran concessions at Everglades National Park in Florida. The company performed "as bad, if not worse" at Everglades as it has in Yellowstone, a Park Service spokesman said.

The company was losing money at Everglades and wanted out. The National Park Service went along, but couldn't find another company to buy it out, because

General Host had spent large amounts of capital at the park. Finally, Congress agreed to spend tax money to buy the operation, which is now owned by the Park Service.

The "study group" that prepared the report on Yellowstone makes no bones about its displeasure with the way General Host

Reckoning from Washington

is operating there. The company, it contends, "is providing to the visitor unacceptable facilities and services. These problems cannot be solved with the current management structure, attitude and emphasis. The company, if it continues to exist in Yellowstone, must undergo a complete overhaul, both in management philosophy and structure, and in facilities and facility presentation."

However, at the same time, it recommends that continuation of the contract include an agreement by the company to

spend \$10 million on new buildings and renovation over the next five years.

If that happens, according to congressional and interest group sources, the Park Service could find itself in a real bind. Five years from now, after those improvements have been made under the study group's proposal, the Park Service and the company could find themselves inseparably wedded.

If the company's performance is viewed by the Park Service then to be as bad as it contends it is now, the Park Service may want to end the relationship and find another concessioner. It won't be easy. A company would have to pay for all the capital improvements made by General Host before getting a contract with the government, because once a company makes such an investment in a park, it owns it.

Should the Park Service fail to find a company to pay such a price, it will have to go to Congress for the money, as it did in the Everglades case. It took two and a half years to get Congress to approve money for Everglades. A much larger amount for Yellowstone would not be that easy.

Reps. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.) have introduced legislation that would address this issue and some of the other problems described in a congressional investigation of park concessioners last year. The report growing out of that investigation recommended that contracts be limited to 10 years. The Yellowstone contract is for 30. Also, it would eliminate some of the preference rights given to concessioners.

Another recommendation made in the report is that more competition be allowed in the parks so the public is not captive to such operations as the Yellowstone Company. "We'd much rather see small businesses, even if they're subsidized, in national parks," an author of the report said.

The main obstacle to such legislation in Congress is said to be Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), chairman of the House Interior Committee. Udall is a longtime friend of Don Hummel, former Tucson, Ariz., mayor and currently head of the National Conference of Park Concessioners, a lobby group.



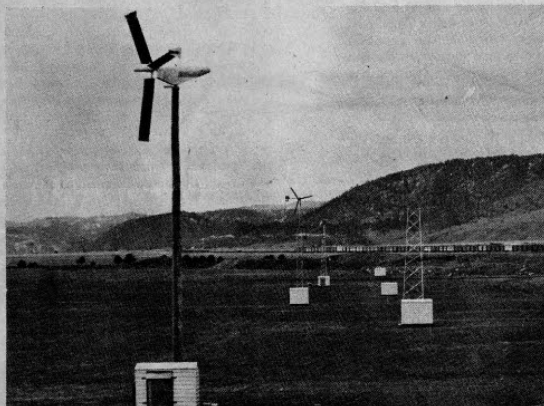
NUCLEAR PLANT SECURITY VIOLATIONS. The Fort St. Vrain nuclear power plant in Platteville, Colo., has been fined \$8,000 by federal inspectors for security violations. The inspector reported that he entered the plant, passed through several security guard checkpoints, and reached the plant's control room before he was challenged, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. Subsequent inspections turned up additional security violations, although not as serious as this one, the *News* says. Shortly after the violations were uncovered, the U.S. Senate passed a bill containing \$6.6 million to improve nuclear plant security throughout the country. The bill authorizes hiring full-time inspectors who will be constantly present at each plant, instead of the current system of spot checks. The measure was sponsored by U.S. Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.).

MONTANA ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GRANTS. The Montana alternative energy program has awarded 48 grants totaling approximately \$600,000 for projects in solar, wind, wood, geothermal, and other categories. The largest grant recommended was \$50,000 for the Horizon Lodge, Conrad, Mont., to install solar hot water heaters for an 84-unit, low-income apartment complex. The smallest grant recommended was \$500 for a wood project. Included in the approved grants are a wood-coal fireplace for the home, solar heating for a mobile home, and \$44,800 for the New Western Energy Show sponsored by the Alternative Energy Resource Organization of Billings. Money for the grants is raised from an allocation of 2.5% of the state coal severance tax revenues. There were a total of 126 grant applications from which the 48 grantees were selected.

CARTER BACKS SLURRY PIPELINE. President Jimmy Carter has decided to support coal slurry pipelines to move coal from the Western coal fields, according to United Press International. No final decision on the exact implementation of the proposal has been made, but will be forthcoming shortly, UPI says. In Wyoming, Gov. Ed Herschler said he was disappointed that Wyoming officials were never consulted about the pipeline by the federal government. Herschler says, "We don't have anything to gain with coal slurry pipelines, especially if it originates in Wyoming, since we'll have to supply the water," according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

WORRISOME TAILINGS. Although it is covered with topsoil, an inactive uranium-mill tailings pile near Grand Junction, Colo., is leaking three times as much radioactive radon gas as it did when the dump was active in 1967, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report. The tailings piles, left by an AMAX subsidiary, are worrying health officials because they emit low levels of radioactivity from radium and other elements that are left after the uranium is removed in mining. Among these emissions is radon gas. While not believed to be harmful in itself because it does not mix with human tissue, the gas quickly decays into more dangerous radioactive materials, such as polonium and bismuth. Studies also show that long-term exposure to radon gas increases a person's risk of leukemia and lung cancer. EPA hopes to come up with a solution to the hazards posed by the two million ton tailings pile this summer. Along with the Colorado Department of Health, the agency is also investigating a 1.5 million ton dump at Durango, Colo.

MONKEY WRENCH IN ALASKA? Secret congressional testimony presented a year ago by an Arctic expert predicted that the Alaska oil pipeline would be a perfect target for sabotage. Leonard A. LeSchack, a consultant for the government and oil clients on Arctic matters, told the now-defunct Senate internal security subcommittee, "The trans-Alaska pipeline represents a target for political terrorism that is unique in the American experience." United Press International reports



THE ROCKY FLATS PLANT, southeast of Boulder, Colo., has broadened its mission to include wind power as well as nuclear weapons. The plant, which builds triggers for nuclear weapons, has added a national test center for wind generators of less than 100 kilowatts, primarily for farm, home, and rural use. The plant is managed for the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration by the Atomic International Division of Rockwell International. Rocky Flats will also administer a national wind power grant program for universities, manufacturers, individuals, and organizations around the country. Visitors are welcome at the test center.

