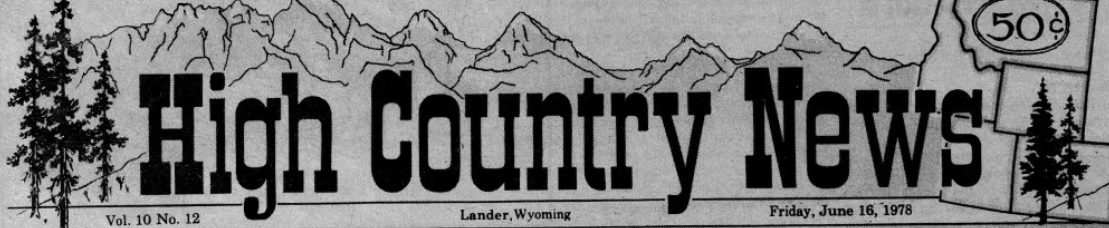


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The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies and Great Plains



Vol. 10 No. 12

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, June 16, 1978

Lame ducks and a question mark lead Wyoming

by Dan Whipple

Wyoming may be the only state in the Union where nearly everyone calls the congressman and senators by their first names. It is a large state with a small population and a tradition of personal contact politics. Rep. Roncalio (D) is "Teno," Sen. Hansen (R) "Cliff," and Sen. Wallop (R) "Malcolm."

Wyoming is a conservative state and its delegation, particularly its senators, reflects it. But it is also a state that recognizes that "conservative" and "conservation" are words originating from the same root, and that a conservative philosophy does not necessarily indicate a lack of concern for the environment.

Roncalio and Hansen are retiring from Congress at the end of the year. Wallop has four years remaining in his term. Wallop was elected with strong environmental support, but environmentalists are now saying that Wallop's performance in office has not fulfilled the promises he made while campaigning.

Wallop, a Republican, was a maverick in the state legislature, who frequently led

fight for environmental protection. He was elected to the Senate in 1976, defeating incumbent Gale McGee. Environmentalists were solidly behind Wallop based on his record in the state, and the *Casper Star-Tribune* attributed about 5,000 pro-Wallop votes and a number of campaign workers to this support.

While Wallop's environmental record in the Senate has been disappointing to many Wyoming environmentalists, they are reluctant to criticize too harshly in public. One says, "We don't want to come down too hard on him, because we know that we have to work with him for at least four more years. And, we have hopes that he will come around."

Wallop's most criticized stances have involved the Clean Air Act. Ron Rudolph, an energy consultant for Friends of the Earth in San Francisco who was very active in the Clean Air controversy, says, "His record during the Clean Air vote was abominable."

During committee discussions of the legislation, Wallop introduced an amend-

ment that would have allowed significant amounts of air pollution in the national parks and wilderness preservation systems. The amendment, vigorously opposed by environmental groups, was withdrawn at the request of the Public Works Committee, Rudolph says.

In addition, Wallop supported the weakening of tailpipe emissions standards for automobiles.

Finally, he opposed the provision for Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for all power plants, regardless of the sulfur content of the coal used. This provision, which will require expensive sulfur dioxide scrubbers on all new plants, was approved in the final legislation.

Wallop told the American Mining Congress last year that the requirement "eliminates the economic incentives to burn and thus mine or develop more low-sulfur coal," of which Wyoming is a major producer. Since state environmentalists feel that coal development poses a major threat to the state, they are upset with Wallop over this stand.

Wallop says his position is misunderstood. He says, "The clean air legislation

(continued on page 4)



Photo by Mt. States News Service
SEN. CLIFF HANSEN, retiring from politics, was not all that environmentalists wanted, but at least they could talk to him.



NCAT gives help, gets criticism

by Joan Nice

The National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Mont., is pushing projects that don't seem controversial — solar heaters, wood stoves, windmills, greenhouses, fish farms and compost heaps.

But after only about a year in operation, the center is being criticized by other public interest groups, utilities, and the federal government. Some members of the NCAT staff say the group also is disliked by nuclear and coal companies. Most observers inside and outside of NCAT say that problems have been primarily administrative ones: NCAT mushroomed into existence and has been nearly devoured by a public hungry for its grants. It didn't have the leadership or experience to deliver what it promised, they say.

"They haven't done enough yet to make industry mad at them. They're just insecure," says a Montana environmentalist.

Other observers blame the U.S. Community Services Administration for some of NCAT's problems. NCAT, a private corporation with a budget of \$3.8 million last

year, nearly shut down during March, April and May because no action had been taken on its second-year funding proposal. By June 1 renewed funding from CSA was assured, but at a lower level — \$3.303 million — than NCAT wanted.

Another sign of trouble was the firing of NCAT's executive coordinator, Jim

(continued on page 6)

The Supreme Court rules that endangered species have "the highest priority," and blocks the Tellico dam. Story on page 10.



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HCN
Letters

DESPERATE NEED

Dear HCN,

Utah is in desperate need of a conservationist in the state and federal governments. There is too much here to let things happen like Kaiparowits, IPP, CUP, etc. Our Utah delegation is selling Utah out from underneath us, and there is nothing that a citizen can do about this. Voting doesn't count because there are too many people who vote for someone because of his religious views.

Thank you for making more people aware of this with Joan Nice's article on Utah's delegation.

Annette Edginton
 Salt Lake City, Utah

SHEEP'S PLACE

Dear Editor:

After reading the letters section of the 1-13-78 issue of HCN, I am compelled to write to you about the Frank Cox, of Moab, Utah, "Mutton, Wool, Unnecessary" letter.

In our modern days, sheep may have a purpose in the natural role of wild things — supplanting the natural foods produced from pre-Caucasian lands which are now fully occupied or "improved" by human bipeds. While the average shepherd may be unconscious of the fact, in the larger scope of things, sheep may well be designed by nature for a predator's lunch.

The supreme predator — the human — may have some, little, or no use for sheep. Us humans are capable of predatory choice through intelligence and our socio-economic environment. At present, in our nation, our interest in sheep has declined in favor of imported or alternative products produced less expensively elsewhere.

Perhaps future energy costs for the alternatives may renew our domestic interest in sheep. In any case, production of edible or wearable products from low value shrubs (renewable resources) by low energy consumption means means sheep and a shepherd can't be 100% wrong. Perhaps it's our system of managing sheep that's unacceptable.

Xanthium Charlie
 Salmon, Idaho

NOT JUST COSTS

Dear HCN,

Thanks for another thoughtful article ("Insulation Push," 21 April) digging beyond the surface of the energy-insulation mythology.

McGrew's debunking of over-insulation comes as old news to anyone who's been fiddling with the energy costs of homes for a while. He's right — but don't get carried away in the other direction, either.

The important point is that energy efficiency takes real analysis, not blanket application of standard solutions. I'm sure McGrew agrees. So beware of creating a "new, correct" standard.

Computing the economic benefits of insulation is more difficult than most construction calculations. The rules for figuring how strong a floor should be are standardized and accepted, and they don't change with time (until the owner installs a waterbed). But the value of insulation

depends on the costs of energy for many years in the future — and on the premium a future home-buyer may be willing to pay for a well-insulated home (since the average home is sold every five years or so).

Even in Jackson's Hole, Wyo., insulating to R-30 is of doubtful value now, but as power costs rise to double or triple present levels (still below the national average), the cost of extra insulation will be repaid. If you've sold the house, though, you may not care.

I agree with McGrew that cost-effectiveness is a good way to measure the value of insulation, along with solar energy and other conservation measures. But we don't have any way of accounting for the use of non-renewable resources in our present cost system. What's needed is not government standards requiring 6 or 10 inches of insulation, but a means for including the cost of exhausting non-renewable energy sources in our equations. Perhaps a system of taxation based on the scarcity of each resource would correct the balance.

Difficult questions. Thanks to you for helping us all to look beyond the simple answers.

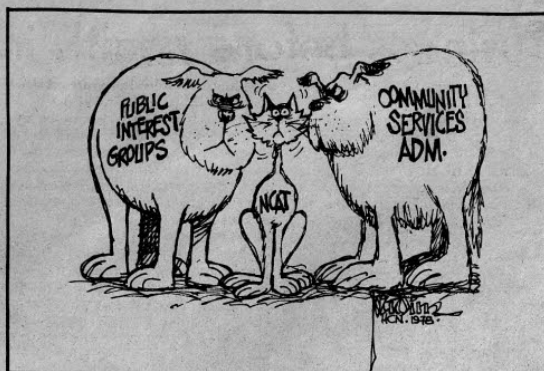
Phil Hocker, architect
 Wilson, Wyo.

