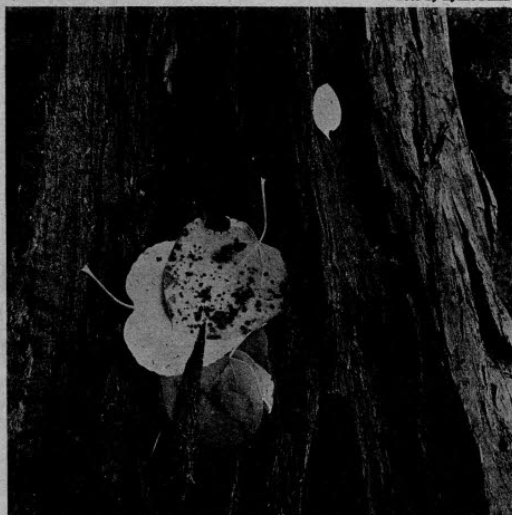


2-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977

Photo by Lynne Bama



HCN Letters

DISILLUSIONED

Dear HCN,

In your publication of July 15, 1977, page 9, a picture of two antelope with the following caption appeared: "WILDLIFE HABITAT in Wyoming may be significantly imperiled by strip mining. The Bureau of Land Management estimates that 67,000 acres of land will be affected in southwest Wyoming, only three to five percent of which can be restored to wildlife use."

I would like to correct the above statement if I may. According to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act of July 1, 1973, (Article 4—"Land Quality" and 35-502.2—"Policy and Purpose"), all affected lands and adjacent lands to any mining operation will be fully reclaimed to the original use or a higher use by the operator of the mining operations. I ask you, how can the BLM make such a statement when the state of Wyoming requires an acceptable and feasible reclamation plan to be developed before any disturbance is allowed to occur?

If only five percent of the 67,000 disturbed acres (3,350 acres) can be restored to wildlife use, the mining operators will not only lose \$19,095,000 from state bond forfeitures but also will lose the chance for any future operations in the state of Wyoming. What corporation can afford to take such chances?

The Lucky Mc Uranium Corporation's Lucky Mc Mine is located in central Wyoming, which has a large number of different wildlife populations—antelope being the most numerous and noticeable. According to the wildlife surveys which Lucky Mc conducts, there are larger numbers of antelope on our 11,000 plus acres of "disturbed" land now than when operations were started in 1955. Two main reasons contribute to this fact: (1) Due to mining operations, year-around water is available for animal consumption, and (2) Due to our reclamation work on disturbed areas, large

amounts of fresh green browse are available throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

As both a biologist and mining engineer, I believe I am qualified to discuss such topics. The mining profession has stood silent long enough and has put up with enough unqualified abusive statements made by amateur "environmentalists." The man in the street is going to have to realize that as the population of the world increases in an exponential function, more demands will be made for our natural resources, and more land and water areas will have to be disturbed to satisfy the growing population.

As I read the vast amounts of propaganda published which attempt to make the modern "mining industry" an obscene phrase, I have become very disillusioned and disappointed in the public's attitude towards the industry that supplies life-sustaining products for the world's populace.

Dick Hogan
Environmental and Mining Engineer
Lucky Mc Uranium Corporation
Riverton, Wyo.

Editors' note: The three to five percent figures used in the story were from a BLM preliminary draft environmental impact statement, according to Harry Harju, Wyoming Game and Fish biologist. Harju explains that the land is to be reclaimed, but that plans provide for reclaiming it to grassland, which is valuable for cattle and sheep but "not worth a hoot for most wildlife."

The state law is ambiguous about whether wildlife habitat must always be provided for in reclamation plans although the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality says it is an important consideration in practice.

FLOOD MONEY

Dear HCN:

The paltry sums allocated to the victims of the Big Thompson disaster are in distinct contrast to the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by the government on the Teton Dam disaster. The Big Thompson disaster was obviously a fluke of nature

Guest Editorial HCN

by Dr. John R. Bartlit
of N.M. Citizens for Clean Air and Water

San Juan Branch College, Farmington, N.M., was the scene of the Fourth Battle of Four Corners, Aug. 17-21 — namely permissible sulfur dioxide emissions from the huge, coal-fired blunderbuss of a power plant.

The major participants were four: Arizona Public Service (APS), the N.M. Environmental Improvement Agency (EIA), Public Service Co. of New Mexico (PNM), and the joint forces of NMCCA&W and Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The positions taken up by the four were not entirely the usual ones occupied by such forces at such hearings. There sat the EIA alongside APS supporting 60% removal of APS' 410 daily tons of sulfur dioxide emissions. There were we, supporting 90% removal. And there was PNM, already committed to 80 plus per cent removal, barking at us a bit, barking at the EIA a bit. And there was the Environmental Improvement Board — starting out with five

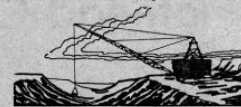
members, dwindling to two — which must make a decision in October.

Our case was a simple one, consisting of three points:

- 1) 80 to 90% removal of sulfur dioxide is required to meet the ambient air quality standards, according to the best air dispersion modeling calculations;
- 2) such control of sulfur dioxide emissions is technologically feasible; and
- 3) such control is economically reasonable.

Needless to say, APS disagreed with us on points No. 1 and No. 3, but did agree that such control was technically feasible.

The economic argument, Point No. 3, was presented by Dr. John Bartlit. The facts came mostly from the Federal Power Commission's annual reports on electricity



production costs for every generating unit in the U.S. The most telling statistic is that the APS plant produces power for one-half the cost of the PNM San Juan Plant and one-third to one-fourth the cost of the clean gas-fired plants used throughout Arizona and California. The 90% effective controls we advocate would not raise APS's costs up to PNM's costs even if PNM spent nothing on its voluntary cleanup program. APS's cleanup costs, when spread over all the customers served by the dirty Four Corners plant, would increase their electric bills about two per cent, using APS's own figures.

Hearing room scuttlebutt had it that APS spent in excess of \$200,000 on the hearing. We spent \$3,100 (that's 1,033 \$3 memberships), plus the contributions of dedicated volunteers from Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Farmington.

(The column above was reprinted from the Los Alamos Monitor.)

and the failure of the Teton Dam was a screw up by the bureaucrats.

The government has admitted its guilt by spending hundreds of millions to restore the Teton Valley, when spending almost nothing at all in comparison in helping the victims of the Big Thompson disaster.

Jon M. McMillan, M.D.
Cody, Wyoming

GOOD WATER MANAGEMENT

Dear HCN:

Publication of the two Dan Ray articles, "California Leads the West in Water Saving Ideas" (May 6) and "Some Ways to Lose Those Lack of Water Blues" (July 1) is a significant contribution to the cause of good water management.

Your assistance through devoting space to this subject is appreciated.

Gerald H. Meral, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
California Dept. of Water Resources

HCN MIDWEST

Dear HCN,

Living in the second most industrialized state of the union (Ohio), it is good to see, (through the constant environmental news reporting from HCN) that other states are more concerned about short-term and long-lasting environmental degradation — and are doing something about it.

It would be nice to have a HCN for the Midwest. When will you set up an office here?! Again, keep up the good work.

Marvin D. Sigal
Dayton, Ohio

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three pages.

What would a one hundred dollar donation to the HCN research fund pay for in HCN? About three whole pages of freelance writing in High Country News, that's what. That's how far your gift dollars stretch. Not bad at today's prices.

For example, two stories in this issue of HCN were paid for, in part, with monies donated to the research fund: Flathead River mining threat by Glenn Oakley, and Lamb's Quarters by Carl Brown.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the fund, make out a check to: Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund, and send it to WEI, P.O. Box 2597, Jackson, Wyoming 83301. Thank you.



Editorial

HCN

'Insurmountable' opportunity?

Conservationists are experiencing what some of their most active members are calling "insurmountable opportunity." (The cartoon character "Pogo" first coined the term, we understand.)

If conservationists have felt misunderstood and neglected in the past, this new problem must be refreshing. The same public agencies that used to respond only to the wielders of money and power now seem eager to listen to the conservationist point of view. If they had the time and the stamina, most conservationists could make a full-time job of going to public meetings and registering their opinions. What's more, conservationists have friends at the top of many of the natural resource agencies. At the very top, even Jimmy Carter seems genuinely sympathetic to their concerns.

It is an excellent time to set up a preservation system for some of the remaining wilds of Alaska, to reassess our wilderness system, our national water policy, our energy policy, our mining laws, and our grazing regulations. It's also a time when we can be hopeful about implementing a new strip mine bill, the clean air act amendments, and a new mandate for the agency that manages more public land than any other, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is evidence of the growing acceptance of what Aldo Leopold called a "land ethic" that these opportunities are even before us.

But, what worries us is that most of these things are mere opportunities, not positive change in themselves. If, for instance, the Forest Service holds a meeting on wilderness, and only loggers and miners show up — what will a conscientious, open-minded bureaucrat do? If conservationists don't

make sure it is strictly enforced on the land, what good will we get out of a federal strip mine law? With a growing circle of friends in government and their new initiatives, conservationists' participation is as vital as ever and could bring greater rewards than ever before.

Fortunately, talented, energetic volunteers have always been the wealth of the conservation movement. The movement doesn't appear to lack the people power to confront the opportunities ahead. But it is becoming more and more difficult for volunteers to decide how they can be effective in the new arena. Clearly, no one group or individual can effectively dabble in everything anymore. The opportunities are too great.

An ability to set priorities may be the test of conservationists in the future. Conservationists with a wide range of responsibilities may need to consider narrowing them, so they can be thorough and tenacious on a few key issues. Or they may need to become coordinators, pointing out to other volunteers what issues do and do not need attention.

Another option for people in the West is to become local watchdogs, linked to the conservation movement as a whole, but basically responsible for only one small piece of public ground. Instead of spending all their time at hearings in Denver or writing letters to Washington, watchdog conservationists might have frequent chats with local officials and visits to local places. In short, they could adopt a forest, a park, or a BLM district to protect, nurture, and enjoy. They would learn what local officials are trying to do. They would give local officials a chance to hear the conservation message before their minds are set on an issue — before the public hearing or the comment period.

By specializing, coordinating, or concentrating on local decision-makers, conservationists may be able to avoid that feeling of futility that comes from reacting to an overload of crises, rather than taking positive actions. And perhaps they'll be able to avoid being struck numb by that newest (and most pleasant) of conservationists' problems — insurmountable opportunity.

—JN



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION NOTICE

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D. Free distribution - samples	300	250
E. Total distribution (C + D)	4,555	4,400
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, left over	200	200
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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.
October 1, 1977
Joan Nice

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Write Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.



Margaret and Olaus Murie
Photo by Phyllis Stevie

Inner ingredients inspire others

by Margaret Murie

The letter from Connally Mears (HCN-Sept. 9) asks a very legitimate question, but one which I have been trying to answer for myself for years — one which is hard to answer because it touches on the inner spiritual ingredients of a human being and is almost impossible to put into words.

(Mears asked how Olaus Murie, who was featured in the July 1 issue of HCN, was able to motivate others to join him in the conservation cause.)

When *Life Magazine* was doing an article about Olaus, the young writer who came out here to our home at Moose asked me: "If you were writing an article about your husband, what would you give as his most important contribution?"

Without hesitation I answered: "His influence on young people."

But, to analyze this: As nearly as I can express it, I feel that Olaus motivated others mostly by what he was, rather than by any specific words he uttered. I think people could feel his absolute belief in the necessity of wild places for the sanity of the human race, and his absolute confidence that people were good and worthy of a good future and capable of making that future for themselves if they would. He believed that even with the very worst forecast possible for the future, it was more fun to take part in the battle for what you believed in than just to stand on the sidelines wringing your hands.

Of this last I think he did convince many young people, because, with all the work,

he obviously had such joy in living that perhaps they could feel the battle was worth taking part in. If they knew him longer, they surely sensed that under the continuous gentleness and lack of frustration under pressures, there was the steel of belief, of unshakable confidence, of stubbornness if you will, in the cause he believed in.

All this may be too vague to be helpful, but if our activists today believe strongly enough and can avoid being frustrated by all the adverse pressures and happenings, they will I feel sure, touch others deeply and be building up, "enlarging the corps" as Connally Mears says.



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Scorpio subscribers! (Those whose subscriptions expire in November 1977 as noted on your address label.) We know you have a tendency to be suspicious, so we'll explain right away that we want your money. Your subscription is about to expire, and you can save us 13 cents by mailing your \$12 in early.