Rockwell officials say there is no conflict involved in directing research in both the nuclear and the alternate energy fields. "If we can provide space and scientists to help research alternatives, it would be stupid not to do it," says Rich Maes of Rockwell. The high plateau where the plant is located is swept by winds that average 12-18 miles per hour.

that LeSchack told the subcommittee that a few knowledgeable saboteurs could destroy enough of the pipeline that it couldn't be repaired in three weeks' time. This is the amount of time that engineers estimate would be required for the contents of the line to lose its natural heat and freeze.

IDAHO COAL PLANT HIT. Citizens of Gooding and Lincoln counties in Idaho are beginning to mount opposition to the construction of a large coal-fired power plant proposed by Idaho Power Co. The *Gooding County Leader* reports that considerable opposition to the plant was expressed at a public meeting. Idaho Power says that it is

installing meteorological towers to gather baseline data on rainfall, snowfall, and evaporation. The company is considering sites north of Bliss, east of Shoshone, and near American Falls.

NO MASSIVE WYOMING LEASING. Wyoming Bureau of Land Management director Dan Baker says that there will be no massive coal leasing in the state, but limited acreage will be leased to assure that development doesn't occur in a "leap-frog" fashion. Baker told a Cheyenne press conference, "We're trying to package logical mining units." Baker said that about 10 additional south-central areas would be leased and six Powder River Basin areas.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

UTILITIES SUSPECT. The Center for Science in the Public Interest is worried about private utilities moving into the insulation and solar energy business. According to the group, the hazards involved include: higher costs to consumers for insulation and solar systems, monopolization of sectors of these markets by utilities, suppression of certain technologies, and — "ironically" — a slow-down in commercialization efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL PORK BARREL. Rep. Steve Symms (R-Id.) is critical of a bill now under consideration by the House Interior Committee that would provide one million dollars for intervenor groups opposed to nuclear power plants who appear before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. According to the *Idaho Statesman*, Symms singled out the Sierra Club as an example of the horror of this approach. He said, "It would be like going before a firing squad and having to buy the ammunition they shoot you with."

CAUTION: COAL CO2 HAZARD. The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that meteorologists are worried that vastly increasing the burning of coal will seriously alter the earth's climate. Burning coal will release excessive amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere, according to Alvin Weinberg of the Institute of Energy Analysis. The presence of large amounts of CO2 could cause a "greenhouse effect" overheating the earth, melting the polar icecaps, flooding coastal cities and turning sea water acid.

SENATE OKAYS ENERGY DEPARTMENT. The U.S. Senate has approved President Jimmy Carter's Department of Energy by a vote of 74 to 10. The vote came after only seven hours of debate, and no changes were made in the proposal. The legislation still faces action in the House.

STRIP BILL CONFERENCE READIED. The Senate has defeated two weakening amendments to the strip mining bill by healthy margins and passed the measure by a vote of 57 to 8. The legislation will now go to conference, which "could take months" to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions, according to Capitol Hill sources. Senate conferees have not been appointed officially yet, although this action is expected shortly. House conferees representing the West are Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.).

CON ED BUYING WIND. Consolidated Edison has been told by the New York Public Service Commission that it must buy excess electricity generated by privately owned windmills. Con Ed had politely refused the electricity generated by a \$4,000 windmill on top of a rehabilitated tenement in Manhattan, arguing that utility equipment might be endangered by unpredictable surges of energy. Now under PSC orders Con Ed will buy wind-generated electricity at the rate it would have to pay for fuel to generate its own electricity — about 2.3 cents per kilowatt-hour. This concession isn't expected to reduce the building's utility bill very much. Even if it stayed dark for an entire night and sold all of its electricity from its two kilowatt windmill to Con Ed, the building would only be ahead by about 50 cents. In addition, the PSC allowed Con Ed to set up a special higher rate for windmill customers: the standard rate for small commercial customers, plus a \$1 monthly metering charge and a separate charge of \$6.80 per kilowatt of windmill capacity.



INTERMOUNTAIN POWER PROJECT site looking west toward Cathedral Valley in Capitol Reef National Park. Park Service photo by Bob Reynolds

18 days of dirty air OK

In a vote that surprised environmentalists and even some of the amendment's staunchest supporters, the U.S. House decided 237-172 to allow 18 day exemptions from clean air standards. A similar weakening attempt is expected in the Senate when it considers the amendments this month.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. John Breaux (D-La.), is designed to allow construction of the Intermountain Power Project, which is to be built near Capitol Reef National Park in Utah. The plant probably couldn't be built there without the exemption because the amendments passed by the House classify the air above national parks of that size as Class I. Class I designation allows for only limited changes in

air quality. The amendment says that plants could lower air to Class II standards in Class I areas for 18 days a year and lower it to Class III standards in Class II areas for 18 days.

According to the National Clean Air Coalition, the effect of the exemption, if averaged out over the entire year, would be an increase of from three to 12 times the amount of allowable pollution per day.

Rep. Paul G. Rogers (D-Fla.), chairman of the subcommittee that prepared the bill, says the effect will be like putting a smog-emitting city of 500,000 people next to a national park.

Utah Rep. Gunn McKay said he was elated with the results. "We got far more than we thought we could get or even compromise for," he says. McKay had, in fact, assumed the Breaux amendment would have no chance and had offered a compromise amendment.

The House also seriously weakened auto emission standards, allowing the industry its fourth extension since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970. The committee and the administration had supported a one year extension, but the full House voted for a two year extension for some emission goals and a further extension for others.

Chris Goddard of the National Clean Air Coalition says similar attacks are expected in the Senate. President Jimmy Carter has indicated he may veto the bill "because of the adverse health effects" unless it is strengthened before it reaches his desk.

"Between increased auto emissions and stationary source emissions created by coal conversion, this country could well be facing a national air quality catastrophe in the mid 1980s," according to Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), who will argue for tougher auto emission controls in the Senate.