NO MIRACLE WORKER

Dear HCN,

Dick Carter is no miracle worker (HCN 5-5-78, p. 1). He stumbles around groping like all of the other hard working and committed environmentalists in Zion!

The successes so far in Utah, including Lone Peak, which is only one of the significant changes in the way our elected and government agency officials are looking at the uses of land, have resulted not from one or even ten individual voices. Utahns are learning that we can have an impact on natural resource decision-making processes, particularly when the voice is a strong,



vocal and coalesced voice.

The Utah delegation and governor have surprised many folks with their favorable views on some environmental issues. The problem, however, has been inconsistency. Senator Jake Garn supported a Lone Peak Wilderness and over the last few weeks has indicated support for a High Uintas wilderness and is supporting 92% of Canyonlands as wilderness. On the other hand, the senator has introduced a bill to sell federal public lands to the state.

Congressman Dan Marriott opposed H.R. 39 (Alaska National Interest Lands) in the interior committee because of "too many unresolved questions concerning the large amount of wilderness. . . ."

Congressman Gunn McKay pushed hard for the unnecessary paving and construction of the Big Spring Bridge in Canyonlands National Park. Congressman McKay also has maintained that any area under oil and gas lease, even though it is roadless and also contains high wilderness values, should not even be considered for wilderness.

These men, however, are not closed to wilderness. And with the continued

dialogue and professionalism in the environmental movement in Utah great results can be achieved. Not miracles. Hard work and committed Utahns must continue their advocacy.

Dick Carter
 The Wilderness Society
 Salt Lake City, Utah

MORE, PLEASE

Dear High Country-ers,

This is a brief appendix to the questionnaire I returned last week. Please, please keep publishing more stuff like "God Bless America, Let's Save Some of It," by Edward Abbey (May 19, 1978). Thank you.

Joan Nehring
 Canon City, Colo.

HCN T-SHIRTS

\$5.00 Silk-screened by hand to give a quality impression. T-shirts are 100% cotton. Order your exact size; shirts are a little large to allow for shrinkage. (Eagle motif is from an original drawing by Carol Snow.) When you buy an HCN T-shirt, you help out the paper financially and you'll help spread the word around too.

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HELIOPHAGOUS

The sea's chain of life begins with phytoplankton. These minute plants convert the sun's radiant energy into carbohydrates. Zooplankton (small animals) eat the phytoplankton, which are fed upon by larger crustaceans and fish, and these feed man. Thus man can be called heliophagous or "sun eating".

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Business before health in Salt Lake

by Justus Bavarskis

Three years ago, the now defunct Energy Research and Development Administration picked the consulting firm of Ford, Bacon and Davis, Utah, Inc., of Salt Lake City, to assess the hazards posed by abandoned uranium tailings piles, most of them in the Rocky Mountains. As part of its work, the company compiled a cost-benefit analysis.

It concluded, for example, that it would cost \$8.6 million to haul the Vitro pile from near downtown Salt Lake City to a proposed airport expansion and use the tailings as fill. That option, the firm said, would save almost 0.2 lives in 25 years for every million dollars spent. It presented other options, ranging from \$550,000 for doing very little to \$30 million for burying the pile in the desert 90 miles from the city. Each option would save so many lives for so many dollars.

Ford, Bacon and Davis, in effect, was inviting the federal government to set a dollars and cents figure on the value of human life.

The Salt Lake City-County Board of Health now has gone Ford, Bacon and Davis one better. While openly acknowledging that the Vitro pile is a health hazard that grows more hazardous as one gets closer to it and its radon emissions, the board nonetheless has voted to allow buildings to move closer to the leftovers from the nuclear weapons program. The action cuts the construction moratorium around the pile in half — from four-tenths of a mile to 350 yards.

There can be little argument with the board's position that, since the federal government was responsible for the pile in the

first place, the federal government should take the lead in getting rid of it.

There is some validity, too, to the argument that the federal government does appear, after 15 years of denial and procrastination, to be starting to study the feasibility of preparing to think about considering the possibility of cleaning up the Vitro and other uranium piles.

But until the federal government does assume responsibility, the Salt Lake City-County Board of Health is not absolved of its responsibility to protect health. Its decision amounts to a cost-benefit analysis in which the costs are human health and the benefits go to a few industries.



Guest editorials do not necessarily represent the opinions of HCN.



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Fact-gathering phone calls are also supported by the fund. An effort is made to call after five at the lower rate. Many photos in HCN are paid for with

fund dollars, too.

Donations are tax-deductible. Contribute to the fund today, won't you? You'll be helping us do our best for the Rocky Mountain region.

Make out checks to Wyoming Environmental Institute—HCN Research Fund, and send to: WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. Thank you.

Water policy leaks slightly

The recently announced water policy of the Carter administration can safely be called a step in the right direction. The verdict on how large a step it is must await implementation of the proposals and decisions on future dam projects. However, we commend the president for his courage in tackling a difficult problem. One man's pork barrel is often another man's vital water development project. An administration is, at long last, addressing the issue of what constitutes a worthwhile water project. And, the criteria it is using generally seem to be reasonable.

There is, however, one loophole in the plan that is as large as Glen Canyon Dam. The 800 water projects already authorized by Congress will be exempted from compliance with many provisions of the policy. For instance, states will not be required to assist in the funding of authorized projects.

Among these projects are the Narrows in Colorado and the Garrison in North Dakota. These projects will not be required to "prove themselves" under the water policy criteria — a test they would surely fail.

A second failure in the program is the exemption of agriculture from the water conservation measures. Water projects that are "needed" by inefficient agricultural operations are just as much a boondoggle as those "needed" by other wasteful water users. A strong agricultural conservation program is essential, especially in the West.

We would urge President Carter to reassess his position. The federal water program should include a full evaluation of projects already approved and agricultural conservation requirements. It would make the policy a dam site better. —DSW



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High Country News — June 16, 1978

Lame ducks lead Wyoming...

(continued from page 1)

was designed to take care of clean air and not regional economic squabbles. To require a capital expense for BACT which is not required to meet the federal or state standards for clean air is inherently wrong, especially when the country is already having a capital shortage in many other areas."

Wallop says that coal leasing, not the Clean Air Act, should be used to restrict coal mining in Wyoming. "Wyoming isn't the only state with low-sulfur coal. There are a lot of others. It strikes me as basically wrong to artificially restrict it," he says. "I wrote a letter to the Interior Department a year ago asking them to restrict leasing."

"EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED"

Tom France, staff director of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, a group of Wyoming ranchers and conservationists, says, "We are extremely disappointed in the senator's position. His position is on behalf of the energy industry. He's not performing in any way on this issue like he promised

question whether the project will get under way.

Wallop also has been one of the Senate's most outspoken critics of the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). He has urged that the inventory be completed as quickly as possible.

Tim Mahoney of the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C., says criticism from Wallop and other like-minded politicians forced the Forest Service to revise its plans and favor non-wilderness options in its evaluation of roadless areas. Wallop contends that he does not oppose wilderness, only the time that the RARE II process takes.

Wallop has taken some positions the PRBRC applauds. He introduced and guided through Congress an amendment to the federal strip mining bill which will allow landowners holding coal properties in alluvial valley floors to trade them for federal coal lands outside the valleys.

PRBRC's France also says Wallop took issue with a Corps of Engineers permit to

ward a compromise when no compromise is required. Hamilton cites Wallop's recent work on the Endangered Species Act.

Wallop is working for the Baker-Culver Amendment to the act. The amendment would allow a board of seven to approve construction of a project that would wipe out an endangered species if five of the board members agreed the project was more important than the survival of the species.

Current law contains a blanket prohibition on expenditure of any federal funds on a project that would eliminate an endangered species or disrupt its habitat. Environmentalists agree the amendment Wallop wants is tightly worded and not a bad compromise if compromise is inevitable.

However, Hamilton argues that compromise is not inevitable. "This is a good demonstration of his rapidity to compromise," Hamilton says. "Wallop and his staff say that the only way to prevent gutting the whole act is to compromise. But it is our reading that the opposition to the act just doesn't have the votes. If a few senators who claim to have an environmental conscience would just stand firm, we wouldn't need to compromise."