We also know that you're a passionate person and hope you have adopted some of the causes mentioned in HCN as your own. Don't inadvertently sabotage your own sense of purpose by allowing your subscription to lapse. We'd miss you.

4-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977

Flathead . . .

(continued from page 1)

and Game Department, informing readers of plans for an extensive coal-mining operation in British Columbia, across the Montana-Canadian border — an operation many Montanans believe would ruin the natural state of the Flathead drainage.

Following the publication of the article in *Montana Outdoors*, meetings were hurriedly called in the Flathead Valley as concerned citizens attempted to learn more about the proposed project, advanced by Sage Creek Coal, Ltd., and to see what, if anything, could be done about it. At one meeting, Wayne Herman of Kalispell, president of Flathead Wildlife, called for a show of hands from people interested in organizing a "coalition" to deal with the issue. "A lot of hands went up," Herman recalled.

Individuals with special skills were appointed to a steering committee: a lawyer, a limnologist, experienced conservation activists, and so forth. The result, Herman said, "was a heavy preponderance of environmental people." That seemed normal but the founders saw a need for a group with a broader base, so chambers of commerce and other business groups in the area were invited to join. Herman believed that if a bunch of "environmentalists" went to the U.S. State Department to complain about trans-boundary pollution, the federal officials probably would roll their eyes back in a we-have-heard-all-this-before gesture and sneak out the nearest door. "But if you've got the Lions Club and the Kiwanians," Herman said, "well, then they think you've got an issue."

Today the coalition claims some 30 member organizations, representing the broad-base support it sought. It is, however, a core of about 20 individual members who regularly attend the monthly meetings, organize fund-raising activities, and perform the basic chores required to keep such an organization functioning.

The coalition, although formed to investigate the proposed coal project in British Columbia, was barely a year old when Texas-Pacific applied for the oil and gas leases along the North and Middle Forks. Aside from a concern about the ramifications of such exploration, the leases, if approved, threatened to jeopardize the coalition's battle against coal mining proposed by Sage Creek Coal, Ltd.

The coalition realized how difficult it would be to ask the Canadians not to mine their coal for the sake of Montana's environment, while at the same time bulldozers would be in the Montana wilderness munching away at the land in search of oil and gas. (The coalition was also active in seeking inclusion of the three forks of the Flathead River in the Scenic Rivers Act.)

Sage Creek Coal, Ltd., is a subsidiary of two companies: Rio Algom, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc of London, a multi-national mining and manufacturing corporation, and Pan Ocean Oil, a subsidiary of Marathon Oil of Ohio, another multi-national corporation. If the world market "looks good," then the metallurgical coal market will "look great" and Sage Creek Coal will begin decapitating two mountains in British Columbia, mountains known affectionately by the company as "North and South Hills." Exploration by Sage Creek Coal has revealed that 132

million tons of metallurgical coal underlie the two mountains.

I drive on toward Cabin Creek, a tributary of the North Fork that courses between the two coal hills. Dense stands of lodgepole pine that form a tunnel over the road give way to meadows dotted with aspen and abandoned homesteads. The peaks of Glacier National Park are closer, poking holes in the thunderheads that form as the moist, warm air rolls up their cool slopes.

I pass Polebridge, the largest settlement along the road (population four). Another 22 miles and I arrive at the Canadian border. The stars and stripes and the red maple leaf fly over log cabins marking the world's longest friendly border. The Cana-

to wash dishes. Stepping over the bank I am stunned. The creek, clear a few hours ago, is running brown and thick. After crawling over logs and wading through willows for an hour upstream, I see where Cabin Creek flows into Howell Creek. They are easy to distinguish — Cabin Creek is gushing a brown sludge while Howell Creek, upstream of the confluence, is clear. As they join, a definite line of brown and clear water flows parallel downstream, the brown erasing the clear water within 75 yards of the merger. Although the stream is shallow, the rocks on the bottom can no longer be seen. I turn back, too intimidated by the thick brush and sinking sun to follow Cabin Creek to the source of this mess.

Back at camp, I hear a truck coming

mine, he adds, "there will be more than mud coming down."

I have a pamphlet from Rio Algom assuring everyone that the company "has always had concern for the environment." It says, "Run-off water can be a problem. . . It can pick up silt from the mine face. It can swell the stream. A way will have to be found to deal with that problem." The pamphlet adds, "If you have questions or suggestions, please get in touch with us." I think I will write and suggest a b-r-i-d-g-e.

But this is just the exploration. The mining would remove the mountains, covering 2,100 acres with waste rock. Howell Creek would be diverted. New roads would be built, others "improved." Railroad tracks would be laid through what is now essentially wilderness to connect the mine site with the main line to the north. A town to accommodate the estimated 3,000 mine workers would be built along Cabin Creek. The instant town would run on electricity generated by a small coal-fired generating plant at the mine site.

The company admits it does not know how to prevent run-off water, laden with silt, heavy metals, and other poisons, from running in to the creeks — and into the North Fork. If there is a way, it will surely cost more than the building of a few bridges, which the company refuses to do now.

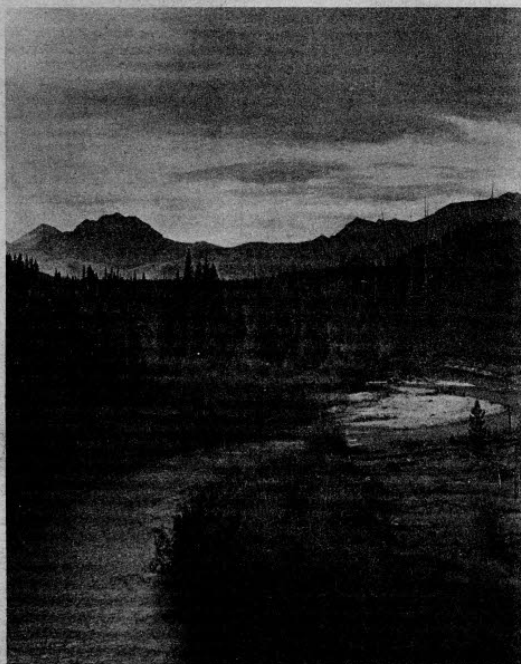
And these are merely the immediate effects. New and improved roads would invite all the darker aspects of society — subdivisions, Winnebagos, clear-cutting — to the North Fork. Flathead Lake in Montana, the largest fresh-water lake west of the Mississippi, is fed by the North Fork. It is not known what would happen to Flathead Lake if coal is mined at Cabin Creek in Canada, but steady doses of phosphorus, silt, and other chemicals will certainly not enhance the water quality.

The next morning Howell Creek is running clear again. So what does it matter if the creek is muddied? It clears in a day. It is something like having your oxygen supply cut off for 15 minutes with the promise of getting it back. I drive up the road a few miles and turn at the Cabin Creek road. There is a sign on a tree, something like a realtor's sign, that says "Beautiful British Columbia" with "SOLD" stamped over it.

The road climbs a short way, then drops down into a valley. The "North and South Hills" rise ahead, with Howell Creek looping before them. Another wooden bridge crosses Howell Creek. To the side of the bridge, tire and bulldozer ruts enter and re-emerge. Over a rise the company has graded off a few acres where fuel tanks, cable, and machine parts are scattered. Five whitetails play on the edge of the clearing, unafraid of me and my rattling car. I think it would make a good publicity photo for Sage Creek Coal Ltd.: "Yes, we at Sage Creek Coal Ltd. care about God's little wild creatures. Deer thrive on our mine sites, happily munching coal, which is high in carbohydrates. . ."

Leaving the deer to play amongst the diesel drums, I follow one of the many roads that lead away from the equipment site. The company has built roads everywhere on the two mountains. Roads plow 30 yards into the hillside and stop. Roads parallel each other for 30 yards, 15 feet away, then rejoin. Roads vanish over ridges. Occasionally, the roads expose coal seams. These are easy to spot because everything downhill from them — the dirt, the rocks, the plants, the trickles of water — is black, coal black. At some of the coal seams the road cut has tapped ground water. At these places the company has driven metal pipes, about four inches in diameter, into the ground, and the water trickles downhill, eventually to the creeks.

Walking up the road, I follow bear tracks: They are black bear, although grizzlies do roam here, along with wolves,



HOWELL CREEK at its confluence with Cabin Creek, which enters from the left of the picture at the gravel bar.

dian customs official asks me where I am going. I should have no trouble finding Cabin Creek, he says: There is plenty of traffic going in and out of there.

The road winds on, crossing clear mountain streams with narrow wooden bridges. I stop at Howell Creek to camp. Howell Creek flows to the north of the proposed mine site, and Cabin Creek flows into it one and a half miles upstream of my camp. About six miles downstream, Howell Creek pours into the North Fork.

The country here begins to look and feel like the far north woods. There is no one around. Jagged conifers silhouette against the skyline, with mountains, rising above timberline, surrounding it all. Moose tracks, dried in the dirt road, lead into marshy meadows where clumps of aspen are attempting to take over. And mosquitoes — mosquitoes that fear no man or his bug sprays — fill the air.

After dinner I walk over to Howell Creek

down the road. It stops on the bridge over Howell Creek, and I walk over. It is the Canadian customs official.

"Do you know why the creek is running brown?" I ask.

He nods his head upstream. "It's those characters."

"Sage Creek Coal?"

"Uh-huh."

He is not surprised to see Howell Creek flowing with mud; he's seen it before. Because the existing bridges are too frail and narrow for the heavy machinery Sage Creek Coal uses in its exploration, the drilling rigs and bulldozers are driven through the streams. It is cheaper than building sturdier bridges.

"I've been up here since '62," he says, "when the Cabin Creek road was a dirt trail. Used to be osprey, moose, animals of all kinds. They'd come down to the sulfur licks. It's all gone now."

The sulfur comes from the coal and it is ironic that the source of the licks, which once attracted the animals, is now the cause of their demise.

The customs official is pessimistic about the future. "They're practical people," he says of the company. "If they can make a buck, they will, and there's too many bucks to be made to let it lie." And when they

The Flathead Coalition is dedicated to the goal of "zero population" in the unspoiled portions of the Flathead River drainage.

elk, moose, peregrine falcons, and "coal-loving" deer. I jump a moose, and it trots away with the usual nonchalance of an animal seven times the weight of a human. Considering what the mine could destroy, many individuals, such as the customs official, seem surprisingly resigned to it.

Perhaps the members of the Flathead Coalition are naive optimists, but they believe they can stop the mine, or at least have stringent safeguards placed on the operation.

Naive? Optimistic? Perhaps the coalition members are, for they are attempting to place controls on a Canadian firm operating in Canada. Because of that, a good many observers considered the coalition's efforts to be hopeless. But Jim Cumming, an attorney for the coalition, wrote a proposed bill designed to give Montana the legal means of prosecuting any Canadian or Canadian corporation polluting Montana's air or water. The Montana State Legislature passed the bill. It is, of

course, controversial: One Saskatchewan official just laughed when he heard about it. The U.S. State Department resents its existence, and a good many Montanans continue to believe their state has no jurisdiction in British Columbia.

Montana attorney Bob 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 the company didn't appear in court in Montana, then the state could take action against any property the company might have in the state, such as a truck sent down for repairs.

The county attorneys of the Montana counties that would be affected by the law appear to have little understanding of it, however. Lake County Attorney Richard Heinz could be called upon to "impose, assess and collect the civil penalties" against Sage Creek Coal, Ltd. "I remember reading something about questioning the prudence

of this," he said. As far as Heinz is concerned, the "best way" to resolve the Cabin Creek conflict was to let the U.S. government negotiate with the Canadians.

Indeed, the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from formally negotiating with foreign governments. But Cumming conceived his bill to avoid acquiescence to the U.S. State Department. "Instead of sucking up to the State Department and begging their leave," he said, "Montana can act to protect its own interests."

Cumming does not trust the State Department. He points to the Poplar River region in northeastern Montana where, to the north, the province of Saskatchewan is constructing a coal-fired generating complex. Until the State Department was forced into action by the protests of the region's representatives, Cumming claims it did little to protect the region, which is agriculturally based, from potential air pollution and loss of water (see HCN, 6-3-77).

Speculation exists that the State Department is willing to overlook coal mining in the Cabin Creek area if the Canadians are willing to overlook the possible consequences of a project called the Garrison Diversion. The Garrison Diversion is a Corps of Engineers project to divert water from southern to northern North Dakota for irrigation. Run-off irrigation water from the project (which has been shelved for the time being by President Jimmy Carter) would enter the Red and Souris Rivers of Canada, carrying silt, pesticides, herbicides, and other such pollutants from the U.S.