Northern Colorado group tackles solar heater hookup problems

The Solar Energy Association of Northern Colorado (SEANC) filled what it calls "the gap" in most solar energy workshops. It held a workshop at the end of April where a forced air solar collector was not only built — but installed — on a home in Greeley, Colo.

"It was a particular satisfaction to see the entire job completed, from the raw materials all the way to the functioning collector," says Joy Coombs of SEANC.

The collector is automated with a fan and thermostat and has a hinged reflector (to focus more light on the collector) that doubles as a summer shutter.

Bill North and Jim K. Ramstetter, who together developed a low-cost collector that has since been installed on dozens of homes in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, were construction leaders at the workshop. Plans for the "North" collector, the type built at the workshop, are available from the San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association, Box 1284, Alamosa, Colo. 81101 for \$1.

SEANC plans to publish a detailed ac-

count of the workshop, including recommended changes and a cash report. It is also planning a workshop on how to construct low-cost domestic water pre-heaters at the end of the summer. The group meets monthly and publishes a monthly newsletter, *The Solar News Collector*. The membership fee, which includes a subscription, is \$7 for individuals and families or \$15 for commercial organizations. For more information write to Vern Tryon, Box 307, Eaton, Colo. 80615.



BILL NORTH (kneeling), who helped develop a low-cost forced air solar collector, answers questions at a recent solar energy workshop in Greeley, Colo. Photo by Joy Coombs



MANY HANDS made mounting the eight by twelve foot solar collector built for the Behring home in Greeley, Colo., light work. In the upper right hand corner is the hot air inlet to the house, and to its right, the thermostat. A black, metal absorber plate and a fiberglass cover were later added to the assembly. Photo by Joy Coombs

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12-High Country News — June 3, 1977

Dam builders nervous about Carter camp

by Lee Catterall

ST. LOUIS — The nation's dam builders have been put on alert: President Jimmy Carter's assault on their pet projects is only the beginning of what he wants to be a reversal in national water policy.

Government types and private citizens involved in water resource activities gathered here recently and were politely but firmly told by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus where to get off. "Dams, reservoirs and canals," the former Idaho governor said, "do not create water."

Of course, nobody ever thought — when they stopped to think — that those things do "create" water. But lots of people in Wyoming and other arid parts of the country have grown up knowing that if it

weren't for that dam a few miles away, they probably wouldn't be living next to farmland, at least not in that area.

Those people, and the ones responsible for building dams, are proud of the way those dams have turned desert into lush farmland, and are not taking the Carter assault at all well.

The President has been talking for several months about "reforming" the nation's water policy. In his environmental message — delivered to Congress while the water folks were meeting for a national conference here — Carter ordered a six-month review of the nation's water resource policy. At the end of that time, he'll announce a number of reforms.

"He's not talking about reform," one of the water conferees grumbled. "He's talking about stopping everything."

Andrus was there to "recruit" the water resource people "to help shape and implement a new national water policy." As he spelled out the kind of policy he envisions, however, it became clear that he might as well have been recruiting for a barrel trip down Niagara Falls.

Andrus spelled out nine areas where the administration will seek to change the policy, ranging from conservation measures to tighter scrutiny over the authorization of new dams and canals. He wants states and citizens to share more in the cost of those projects, and only after the projects have

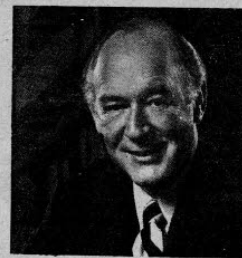
been proven they'll be safe, environmentally harmless, and economical. Some projects have been shown to be shaky on those grounds.

The water folks were not hostile to Andrus. On the contrary, they gave him loud applause. Not only is he a Westerner and about their age, but he comes across as a very honest, livable man who actually believes what he says, even though the project pushers regard it as blasphemy. After one member of the audience told Andrus his answer to her question was "not what I wanted to hear," Andrus allowed as how he wouldn't be in the same room with that crowd if he had been wanting to tickle

Cecil Andrus might as well have been recruiting for a barrel trip down Niagara Falls.

people's fancy. John Wayne might have said it.

No, the project pushers blame what they disdainfully call the "kiddie corps," the rather sizable group of young environmentalists who have taken influential, middle-level jobs in the White House and the Interior Department. These shakers of the establishment in the 1960s suddenly are the establishment, and that fact is as



CECIL ANDRUS: "Dams, reservoirs, and canals do not create water."

unsettling to the water folks as the actual Carter proposals.

The administration youngsters are the ones thought to have originated the "hit list" of water projects Carter is proposing to halt. They are regarded by the dam builders as immature, overly idealistic, and, most of all, abrasive.

Later in the day that Andrus spoke to the water people, a greying member of the group stood up and asked Charles Warren, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, if he couldn't find something — anything — good to say about the way the old guard had handled the nation's water over the past generation. Apparently eager to change his ways, the man yearned just for a kind word about his past job performance.

Warren — and others in the Carter administration — find it difficult to come forth with such praise. To the water folks, that is especially grating.

Colorado air quality regulations upheld

A Denver District Court Judge has ruled that Colorado's Air Pollution Control Commission has the legal authority to impose and enforce air quality rules that are more stringent than federal standards. The decision was a defeat for several major Colorado industries, including the Colorado-Ute Electric Association.

The Denver Post reports that David Mastbaum, an Environmental Defense Fund attorney, called the decision "very important because it will assure that the commission has the authority to determine what the air quality will be in Colorado." The companies are expected to appeal the decision.



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HELP HCN get the word out. One way HCN keeps going is by introducing itself to new people. HCN needs volunteers to write or type names onto mailing labels. If interested, write HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Thank you.

HELP WANTED. Powder River Basin Resource Council — a citizens' group concerned with preserving the agricultural tradition in the face of Wyoming's energy development — is accepting applications for an office manager. Duties include: bookkeeping, membership records, newsletter lay-outs, and coordinating office activities. The salary is \$350 a mo. for the first 3 months and \$378 a mo. thereafter. The challenges and work experience are invaluable. Send resumes to PRBRC, 150 W. Brundage, Sheridan, WY 82801. (307) 672-5809.