Wallop says, however, that, unless the compromise is adopted, the provisions that give strong protection to endangered species threatened by federal projects will be gutted. Patty McDonald of Wallop's staff says some amendment to the act is inevitable.

So far, he has not sponsored legislation in the Senate for the DuNoir Wilderness area, deferring instead to Hansen, who sits on the committee that will consider the legislation. In addition, he has been hesitant on the protection of public lands in Alaska. Wallop says that he is studying the issue and will visit Alaska in July.

Wallop consistently gets high marks from Wyoming environmentalists for consulting with them. Hamilton says, "He's making a major effort to keep in touch with his constituency. He's set up several offices around the state and he has a good staff both in Wyoming and in Washington. He is keeping in touch with the people who put him in office, and I find that heartening."

In fact, one of Wallop's major complaints



SEN. MALCOLM WALLOP won his seat with the help of environmentalists, but he has not yet produced what he promised.

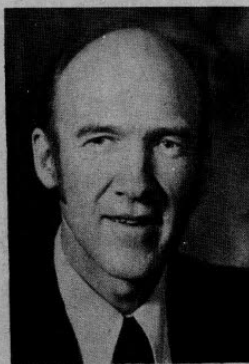
is that the communication is all one way, with him contacting the environmentalists.

It's possible that Wyoming environmentalists wanted too much too soon from Wallop. They say Wallop took about four years in the state legislature before he really took on the environmental advocacy that marked his career. Hamilton says, "Right now, he can't really break out on his own because he has to learn the Senate. We're hoping that once he gets his feet wet, he will break out."

Another environmentalist says, "He'll have to stop abiding by the Washington definitions of liberal and conservative. Environmental issues can be separated from liberal ones. He could become in spades what James Buckley was—a conservative spokesman for environmental issues."

Of the two retiring members of the

Alan Simpson, Hansen's probable replacement, isn't expected to lead many environmental battles.



ALAN SIMPSON is a favorite in the race to replace Sen. Clifford Hansen.

the people of Wyoming when he ran for the Senate."

France says, "BACT is good for putting some reins on the Wyoming coal market. I don't think the people of Illinois or Ohio elected him to the Senate."

There are other areas in which Wallop has scored low marks with state environmentalists. First, he introduced a bill to restore funding for nine water projects cut in the Carter "hit list." Among the projects cut — and one Wallop wanted restored — was the Savery-Pot Hook irrigation project in south central Wyoming.

Bruce Hamilton, Northern Great Plains representative for the Sierra Club says, "I don't think it's a major state issue. Wallop is the only member of the delegation who raised a fuss about the issue."

The Savery-Pot Hook proposal was for construction of a dam in the Little Snake River Basin along the Colorado-Wyoming state line. Environmentalists opposed the project, arguing it was unnecessary and would damage wildlife. There is some

build a dam and reservoir on the Laramie River to supply water to the 500-megawatt Laramie River Station. The corps had ruled that water from the reservoir could be used only to operate the power plant. Wallop, in a letter he sent to the corps jointly with Hansen, said the corps restrictions constituted "an outrageous interference with the state of Wyoming's right to allocate its water resources."

Wallop also cosponsored, with Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), funding for non-game wildlife management. He was a strong advocate of the legislation and it recently passed the full Senate.

In addition, Wallop has introduced and pushed hard for the Jackson Hole Scenic Area proposal. This bill would provide \$200 million to purchase scenic easements on private land in Jackson Hole to maintain open space in the valley.

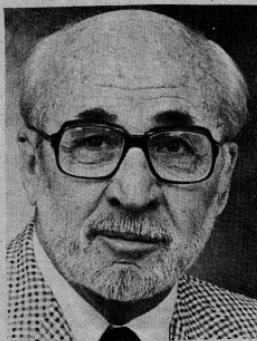
Much of the environmentalists' dissatisfaction with Wallop stems from the feeling that he could be more of an advocate and leader on environmental issues in Congress — a strong conservative voice for the environment. Critics say his priorities have gotten out of line, and that Wallop is wandering far from his area of expertise. Sierra Club's Hamilton says, "When we went to Washington and wanted to talk to Malcolm about environmental issues, he just said that the Senate was preoccupied with the Panama Canal, with the implication that he was, too. He ran on a 'Wyoming is my issue' platform, but he's gotten involved in issues that don't have much to do with the state."

Wallop says he has spent most of his time on the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and a water resources study that his office is compiling. Early in his term, Wallop said he wanted to make water his major issue. However, the Panama Canal did take up too much time, he says, because the leadership gave it high priority, and individual congressmen had little choice but to devote a lot of time to it.

TOO COMPROMISING

A second criticism often heard in the state is that Wallop moves too quickly to

A Republican will probably replace Roncalio, and there are no Republicans with good environmental records running for the seat.



REP. TENO RONCALIO got a middle-of-the-road rating from the League of Conservation Voters, but wilderness advocates are sorry to see him go.

Wyoming delegation, environmentalists will most sorely miss Rep. Teno Roncalio, chairman of the subcommittee on public lands and Indian affairs. Roncalio has led numerous battles for wilderness legislation and, most recently, the fight in the House to pass the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. He also stands alone among the delegation in supporting a 34,500 acre DuNoir addition to the Washakie Wilderness in northwestern Wyoming. Roncalio played a major part in the passage of federal strip mine legislation, too.

PRBRC's France says, "Teno was excellent on the strip mine bill. He gave some things away, but he kept a view of what was good for Wyoming. He compromised some, but that is the nature of the legislative process."

"I also have to give Teno high marks for listening to his constituency. He is very

(see next page)



concerned, even if he doesn't vote with them. I don't think there's a better congressman in Washington when it comes to that. We're going to feel Teno's loss very acutely."

Hamilton, who lobbied extensively on Alaska, says, "Teno was superb on Alaska. He wrote some dissenting opinions dispelling some incorrect views on wilderness management. He was one of the floor leaders of the debate and he had a heated debate with Rep. Steve Symms (R-Idaho) and we think he won the day. We could nitpick about some compromises, but he did a great job. We wouldn't have gotten half as much as we did without Teno."

CHAMPIONS WILDERNESS

Roncalio's overall environmental record is only average, however. The League of Conservation Voters gives him a rating of 41 out of 100 for 1977. Hamilton says, "Teno has been the leading authority as well as champion of most wilderness legislation in the House. He is exceptional on wilderness and unpredictable on everything else. For instance, he didn't back the Hell's Canyon Recreation Area, and he was supporting putting hydroelectric dams in there."

Hamilton says Roncalio's record on water projects has not been very good. He voted against a lower budget ceiling for water projects in the House during the controversy over Carter's "hit list," which cut funding for nine of 18 proposed projects. However, Hamilton points out that one of the projects cut was Savery-Pot Hook in Wyoming. "Teno hasn't been a super-strong defender of Savery-Pot Hook," Hamilton says. "If he wanted that project, he probably could have had it, given his seniority in the House. While he's not the best on water projects, he's not the worst either. He doesn't promote and ram through bad projects."

Environmentalists feel that Roncalio's record on nuclear power was mixed. While he supported nuclear development, as a member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee he fought for placing strong environmental safeguards on the technology. He opposed nuclear stimulation for natural gas.

Roncalio's record on the Clean Air Act was also mixed.

State political observers say a strong anti-Carter sentiment is building in Wyoming and Roncalio's replacement will

probably be a Republican. But, "There are no Republicans with good environmental records running for the seat," says one analyst.

The early favorite for the Republican nomination is Dick Cheney, who served in the Ford White House. Cheney has said little about environmental issues, Hamilton says. On the Democratic side, the only candidate with a good environmental track record is Bill Bagley, who served on the state land use commission. Bagley is given only an outside chance at even winning the Democratic nomination.

The other retiring member of the Wyoming congressional delegation is two-term Sen. Clifford Hansen. Hansen's record on environmental matters is considered poor, but state conservationists give him good marks on some issues. PRBRC's France says, "Cliff did a good job on the coal leasing issue in the Mineral Leasing Act Amendments. He got higher royalties and got the lease process more responsive and reasonable."

On the strip mine bill, France says that Hansen "showed a lot of growth — from opposition to the law five years ago to strong support. He swung around on surface owner consent, and was instrumental in its passage." Hansen supported an amendment that gave owners of private lands lying above federal coal deposits the right to veto mining.