State Department officials see such "trade offs" as the Garrison-for-Cabin-Creek affair (if a "trade off" indeed exists)

Sept. 23, 1977 — High Country News-5

as "negotiations." Those American officials are not too pleased about individual states meddling in their affairs. State Department officials expressed their resentment unofficially to Bob Lohn, the chief legal counsel for the governor of Montana, arguing that the Montana law could undermine the friendly relations existing between Canada and the United States.

Cumming, the author of the law, maintains it could not cause an international dispute. Steve Brown, legal counsel for the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, disagrees: "Yeah, definitely it would become an international dispute. That's a pretty significant drainage, the Flathead River." Brown went on to say the department is ready to use the law if necessary, but added that he wonders what the reaction of the federal government will be.

Meanwhile, Sage Creek, Ltd., is proceeding slowly and cautiously, backing off when the heat from the coalition becomes too intense, then re-emerging after things have cooled off. It may be years before the company decides to mine at Cabin Creek — or it may be months. While the company bobs and weaves to the jabs of public opinion, the coalition is researching other legal methods to stop the mine.

Perhaps the stiffest test for the Flathead Coalition will be keeping itself alive over the years of waiting. Without the continuing vigilance, a drive up the North Fork in five years may leave one gazing at a black pit where mountains once rose. And the water, assuredly, won't be safe to drink.

IJC shoots down Garrison

The International Joint Commission (IJC), the group that arbitrates boundary water disputes between the U.S. and Canada, has recommended against proceeding with 80% of the proposed Garrison Diversion in North Dakota, according to Sen. Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.). Burdick called the decision a "devastating blow," saying that saving the project will be "an uphill battle."

The IJC said, "because the 'closed system' and the McCloskey Canal fish screen cannot with any certainty prevent biota (animals and plants) and disease transfers which would cause severe and irreversible damage to the ecosystem, and in particular the commercial and sport fisheries in Canada, both portions of the Garrison Diversion Unit which could affect waters flowing into Canada should not be built at this time. This is not intended to preclude construction of the Lonetree Reservoir."

The commission said that, "if and when the governments of Canada and the United States agree that methods have been proven to prevent the transfer of biota" then construction of the unit could be completed. Also, the IJC said that any agreement to the solution of the biota problem should be incorporated into the construction agreement between the two countries. Agreement should be reached on the reduction of highly saline soils, destruction of wetland habitat, and lining one of the project's canals before construction could

begin, the IJC says.

The impact of the IJC findings, according to Burdick, is that 200,000 acres of what had been planned as a 250,000 acre irrigation project would have to be cut, if the two governments accept the recommendations.

According to the Dickinson Press, the North Dakota Congressional delegation has vowed to fight the limits set by the international commission. Rep. Mark Andrews (R-N.D.) said that the IJC's claim that damaging plant and animal life would move into the Red and Souris Rivers in Canada was "as far-fetched and phony as a \$3 bill." Sen. Milton Young (R-N.D.) merely called the report "discouraging."

Richard Madson, regional representative of the National Audubon Society, said that the recommendations reinforced the contentions of conservationists about the adverse impacts of the project. The society has filed a lawsuit asking for a moratorium on construction of the project until the completion of the full environmental impact statement.

The IJC decision is only the latest in a series of setbacks for the project. The Garrison Diversion had originally been on President Jimmy Carter's "hit list" of irrigation projects, but Congress overrode his objections and appropriated full funding for the project.

Nevertheless, in a negotiated settlement of the lawsuit brought by the Audubon Society, the Administration agreed to limit construction until the EIS was complete.

Board votes to shut down Utah Environmental Council's office

Friends of the Utah Environmental Council (UEC) who have tried to call the UEC office during the past two months have been disappointed. There is no one there. The UEC voted July 15 to abruptly close the office on July 31, seven years after the organization incorporated.

Jan Johnson, director and the only full-time staff member for the last three and a half years, says she was surprised and very disappointed by the board's decision. The group is the only Utah-based membership group. The board hopes the organization will continue through the efforts of volunteers, she says, but Johnson isn't optimistic about that potential. As far as she knows, members have not even been notified of the decision.

While Utah is usually considered a very hostile atmosphere for environmental groups, Johnson is quick to say that the group's demise does not portend the same fate for any new group that might start. In fact, she and several others are now in the process of incorporating a new group.

Instead, she blames the make-up of the UEC board. When it was incorporated in 1970, it was decided that the board would include representatives of various interest groups to keep communications open among mining, timber, industrial, and environmental interests. Consequently, the board now includes a representative of Utah Power and Light, Kennecott Copper, and other corporate interests. While Johnson says she thinks it is essential to keep communications open, she now questions the advisability of having such a broad-based board. "They never came to any policy decisions so I was left to do what I felt was right," she says. When she issued policy statements, however, she was often reprimanded by her board.

While at one time there were many volunteers, they became frustrated by the board's refusal to allow the organization to be an activist group instead of just an information group, and most quit. For example, several volunteers put together a grant application for community workshops in

some of the energy boom areas of southern Utah, but didn't get the board's support.

Members of the board could not be reached for comment but Johnson says the board's decision to close the UEC office was prompted by debates over money raised by a premiere showing of a Robert Redford movie. Redford had offered the movie, with the stipulation that proceeds could only be used for activist causes — not just for information.

Now there are only two paid environ-

mental staff members in the state: Mary Belle Bloch with the Environmental Defense Fund and Dick Carter with the Wilderness Society, both national organizations.

Johnson says some people are looking for funding from foundations for a new group that she says will focus on energy development and will hopefully have field offices outside the Salt Lake City area. This group, she says, will be an active lobbying group.



FORD AT CABIN CREEK. Trucks and bulldozers drive through the creek rather than upgrade the bridge to handle heavy equipment traffic.

native plants



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6-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977

Hardin attacks...

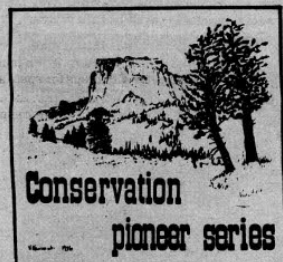
(continued from page 1)

children who place demands on an already overburdened environment. Sensible people limit their families, notes Hardin as he presses the argument, yet they are forced to subsidize the ecological mistakes of the fast breeders. He looks with sorrow on the starving poor of the world but concludes that their plight is hopeless.

As to technology, people have persuaded themselves that it will save them from the ecological sin of overpopulation. Such agricultural innovations as the Green Revolution require huge amounts of capital, fertilizer, and machinery, while ignoring the fundamental problem. The Santa Barbara professor shows statistically that the present population explosion is an historical perversion, a cancer. He irks some humanitarians by warning that, "You can't cure a cancer by feeding it."

Personally good-natured, Hardin couches the urgency of his message in witty statements and cunning metaphors. The mutually antagonistic ranting of super-conservatives and leftists are silly, because in practice the two systems overlap: "Every time John Birch sits down on the toilet, he becomes a socialist," he says. Further, both political beliefs are environmental negatives, since they promote growth at the expense of limited resources.

His basic metaphor for current world problems — whether they be overpopula-



tion or pesticide pollution — is the commons, a public pasture once shared by stockmen in England and in some parts of the American colonies. In "The Tragedy of the Commons" (Science, December 13, 1968), he explains that the commons system will work, but only as long as the number of cattle does not exceed the carrying capacity. If a farmer increases his herd — which he is likely to do, given human greed — his quick gain means loss to others in the eventual overgrazing of the pasture.

In other words, "Freedom in a commons brings ruin to all." The earth's soil, minerals, water, and air make up one vast but exploited commons. Calls for voluntary restraint, however morally appealing, are ridiculous. Those with consciences play the fool, outbred and outpolluted, as the case may be, by the conscienceless. The only hope is regulation by law, "mutual coercion, mutually agreed upon."

As Gifford Pinchot found when he brought regulation to the national forests, it is a lesson that goes down hard in the



Behind Hardin's middle-aged celebrity lies a somewhat plodding if satisfying academic career. He was born in Dallas, Texas, but his father's clerical job with the Illinois Central Railroad required frequent moves throughout the Midwest. Polio crippled the boy in 1919 at the age of four. Still, the youth became an expert swimmer, and after high school in Chicago he considered becoming an actor — a career he abandoned because his shortened right leg would limit his stage roles. Instead, perhaps remembering pleasant summers spent on his grandfather's farm in Missouri, he majored in zoology at the University of Chicago, then went on to receive his Ph.D. in biology from Stanford in 1941.

Five years later he gave up research on producing food from algae — an early sign of his intellectual independence. More food, he reasoned, only worsens the world's population problems. Regardless of the stance, his activism lay far in the future. The next 15 years were spent upgrading the biology offerings at the University of California's Santa Barbara campus. Hardin made educational films, introduced closed circuit television to the classroom, and wrote a widely-used text, *Biology: Its Human Implications* (1949). A 1959 book, *Nature and Man's Fate*, deals with the social consequences of evolution. Along with a course in human ecology he developed a year later, it shows a shift in the biologist's concerns.

The rebirth of conservation — and the accelerated social changes that are its matrix — began after World War II and came to fruition in the 1960s. Hardin chides himself for not coming to his ecological conclusions earlier. A tongue-in-cheek Hardin formula explains his slow development: "It takes five years for a person's mind to change." In his case it took a succession of five-year changes that paralleled the general environmental awareness growing across the nation. He became an activist at a time when ideas were "ripe for the pick-

ing" to use his own words. Yet there were dangers. Contrary to one public myth, universities are not entirely bastions of sweetness and light. Despite their high purposes,

"You can't cure a cancer by feeding it."

emphasizing success in money-generating research rather than in the less measurable fruits of successful teaching. In the meantime, Hardin had quit laboratory work entirely because "I saw no signs that I had any great talent as a laboratory researcher." Instead he turned his energies to popularizing science among his students and with the general public.

Not that he was in immediate danger of losing his job. The tenure system offered some protection, barring an academic conviction of malfeasance. Then, too, by that time his worthy though unglamorous teaching accomplishments had been awarded by his rise to the highest pedagogical rank, a full professorship.

Still, America was just emerging from the McCarthy era. Censorship, though not openly condoned, was practiced. In recounting his environmental emergence in *Stalking the Wild Taboo* (1973), Hardin asks for a leap backward in the imagination: "It is essential that the reader recognize that abortion was a strongly tabooed topic in 1963. So much has the world changed in the past decade that this recognition takes a bit of imagination, but you can't understand history without imagination. Most newspapers in 1963 would not print the word 'abortion'; even those that would avoid the subject if they could. It was no light matter for a professor in a state university — my situation — to take a public position against the prohibition of abortion."

Yet that's what he did. When the faculty invited him to give a university-wide lecture on a subject of current interest to him, he chose the topic of population control through legalized abortion. Noting the public's reluctance to examine taboos, a fellow academician has dubbed Garrett Har-

din "one psychologically brave, but professionally foolish soul."

During the 1960s California "discovered the Frisbee, embraced vodka, and popularized credit cards," as *Time* magazine puts it. The state also was the crucible of deeper intellectual changes. Despite his fears, "hate mail and vituperative phone calls" didn't materialize after the speech. Instead, the audience honored him with intense questions, both pro and con. He was especially impressed, however, during the following days, when "eminently respectable women" congratulated him on the street and told him about their own secret abortions. Apparently, abortion was a reality that the public chose to ignore. He started digging into history books to ferret out the story of the earth's population.

He found that for thousands of years disease, starvation, abortion, and widespread infanticide had kept the earth's population relatively stable, with a yearly average increase of 0.032 per cent. Though people tend to accept present situations as normal for all times, the current two per cent growth rate, seen in the perspective of history, is abnormal. It would have people occupying every square foot of land in a mere 615 years. Hardin's population articles joined *Famine-1978* (1967) by William and Paul Paddock and *The Population Bomb* (1968) by Paul Ehrlich in warning that the world had overburdened its life-support systems. Mass starvation already had started in India and Africa.

Yet he had a further step to take: what is to be done about the situation? His positions often make Hardin seem callous to suffering, though he counters the charge with the maxim, "we can never do nothing." Either we take fate into our own hands or our lack of action will increase the suffering when nature solves the population problem by its own means — as it has done heartlessly time after time in the past.

If his view of abortion that, "Smashing acorns is not deforestation; scrambling eggs is not gallicide," offended right-to-life groups and some religious leaders, his next proposal brought some fellow scientists who had supported him to their feet in rage. Appearing in the October 1974 issue of *Bioscience*, "Living on a Lifeboat" proposed a solution through another Hardin metaphor.