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FOOTRACE DETAILS REVEALED: Entries in the First Annual Lander Citizens' Footrace will meet at the Lander City Park at the south end of Third St. at 5:30 p.m. on June 5. The five-mile race is sponsored by HCN. More than 40 people in age categories ranging from six weeks to 63 have entered, and new racers will be accepted the day of the race. The dollar entry fee is payable then. A potluck picnic will follow the race at the park. If interested, please call Sarah Doll at 332-3929 or Joan Nice at the HCN office, 332-4877.

POSITION. Northern Rockies Action Group has a half-time editor position open as of June 1. Requirements are experience with all phases of production for a 16-page magazine, including technical competence in editing and layout. Write Laurie Lamson, NRAG, 9 Placer St., Helena, Mont. 59601, (406) 442-6615.

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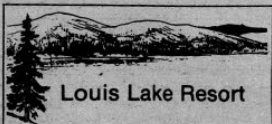
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Wilderness-backers would finance EIS's

An anti-wilderness backlash seems to be rising after recent indications that the Carter Administration favors more wilderness. A group of Idaho citizens is circulating a petition that demands that organizations or individuals seeking land withdrawals "pay all costs of environmental and economic impact statements, which will be mandatory prior to further consid-

eration of any land withdrawals."

The petition also proposes that Idahoans be allowed to vote on any future wilderness areas and that Idaho and its citizens be compensated for any economic losses.

The Association of Idaho Citizens told the *Idaho Statesman* that it had collected between 18,000 and 19,000 signatures since April 4.

New regulations to control wild horses

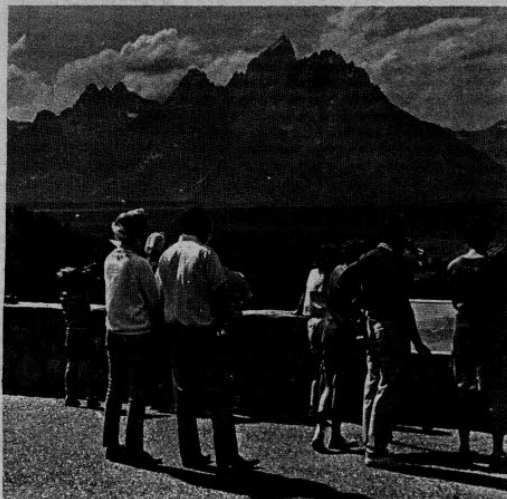
Following reports that the wild horses and burros they voted to protect seven years ago are now posing a threat to native wildlife and domestic stock, Congress is considering bills that would reverse some of the provisions of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is simultaneously proposing its own regulations to control the wild horses and burros.

The 1971 law provided for an "adopt-a-horse" program that was to give private citizens an opportunity to obtain the horses while preventing them from damaging the range and protecting them from being sold to meat packing companies. However, only 2,000 horses have been placed through the program, and 6,000 more must be removed from the ranges in the next four months, according to Dan Beard, deputy assistant secretary in the Interior Department.

The Humane Society, the American Horse Protection Association, and other wildlife protection groups challenge these figures.

BLM's proposed regulations, published in the May 25 *Federal Register*, allow the use of helicopters for inventory, observation, and capture of wild horses and burros. Neither planes nor motor vehicles can be used in capturing the animals, and the capture operations must be supervised by a BLM official.

A bill introduced by Sen. Mark Packwood (R-Ore.) would allow sale of horses for food or other commercial purposes. He also suggests that populations could be kept in check by sterilizing the lead stud in any band of horses by firing a temporary sterilization hormone into him from a helicopter. Herds have been increasing by as much as 30% a year, according to the BLM.



SCENIC VALUE. Residents of Jackson Hole, Wyo., know that the scenery in their county is what keeps the tourists coming. Although much of the county is federal land and already protected, a study committee is proposing that Congress help protect private land, too.

Courts curb Alaskan native hunting rights

Subsistence hunting rights of Alaskan Natives may be threatened by recent state court decisions, according to the *Alaska Advocate*. A state Superior Court judge ruled invalid the issuance of permits by the Department of Fish and Game allowing subsistence hunting of caribou in the Western Arctic. And, a man was found guilty of killing a cow moose out of season, even though he claimed it was needed for a

funeral potlatch and was therefore protected by freedom of religion.

Both of the cases are expected to reach the Alaska Supreme Court, the *Advocate* says. The lawyers involved in the case say that the issues present an opportunity for the courts to issue a definitive ruling on native hunting rights, including a definition of subsistence, which the state presently lacks.

Governors told Level B study 'invalid'

A group of North Dakota citizens recently told the governors of the Missouri Basin a study that will be presented to them soon is "invalid." The group, representing the 12 North Dakota citizen participants in the Yellowstone Level B study, attended the Missouri Basin Governors' Conference in May to voice their concerns.

"We are convinced that the public participation in the Yellowstone Study is a manipulated participation," they said in a letter to the governors. They added that the study appears to be a multi-purpose study but is really a study to make the water of North Dakota available for industrial purposes.

Managers of the study, which includes

the Yellowstone Basin in Wyoming and Montana and related coal resource areas in North Dakota, have repeatedly denied that it is designed to encourage industrial development. The study involves representatives of state and federal agencies and of citizen groups in preparing proposed plans for use of the Yellowstone River Basin waters. The plans are then presented to the Missouri River Basin Commission which uses them for influencing legislative and Congressional decisions.

North Dakota Democratic Chairwoman Bea Peterson, State Water Commissioner Arlene Wilhelm, and Evelyn Newton say they have tried to raise their concerns before but feel the study managers have ignored them.

Jackson Hole seeks scenic area status

Beset by development pressures, one of the best known scenic areas of the country, Jackson Hole, Wyo., is asking Congress to declare the whole county a scenic area. A Teton County study group prepared the draft legislation and got the approval of all local agencies, according to the *Jackson Hole Guide*. The plan provides for management by a 15-member commission that would purchase scenic easements and some land, where necessary. The scenic easements would mean that a landowner would be compensated by monetary payments and by tax benefits for not being able to develop his land in a way that would mar its scenic value, such as by building a multi-story building, a junk car lot, or a housing development on land presently being used for growing hay.

More than \$200,000,000 would be needed from Congress to fund the proposal. Vince Lee of the county study committee says other scenic area proposals have been defeated in Congress because too many people got involved and confused the issue. "Many people said if something like this

going to be done it should be done here in Jackson Hole," he says.

Asked why the county couldn't accomplish the same thing by zoning the entire valley agricultural, Lee said, "The county feels it is at its constitutional limits, and many county residents feel they're beyond that already."