France also says, "I have a tremendous amount of respect for Cliff Hansen. I won't be sorry to see him go on some issues but I'll be very sorry on others. I think Wyoming will feel the loss of his seniority. He is more pro-development than conservation. However, I respect his integrity and when he says he's with you, he fights hard."

Other environmentalists are not so generous to Hansen. Greg Thomas, who handles energy matters for the Sierra Club's Washington office, says, "Hansen is almost always in the negative column. He is virtually unlovable for us. He is pro-states' rights and solicitous of the energy companies. I can't think of a single issue that he voted right on in the last year other than the Clean Air Act."

Hansen is not as influential as he might be, Thomas says, "He is not a leader in the sense that his vote will automatically influence other votes," Thomas says. On the other hand, "He's a deliberate, intelligent and well-meaning legislator. Also he's not inaccessible, hostile or arrogant — he's just



THE DUNOIR addition will add 34,500 acres to the Washakie Wilderness area if Congress approves the recommendation of a House committee.

unresponsive. He sees the world differently than we do."

Seeing the world differently, Hansen has developed a reputation for opposing wilderness while supporting nuclear power, oil shale development and water projects. On the Senate floor, the only major environmental protection bills for which he voted in 1977 were the Clean Air Act and the federal strip mining bill.

OPEN ATTITUDE

Colleen Kelly, executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, says, "We hardly ever agree with him, but his staff has maintained an open attitude. In this last year or two, his work on the strip mining bill was excellent. He has shown a strong commitment to Wyoming, but he doesn't go with the environmental votes on national issues."

As the ranking minority member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Hansen could be a key figure in Alaska lands legislation. Environmentalists fear that the legislation will falter in the Senate this year, and they are pushing for action. Tony Bevinetto of Hansen's staff says Hansen "favors doing something this year, at least in committee." However, Bevinetto says that Hansen has not com-

mitted himself to any particular piece of legislation.

On the charge that Hansen is too solicitous of energy companies, Bevinetto says, "It's true that he's concerned about an open and free market exercising its business in the energy field. In direct relation to Wyoming, the energy companies are the largest employers and the largest contributors of revenue to the state. It's an understandable charge because he does have those beliefs in free enterprise. But, he also evaluates environmental protection and public health and safety in his votes."

Most Wyoming observers believe Hansen's replacement will be Alan Simpson, speaker protem of the state House, until he resigned to run for the Senate.

A Republican, Simpson has a solid environmental record in the state legislature, particularly in advocating a stiff plant siting law for industrial installations. But a state political observer warns "He is not a strong environmentalist by any means. Within the Republican Party, he is far and away the best there is, and he does listen. However, he won't be leading a whole bunch of battles."

Most state environmentalists are unwilling to stand behind one candidate or another, saying it is just too soon to tell.

Baucus defeats Hatfield in Montana

Max Baucus, who got high marks from the League of Conservation Voters for his environmental record in the House, has won handily the Democratic primary to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the death of Lee Metcalf. In the general election, Baucus will face Republican Larry Williams, an investment adviser.

On the House side, Pat Williams, who says, "You can't be against everything that comes along" in energy development, easily won the Democratic nomination for the Western district in the June 6 primary, and will run against Republican Jim Waltermire, a Missoula County commissioner who would like to bring cheap hydroelectric power to his district.

Incumbent Rep. Ron Marlenee, a Republican environmentalist often disagree with but at least say they can talk to, was unopposed. His general election opponent will be Tom Monahan of Billings.

Baucus, who had been planning his campaign for more than a year and had the Democrats lined up solidly behind him, pulled in almost 85,000 votes — more than three times as many as his nearest chal-

lenger, Sen. Paul Hatfield. Gov. Tom Judge had appointed Hatfield to fill out Metcalf's term.

Two years ago, the League of Conservation voters rated Baucus as voting right 75 percent of the time on environmental issues. He has said that Sen. Henry Jackson's (D-Wash.) bill to give public and private utilities and industry representatives control of matters such as energy and plant siting in the Pacific Northwest would be "a disaster." Baucus has urged more government funding for replanting forests and improving timber stands. Baucus has supported many wilderness issues, but is hesitating about backing the proposed Welcome Creek wilderness area near Missoula.

Baucus is expected to beat Larry Williams in the general election. Like Baucus, Williams advocates more research on wind and solar power. Too much land is tied up in wilderness studies, and that is harming Montana's logging industry, Williams says.

Most of the attention in the congressional races went to the Western district.

There, Pat Williams, running largely on a promise to fix chuckholes, easily defeated four other Democratic candidates. Environmentalists in Helena had backed Dorothy Bradley, who had built up a strong record of environmental protection as majority whip in the state legislature, but she ended up more than 9,000 votes behind Williams, who, environmentalists said, was noncommittal about conservation issues.

Williams' November opponent, Waltermire, opposes the Jackson plant siting bill. "Before we build a new plant, it should have to be proven you couldn't go out and spend the same amount of money on conservation measures," he says.

In Montana's Eastern congressional district, Marlenee, a rancher accused of having ties with industry, angered environmentalists when he tried to split up the Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness area, but mollified them with his work on strip mine legislation and efforts to control pollution drifting into Montana from Canadian power plants on the Poplar River.

Monahan, a former public service com-



MAX BAUCUS easily defeated the incumbent in the Montana Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate, and is expected to win the seat in the fall.

missioner and an insurance agent, said during his primary campaign that the only real issue this year was inflation, and the big oil companies were to blame for that.

NCAT gives help, gets criticism...

(continued from page 1)

Schmidt, in a 9-7 vote of the board of directors at the end of April.

POWDER KEG

Some believe that NCAT's mission of bringing power — in the form of simple, low-cost technology — to poor people is a potential powder keg.

"NCAT is engaged in a perilous undertaking," wrote Constance Holden in a March 1977 *Science* article. "It involves mobilizing the most demoralized and resource-poor segment of the population, while at the same time developing working relationships between technical professionals and residents of poor communities. That means reorienting professionals to challenges that are more social than technical in nature."

NCAT was the brainchild of former Montana Sen. Mike Mansfield and Jerry Plunkett, who as director of the Montana Energy and Magnetohydrodynamics Research and Development Institute, Inc., saw the need for a parallel institution that concentrated on alternative and small technologies. Plunkett also suggested linking NCAT with CSA, which had been funding home insulation projects for poor people since 1973. Other groups with similar missions existed, but none had the money for the massive, nationwide push for appropriate technology that Plunkett says is necessary.

SMALL-SCALE, RENEWABLE

"Appropriate technology," by NCAT's definition, is "small-scale and low in capital cost, and creates rather than eliminates jobs. It is defined locally by the people who are and will be using it, and because of that is inherently decentralized. It is in harmony with the environment and human health requirements. It relies on renewable energy sources. It is simple to build and maintain, and is flexible so that it can be

signed," says Hiram Shaw, acting executive coordinator of NCAT.

Shaw is particularly proud of the Lower East Side project in New York City, where NCAT is funding urban gardens, waste recycling and solar collectors.

Shaw says NCAT's \$94,000 Lower East Side grant "brings together a good coalition of groups, including low income people, street gangs and appropriate technologies. It combines a number of technologies. And our money has had a snowballing effect. It has generated funds from other sources."

On smaller grants NCAT has gone beyond supporting what it considers appropriate technology and has provided money to groups that oppose what NCAT deems inappropriate technology.

For instance, it gave \$1,500 to produce a videotape of the Seabrook nuclear power plant protest and \$4,428 for a booklet to assist community groups challenging utility rate policies.

Shaw says some utility lobbyists are arguing that federal funds shouldn't be used for such projects. But, to his knowledge, no one — including CSA — has complained directly to NCAT about the projects it has funded.

Nevertheless the staff feels that industry is keeping an eye on activities in Butte. The houses on the Northern Cheyenne reservation give an alternative to people, Contract Manager Kerry Shourds says, "a way of heating their homes without polluting their air and land. Montana Power and Peabody Coal will be watching to see if it works. If it doesn't, they will say, 'we need to mine your coal.'"