Hardin is a wide-ranging reader, an asset for the generalist. He quotes George Eliot, George Bernard Shaw, and W. S. Gilbert with ease in backing up his arguments. The earlier "Tragedy of the Commons" owed its inspiration to a tract by the obscure 19th century amateur mathematician, William Forester Lloyd. For "Life on a Lifeboat" the biologist drew on an unusual bit of naval history.

In the last century the *William Brown* sank. Survivors clung to a single wooden boat, so overloaded that it in turn threatened to founder. In order to keep the craft afloat, leaders ordered a number of the passengers killed. Though morally irreconcilable, the immediate choices were clear: either some must be sacrificed or all would drown.

The *Bioscience* essay likened the environmentally overburdened world to the plight of the shipwrecked: "Metaphorically, each rich nation amounts to a lifeboat full of comparatively rich people. The poor of the world are in other, much more crowded lifeboats. Continuously, so to speak, the poor fall out of their lifeboats and swim for a while in the water outside, hoping to be admitted to a rich lifeboat, or in some other way to benefit from the 'goodies' on board. What should the passengers on a rich lifeboat do?"

Given the metaphor, the answer is painful but inescapable: The people in the rich

"Loss of freedom to breed is less horrible than massive death by starvation, epidemics, social chaos, and insanity."

United States, a nation with a history of laissez-faire settlement. There, quips Hardin, the modus operandi was to live, "Like gorillas: make a new nest every night, crap all over everything, then move on."

ing," to use his own words. Yet there were dangers.

Contrary to one public myth, universities are not entirely bastions of sweetness and light. Despite their high purposes,

lifeboats must abandon the poor in order to save themselves. Otherwise no one will survive. Hardin analyzed the list of possibilities for helping the earth's overpopulated countries: technology, world food



banks, immigration. Each draws on the limited resources of the rich, causing more suffering in the long run and resulting in everyone's demise. The lifeboat, like all ecological systems, is a finite commons. Hardin admitted that the solution was un-

fair to the victims, but he reminded readers that, whatever their sentiments, survival in nature is not based on a system of justice.

In the next few months letters and articles hotly disputing his thesis appeared in popular magazines and scientific journals. Norman Cousins railed from two editorials in the *Saturday Review* against "the notion that some people have the right to decide whether others should live or die"—ignoring the fact that the United States already is forced to do so in allocating its limited surplus food.

Others attacked the metaphor with greater skill. In the May 1975 issue of *Bioscience*, members of the Hudson River Ecological Survey compared the world's nations to mountain climbers connected by safety ropes. The survival of the group depends on the survival of each climber. Critical mineral and oil deposits held by third-world powers, plus the proliferation of nuclear weapons, make cooperation, rather than exclusion, a necessity in the interconnected world.

Whatever the detractions, Garrett Hardin continues to plunge on, often jovially, ahead of his critics. *Exploring New Ethics for Survival: The Voyage of the Spaceship Beagle* (1972) illustrates what he sees as new moral dictates by a takeoff

on science fiction. In the future setting of the story, advocates of growth have "tired of the apocalyptic rantings of Paul Ehrlich" and castrated Garrett Hardin "with a dull aluminum spoon." However, growth mania has run its course; confronted with an uninhabitable planet, earthlings send a sample of their kind off in search of a home in space. Unfortunately, they must take along with them their all too-human frailties.

Stalking the Wild Taboo (1973) echoes Freudian psychology while debunking popular myths. It maintains that Western society, with its faith in technology, is motivated by its own set of superstitions. It believes that quantity is better than quality, that knowledge is better than ignorance, that science can solve human problems. Hardin suggests that the space program is a form of fantasy, an escape from earthly realities orchestrated by the modern equivalents of witch doctors. He chastizes sociologists and biologists, two tribes disputing overlapping territories. In the Hardin view, society can not insure its environmental future until it comes to terms with such prejudices.

It is difficult to say how literally Hardin intends his metaphors or how seriously he takes his own arguments. However, he has

Sept. 23, 1977 — High Country News-7 succeeded if his purpose is nothing more than to push critical situations into the forefront of controversy.

Along with other conservationists — John Wesley Powell, Gifford Pinchot, and

"Smashing acorns is not deforestation."

Bernard DeVoto — Garrett Hardin has been attacked for reminding the public of ecological necessities. With them he has shared the epithet of insensitive elitist. In John McPhee's *Encounters with the Archdruid*, David Brower explains that deep human concerns for the future are the basis for Hardin's controversial theories. Referring to the destructive impact of a growing population on the nation's limited and fragile wilderness heritage, Brower notes, "I have a friend named Garrett Hardin, who wears leg braces. I have heard him say that he would not want to be able to come to a place like this by road, and that it is enough for him just to know that these mountains exist as they are, and he hopes that they will be like this in the future."

Lowly lamb's quarters provides food and drugs

by Carl Brown

Lamb's quarters is a weed. It germinates before our crops and persists past harvest; it is a plant with which to do battle.

But lamb's quarters also has a noble side. It is both a bridge to the past and an ecological link that holds together the present. Lamb's quarters was once an important food for people throughout the West and, until recently, an irreplaceable medicine for the entire nation. It is an important resource for other forms of life as well.

Lamb's quarters is a member of the goosefoot family. It is cousin to spinach and beets, and like them, is a green vegetable high in vitamins A and C. In the Northern Rockies and Great Plains, lamb's quarters added variety to a meat-oriented diet. Native people ate it with animal fat the same way we eat spinach with bacon. Lamb's quarters was important enough to the Flathead Indians of Montana that they distinguished it from all other greens and gave it the name "sumqulet." The flavor of lamb's quarters is so unique, so enjoyable, that it has been introduced to France, where it is a popular gourmet vegetable known as "maches."

The importance of lamb's quarters as a green is insignificant when compared to its use as a food by Great Basin cultures that lived on the plateau between the Wasatch Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Compared to northern tribes, these people were protein-poor. Big game was a rare luxury. Meat came to the menu as jackrabbit, ground squirrels, reptiles, and insects — and even these were vulnerable to cycles of feast and famine. The most dependable source of protein was the seeds of lamb's quarters and of two close relatives, salt-bush and glasswort.

Seeds were harvested in specially woven baskets, ground on metates and stored like flour. This in turn, was the base for gruel and for a simple flatbread. The Gosiutes, who roamed the high desert between Great Salt Lake and eastern Nevada, harvested "kumuntsia" as they called it. In contrast, the more stationary Pueblo culture of the American Southwest assured themselves a convenient supply of lamb's quarters by cultivating it alongside their beans and corn.

Approximately 20 species of lamb's quarters grow in North America. This in-



cludes a group that secretes resin from tiny glands and hairs on its leaves and stems. Because of the rank odor of this group, it is shunned as food.

However, one species, wormseed (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*), was a valuable medicine. Wormseed is a vermifuge; it expels human roundworms and hookworms. Today, wormseed is a fairly common weed across North America. But ethnobotanists believe wormseed was introduced from Central America by Mayans fleeing from the Spanish conquest. It was passed from tribe to tribe until it was a standard medicine all the way to New England. American physicians quickly adopted wormseed as their own. From 1820 to 1960, when it was finally synthesized, oil of chenopodium was an official pharmaceutical.

Lamb's quarters is also an important wildlife food. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data, it ranks above such better known plants as wild rice, maple, willow, elderberry, and duckweed. Lamb's quarters is especially important as a winter food for songbirds. Each plant holds tens of thousands of tiny black seeds, and it holds them well into winter and high above

early snowpacks. They are a significant part of the winter diet of snow buntings, goldfinches, horned larks, Oregon juncos, several species of sparrows, and, at times, mourning doves. Up to 25% of the winter diet of white-crowned sparrows and common redpolls is lamb's quarters seeds.

Lamb's quarters seeds are also sought by chipmunks, pocket gophers, and several species of kangaroo rats. They are particularly important to two species scurrying about on opposite ends of the Rockies. The Richardson ground squirrel gathers lamb's quarters seeds on the prairies of Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas; the Merriam kangaroo rat gathers them on the desert washes of Arizona and New Mexico. All told, at least 40 species of songbirds and small mammals eat lamb's quarters.

Lamb's quarters has potential as a garden vegetable, particularly at higher elevations where it resists early frost and offers great quantities of greens weeks before spinach and beets are ready. And fight it as you may, lamb's quarters comes back. Unlike most weeds, the richer the soil, the

better lamb's quarters seems to like it.

Fortunately, lamb's quarters serves other important functions. Early in the season, when a garden looks like a desert subdivided by sticks and strings, lamb's quarters provides cover. It prevents soil and wind erosion and controls excess evaporation. Later in the season, when lamb's quarters competes with crops for space and water, it is easily pulled and either used as a green mulch or tossed into the compost pile.

Lamb's quarters is an annual. Its leaves and stems are light green. The undersides, in particular, look as if they were sprinkled with powder. Plants grow to five feet tall. Flowers are inconspicuous and held in clusters in the axils of the leaves and at the tip of the plant.

Lamb's quarters is a weed only in the sense that we don't have to strain our backs and brains to reap its benefits. More importantly, lamb's quarters is an ecological link holding together the complex world we enjoy. It is an everyday reminder that many other such links are still to be discovered.



Lamb's quarters and the white-crowned sparrow.

Drawing by Carl Brown

8-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977



Mount McKinley

U.S. Geological Survey photo

The keen observations of a bedroll scie

by Jim Scott

When naturalist Adolph Murie first passed through the gates of Mt. McKinley National Park in 1922, nine years had passed since the enormous ice mountain had first been climbed. Since the ascent the park had lain virtually untouched. Murie was awed.

The young biologist had good reason to be. The 3,030 square mile wilderness boasted the most stunning geography and wildlife of any park in North America; natural predators such as wolves, grizzly bears, wolverines, and lynx — rare or extinct in all other preserves — abounded in McKinley Park. McKinley's inaccessibility had protected its purity well; less than 60 tourists visited it that year.

As employees of the U.S. Biological Survey, Adolph and his brother Olaus (later to become a nationally-acclaimed field biologist and conservationist) spent the spring and summer in the park carrying out wildlife field research. Late in the autumn the two men headed north for the Brooks Range on a dogsled.

Adolph could never quite shake the McKinley mystique from his memory, however. Accompanied by his wife and two children, he returned to the park in the winter of 1939. Still employed as a federal biologist — now with the National Park Service — Murie had come back to study timber wolves within the park.

His family settled into a log cabin on Igloo Creek and Murie set out after the wolves. By his own account he walked,

snowshoed, and skied over 1,700 miles that year, recording his numerous encounters with McKinley's wolves and other wildlife. The end result, a book entitled *The Wolves of Mount McKinley*, is one of the most exhaustive and delightful studies of animal behavior ever written.

"The modern study of American wildlife may be said to have begun with Adolph Murie," says writer Edward Hoagland. He calls Murie among the "best of the bedroll scientists."

Murie's lifelong dedication to the preservation of the wilderness carried him from Guatemala to the Arctic Circle over the next several decades. He died in August of 1974 in Moose, Wyo., at the age of 75. Although the man is gone, his work remains a treasure for those who seek an understanding of wildlife habits.

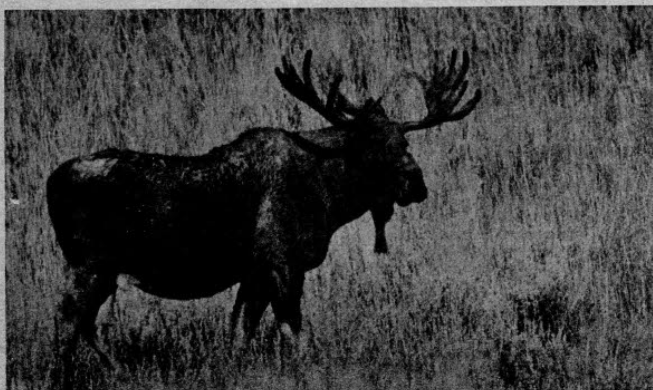
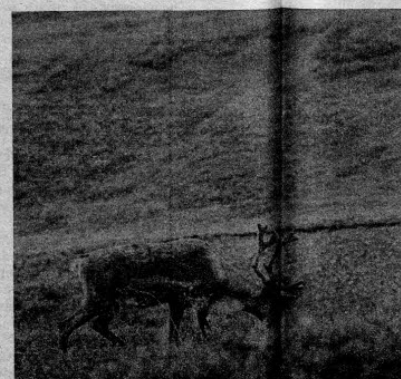


Photo courtesy of Wyoming Travel Commission

"When all the details of his appearance are assembled, the moose becomes a highly picturesque animal; and a large bull in the fall, with its spread of palmate antlers, is truly majestic."