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In The Old Railway Yard

14-High Country News — June 3, 1977

THE CASE AGAINST GRASS

Court of Last Resort. Judge I. M. Partial, presiding.

J. Q. Hommoaner, plaintiff. G. Grass, defendant.

Judge Partial: "Will the attorney for the plaintiff state his case."

"Your Honor, I wish to state that my client, J. Q. Hommoaner, has no hostility

Q. Hommoaner to testify. Mr. Hommoaner, will you describe to the Court your many grievances against the defendant, G. Grass?"

J. Q. Hommoaner speaks: "G. Grass insists upon being constantly manicured and thereby forces me to spend all my leisure time pushing a smelly, energy-consuming mower around, just to keep him in the green of condition. Every year, the infernal machine needs sharpening and-or repairing, and at intervals, replacement with a new one. My wife spends her spare time

"Mr. Dan D. Lion, can you corroborate what you have just heard Mr. Hommoaner say?"

"No, I cannot, Sir. At Mr. Hommoaner's place I am never allowed to lift my head. I get it chopped off every time Grass has to have his manicure. Whenever I try to assert myself, I am cut short."

"You may step down."

"Your Honor, if my client's complaint happened to be an isolated case, it would be too insignificant to bring to your court. But on the contrary, this tyrant, G. Grass, reigns over our entire country. If all the land controlled by him was laid end to end and then planted to food crops, all the children of Bangladesh and Biafra could be fed."

"Furthermore, G. Grass is extremely selfish and refuses to share his space with others. My client's premises would present a beautiful natural appearance if Black-eyed Susan, Daisy, Bell, Lilly, Violet, and all the others that once graced our land were not crowded out by G. Grass. Natural surroundings are the 'in' thing, as verified by a recent article in the *National Observer*."

"Your Honor, I ask relief for my client from the despotism of G. Grass. I rest my case."

Judge Partial: "Court adjourned for two weeks to allow time for defendant's attorney to prepare his case."

(To be continued in next issue of HCN.)

West rates low in environmental votes

The League of Conservation Voters analysis of environmental voting records shows that Western states' congressmen were generally below average in their voting on protection of the environment in 1976. The average score for all House members on the 23 important environmental and energy issues was 49 (out of a possible 100). The Great Plains delegates achieved a 26 rating, Southwest 22, and Mountain 40. Alaska's only Congressman, Don Young, (R), achieved a zero rating.

The ratings for Western Congressmen were as follows:

Montana: Baucus (D), 75; Melcher (D), 49. North Dakota: Andrews (R) 21. Wyoming: Roncalio (D) 64. Idaho: Symms (R), 1; Hansen (R), 0. Utah: McKay (D), 39; Howe (D), 24. Colorado: Schroeder (D), 93; Wirth (D), 89; Evans (D), 64; Johnson (R), 21; Armstrong (R), 16. South Dakota: Pressler (R), 39; Abdnor (R), 16. Arizona: Rhodes (R), 19; Udall (D), 72; Steiger (R), 0; Conlan (R), 11. New Mexico: Lujan (R), 13; Runnels (D), 14.

In the LCV analysis, five House members scored perfect 100 scores, and 13 scored perfect zeros. Among the states, Massachusetts had the highest average with 80.

DISTAFF CORNER

by Myra Connell

toward G. Grass. Far from it. He is personally fond of the defendant; he feels no enmity. But he feels that Grass should know his own place, which is to furnish nourishment for cows, horses, sheep, goats, even geese. Mr. Grass's job is to clothe the earth, to prevent the substance of it from washing away when the heavens open and the floods come. My client and I both know that Grass can be a useful citizen.

"But, Your Honor, I shall show that G. Grass has acted in a tyrannical and intolerable manner against my client. I call J.

trimming that slave-driver's beard. We are weary of these indignities.

"He has an insatiable appetite, demanding quantities of water and food. Buying garden hose, sprinklers, and fertilizer is going to break my bank account, not to mention the water bill!"

"He adds insult to injury by insinuating himself into every crack and cranny where he isn't wanted. He invades the flower beds, pries the pavement apart, and makes a general nuisance of himself."

"You may step down, Mr. Hommoaner. I call Dan D. Lion to the Stand."

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE
PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA). P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-602 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1987, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) ONE COMMERCIAL DISCHARGER AND (2) TWO INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGERS; TO RENEW (6) SIX OIL TREATER DISCHARGE PERMITS, (1) ONE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PERMIT AND (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE PERMIT, AND TO AMEND (2) TWO MUNICIPAL AND (14) FOURTEEN OIL TREATER DISCHARGE PERMITS WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: BRUM-COULTER PARTNERSHIP
"FOX PARK SUBDIVISION"
MAILING ADDRESS: GILLETTE, AVENUE
GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716
FACILITY LOCATION: SE, NE, SECTION 31, T60N, R71W
CAMPBELL COUNTY
GILLETTE, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0026905

Facility is a proposed mobile home development of 516 unit capacity to be located southeast of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. Proposed wastewater treatment will consist of an extended aeration package plant which will discharge to Donkey Creek (Class III Stream) via an unnamed drainage.

Proposed permit requires compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards effective immediately. In addition, the permit requires compliance with a strict (200-100 ml) limitation on fecal coliform bacteria. Because the receiving stream does not support aquatic life, a fairly high (2.0 mg/l) limitation on total residual chlorine is included.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: WELEX COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 1709 ELK STREET
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0026913

Welex Company plans to construct a base facility for oil field logging and perforating service trucks in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Wastewater will originate from the washing of these trucks. Wastewater treatment will consist of oil and grease skimming and final settling. The discharge will be to Killpecker Creek (Class III Stream).

The proposed permit establishes limits judged to be "best practicable" for this type of operation. Specific effluent limits are set on total suspended solids, pH and oil and grease. Monthly self-monitoring is required for all parameters. The permit will expire May 31, 1981.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: MINERALS MANAGEMENT
MAILING ADDRESS: UNION OIL CENTER
P.O. BOX 7600
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051
FACILITY LOCATION: SWEETWATER URANIUM PROJECT
NW¼, SECTION 21, T21N, R33W
SWEETWATER COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0026969

Facility is a proposed open pit uranium mine to be located in T21N, R33W, of the Great Divide Basin, Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Water encountered while mining will be treated with barium chloride for removal of radium and then will be routed to a settling pond. The discharge from the pond will be to Battle Spring Draw (Class III Stream).