A Montana environmentalist says it is conceived fantasy for an NCAT staff member to think that NCAT has done anything that significantly threatens the fossil fuel industry. NCAT hasn't had the time or the organization, he says. But he adds that NCAT may have aroused industry slightly when it hired well-known veterans of

Schmidt said nuclear power is so expensive to develop it will probably have to be subsidized by the federal government.

"That means either redirecting resources away from other social programs or increasing taxes," he said. "Options exist today and nuclear power doesn't need to be one of them."

NCAT apparently heard from CSA about the issue. "We've been pretty much com-

represent groups that are partly funded by CSA.

Shourds says Saul refused to act on NCAT's second year funding proposals until the board fired Schmidt.

Saul says he delayed "until the board decided the question of management. I didn't say which way they should decide, however."

The funding delay forced NCAT to suspend its grants program and severely limit staff travel for three months.

"CSA just ignored our proposals — hoping we would shut down," Shourds says.

Saul says that Schmidt was fired because he was a poor administrator. "I had absolutely nothing to do with it," he says.

Shaw, who may apply for Schmidt's job, says he doesn't believe that social reform and technical assistance can be separated at NCAT. "We are talking about technology that can improve social conditions," he says.

TIES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE

NCAT has also drawn criticism for funding groups that are not closely linked with Community Action Programs, partly CSA-funded corporations designed to help low-income people.

Attached to NCAT's second year funding from CSA is a provision that NCAT reject any project that doesn't have the endorsement of a Community Action Program (CAP).

"If an appropriate technology group isn't in touch with its local CAP agency, it is an indication that the group hasn't tied into the low-income community," Saul says.

Shourds says NCAT has resisted requiring CAP approval for grants because it adds another layer of bureaucracy to the review process.

NCAT grants have taken an average of four months to process, and he fears the new requirement will add to that time. "It's not that we don't think CAPs should be involved," he says. "But we don't have them in some communities."

Another string attached to NCAT's new contract is a requirement for CSA approval on all grants over \$3,000, rather than \$5,000 as was the case last year.

NCAT is appealing to other government agencies for additional funding.

"Alternative funding would get us out of the power grip of CSA and let us get to the grassroots," Shourds says. If NCAT's backing was diversified, the center would be less vulnerable to any single funding source, he says.

Shourds says the CSA funding fight has weakened NCAT.

"What something like that can do to an organization in its first year is really bad," he says. Morale has dropped, and the center has lost about one-third of its staff, he says.

Shaw agrees the dispute has lowered staff morale. He says that only one of the staff resignations can be directly attributed to it, however.

BUMBLING, WEALTHY

While NCAT has been attending to problems with CSA, it has also drawn fire from smaller, older appropriate technology groups around the country. They, too, criticize NCAT's administration. In general, they regard the national organization as an ignorant and bumbling, but well-meaning and wealthy intruder.

"What they need to do is really important," says Akira Kawanabe of the San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association. "But if they can't do the job any better than they have been doing, they should give up



LEE TOPASH is NCAT's field representative for the Rocky Mountain region. His mission is showing people energy alternatives. "You don't need big smokestacks to heat your house," he says. Topash's office is at 3562 Keir Lane, Helena, Mont. 59601.

manded by CSA not to go on anti-nuke campaigns," Shourds says.

Acting coordinator Hiram Shaw says, however, that NCAT has no policy — CSA dictated or otherwise — on nuclear power.

"We reserve the right to criticize nuclear projects," Shaw says. But he says NCAT should steer clear of "general attacks" and stick to specifics.

Schmidt was criticized by the NCAT board for such a general attack when he was quoted in a Texas newspaper as calling for the nationalization of oil companies, according to Dick Saul, who heads CSA's energy programs and is responsible for the contract with NCAT.

OFFICIALS ALARMED

Under the leadership of Schmidt, a community organizer and veteran of public power campaigns in the East, NCAT was developing a crusading style aimed at social reform that alarmed officials at the Community Services Administration. Schmidt's replacement, to be chosen soon, is expected to make NCAT stick to technical assistance, according to Saul.

The reason for firing Schmidt was "simple," Shourds says. "Schmidt and Dick Saul didn't get along." The board fired Schmidt, Shourds says, but nine of its 15 members

"If they can't do the job any better than they have been doing, they should give up and give the money to other appropriate technology groups."

modified by the users for maximum usefulness."

About a third of NCAT's budget goes toward providing information about appropriate technology through a library, publications and consulting services. Another third goes toward technical research. The rest, the chunk that is most controversial, goes into grants to public interest and low-income groups and "appropriate technologists."

One NCAT-funded project will compare home-built solar systems with commercial systems on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana. There, NCAT has provided \$20,000 for two solar systems — one using solar collectors, the other passive solar heating techniques.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is building the houses, as well as outfitting five similar houses with solar systems bought from Solaron Corp. of Denver, Colo. The NCAT-designed, Indian-built solar collector system will cost \$8,000-\$9,000, about \$5,000 less than each of the commercial systems, mainly because it utilizes local labor and materials.

"We hope to compare the cost effectiveness of our designs with conventional de-

anti-nuclear and public power battles.

Among the issues that led to tension between NCAT and CSA was nuclear power, according to staff members.

In an editorial in the first issue of NCAT News, then-executive coordinator Jim

NCAT PUBLICATIONS

1. Passive Solar Heat for New Home Construction
2. The Values of Appropriate Technology and Visions for a Saner World
3. Solar Hot Water Heater
4. Insulation References
5. How to Weatherize — For the Consumer
6. How to Organize a Community Garden — Bibliography
7. Appropriate Technology and Community Economic Development — Bibliography
8. Solar — Bibliography
9. Solar Workshops and Courses
10. Caulking
11. Furnace Efficiency
12. Solar Training References

13. Energy Education Resources
14. Energy and Buildings — Bibliography
15. Wind — Bibliography
16. Weatherization Training Resources
17. Conservation and Community Education
18. Appropriate Technology Courses and Workshops
19. Heating with Wood
20. Conservation for Window Air Conditioners
21. Mobile Home Weatherization
22. The Crosley House
23. Overview of Mobile Home Weatherization Problems
24. Automatic Flue Dampers

These publications are available free from NCAT, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Mont. 59701.

(continued on page 7)

and give the money to other appropriate technology groups."

Kawanabe is upset because NCAT promised his group a grant and then, after a long delay, refused to give it the money, he says.

The board approved the solar energy association's proposal last June, but didn't give it the money. A few months later, the association asked to increase its grant from \$7,810 to \$9,830. NCAT wrote to Kawanabe in April, explaining that his group's grant had been turned down because the group had not justified the increase. The proposal would have to be rewritten and resubmitted to the board, NCAT said.

Kawanabe says his group never received a request from NCAT for revisions until the April letter arrived. NCAT says it sent the association three previous requests for revisions.

Despite the confusion and the fact that the project has not been funded, in its May 1, 1978, annual report NCAT lists the San Luis Valley project as "NCAT-funded" to the tune of \$9,830. Shourds says he doesn't know why the item was included in the report.

Some believe that NCAT's mission is a political powder keg.

Despite the frustrations he's experienced in working with the grants staff at NCAT, Kawanabe says NCAT's technical staff has been easy to work with, extremely helpful, and efficient.

But overall Kawanabe says he is uneasy about NCAT because "they don't have their own house in order." After attending a small grants conference in Butte, "I didn't come away with a positive feeling. There was a lot of in-fighting among the staff. They were expending energy that wasn't productive to their goals."

Tom Bender, an appropriate technologist who writes for RAIN magazine, says that while NCAT has offered some useful grants and helped publicize appropriate technology, it has also sapped the energies of some appropriate technologists, who are "burnt out from the energy put into hassles, distrust, and harassment" during the grant-giving process.

Bender was on the planning committee that set NCAT up over a year ago.

Trying to get NCAT on the right track has been "a drain on people," he says. "We don't want to put any more energy into it."

TOO MANY LAYERS

"NCAT's creators had envisioned a national center that would be sensitive to the needs and limitations of grassroots and anti-poverty organizations; our experience with NCAT, however, suggests that the opposite may be true," says Ken Bossong of the Citizens' Energy Project in Washington, D.C. Bossong charges that NCAT, with its strong ties to CSA, has too many layers of bureaucracy to be able to act quickly and creatively.

Bossong is an NCAT grant recipient. Nevertheless, Shaw says it is mostly the people whose grant requests have been turned down that are complaining about NCAT's responsiveness. "With \$7.7 million in requests and only \$1 million to spend, we have made a lot of disappointed people," he says.