"The wild and free white maned caribou bull, leading the eternal beauty of Alaska."

Sept. 23, 1977 — High Country News-9



Adolph Murie

oll scientist, Adolph Murie

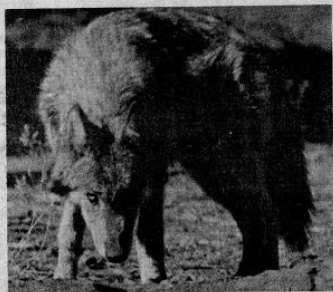


Photo by Tom Baugh

"He had no special interest in me and passed by, stopping to sniff the delicate odor of a clump of chiming bells, as though enjoying the tundra flowers — a beautiful thought — but the next moment he shamefully substituted his own scent."



Fish and Game photo by Tom Warren

"It occurs to me that no one has ever seen a small bear. All the story bears are big, and I have observed a keen ability to estimate accurately the height and the weight of a bear. This can be accomplished at surprising distances."

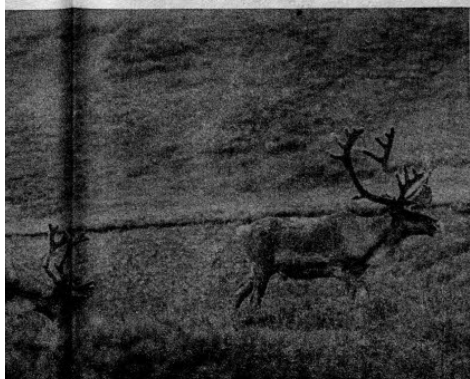


Photo by Ann and Myron Sutton

maned caribou bull, leading his herd across the tundra, symbolizes

"My bear rose up on his hind legs, and he looked big. He dropped down on all fours again and, after a long, sober look, came toward me, but only at a walk. I reversed my direction and matched his stride in, I hoped, a casual manner, taking care that I did not give him the impression that I was fleeing, or that he was chasing me, but rather that we were out for a walk together, and perhaps were going to the same blueberry patch."



Photo courtesy of Sheaffer Productions Ltd.

Picture captions are from Adolph Murie's book, *A NATURALIST IN ALASKA*

10-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977

Miners attack coal strip mining law

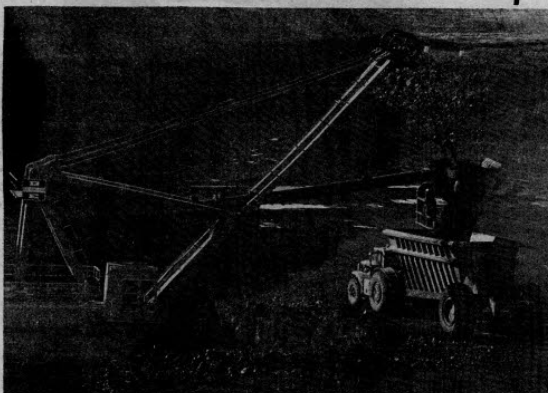


Photo by Terry Moore

STRIP MINING LAW. Details about how the new federal strip mining law will be implemented were discussed at a hearing in Denver this month. Above is the Decker mine in Montana.

With the federal strip mine bill finally voted into law, the U.S. Interior Department has published its interim regulations for coal surface mining.

At a hearing in Denver this month, mining industry representatives were highly critical of the regulations and of the law they were designed to implement. Environmental representatives seemed generally in support of the rules, although a Sierra Club spokesman called them "the minimum necessary" to fulfill the intent of the bill.

Sections requiring reclamation of mined lands and protecting the underground water system drew the most fire from industry. The law states that underground water may not be diminished in quality or quantity.

"The act does not specifically require the restoration of groundwater aquifers," said a spokesman for Cordero Mining Co. "Such

restoration is physically impossible in most cases."

Many industry representatives had more general objections to the regulations, stemming from their resentment of the bill itself. They argued that the law was strong enough to reduce or stop coal production, which is the cornerstone of U.S. energy policy.

John Garr, a spokesman for the Utah Coal Operators Association, said that it was unfair that miners were viewed as "a scourge on the land."

People seem to want protection from the mining industry, Garr said. But I think it's time to protect the mining industry from some sections of this society."

The regulations discussed in Denver and at three other meetings around the country require that a coal operator:

- restore mined land so that it can support its original use.

- restore land to its approximate original contour.

- remove topsoil and save for later use.
- minimize damage to the hydrologic balance.

- design, maintain, or remove mine waste embankments.

- control use of explosives and require certification of persons conducting blasting operations.

- provide permanent vegetative cover on affected areas.

- carry out special protective provisions relating to mountain-top removal, alluvial valley floors in the West, and prime farmlands.

The act required that interim regulations would be promulgated within 90 days of the passage of the bill. Final regulations are due within a year of passage of the act, but a state's own regulations may take precedence, provided they are at least as stringent as the federal regulations.

The proposed interim regulations were published in the *Federal Register* Sept. 7. Public comments are due Oct. 7 to the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Tribes want strip mine control

Several coal-rich Indian tribes are displeased with the federal strip mine bill as it relates to Indian lands. The law does not permit the tribes to administer and regulate strip mining on their own lands, but rather leaves it to the federal government.

Eric Metcalf, a spokesman for the Northern Cheyenne in Montana, says that the tribes will seek new legislation to give them control over mining on their lands. He says that the tribes pushed for an "Indian Lands" portion of the bill, but that it was rejected by the conference committee after passing the Senate.

Metcalf says that the amendment was dropped from the bill "without discussion," because the legislators apparently feared that there would be a jurisdictional conflict between the state of Montana and the Crow tribe over the mining on the Crow Ceded Strip. Since the tribe owns the coal, but not the surface, the conference committee decided to avoid the issue altogether and eliminate the Indian lands section of the bill.

Instead of that provision, the law mandates a study to determine the capability of tribes to administer the act on reservation lands. Metcalf says that several tribes, including the Cheyenne, Hopi, Navajo, and Crow want to set up their own codes and enforcement. Metcalf says, "We'd love to tackle it."

Now, however, the tribes must wait the outcome of the federally-mandated study, and then seek amendments to the federal law before they can get control over the mining. The study is scheduled to be completed by Jan. 1, 1978.



**The HCN
Hot Line**

energy news from across the country

SOLAR SECOND FIDDLE. The new Department of Energy's organization chart reflects a bias toward nuclear and fossil fuel technologies, according to eight Congressmen and Colorado's two Democratic Senators, Gary Hart and Floyd Haskell. The lawmakers had requested that the department include an assistant secretary for solar energy. Instead, solar energy has been placed under an assistant secretary for energy technology. The lawmakers also pointed out in a letter to energy chief James Schlesinger that a section of the organization chart lists 15 priority projects that involve coal or synthetic fuel technologies — but not solar power.

SENATE SCRAPS RATE REFORM. The Senate Energy Committee has discarded an important element of the Carter energy program, a revamping of utility rate structures to promote energy conservation. The Administration proposed barring utilities from offering cheaper power to large consumers and requiring them to offer cheaper power during times of day when demand is low. According to the Sierra Club's *National News Report*, public utilities and large industrial users of electricity have made defeat of this provision of the National Energy Act their highest legislative priority. In contrast to the Senate, the House accepted most of Carter's rate reform proposals and strengthened some of them.

CARTER LIKES ALCAN. President Jimmy Carter is supporting a natural gas pipeline that will go southeast across Alaska to Fairbanks and then parallel the Alcan Highway. The route is cheaper, less environmentally damaging, and closer to markets than the alternatives, he says. Congress has 60 days to approve or reject the President's recommendations. The National Audubon Society favors the Alcan route over an alternative that would have cut a swath through the Arctic National Wildlife Range.

GAS GUZZLER BAN. The second major element of President Jimmy Carter's comprehensive energy legislation has cleared the Senate — an energy conservation bill. It includes many energy conservation measures already approved by the House, but is stronger than the House provision on gas guzzling autos. The Senate bill bans gas guzzlers (by 1980 it would be illegal to sell a car that doesn't get at least 16 miles a gallon); the House bill merely places an energy tax on them. The Senate will consider bills on natural gas pricing, utility rate regulation, and energy taxes before the differences between the House's comprehensive bill and the Senate's five-part package can be ironed out.

WATCHING OVER STRIP REGS. Two environmental lobbyists who worked for passage of the federal strip mining bill, Carl England and John McCormack, are directing a Citizens Coal Project. The project was created to persuade the Interior Department to adopt strict interpretations of the new strip mining law, according to the Associated Press. Although the bill is very detailed, some questions remain that will be determined in the regulations — such as how much protection alluvial valleys will get.

Concerned about project deficiencies

BLM delays Warner-Allen

Apparently the burden is on industry to show that two power plant projects proposed on public lands in the West can meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Until the projects' backers come up with more information, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's decision-making process is at a halt.

Nevada Power and Light Co. is a partner in both of the proposed plants — the 500 megawatt Warner Valley plant in the southwestern corner of Utah and the 2,000 megawatt Harry Allen plant near Las Vegas, Nev. The cities of Los Angeles and St. George, Utah, are also partners in the Warner Valley project.

Because of the deficiencies found by BLM's Washington, D.C., office in the proposals for both plants, "the next step is up to the participants," says Dave Everett, team leader for the BLM's Allen-Warner Valley environmental impact statement. "We are waiting to see what actions they will take to resolve the problems."

One of BLM's major concerns about the Harry Allen plant is that 80% (or 1,600 megawatts) of the power to be generated by the plant is unallocated. Before making a decision about this plant, BLM wants to know where the power, and the transmission lines associated with it, are going.

The Warner Valley plant is facing only



one "possibly insurmountable" problem, according to Everett. BLM studies indicate that the reservoir associated with the plant might threaten the woundfin minnow, an endangered species. The Endangered Species Act prohibits a federal agency from permitting any action that would increase the risk of extinction for an endangered species.

Other project deficiencies cited by BLM include:

- Coal to fuel both plants will come from federal leases in the Alton coal field, which extends within two miles of Bryce Canyon National Park. The National Park Service is concerned about the effects of the 60,000 pounds of explosives per day that will be used to strip mine the coal.

- A proposed coal slurry pipeline to supply the Warner Valley plant would parallel the Honeymoon Trail, which has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



COAL MINED DESPITE TAX. The coal industry claims that Montana's 20-30% coal tax has discouraged mining. Nevertheless, the amount of coal mined in Montana has increased by 39% since the law was passed in 1975, according to state Sen. Tom Towe. Coal company projections indicate another 50% increase in the next two years, Towe says. Montana's tax on coal is the highest in the nation.

FEARS DEPENDENCE ON WYO. Arkansas Gov. David Pryor is concerned about his state's potential dependence on Wyoming coal to fuel its electric generating plants. "We don't have any more control of the price of Wyoming coal than we do foreign oil," he said, according to United Press International. His remarks were inspired by Arkansas Power and Light Co.'s decision to import Wyoming coal for a new plant rather than using Arkansas lignite.

CAVEAT EMPTOR. A Colorado official posing as a customer for home insulation received bids from companies in the Denver area ranging from \$300 to \$2,000 for the same job. He also found a proliferation of new, small companies with little knowledge of fireproofing techniques and quality control. The official, Philip S. Stern of the Boulder County district attorney's office, presented the findings of a year-long investigation of the insulation industry to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in August. The study was prompted by consumer complaints and reports of house fires linked to insulation.

SORRY ABOUT SERI? A recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report questions the need for the newly established Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) in Golden, Colo. The report suggests to Congress that existing facilities run by the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration could handle the government's solar energy research. Two members of Colorado's Congressional delegation Rep. Tim Wirth (D) and Sen. Gary Hart (D), attacked the report, saying that it ignores the National Academy of Science's recommendation in 1975 that solar energy research needs be met "by a single solar energy research institute with a number of relatively small field stations under its direct management."

RURAL POWER SUBSIDY. A Carter Administration task force is scrutinizing the practice of subsidizing rural power cooperatives by offering them low-interest loans. The effort may mean that Carter is trying to end or reduce the government's 40-year-old Rural Electrification Administration loan program, according to *Farmland News*. The Administration is expected to ask the rural electric cooperatives to use more of their own and private capital, a request that is bound to make rural electricity more costly.