Proposed permit requires the discharge to achieve National Best Practicable Treatment standards for uranium mining operations. In addition, all runoff from disturbed areas must be controlled, and self-monitoring reports on the quality of the discharge must be submitted quarterly. The permit will expire May 31, 1982.

(4) PERMIT NAME: TEXACO, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2100
DENVER, COLORADO 80201
FACILITY LOCATION: BLACK MOUNTAIN FIELD
NW¼, SECTION 34, T43N, R91W
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-002437

FACILITY LOCATION: WHISTLE CREEK FIELD
SW¼, SECTION 14, T56N, R98W
PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-002429

FACILITY LOCATION: GARLAND CONSOLIDATED BATTERY,
GARLAND FIELD, NE¼, LOT 52,
T66N, R97W, BIG HORN COUNTY,
WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0002364

FACILITY LOCATION: STATE D BATTERY, WEST OREGON
BASIN FIELD, NW¼, SECTION 36,
T51N, R101W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0002356

FACILITY LOCATION: GRAHAM BATTERY, GARLAND FIELD,
SE¼, SW¼, LOT 59, T66N, R97W
BIG HORN COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0002267

FACILITY LOCATION: GWEN KNAPP BATTERY, WEST OREGON
BASIN FIELD, NE¼, SECTION 35,
T51N, R101W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0002241

All facilities are oil production units located in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. Water produced with the petroleum product is separated from the oil with the use of free water knock-out units, heater treaters, skim tanks and skim ponds. All facilities must meet Wyoming's produced water regulations. Monitoring of all limited chemical parameters is required semi-annually and monitoring of oil and grease is required quarterly.

Expiration dates correspond to the expiration dates for all other oil treater discharge permits in the area.

(5) PERMIT NAME: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
WORLDWIDE, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 226
WORLDWIDE, WYOMING 82401
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0003204

Facility is a standard water treatment plant consisting of: coagulation through the addition of lime and alum, carbon addition for removal of taste and odor, flocculation, filtration with sand filters and chlorination. Wastewater consists of filter backwash and sedimentation basin flushings, and is discharged to the Big Horn River (Class I Stream). At present the wastewater receives no treatment.

A non-discharging treatment system which would consist of a settling pond and underground leach system has been designed. The City has applied for a Farmer's Home Administration Grant to build the system and has requested that the City be given until January 1, 1978 to have the system operational. Proposed permit grants the City's request by extending the date for compliance with National Best Practicable Treatment standards to January 1, 1978. Permit requires quarterly self-monitoring. The permit will expire June 30, 1982.

(6) PERMIT NAME: GREAT WESTERN SUGAR COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 5308
DENVER, COLORADO 80217
FACILITY LOCATION: HORSE CREEK QUARRY
NORTH OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0004426

The Horse Creek limestone mine is located approximately 30 miles northwest of the City of Cheyenne. Wastewater discharges consist of two mine water discharges, one (003) to Horse Creek and the other (004) to Mill Creek. Horse Creek is a Class I Stream, Mill Creek is a Class III Stream. The other discharge (002) consists of bearing cooling water and discharges to Horse Creek via an unnamed drainage. At present the possibility of a discharge from the septic system bypass exists, however, the proposed permit requires permanent plugging of this bypass immediately.

Proposed permit requires compliance with Best Practicable Treatment standards effective immediately. Self-monitoring of all parameters is required monthly with the submission of monitoring reports quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1982.

(7) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF GLENROCK
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 417
215 SOUTH 4th STREET
GLENROCK, WYOMING 82637
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0026430

Existing wastewater treatment at the Town of Glenrock, Wyoming, consists of a 2 cell lagoon with mechanical aeration in the first cell. Discharge is to the North Platte River (Class I Stream). However, the

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HCN Bulletin Board



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WYOMING LAND USE MEETING

The Wyoming State Land Use Commission will meet on June 17 and 18 at the Lander, Wyo., Elks Lodge in conjunction with the State Land Use Advisory Committee to consider areas of critical or more than local concern, to begin a review of selected state agency plans, and to discuss elements of the State Land Use Plan. Copies of the items to be discussed can be obtained from, and comments should be sent to, the Office of Land Use Administration, 1720 Carey Avenue, Boyd Building No. 500, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002 no later than June 17, 1977.

BEAVERHEAD COMMENT TIME EXTENDED

The comment period on the proposed land management plan and environmental impact statement for Beaverhead National Forest has been extended until July 16. Copies of the documents can be reviewed at forest headquarters, Beaverhead National Forest, P.O. Box 1258, Corner of Highway 41 and Skiki St., Dillon, Mont.



NEW WESTERN ENERGY SHOW

The New Western Energy Show, a traveling exhibit of renewable energy devices, will begin its second tour of Montana this summer complete with old-time medicine show theater and music. The show includes an exhibit of solar collectors, wind machines, efficient wood-burning heaters, small water turbines, and information on energy conservation, insulation, composting, solar greenhouses, recycling,

and methane. The show was created by the Alternative Energy Resources Organization, which has an office and library in Billings. Slide shows and a videotape of the 1976 show are available. The group's 1977 show schedule is: July 1-3 in Roundup, July 6-10 in Miles City, July 13-17 in Glasgow, July 20-24 in Great Falls, July 27-31 in Kalispell, Aug. 5-7 in Hamilton, Aug. 10-14 in Missoula, Aug. 17-21 in Helena, Aug. 24-28 in Livingston, and Aug. 31-Sept. 4 in Billings.

SLURRY HEARING

The U.S. House public lands subcommittee and the mines and mining subcommittee will journey to Cheyenne, Wyo., on June 9 to conduct a joint hearing on a federal bill to grant eminent domain to coal slurry pipelines. The legislation is supported by the Carter Administration. Public lands subcommittee chairman Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) says that the committee will hear as many witnesses as time permits. The hearing will convene at 9:00 a.m. in the Hathaway Building in Cheyenne.