INTERMINABLE DELAYS

In an article published in RAIN magazine, Bender said that groups have experienced "interminable delays" in receiving grants.

"One group given a grant to develop a solar-powered irrigation pump refused the grant when it eventually arrived. They had gone ahead without the long-promised money and the project was already finished," he said.

The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems of Austin, Texas, refused a grant to put out a newsletter funded by NCAT after over a year of negotiations.

In a letter to NCAT the group said, "We have written countless letters and made phone calls to NCAT too numerous and costly to mention. We have replied time and again to requests for changes or elaborations or new information, or whatever tinkering and oiling the bureaucratic wheels of NCAT require to stop squeaking and start acting."

"A regional appropriate technology newsletter is sorely needed in this area — it has been all year — and for years before that. We'd like to do it and we'd like to join with others to do it — and I expect in some way we will — but not with NCAT."



AKIRA KAWANABE of the San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association is uneasy about NCAT because "they don't have their own house in order."

"It's people like them that are making it difficult to run the center properly," Shourds says. The spat was precipitated by an NCAT letter asking the group to explain one woman worker's "position in relation to her husband," who also worked for the group, in order to satisfy a federal regulation against nepotism written into NCAT's contract with CSA. "They refused to answer our question," Shourds says.

Shaw admits that funding for many projects has come slowly. He says the problem has been an overload of proposals that NCAT was too inexperienced to handle. He has proposed to the NCAT board a new system of handling grants that he hopes will help eliminate the "crisis orientation" of the staff.

STAFF COMPETENCY

"Staff competency appears to be another difficulty," Bender said in the RAIN article. "Entangling bureaucratic regulations, Butte's remoteness, and hassles by the board exist, but don't account for people on the staff who are too frequently unaware of the work that has been done in their field or unable to check any of the basic references in the field that would bring them at least halfway up to date. The two technical publications we've seen prepared by NCAT (on heating with wood and furnace efficiency)

June 16, 1978 — High Country News-7

are generally worthless for this very reason."

In a telephone interview, Bender said he could not remember whether there were any factual errors in the publications. He said, however, that the publications were "a waste of money" because they neither offered new information, nor make existing information "more accessible."

Shaw says most NCAT publications are free or available for minimal cost, which makes them more accessible to low-income people.

NO SURPRISE

Keith Haggard of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association says the controversy surrounding NCAT doesn't surprise him. The association has received funding from NCAT, "a time-consuming affair that I'm pleased we undertook," he says.

"I expected NCAT to be fraught with problems. Everybody in every corner of the country is besetting them. Everybody should expect them to have problems. I feel sorry for them," Haggard says.

Virginia Toews, executive director of the Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority, calls NCAT her "right-hand technical advisor when it comes to energy conservation."

She says the tribe had no trouble in getting a grant for building and monitoring solar homes. In addition, the technical staff has been "very helpful," she says.

"I'd rather not get into politics," Shourds says. But he admits that he and other NCAT staff have been plagued by politics in their first year of operation. That means that some of the low-income people who were supposed to be the beneficiaries of the \$3.8 million experiment continue to wait for help from NCAT.



Jackson Scenic Area — "It's for our children"

JACKSON HOLE, WYO. — A historian told legislators holding hearings on the proposed Jackson Hole Scenic Area about another legislator who, whenever he considered a bill, always asked, "Is it good for the children?"

Applying that question to the scenic area proposal, the historian, Robert Righter of the University of Wyoming, said, "It's good for the children of Jackson Hole and it's good for the children of the nation."

Righter was among more than 60 people, most of them residents of Jackson Hole, who testified June 10 at joint congressional field hearings on the proposal to create a Jackson Hole Scenic Area. The area would be selected from private lands in Teton County outside the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park.

Congress would authorize up to \$200 million to buy easements and so prevent development that might jeopardize the scenic, wildlife, or agricultural values of the valley's private lands. The public would not own most lands, however, and existing uses would continue.

Testimony at the hearing, sponsored

jointly by the Senate subcommittee on parks and recreation and the House subcommittee on national parks, was overwhelmingly in support of the bills, S. 2162 and H.R. 9135.

But Roy Chambers, owner of the Flying V dude ranch and son of Jackson Hole homesteaders, opposed the bills, largely because he opposed condemnation and federal control.

"I know the people down there don't want neighbors," he told the three senators, four representatives and 200 listeners. "You don't want neighbors. Nobody wants neighbors. But somebody's gotta have 'em because people have got to live somewhere."

The legislators expressed some concern about the price tag, and James Abourezk (D-S.D.), chairman of the Senate subcommittee, asked for more precise estimates, appraisals, and acquisition priorities.

Two members of Wyoming's congressional delegation attended the hearing, Republican Sen. Malcolm Wallop and Democratic Rep. Teno Roncalio stressed that the bills' particulars were not "cast in

concrete" and that many specific local objections, particularly those having to do with condemnation, could be eliminated during mark-up.

Many requests for changes in the bill were prefaced by support for the concept. About 10 persons, however, testified against the bills, saying that current federal control of 97 percent of the land in Teton County was enough, that the remaining private lands were needed for development, and that "just compensation" would be impossible under the bills given the devaluation of property that some said had already occurred under the county's recently enacted land use plan.

Two petitions were presented to the legislators, one by Buffy Hauge, signed by 50 landowners with 16,735 acres of undeveloped private land in Teton County, and one by Bloomington, Ill., resident Guy Fraker, signed by 81 people in his community who had visited Jackson Hole. Both petitions supported the bills.

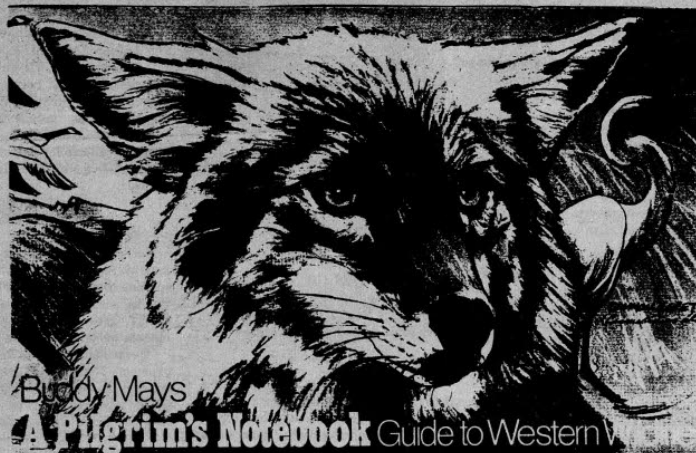
The written record of the hearing will be kept open through June 25. Written testimony should be sent to the U.S. House of



Photo by Jill Bamberg
MARDY MURIE, grand lady of the Wyoming conservation movement, testifies in favor of the Jackson Hole Scenic Area.

Representatives Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

8-High Country News — June 16, 1978



Buddy Mays

A Pilgrim's Notebook Guide to Western Wildlife

by Buddy Mays, Chronicle Books, San Francisco 1977. 221 pages, \$4.95, paperback.

Review by Sarah Doll

A *Pilgrim's Notebook* is dedicated "For a crusty old Desert Rat named Edward Abbey". That impression — that this is a guidebook with a difference — is confirmed as more pages are turned. The most outstanding feature of the book is that each animal described is accompanied by an excellent black and white photo of the animal in its natural habitat. These photos give the budding naturalist a much better idea of "how it looks" than the drawings usually found in guidebooks, although they necessitate a glance at the text for color identification.

The book makes no pretense of being all-encompassing, for the author's main goal is to cover creatures that people are likely to see, which makes it quite helpful to nature lovers with little scientific background. Some endangered or threatened animals, and those of exceptional interest, are included. Songbirds are omitted be-

cause of the number involved, but many waterfowl, raptors, and game birds are covered.