POWER THROUGH SPANISH PEAKS. In what is considered a blow to environmentalists, the Montana Board of Natural Resources and Conservation approved two controversial power line routes at its meeting Sept. 16. One line will run along the east side of the Bitterroot Valley from Hamilton to Bonner, Mont. The other, a system of lines, will run from Gardiner to the Bozeman area to Dillon. The most hotly contested portion would serve the Big Sky ski resort in Gallatin Canyon with a line crossing the roadless Spanish Peaks area in the Madison Range.

Sept. 23, 1977 — High Country News-11

Reckoning from Washington

by Kay Coates

Major oil and natural gas companies are delighted with at least part of the Senate's first energy bill, the Coal Conversion Act — the part where they crushed an amendment to keep them from expanding their coal and uranium holdings.

Sen. Edward Kennedy's (D-Mass.) proposal to halt the purchase of coal and uranium reserves by big oil and gas companies sent a chill down the spines of every lobbyist from Exxon, Texaco, Mobil, and many other big oil companies.

Three major oil companies sent a letter to their stockholders warning them of imminent danger. Chief executives of the nation's 22 biggest oil and gas companies flew into Washington to defeat the proposal.

Kennedy's amendment, defeated 62 to 30, was viewed as the first step toward divestiture, a proposal which would force oil companies to sell holdings in coal and uranium.

In a letter sent to all members of the Senate, Kennedy said the big oil and gas companies have rapidly increased their coal and uranium holdings in the past 10 years. They now own nearly half the privately-held coal reserves and more than half of the uranium reserves.

Kennedy argued that price competition is being lost. If coal mines and oil wells were owned by competing companies, the price of both might be held down, but that's not likely when both are owned by one company, he said.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) sent a three-page letter to all the members of the Senate urging them to vote against Kennedy's amendment. Wallop said that there are enough laws on the books to insure interfuel competition. For example, the Coal Leasing Act limits the acreage that an individual or company can hold, he said.

A member of Kennedy's staff said that sooner or later the Administration would have to face the problem and act on President Jimmy Carter's campaign promise to deal with horizontal divestiture. As chairman of the Senate's antimonopoly subcommittee, Kennedy plans to push divestiture legislation later in this Congress.

As passed by the Senate, the Coal Conversion Act prohibits new power plants from using oil or natural gas. Existing power plants will not be able to use natural gas after 1990.

As part of the Coal Conversion Act, Sen. Cliff Hansen (R-Wyo.) tried to push through repeal to an amendment of the Clean Air Act.

Through the amendment Hansen would have allowed utility companies and other major coal users to purchase their coal needs anywhere they could find a seller. He lost that attempt, but the amendment was later added to the energy conservation bill and sent to conference committee.

The amendment to the Clean Air Act could cut off big markets for Wyoming coal unless Hansen's amendment gets through conference committee.

In a letter to his Senate colleagues, Hansen complained, "an industry or utility could be ordered to purchase locally or regionally produced coal despite the fact that it had a long-term contract for or could more cheaply purchase coal from distant fields."



Substitutes leasing, royalty system

Andrus proposes mining law repeal

Long considered the scourge of both environmentalists and bureaucrats, the 1872 mining law is being challenged by a bill submitted to Congress by the Carter Administration.

The bill would replace the 1872 law with a law establishing leasing and royalty systems for publicly owned hardrock minerals, including copper, lead, uranium, gold, silver, nickel, iron, and zinc. Existing law gives hardrock miners access to public lands on a first-come, first-served basis, without any federal controls.

Through the leasing process, the Administration bill would establish strict standards for protecting and reclaiming land worked by hardrock miners.

Through royalties, it would "provide a fair return to the American people for the leasing of their public lands and the sale of minerals in those lands," according to Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus.

Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) have each introduced similar legislation, but Udall recently withdrew his support from his bill, dimming conservationists' hopes for quick Congressional passage of a mining law reform bill.

At an August meeting with the Arizona Mining Association, Udall said that reform of the existing "location" system, rather than instituting a leasing system, is the best way to proceed. He plans to use the American Mining Congress bill introduced by Rep. Phillip Ruppe as a starting point.

"Without Udall's support, the Administration and Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) face an almost insurmountable task in pushing a leasing bill through Congress this year — and for the foreseeable future," says *Public Lands News*.

The Administration's proposed new law would allow the secretary of the Interior Department to issue an exclusive license to any qualified person to explore for one or more hardrock minerals on federal lands. Where lands were classified as suitable for competitive bidding, the secretary would issue exploration licenses only after competitive bidding. No person would be allowed to control exploration licenses for



HARDROCK MINING. The "location system" prescribed by the 1872 mining law has led to chaotic development and scars on the land. The photo above shows a uranium mining operation in Wyoming.

more than 5,120 acres in any one state. A license would run for five years and could be extended for another five. It could not apply to more than 1,280 acres, and would cost \$5 an acre a year.

Under the bill, a lease application to develop and produce the mineral would have to include information on the probable extent of the mineral deposit, the mining, milling, and transportation methods, and the expected environmental and social impacts of development. No person would control leases on more than 51,200 acres, and no lease could be issued without the public having an opportunity for a hearing.

A lease would require diligent development and continued operations by the operator. Annual rental for a lease would

be not less than \$25 an acre.

Royalty payments would be a minimum of two per cent of the gross value of the output of a mine.

A licensee or lessee would have to submit exploration or mining plans describing possible surface disturbance. The secretary would issue regulations to insure that prospecting, exploration, development, and production are conducted "in a manner that minimizes to the maximum extent feasible environmental damage."

The secretary could adopt state environmental regulations and standards which are as strict or stricter than federal ones, and could sign agreements with states to enforce environmental regulations and standards.

12-High Country News—Sept. 23, 1977

Mr. & Mrs. Sunshine take gospel to Wyoming

by Marjane Ambler

Charles and Frances Nations have a mission. They believe that by destroying a few myths, they can soften the chill — and the cost — of the harsh Wyoming winter.

Recently convinced that low-cost solar energy is feasible now, they're spreading this gospel to towns scattered throughout Wyoming. They started with a slide show of what individuals are doing in southern Colorado to ease their fuel bills with home-built solar devices. Later, after word of the Nationses' mission spread, they were granted funds from the Federal Energy Administration to prepare a slide show of what Wyoming inventors and experimenters were doing.

The slide show was well received at the Wyoming Governor's Conference on Energy Conservation, and many groups — including service clubs, school classes, church groups, and rancher organizations — were eager to see it. (See HCN, 2-11-77) But the Nationses soon realized that the people of Wyoming needed something more to nudge them into actually tackling their own projects.

Under the auspices of the Central Wyoming College, Charles started solar workshops, so people could take up hammers and saws and actually build collectors.

The response to the workshops proved people were ready. On the morning of the first workshop last February in Lander, the Nationses expected 20 or 30 participants, but soon there were 62. "It scared us to death," Frances said. However, among the group were several people who, although they knew little or nothing about solar energy, had building skills and could help other students. Since then the Nationses have reached 295 people with the workshops, and Charles has earned a reputation as "Mr. Sunshine" in the state's newspapers.

"People are kind of dubious when they arrive," he explains. He speculates that after reading information about solar energy published by commercial firms — and from many government publications — they have the impression that it is too complex and expensive for them now. They have little faith in their own abilities, so they sit quietly while he shows the opening slide show of what others have done.

"But when the sawing and hammering starts, they change completely," he says. They get serious — and competitive — to see who can build the most efficient air or water collector. Almost everyone pitches in. In fact, he says, one girl wouldn't pay her tuition fee until she was assured she wouldn't be forced to stand back and "watch the men do it."

"It is good to see all those people, shoulder to shoulder in their working clothes, solving the problem. Their solutions will be better than a hundred expensive ERDA (Energy Research and Development Administration) federal grants," the Riverton (Wyo.) *Range* said of the workshops in an editorial.

Charles, himself a retired Air Force technician in his 50s, says the people who show up are of all ages and interests — professors, ranchers, doctors, housewives, carpenters, students. Some have no building skills, but he teaches them the basics — how to sweat solder copper fittings, rivet sheet metal, caulk, paint, and staple on a flexible plastic covering. He supplies all the tools and is paid for his time and mileage, usually by a community college. The classes built two air collectors and two water collectors, using materials bought



INTO HOT WATER. Charles Nations built this small demonstration solar collector using a copper plate from a steam table that he and his wife, Frances, found at the county landfill. The whole thing cost about \$21, they figure, since he had to buy new plastic to cover it and handles to carry it. Within a few minutes, they were ready to serve the photographer tea from water heated in the collector. Water collectors can be used for heating water and for space heating.

from a local lumberyard to prove exotic materials aren't necessary.

After one and a half days of work, the Nationses find the participants compare efficiencies and flows like a bunch of solar energy experts. They say most of them come because they are curious or interested in lowering their fuel bills — not because they are necessarily energy conservationists. "Many of them would be shocked if they heard themselves referred to as environmentalists," Frances says.

The Nationses take delight in listening to the new solar "experts" brainstorming on what materials they could use for collectors after participants get a grasp of some of the basic concepts.

One remembers a useless sheet metal building he could use and another the hopper off a combine. One man suggested using old engine oil as a medium to move heat in the collector. "It dawned on one old gal that she could heat up her cistern full of water, which is naturally insulated by the ground around it," Charles says. He says all of these ideas could be feasible.

Both the Nationses are advocates of scrounging for "recyclable materials." Their own solar projects include treasures discovered in regular pilgrimages to the Lander landfill. A recent trip yielded a steel cot, hunks of plywood, six rabbit cages, and a steel fence post "that just needs a little straightening."

The Nationses are regularly renewed by the enthusiasm of the new solar disciples. But they say it scares them sometimes thinking what they're getting into. Just before talking with HCN, they received a call from a former workshop participant asking for help. The man had invested his time and money into building four collectors and needed advice on where to find a blower to force air through all four in a series. Charles explained to him that it

would be impossible to find a blower strong enough to force air through all the collectors and offered some alternative suggestions.

They say the risk of misunderstandings is inherent in the short workshop format. They try to avoid them by emphasizing several times to the participants that they should form solar groups and work together on small demonstration projects before tackling larger collectors. This way they can get a better grasp on what works and what doesn't before investing money into the materials to build a large collector. The Nationses also display several books and catalogs showing participants where they can write for more information.

"All you really need to construct your own solar heating device is the ability to read and write, some basic carpentry skills,

and enough guts to try it," Charles says.

While spending their time building collectors for others, they haven't had the opportunity to add one to their house in Lander yet. "Everyone asks us that, it's getting real embarrassing," Frances says. In addition to their workshop trips, the Nationses help out with repairs on HCN equipment, HCN stuffing parties, with the senior citizens' center which their daughter directs, and watch over their grandchildren when their daughter-in-law, Georgia Nations, works part-time at HCN.

Another current project is to install a big wood-burning cook stove to soften the chill of the harsh winter in their own home.

Through their efforts, however, others will have lower fuel bills. Jim Downham, who attended the Lander workshop, says that solar energy came across as something that's "very, very practical and easy to do." As a direct result of the workshop, he is insulating his own home, since Charles emphasized the importance of insulation prior to any solar improvements.



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Western Roundup

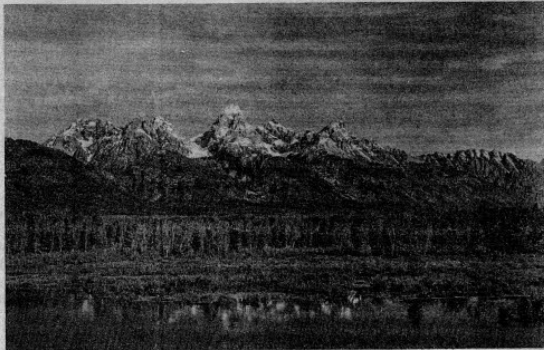


Photo courtesy of Union Pacific

SCENIC BEAUTY in Jackson Hole, Wyo., below the Grand Tetons will be preserved if Congress funds a proposed plan for scenic easements.

Teton County seeks scenic area funds

The Teton County (Wyo.) Commissioners have adopted a resolution endorsing U.S. Congressional legislation to create a Jackson Hole Scenic Area, the first such designation in the nation. The legislation will be introduced by Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) before Congress adjourns Oct. 9. The bill would appropriate \$200 million to purchase scenic easements to preserve as much open space as possible, while leaving the privately-owned lands in private ownership. The government would purchase only the development rights to a piece of

property. The easement could also be donated, with the owner receiving tax advantages, making it more economical for the owner to continue agricultural use of the land.