MOVIE FUND RAISER

The Northern Plains Resource Council, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, and the Citizen Action Fund invite everyone to the Billings, Mont., premiere of the movie "A Bridge Too Far." The fundraising event will be held at the World Theatre, 14 N. 28th, Billings, Mont., on June 14 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained from NPRC, 419 Stapleton Bldg., Billings, Mont. 59101, and PRBRC, 150 W. Brundage, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801.

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Town has now designed a modification of the system which consists of deepening the existing aerated cell, splitting the non-aerated cell and adding aeration to the first portion. In addition, chlorination facilities will be installed at the point of discharge into the final cell. It is expected that these modifications will bring the quality of the effluent into compliance with National Secondary Treatment standards, therefore, the permit is being modified to require this level of treatment by October 1, 1977. In addition, the permit contains a limit of 5 mg/l of total residual chlorine (which will insure that toxic levels of chlorine will not occur in the receiving stream) and a limitation on fecal coliform bacteria of 10,000-100 mls (this limitation is more stringent than necessary to meet water quality standards, but is a limit which can easily be met with a 5 mg/l concentration of total residual chlorine).

Self-monitoring is required quarterly and the permit will expire May 31, 1982.

(8) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF THAYNE, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 288
THAYNE, WYOMING 83127
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025895

Wastewater treatment at the Town of Thayne, Wyoming, consists of a two cell lagoon (first cell is aerated) followed by a spray irrigation system. If the facility functions as designed there is no surface discharge to waters of the State. However, due to numerous problems, the facility has not yet functioned as originally proposed. The great majority of wastewater entering the system originates from the Star Valley (Mason Cheese) cheese plant.

When the lagoon system was being installed it was discovered that groundwater levels were too high to allow proper construction and operation of the lagoons. Therefore, a "clear water" underdrain system was installed under the lined lagoons with the drains discharging to Flat Creek. A discharge permit allowing these underdrains to discharge was issued by this Department in January of 1976, and since it was anticipated that the discharges would consist only of uncontaminated groundwater, no effluent limitations or monitoring requirements were included in the permit. However, recent investigations by this Department indicate that these drains are being contaminated, and therefore, the proposed permit modification will require the Town of Thayne to monitor the quality of the drains on a weekly basis and to report the results on a monthly basis.

Since the Department is continuing to work with the community on elimination of its operation and maintenance problems, and because the grant project for the original construction has not yet been finalized, it is inappropriate to include effluent limitations in the permit at this time, though in the future it is anticipated that the permit will again be modified to include effluent limits.

(9) PERMIT NAME: AMERICAN PETROFINA COMPANY OF TEXAS
MAILING ADDRESS: 4613 JACKSBORO HIGHWAY
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS 76302
FACILITY LOCATION: SKULL CREEK TANK BATTERY, SOUTH UNIT
SW4, SECTION 27, T44N, R62W
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023116

(10) PERMIT NAME: CORONADO OIL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 512 COLORADO BUILDING
1615 CALIFORNIA STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202
FACILITY LOCATION: NORTH SKULL CREEK OIL POOL, CHISM
GOVERNMENT LEASE, NE4, SECTION 33,
T46N, R62W, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025143

FACILITY LOCATION: LAKE GOVERNMENT LEASE, SE4,
SECTION 15, T46N, R64W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025194

FACILITY LOCATION: COLLINS LEASE, NE4, SECTION
33, T46N, R61W, WESTON
COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025127

FACILITY LOCATION: ODYIS SMITH LEASE, NORTH SKULL CREEK
OIL POOL, NE4, SECTION 33, T46N, R62W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025135

FACILITY LOCATION: PETER SMITH "A" LEASE, NE4,
SECTION 27, T46N, R62W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025151

FACILITY LOCATION: TOWNSEND LEASE, NE4,
SECTION 23, T46N, R64W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025190

FACILITY LOCATION: STATE OF WYOMING LEASE, SW4,
SECTION 14, T46N, R64W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025178

FACILITY LOCATION: BUTCHER GOVERNMENT LEASE, NW4,
SECTION 23, T46N, R64W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025186

FACILITY LOCATION: MCCULLOUGH GOVERNMENT LEASE, SW4,
SECTION 13, T46N, R64W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025208

(11) PERMIT NAME: MCALISTER FUEL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 10
MAGNOLIA, ARKANSAS 71753
FACILITY LOCATION: SKULL CREEK UNIT BATTERY A,
SW4, SECTION 15, T44N, R62W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026635

FACILITY LOCATION: SKULL CREEK B UNIT,
NE4, SECTION 21, T44N, R62W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0005051

FACILITY LOCATION: SKULL CREEK D UNIT,
NE4, SECTION 28, T44N, R62W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0005069

(12) PERMIT NAME: TOCO CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: 26 SOUTH SENECA AVENUE
NEWCASTLE, WYOMING 82701
FACILITY LOCATION: MUSH CREEK UNIT,
NE4, SECTION 21, T44N, R63W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023183

All facilities are oil production units located in Weston County, Wyoming, with active discharge permits. All are required to meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria now or by July 1, 1977.

The purpose of these modifications is to change the expiration date of the permits to December 31, 1981. These modifications would simplify inspections and administrative procedures for this Department by giving all the oil treater permits in the Weston County area the same expiration date.

STATE-EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCA will be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to July 3, 1977. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1880 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80203. All comments received prior to July 3, 1977 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned address.

The complete applications, draft permits and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned addresses.

Public Notice No: Wy-77-07

16 High Country News — June 3, 1977

HCN Books

The Journey Home

Edward Abbey

Author of
Desert Solitaire

by Edward Abbey, E. P. Dutton, New York, 1977. \$4.95, paperback 242 pages. Illustrated by Jim Stiles.

Review by Peter Wild

Here he comes again, folks, angst-ridden wunderkind of the environmental movement, delivering verbal judo chops to the sheriff of Telluride. He wrecks his fiancée's brand-new Ford convertible in an escapade appropriate to a teen-ager with machismo problems and ponders throwing his wife to the grizzlies.

In general Abbey passes out unkind cuts to his tamed fellow humans while celebrating wildness. What motivates this man whose writing is a spin-off from his wrestling with the demon of himself, who, when he stands smirking down on university audiences across the nation, requires (it is rumored) a flying wedge of assistant professors to protect him from the squealing waffle-stomping campus groupies? But wait — before the Freudian analysis and the moral judgments — before we start hurling brickbats or roses Ed Abbey's way — let's see what's in this new book.