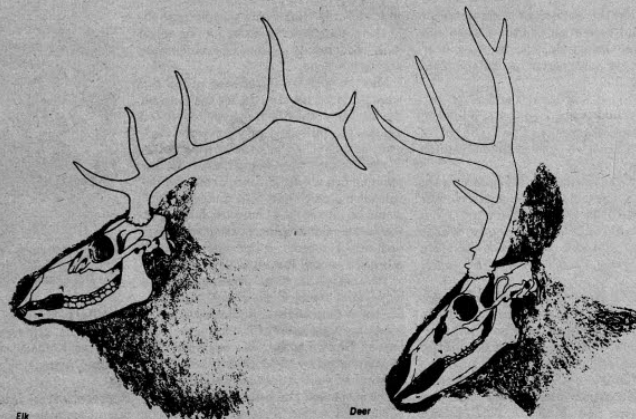
A *Pilgrim's Notebook* can hold the attention of a stay-at-home reader from cover to cover, with no field trips involved, mostly because of "Things You Should Know," tidbits added at the end of each animal description. The author lists personal experiences: "I've seen a raccoon pick up sections of rotted beef gristle that were probably stale in the time of Hannibal, pop them in his mouth, and swallow with the greatest delight, never once looking around for a washbasin," refuting the notion that raccoons always wash their food. He discusses unique characteristics of each animal (such as the pronghorn antelope, which is the only animal in the world with true horns that sheds them each year) and some of the more oddball habits, like that of the western hognose snake, which rolls over on its back and plays dead — but if turned over, flops right back to continue its act. Northwesterners will find the description of Bigfoot of particular interest.

Also helpful is the section of drawings of animal tracks and skull conformations, to be referred to when the real thing has disappeared into the bush.

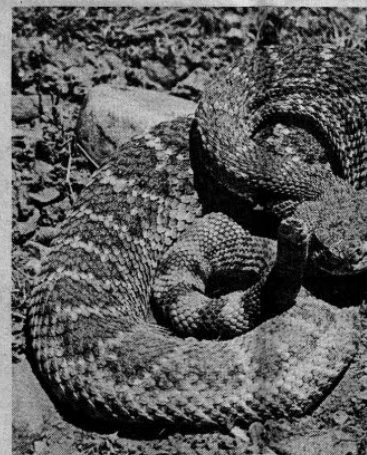
A slightly more thorough discussion of

summer and winter locations of migrating birds probably would have been helpful, although only a few migrators are discussed. Some readers who feel wild animals should be left wild may take issue with the author's observation that some animals — young raccoons, hognose snakes, and bullsnakes, in particular — make good pets. He also gives wild horses and burros, which are introduced species, equal billing with native types, and fails to point out the problem of habitat competition of these exotics with natives.

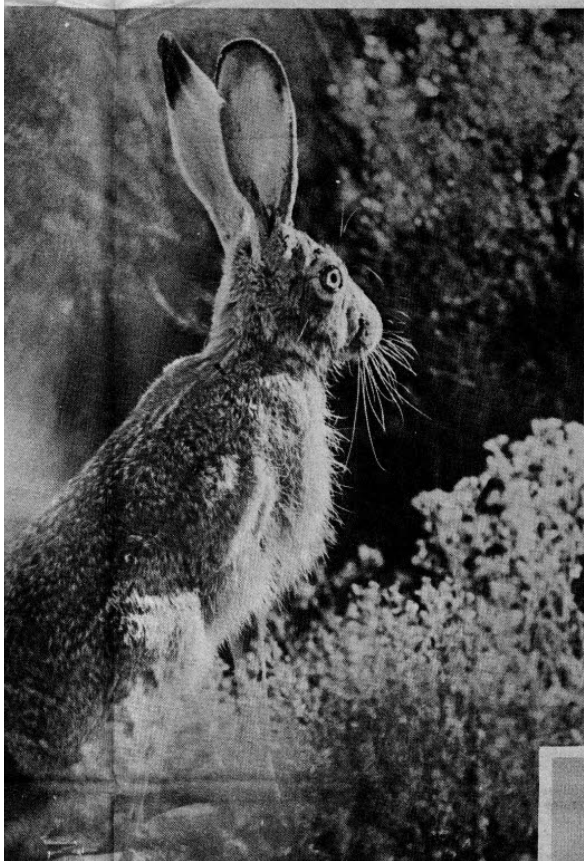
The author is obviously a lover of wildlife, and he reiterates constantly that loss of habitat is the biggest problem facing our country's wild creatures today. He also deplores the war waged on predators by farmers and stockmen, and, although he takes few potshots at the modern hunter, does point out that hunting in the past was responsible for the decimation of many species. He feels that an informed public is a prerequisite for saving what's left of our country's wildlife, and says in the introduction, "I hope this material will spur the reader to further thought and research, for it will be a prepared public, fully aware of the aesthetic and physical value of animals other than ourselves, who will eventually save our wildlife if such is to be its fate."



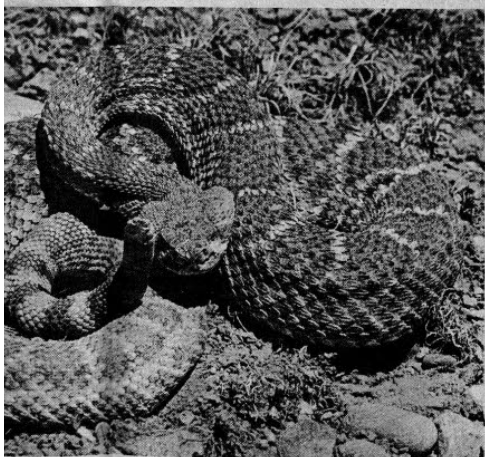
THE STRIDE of an adult jackrabbit in a hurry may



According to legend, the Western snake will not cross a lariat coiled because it tickles its stomach. In responsible for more human deaths than any other reptiles.



adult jackrabbit in a hurry may be 20 feet long and five feet off the ground.



o legend, the Western diamond-back rattlesnake crosses a lariat coiled about a sleeping cowboy and swallows it. In reality, diamond-backs are responsible for more human deaths in the United States than rattlesnakes.



THE PECCARY'S closest living relative is probably the hippopotamus. Peccaries are near-sighted herd animals, mean when cornered but extremely afraid of man.



THE SPARROW HAWK is extremely protective of its small territory, fiercely attacking and driving off intruding birds several times its size. A fast and agile flyer, it is able to cruise at 25 miles an hour.



THE TURKEY VULTURE'S digestive tract kills any toxic strain of bacteria that might be encountered while feeding. Its head and neck are naked, so that bacteria or parasites that might attach themselves to the skin will be destroyed by sunlight.

10-High Country News — June 16, 1978

EPA denies Colstrip air permit, cites pollution

The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana last year became the first area in the country to have its air officially declared forever pure. This week, the Environmental Protection Agency protected that air quality by refusing to let five utilities build two coal-fired power plants.

As proposed, the power plants, Colstrip units 3 and 4, would have violated the air quality standards of the reservation 19 times in three years, said the EPA's Denver office in denying a permit needed to build the units.

"This is not a close call," says Alan Merson, the EPA's regional administrator. "The (computer) model predicts numerous and substantial violations, and the law says clearly we cannot permit more than one violation per year."

The five utilities, led by Montana Power Co., had been fighting for five years to build the twin 700-megawatt plants near the reservation. The project would cost almost \$1 billion.

If it decides to contest the EPA ruling, Montana Power has 60 days in which to file an appeal in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

"We're not taking any position as to what our next move will be," says William H. Coldiron, executive vice president of Montana Power. "We'll appeal to the courts in a case of last resort." Coldiron says the company would explore EPA suggestions for better pollution control equipment. "If there's a system that will allow building, we'll check it," he says. "But EPA hasn't told us about it yet."

Allen Rowland, tribal chairman of the Northern Cheyenne, welcomes the decision. "There's nothing wrong with breathing clean air so far as I can see," he says. "I tried dirty air in Los Angeles and New York and even in Billings. I like the air here better."

EPA's computer modeling showed that emissions from the units would have caused up to six times as much sulfur dioxide to be in the air over the reservation as

the law allows. The Clean Air Act amendments of 1977 say the amount of sulfur dioxide in a Class I area like the reservation may not exceed 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air in a three-hour period more than once a year.

The EPA says its computer modeling, based on emissions, weather conditions, topography, heights of the stacks, the kind of coal used and other factors, showed 162 micrograms of sulfur dioxide per cubic meter of air would have floated from the new plants and over the reservation one day in August of 1976. Lower, but still illegal, sulfur dioxide levels would have polluted the reservation 18 more times in the past three years had the plants been operating.

Sulfur dioxide can irritate the respiratory tract and cause lung damage.