The major roadblock to the bill, according to the *Jackson Hole News*, is the \$200 million Congress is asked to appropriate. Though both Roncalio and Wallop like the concept of the bill, Wallop commented, "This will be a difficult bill to sell. There's no sense fooling ourselves about that."

Hearings on the bill could begin next spring.

Utah cancer up from Nev. bomb tests?

Fallout from nuclear testing in Nevada years ago may have resulted in dramatic increases in cancer in residents of five southern Utah counties. A 1970 study uncovered by the *Deseret News* shows that leukemia deaths in that region over a 20-year period were nearly twice the state and national averages in the counties downwind from the nuclear testing carried out in the 1950s.

As a result of the study's publication, several Utah cancer experts contacted by the *News* requested a new study be conducted to determine the correlation between the testing and increased leukemia incidence in the area. The doctors pointed out, however, that because the population of the region is so small, only one or two cases could easily push the death rates for the county over the national average.

Sierrans sue to clean up canyon

The banks of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon are dirty, noisy, and stripped of vegetation in popular camping spots, the Sierra Club says.

The club filed suit Sept. 19 in U.S. District Court in Arizona against the National Park Service's management of commercial river running on the Colorado inside Grand Canyon National Park.

"The issue is not stopping river running," says Ed Hawkins, chairman of the club's Grand Canyon Chapter. "Rather it is, ultimately, what kind of river and environment we will have to enjoy. The increasing environmental degradation must be remedied by immediate changes in the present nature of operations permitted on the river."

Through the suit, the club hopes to toughen existing river running rules. It is asking that the Park Service control random patterns of foot travel through trails, signs, and other methods; eliminate motorized trips; disperse camping to less

popular sites; and require commercial trips to carry their human wastes out of the canyon.

The club alleges that the Park Service, by failing to carefully manage use of the river, is violating its statutory duties and trust obligations to protect the country's parks. The club also charges that the contracts and permits renewed by the Park Service with river running companies this spring should have been accompanied with an environmental impact statement under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

As evidence of serious problems in the canyon, the Sierra Club's formal complaint cites a document produced by the Colorado River Research Project, which was sponsored by the Park Service.

"All phases of this research project show that irreversible physical and ecological changes are occurring as a result of the present visitor use levels and patterns along the Colorado River," the research project report states.

House enacts new wilderness legislation

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977 by a vote of 380 to 18. The new wilderness areas created by the bill total 1.7 million acres, drawn from 56 million acres of largely roadless areas that were not included in the original 1964 wilderness act.

Under the House bill, the areas that would be included in the wilderness system in the West are: Montana, Welcome Creek, 28,400 acres in the Lolo National Forest; Wyoming, Savage Run, 15,000 acres in the Medicine Bow National Forest; Colorado, Hunter-Fryingpan, 67,000 acres near Aspen, Colo.; New Mexico, Manzano

Mountain, 37,000 acres near Albuquerque. Sandia Mountain, 31,000 acres, and Chama River Canyon, 50,300 acres; Utah, Lone Peak, 30,000 acres near Salt Lake City.

On the Pacific Coast, California would have three new wilderness areas designated, totaling 262,000 acres, and Oregon would get four new areas, totaling about 515,000 acres.

Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.), floor manager of the bill in the House, pointed out that over 600,000 acres of land had been eliminated from the bill, in response to the concerns of the timber and mineral industries. The legislation will now be considered by the Senate.

Drought forces Idaho range closures

Idaho rangeland near Boise has been so affected by the drought that large amounts of the public land have been closed to grazing. The Boise Bureau of Land Management district ranger estimates that two million acres of the district's 5.5 million grazing acres are affected, though not all of that acreage will be closed.

So far, about 300,000 acres have been closed south of the Snake River and west of

Twin Falls. But, says district manager Dean Bibbes, "It looks like the whole Saylor Creek unit (640,000 acres) will have to be closed," according to the *Idaho Statesman*.

The result of the closures is that ranchers are being forced to sell their cattle early. In July, for example, 56,000 head were slaughtered, compared with 45,000 during July, 1976, an increase of 24%.



Photo by Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

GOLDEN EAGLE with rabbit prey. Eagles and other raptors are being accidentally caught in game traps in North Dakota.

Raptors trapped accidentally in N.D.

The accidental ensnaring of raptors in game traps is a growing controversy in North Dakota. In a report prepared for the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, there were 38 cases reported of log-hold trapped raptors between October 1975 and January 1976, and 46 raptors caught between October 1976 and January 1977. These accidental captives included a total of 55 golden eagles and 12 bald eagles.

To address the problem, the North Dakota Audubon Society suggested that a rule be included in the 1977 trapping proclamation prohibiting the placing of traps nearer than 30 feet from exposed bait. N.D. Game and Fish Commissioner Russell Stuart added the regulation, but Gov. Ar-

thur Link refused to sign it, saying that he had not heard of the change and wouldn't approve it until there had been discussion.

Stuart said later that he had told Audubon that while he would include the rule, he never promised to support it. The *Bismarck Tribune* quotes Stuart saying, "There's no way to enforce it (the 30 foot requirement). There's no reason to put laws and regulations on the books that defy enforcement."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent Joel Scrafford said he would urge the U.S. attorney to go to federal court to prevent a trapping season from beginning if the birds were not protected, as required by the Endangered Species Act.

14-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977



HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Some say we're on the same boat,
Each human and turkey and goat.
Were it not for our greed
We'd have all we need.
As it is, we're not sure we can float.

LAND USE PLANNING

The 9th Annual Statewide Land Use Symposium will be held in Albuquerque, N.M., on Oct. 27 and 28. The main topic of the meeting will be "Drought: Our Heritage," and discussion will center around controversies about the use of water. For more information and registration contact Mally Ribe, Chairman, 1053 Governor Dempsey Drive, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.



CLEAN AIR WORKSHOPS

Clean air workshops are scheduled at four Western cities to help individuals understand how to put the new Clean Air Act amendments to work protecting their air. The workshops will be held Oct. 7 at the Central Clearinghouse in Santa Fe, N.M. (contact Brant Calkin at (505) 982-4349 for time); Oct. 8 at Salt Lake City, Utah (contact Mary Belle Bloch at (801) 753-3985 for time and place); Oct. 9 at Billings, Mont. (contact Pat Sweeney at (406) 248-1154 for time and place); and Oct. 10 at the Denver Botanical Gardens at 7 p.m. (contact Kevin Markey at (303) 321-6588). Rafe Pomerance from the National Clean Air Coalition and a representative of the House or Senate staff will give the workshops.

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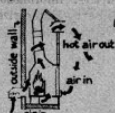
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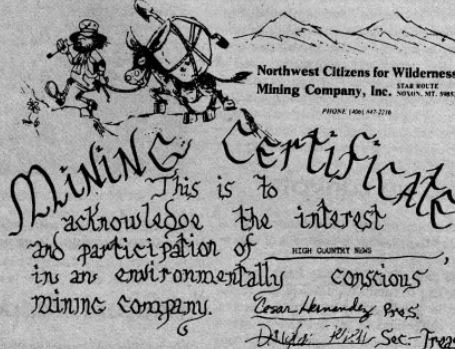
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Thank you for your help so far. Our victories are slowly mounting. Our legal contest with American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) has been decided in our favor! A battle won but not the war. ASARCO was claim jumping on our mining claims in the Scotchman's Peak Wilderness Study Area.

Another contest is pending over a decision by the Bureau of Land Management. For this and other fights sure to arise, the company is offering the above mining certificates for sale. Cost is \$5 each. The certificates are non-voting, non-revenue-producing. Join us in our pick and shovel attempt at mining with an environmental conscience.

For a certificate, write to Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining Company, Inc., Star Route, Noxon, Mont. 59853. Thank you.

NCWMC was incorporated for the purpose of engaging in mining activities in potential or designated wilderness areas in such a fashion that their wilderness character remains unaltered.

MAJOR NORTHWEST OVERHAUL

What the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has described as "a major overhaul" of the Northwest's power system will be discussed at a public meeting in Boise Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Rodeway Inn. The meeting is one of 28 scheduled by BPA in conjunction with the agency's environmental impact statement on the future role of BPA. The impact statement will help plan the Northwest's energy system for the next 20 to 30 years.

ALASKA CRANE RESEARCH

Researchers from the University of Alaska's Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit are attempting to trace the migration route of the sandhill cranes from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. Researchers have banded 125 birds with yellow collars and leg bands with black numbers. Anyone sighting one of the banded cranes is requested to note the date and location, the leg on which the bird is banded and, if possible, the number on the collar band. Then, contact Cheryl Boise, Wildlife Research Unit, 209 Irving Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Tel: (907) 479-7673 or 479-7178.

SOLAR LOGO CONTEST

The Colorado Solar Energy Association (CSEA) is having a graphic design contest for an official CSEA logo to be used on stationery, newsletters, and other printed materials. The winner will get a five-year honorary membership in CSEA (worth \$50), including the monthly newsletter, announcements of meetings, and discounts on workshops and publications. All entries should be received by Oct. 17 by Greg Franta, Box 3102, Aspen, Colo. 81611.

FOREST SERVICE PLANNING GUIDES

The comment period on preliminary area-wide plans to guide Forest Service management has been extended to Oct. 30. The preliminary guides propose Forest Service program direction for three broad geographic areas — the Central Rockies, the Southern Rockies, and the Great Plains. Copies of the guides can be obtained from Regional Forester, 11177 W. 8th Ave., P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, Colo. 80225. Comments should be sent to the same address.

IDAHO WILDLIFE CONFERENCES

Five regional conferences on wildlife have been set in Idaho beginning in September. The meetings are the offshoot of a statewide conference on the theme "Wildlife Tomorrow" held in Boise last Spring, which discussed the future of the state's wildlife resources. The regional conferences will follow up on the work begun at the initial meeting. They begin Sept. 24 in Lewiston on the Lewis-Clark State College campus. Others will follow Oct. 8 in Coeur d'Alene at the North Idaho College; Oct. 21 in Boise at the Rodeway Inn; Oct. 27 in Pocatello at Idaho State University; Nov. 12 in Idaho Falls at a site yet to be chosen; and Nov. 19 in Twin Falls at the College of Southern Idaho.

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MAGPIES ARE SO "HUMAN"

by Myra Connell

Readers of this column, assuming there are any, may be startled by the title. However, magpies resemble people in numerous ways.

The Corvidae — jays, crows, ravens, and magpies — are sometimes placed at the top of the birds' evolutionary scale. They have the greatest brain development of any family of birds, and some of their behavior shows remarkable intellect.

For example, in providing shelter for the family the magpie couple follows much the same pattern as human parents. They choose the safest place to be found, preferably an impenetrable mass of thorny brush. Human families, too, like a safe abode, guarded all round about by army, navy, and marine corps.

The magpie's house is constructed with



extreme care: the base and outer walls are of heavy material; inside the base, a cup of mud is held together with vegetation. Both front and back doors are provided, plus a dome-shaped roof over their heads. The cradle is softly lined, often with rabbit fur — "a rabbit skin to wrap the baby magpie in."

Magpies are believed to mate for life, a custom that human beings sometimes observe also.

Consider the basic necessity, food. Magpies are omnivorous eaters, enjoying fruit, grain, seeds, grasshoppers, and caterpillars, but like many people, much preferring meat. For this reason they are frequently seen feeding on the dead rabbits and other creatures slaughtered on the highways.

Magpies, like humans, are adaptable, resourceful creatures. If they were not, they could never have survived the organized campaigns that have slain many thousands of them. But the enmity of man has failed to decrease their numbers. And like people, they are opportunists, taking advantage in every way they can. No doubt they instinctively ate eggs of other birds from time immemorial, but robbing the homesteader's chicken house had to be learned. Members of the Lewis and Clark expedition related incidents of magpies in-

vading their tents, snatching meat from the dishes.

Like people, magpies are highly vocal and garrulous. They carry on conversations among themselves with a wide variety of notes and accents and scold in unmistakable manner when annoyed. Long ago, a neighbor of ours tamed a young one for a pet and taught it to say "Hello, Myra," so plainly that it was uncanny.

If some of the foregoing seems incredible, the following will seem more so. Magpies conduct funeral services for their dead. I can vouch for one incident.