Simply, *The Journey Home* is a series of autobiographical essays on the West, Abbey's mind brooding over the aspens of the North Rim, the grizzlies of Glacier National Park, and the urbanization of Yosemite. The approach would seem innocent enough, if not a little dull: this is, as they say, not the age of the essay. Yet the book flies, no, soars, in loop the loops and arabesques, because Abbey's mind is worth

Abbey passes out unkind cuts to his tamed fellow humans while celebrating wildness.

revealing and ably revealed at points of conjunction with places important to him. The author steps out to give us a look at the imp or genius (take your pick) who was pulling the puppet strings behind the entertaining flimflam of *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. This is Zorro with a high IQ. This is Ezekiel with a sense of humor. In the fanciful "God's Plan for the State of Utah," a cowboy puzzles over a figure — bald and in sunglasses, "dough-bellied, ewe-necked, and too short in the hind legs" — sitting on a rock in the middle of the

desert. "You one of them there Sahara Clubbers?" the laconic cowhand asks, a hostile edge to his voice. But the redneck finds his civil tongue when the stranger reveals himself as the angel Nehi bearing a message from The Boss. Nehi takes an iron grip on the cowboy's wrist, and off they zoom over the rimrock on a zany tour of the state's ecological sins that will leave most Utahns fuming in self-righteous anger — and the rest of us laughing at them.

A number of the pieces first appeared in Audubon, National Geographic, and

This is Zorro with a high IQ.

This is Ezekiel with a sense of humor.

High Country News. The New York Times Magazine published "The BLOB Comes to Arizona." Here, Abbey is at his stiletto best. He pictures the state's governor as a lonely, oafish man, desperately buttonholing reporters in order to have an audience for his cliché-ridden monologues about the tinsel virtues of the fastest growing state. Chambers of Commerce will wince at Abbey's calculated but accurate railing against a state he loves: "In Arizona the dust storms carry lung fungus. . . Arizona is the land-fraud capital of the

world. . . We have the most gorgeous sunsets in the Western World — when the copper smelters are shut down."

However, Abbey is wise and talented enough to vary the pace. "The Crooked Wood" and "Fire Lookout: Numa Ridge" come from a sensitive heart, not an overactive spleen.

Now to the Freudian analysis and the moral judgments. I've spent many a fruitless and strife-filled night pondering these issues over pitchers of beer in the Yankee Doodle pizza parlor. In one ear friends scream that Abbey is full of hate — among other things — and ergo immoral, an iconoclastic wrecker of homes and of the goodwill environmentalists have built up over the years with General Motors, EPA, and Anaconda. In the other, equally frenetic voices proclaim that goodwill doesn't mean a ding-dong in the real world, that Abbey is the prophet of THE REVOLUTION.

True, he seems to have instant appeal to those with authority problems, as they call them in the lingo, while those who loved their fathers might be offended by his mud-in-the-face attitude toward patriarchs. Either approach misses much of Abbey while engaging in literary silliness. I don't care what Freudians and drugstore moralists have to say about Little Red Riding Hood, Ernest Hemingway — or Edward Abbey. I don't think Abbey cares either. He has succeeded in stirring up the pot to keep the scum, as he says, from rising to the top. Beyond that essentially political victory, he does what any good writer does — he

leads the reader into new and rich territories, the territories of his own restless and insightful mind.

A year and a half ago, I carped a little at *The Monkey Wrench Gang* but predicted stronger Abbey books for the future. *The Journey Home*, with its variety, a prose that glistens while it turns and turns on itself, its sheer sense of shared exuberance, is one of them. Good job, Ed.

Edward Abbey's self-portrait



I don't care what drugstore moralists have to say about Little Red Riding Hood, Ernest Hemingway — or Edward Abbey.

Dear Friends

The environmental movement is growing up. By now most of its members not only have their hearts in the right place; they also have savvy. They are becoming increasingly tough and determined.

While they've grown as individuals, the national groups that support them have also blossomed. Where once people fell into environmental jobs, now they are chosen for special skills in a highly competitive process. They are usually paid a living wage. Top lawyers, scientists, and administrators are commonplace on the staffs of all of the national and some local groups now.

The latest evidence of strength in the movement is its close association with the Carter Administration. We find environmentalists supportive, as well as critical, of government these days. We see trusted conservationists at the top in Washington.

The movement is both feared and loved — just as any group with strong leaders, popular support, and an ambitious program would be. We see it as a good sign, a sign that the movement has reached a level of maturity that gives it clout and gives us hope.

The movement is facing some challenges that wither its most sophisticated members, however. Even they are sometimes left with the feeling that there is nothing to do but wait. They feel hopeless despite their new strength, expertise, and connections. The proposed Poplar River development described in this issue is a humbling reminder of this.

Strangely enough, it's the same old issues: air pollution, water diminished in quality and quantity, a rural way of life threatened by energy development. Even the characters are old chums to those of us in the Western

environmental scene: disgruntled ranchers who can verbally put the situation in a nutshell, but who, as diehard individualists, aren't sure they can rally the forces necessary to protect themselves; reticent Indians with deep feelings and growing anger; state officials, mild, but concerned;



and industrial rhetoricians who use "national need" to justify grandiose plans.

But despite our familiarity with the issues and the people, we feel helpless. Environmentalists have tackled international issues before, with mixed results. In the case of another Canadian coal development, Cabin Creek, Rep. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) has suggested that we fight pollution by acting as a model, by curbing energy development on our side of the border. To fight Japanese whaling, we have used a boycott to show our concern.

Now there is talk of asking Japanese environmental groups and other sympathetic people in Japan to try to stop the whaling from within.

Needless to say, none of these actions has brought dramatic results, so shakey are the tools we now have to motivate neighboring nations to act in the best interests of our common resources.

So, despite our familiarity with the issues in the Poplar River case, we are

unsure of our ability to soften the impending blows. The authorities the environmental movements needs to reach in this case, officials in the Canadian government, are remote. International laws are annoyingly vague. We've entered a ticklish new arena — that of international diplomacy. How can we expect two nations to put their allegiances to the land before their political pride, when it is so hard for our own county commissioners, governors, and federal authorities to do so?

As a part of the environmental movement, it will be a difficult test of our new-found strength and vitality to find an answer to this question.

—the editors

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