A magpie had been killed and its body tossed in the grass near a big cottonwood. Soon the tree was swarming with magpies,

Sept. 23, 1977 — High Country News-15

squawking, gabbling, and chattering in great excitement. After a little while, one flew to the ground near the deceased and gave a little speech while the audience in the tree listened; then he flew back to his seat. One after another single birds flew to the ground and had their say, (praising the good deeds of their fellow magpie?). This went on for some time, then after more vocalizing in unison the entire flock flew off, leaving the departed to the elements.

In his book *Song and Garden Birds of North America*, Alexander Wetmore says that magpies "are to be lived with, understood and appreciated. What our American outdoors would be like without their vitality, I cannot imagine."

I wonder if the magpies feel that way about us!

DISTAFF CORNER

Classifieds

THE COLORADO CONSERVATION FUND, a newly established non-profit organization, seeks a full-time executive director to be responsible for the development and implementation of fund raising programs for a wide variety of environmental concerns. Applicants must demonstrate a degree of experience in the development and implementation of such programs, a high degree of initiative, judgment and imagination, skill and interpersonal relations, and commitment to environmental activities. Salary: \$12,000 to \$15,000. Submit application letter, resume, and references to: Colorado Conservation Fund, 2239 East Colfax, Denver, CO 80206.

"CANYON COUNTRY HIKING AND NATURAL HISTORY." Barnes. 176 pages, illustrated. \$3.95ppd. Hiking trails and routes in southeastern Utah. F. A. Barnes, Box 963, Moab, Utah 84532.

ALTERNATE ENERGY EXPO 77 will be held at Expo Square in Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 11, 12, & 13, 1977. The Expo will be a people centered event geared to educate all of us on ways to improve our lives and our environment. It will present the latest innovations in the fields of solar, wind, wood, methane, etc. The expo will also focus on conservation of energy, health, ecology, education, wilderness skills & much more. This exposition will be the largest of its kind ever held in the Midwest, with over 200 display booths and parking facilities for 25,000 cars. For further information, contact Ron Surface, Liberty Enterprises, Inc. 7729 E. 21st., Tulsa, Okla. 74129 918-663-2291.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program at University of Northern Colorado.

To be considered an applicant or candidate, the following minimum qualifications and experience must be demonstrated or documented: Involvement with and concern for the welfare of the environment; environmentalist with an earned doctorate or evidence of substantial progress toward doctorate of an interdisciplinary nature combining the social and natural sciences; experience in the development and coordination of environmental studies programs of an interdisciplinary nature is preferred; experience in working with community agencies and professional organizations; teaching experience is preferred.

Instructional responsibility will include development and teaching of introductory and advanced courses in environmental studies and advising minors and interdisciplinary majors in environmental studies. Administrative responsibilities will include overall coordination for the Environmental Studies Committee, development and supervision of the internship program, and serving as liaison with community-based organizations.

Starting date is January 1, 1978. Salary from \$11,780 to \$12,400. The university partially pays for health and life insurance premiums as well as contributing to the retirement program. Contact Mr. Paul Richard, Fraiser Hall, P.O. Box 43, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colo. 80639. Deadline is November 11, 1977. An equal opportunity affirmative action employer.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

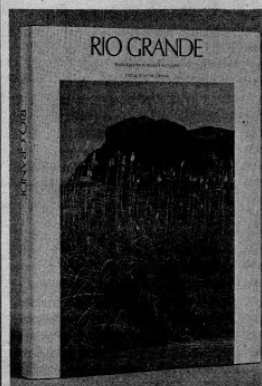
RECYCLED AUTOS are being considered by the Oregon state legislature, proposing a \$100 refundable deposit on all new vehicles. Environmental Action reports that Americans discard 6.5 million cars annually, each averaging 3,300 pounds containing 2,475 pounds of steel.

AG LAND TRUST DILUTED. A plan to invest corporate monies in agricultural land is being reviewed by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. officials. The firm originally planned to purchase contiguous tracts and farm them on a large scale, cutting small farmers out of competition. The new program allows for Merrill Lynch to lease land to young farmers and provide funds for investment in expensive farm machinery.

AGENT ORANGE TO BURN. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved a request by the U.S. Air Force to incinerate at sea the herbicide "Agent Orange." The burning will be conducted aboard a special incinerator ship in an isolated spot in the Pacific Ocean. Approval was extended after the U.S. Air Force conducted a successful test burn in July.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT is stirring up controversy among some legislators, especially when it threatens projects planned in their districts. Construction on the Tellico dam in Tennessee, for example, was ordered stopped to save the small snail darter. U.S. Rep. Robin Beard (R-Tenn.) has co-authored a bill providing more flexibility in the law to preserve dam projects already underway. But most members of Congress show little enthusiasm for changing the act, since changes would require an almost case-by-case approach, according to Land Use Planning Reports.

FILTHY FIVE. Paper mills, steel blast furnaces, chemical factories, oil refineries, and electric power plants together account for 63% of all industrial facilities violating federal clean water laws, according to a national group called Environmental Action. The group has dubbed these industries "the Filthy Five" not only because of their pollution, but because they are lobbying in Congress "to make dirty water a permanent U.S. policy." The Filthy Five can be stopped, according to the group, "but it will take a real outcry from the American people."



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Charles Belding and his Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company of Portland, Ore. have generously allowed High Country News to have all the retail profits from the sales of the book described here.

16-High Country News — Sept. 23, 1977

HCN Books

Beyond Repair The Ecology of Capitalism by Barry Weisberg

Beacon Press, 1971

Review by Mike Jakubcin

As an independent observer following the development of the environmental movement in the U.S., I've wondered at how its various thinkers could continue to ignore the larger social implications of what they are saying about our physical environment. Now, after reading this book by Barry Weisberg, I realize that they have apparently ignored at least one direct challenge to their strategies. Published six years ago, the book stands as one of the most carefully written, radically conceived approaches to protecting the environment in this country.

After describing the spiritual values giving rise to the current environmental crisis in Western civilization, Weisberg moves to an eye-opening discussion of the early "conservation" movement, which he sees as having been part of a "larger, more fundamental event, the economic consolidation of private capital through public means." In supporting this view, he relies heavily on Samuel Hays's *Conservation*

and the Gospel of Efficiency. According to Hays, conservation in its early stages was concerned with progress through better management rather than with a proper balance physically and socially.

Weisberg sees contemporary conservation groups as a direct reflection of this earlier period. As such, "they are without exception white, affluent, and professional in orientation, resembling something more of an elite outdoor club than a movement for social change." They "view problems in the defensive, seeking most often to repair damage already done, rather than eliminating the source of that threat. Their actions are fragmented, attacking isolated problems and situations rather than complex patterns of social and political behavior which are the source of all particulars."

While to some extent the latter description is not so accurate as it was in 1971, I still see little inclination on the part of environmental groups to get at the fundamental causes of the problems they combat. Obviously, they are not concerned with the radical social transformation which Weisberg feels is essential.

That such deep, fundamental change is necessary is the main thrust of the book. In a fairly detailed examination of the U.S. economy, attention is focused on the automobile and petroleum industries, which Weisberg regards as "the most dominant influence upon, and the most cohesive element of the American economy." In his opinion, the issue is ultimately one of control and decision-making. From the ample presentation of data, it is not difficult to understand how thoroughly the executives of large corporations control the paths of development in the U.S. and internationally.

This is not a matter of pollution control devices and air bags, but rather one of total systems. "A diversified transport system will not be developed unless the forces that prohibit it, such as the military, the Big

Four, and Boeing, are fundamentally altered or eliminated," he says. To improve our transport system adequately, decentralization is necessary, and yet, as Weisberg sees it, the existing urban arrangements are "the inevitable consequence of the capitalist mode of accumulation."

To counteract this mode requires not "national superplans" but increasing local political autonomy. The fact that the U.S. has been so slow in developing the various clean, renewable energy sources Weisberg attributes to the political controls exerted by the oil industry.

Weisberg's data is quite clear and supportive of his conclusions; some of his related detail is downright tasty. An outstanding example is his sketch of Robert O. Anderson, chairman of the board of Atlantic Richfield, in which it is noted that among Anderson's myriad activities was his role as "chief financial backer for David Brower's John Muir Institute and the Friends of the Earth."

In addition to his analysis of the economic power structure, Weisberg clarifies some of the arguments and relationships which often tend to cloud one's

socialist development." Indeed, he promises a future work examining the "ecology of socialism."

Fortunately, his belief in the efficacy of socialism is not for the heavily centralized, hierarchic forms so familiar in Europe. Rather, he hopes change will occur in this country through self-reliance, diversification, decentralization, and self-determination. He cites as harbingers of such a movement the proliferation of "communes, collectives, food co-operatives, craft guilds, and rural-urban collectives" as well as "the growth of community development corporations... and a variety of community and neighborhood organizations."

Always the realist, Weisberg states, "There is no way to transform the required productive capacity of the United States in order to provide for basic services without presenting a challenge to the organized mechanisms of centralization which determine productive priorities." He also understands that it will not be sufficient for some of us to go off in our own corners, "For no matter what autonomy a local community may achieve in regard to services... as long as a productive apparatus exists which continues to produce anything like the present level of commodities... the biological balance of all people and all living communities will be threatened."

In reviewing this book, I have emphasized the author's criticism of environmental groups. Weisberg sees serious environmental problems, as most environmentalists do, but he perceives the causes more deeply and holistically.

Such insight demands wider-ranging action to remedy the problems, and perhaps environmentalists feel such action is outside their proper realm. It is not. The environmentalist perspective needs to be broadened, so as to be able to join forces with movements that are contending with other facets of the same economic, social, and political structure.



understanding of the economy. He spends considerable time refuting the argument of the "population bombers" that the individual is responsible for the environmental crises, that "we have met the enemy and he is us." Weisberg says that the growth in per capita consumption of energy is far more significant than absolute increase in population as a factor in accelerating resource exhaustion, and that such per capita increases are the responsibility much more of the affluent than of the poor. Population growth and imbalance today is not the cause of current environmental problems, but a manifestation of them, all of which have their roots in social imbalance.

In his final chapter, "The Conditions of Liberation," Weisberg describes briefly the manner in which agricultural and industrial productivity have grown in balance with the capacities of the natural environment in the Soviet Union, China, and North Korea. While he acknowledges shortcomings in these socialist societies, he feels the heavy anti-communist sentiment in the U.S. has blinded us to their productive achievements. In describing conditions in these countries, Weisberg hopes to "illustrate the basic ecological stability of

Dear Friends

In this issue, we've included two conflicting viewpoints that we found stimulating. We hope you do, too. While the questions they deal with are global in scope, they relate directly to some of the changes this region is experiencing.

On the one hand (page 1), there's Garrett Hardin telling us that overpopulation is the root of the world's trouble and that the way to solve it is through limiting people's freedom to reproduce.

On the other (page 16) we have Barry Weisberg refuting what he calls the "population bombers." He contends that population is not the problem — that social imbalance caused by capitalism is. He says the answer is decentralization, diversification, self-reliance — a kind of community-centered socialism.

Hardin, we've been told, is a very controversial figure even among the population activists because of the extreme solutions he proposes. We find it impossible to argue with his basic premise — the lifeboat (Earth) is indeed finite. Our resources can't be stretched beyond certain limits, despite the improvements in technology. The population push to the West now is reminding us of the limits of water, for example, even in the wide open spaces.

We also agree with Hardin that regulations become more and more necessary as the population increases. We can't depend upon voluntary restraints any more but must enact land use planning, care-

fully allocate our limited water, and even ration our wilderness. "Mutual coercion, mutually agreed upon," Hardin says. We can't endorse all his proposed solutions, however.

Weisberg disagrees with Hardin's focus on the population problem. He says the way to find ecological stability is through a kind of "small-is-beautiful" socialism. This, he asserts, would lead to less per capita consumption. In effect, it would allow more people to live on the lifeboat in harmony. At the same time it would benefit some of the rich passengers who are now filling their tables with fat-loaded protein and dying from gluttony, otherwise known as high blood pressure.

Weisberg despaired in his book about the environmental movement's focus on the symptom — various forms of pollution — rather than on what he considers the more basic social and economic issues. We would assume from reading the book review that he would have been reassured recently by seeing the growing number of disciples of Amory Lovins and the late E. F. Schumacher. Environmentalists have been their staunchest supporters. While Lovins and Schumacher may not advocate as drastic a political change at the national level as Weisberg would like, they do preach the self-reliance, decentralization, and diversification that Weisberg espouses.

—the editors

In The News

Garrett Hardin population theorist.	1
Flathead River transboundary trauma.	1
Utah office closed UEC board too diverse?	5
Victory in N.D. LJC nixes Garrison.	5
The Nationses sharing sunshine.	12

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