Montana Power had told the EPA that, at worst, each of the plants would release 110 tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere per day, but that the amount usually would be slightly more than half that.

EPA says its calculations showed violations "even at the lower emission rates

suggested by Montana Power." The agency says an "independent analysis" by Research Triangle Park, an EPA affiliate in North Carolina, supported its conclusions.

"We don't agree with the EPA calculations," says Montana Power's Coldiron. "We'd like to have another government agency — the Department of Energy for example — look at these calculations. I'd argue with EPA's model and data, but then I'm not much of a technical man."

Coldiron says "The plants will have to be built if we're going to avoid an electrical energy shortage in the mid 1980s." He says the company applied for permits to build Colstrip 3 and 4 in 1973, because it anticipated a demand for between five and six percent more electricity each year. "We've made that projection taking into account insulation and the use of solar and wind energy," Coldiron says.

"I am aware of the importance of Colstrip Units 3 and 4 to the area's construction and mining industries and the economy of the area generally," says the EPA's Merson. "Mindful of that importance and the widespread popular support for the plants, we have, quite frankly, bent over backwards to allow the company to make its best case."

The battle over Colstrip 3 and 4 has been going on through courts, hearings and protests since 1973, when Montana Power and

its four partners in the project first applied for permission to build.

Last August, acting on a request from the Northern Cheyenne, the EPA designated the reservation a Class I air quality area. The reservation thus became the first such area in the country.

However, several companies, including Montana Power, and the Northern Cheyennes' Crow neighbors, have filed suit in federal appeals court in San Francisco to have the Class I designation overturned. The court has not yet decided the case.

Taking into account the Clean Air Act amendments of 1977, the designation means that only very limited growth is allowed in or near a Class I area — only so much growth as will not significantly deteriorate air quality.

"The Northern Cheyenne have been abiding by the law all these years," says the tribe's chairman, Allen Rowland. "I think big business should do the same now. They're nothing special so far as I'm concerned. We're not against progress like we're accused of. All we want is for them (the utilities) to abide by what the damn law says. Simple as that."

Rowland and EPA officials suggested that, in addition to considering installing more efficient pollution control systems, Montana Power might consider moving the plants farther away from the reservation.



COLSTRIP UNITS 3 AND 4 would violate air pollution standards on the Northern Cheyenne Indian reservation, said the Environmental Protection Agency in denying a permit to build the power plants.

Kerr-McGee Corp. must face Wyoming siting panel

The Wyoming Industrial Siting Council has ruled that a Kerr-McGee Corp. uranium mining complex near Douglas, Wyo., is subject to state plant siting laws.

Kerr-McGee had applied for a certificate of insufficient jurisdiction from the council, which would have exempted the complex from Wyoming industrial siting law. The company contends that its new operations were not covered because a small mine on the site, the Bill Smith Mine, was under construction before the state law passed. The new complex will total 13 mines, nine underground and four surface.

The project cost is estimated at nearly \$600 million. State law requires that a project costing \$50 million or more must comply with the siting statutes.

The siting council ruled that the mines are not "grandfathered" out of compliance with the siting law. Some parts of the project will be allowed to go through without complying, and the council called for additional information by July 7 to determine which parts will be.

According to Blaine Dinger, administrator of the Industrial Siting Administra-

tion, Kerr-McGee has several options. He says, "They could separate the project out into a number of components; they could bite the bullet and submit a full plant siting application; they could ignore the whole process and wait for the state to take some action; or they could appeal the decision to the courts." Dinger says that the company has not indicated which route it will take. Kerr-McGee's application had been protested by the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Converse County school district.

In another uranium decision, the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council has left open the hearing record for additional information on Minerals Exploration Co.'s proposed mine in the Red Desert. The mine permit application has been protested by the Wyoming Outdoor Council, which charges that the area could not be reclaimed and that the design for storage of radioactive tailings is insufficient.

The EQC is leaving the record open so that the company can submit its new tailings management plan. The hearing will be held July 12 in Jackson.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

SUPREME COURT PROTECTS

ENDANGERED SPECIES. Saying that, "The plain intent of Congress was to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction," the Supreme Court has halted completion of the Tellico dam on the Little Tennessee River. The multimillion-dollar project of the Tennessee Valley Authority would have harmed the habitat of the snail darter, a small fish on the endangered species list that was not discovered in the vicinity of the dam until the project had been 80 percent completed. The Endangered Species Act "indicates beyond doubt that Congress intended endangered species to be afforded the highest priority," said Chief Justice Warren Burger, in reading the 6-3 decision June 15. The decision is regarded as a victory for conservationists, but is not the last word on the issue. Legislation is pending in Congress that would amend the act.

NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSING. It takes between 10 and 12 years for a nuclear power plant to be planned, licensed and built. President Carter recently proposed legislation to speed up the licensing process, and so cut that time in about half. That proposal, Ralph Nader told the House energy and environment subcommittee, was "a major administration decoy" aimed at preventing Congress from considering whether nuclear energy should be abandoned altogether. The major cause of delays in licensing nuclear power plants is

the industry's own "poor planning," Nader said. W. Reid Thompson, chairman of the Edison Electric Institute, told the subcommittee that, "Nuclear power will not be available to this nation without reduction of the current unreasonable levels of uncertainty in regulation." Carter's proposal has met opposition in both houses of Congress.

URANIUM NEEDS. The Department of Energy recently estimated there may be 4.37 million tons of uranium oxide unmined in the United States, most of it in the Rocky Mountain states. Of this, DOE said 2.43 million tons were proven or probable reserves, and the remainder only possible or speculative. The lifetime requirements for reactors expected to be installed in this century are estimated to be 2.24 million tons of uranium oxide. "Some uranium producers and others believe that DOE's estimates are too high," says an industry analysis.



A URANIUM MINE in the Gas Hills of Wyoming.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

Salt Lake City ignores risk of radiation

When he introduced a bill last March to clean up the hazardous Vitro uranium tailings pile at the edge of downtown Salt Lake City, Rep. Dan Marriott (R-Utah), said, "I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel on the Vitro issue."

The Salt Lake City-County Board of Health saw a light too, but a green one signaling a go-ahead with construction projects near the pile, which emits cancer-causing radon gas.

By an 8-2 vote, the board decided June 1 that no construction may take place within a two-tenths-mile radius of the 126-acre pile. Until that vote, a building moratorium had been in effect for a four-tenths-mile radius, which itself was a cut

from the original half-mile.

The board's decision means that "anyone can build there now," said Dennis R. Dalley, director of the state health division's Bureau of Radiation and Occupational Health. In other words, residential, as well as commercial, buildings soon would be going up near the pile unless the board changes its mind.

"We don't understand why they (the board) took that action," Dalley said. "They've been fully aware of the position we've taken" against reducing the area of a building moratorium, he said. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy also oppose construction closer to the pile.

Dr. Harry L. Gibbons, director of the Salt Lake City-County Health Department, says he advised the board to cut the moratorium because some businesses had been denied access to their property by the moratorium and were threatening to sue. In addition, Gibbons says he established the moratorium in the first place, and the failure of federal and state governments to deal with the pile "is wearing me down."

"If Marriott's bill doesn't move, we'll intensify the educational campaign" about the hazards of the pile, Gibbons said. "But we can't keep denying people access to their land. I want to see something firm from the state. Meanwhile (by keeping the moratorium unchanged), we're on thin ice."

When the Salt Lake City consulting firm of Ford, Bacon and Davis, Utah, Inc., under a contract with the Department of Energy, studied the 22 inactive uranium tailings piles in the country, it concluded two years ago that the Vitro pile doubled the cancer risk for anyone living within half a mile of it.

If a building ban within a half-mile of the pile were in effect, the firm said, the pile would kill five persons within 25 years. If high density housing development were allowed in the area, the company said the pile within 25 years would kill 110 people who lived within a half-mile of it.

Also, the number of health effects (deaths) during a 50-year period from a

continual lifetime exposure will be proportionally higher than the 25-year figure," the firm said.

The pile will emit radon for at least 80,000 years.

It was left there by the Vitro Chemical Co., which, from 1951 to 1964, milled uranium oxide for the Atomic Energy Commission. Altogether, the pile contains almost 1.9 million tons of tailings. When the company dismantled the mill it did not stabilize the pile. As a result, "The pile is largely uncovered and subject to wind and water erosion," Ford, Bacon and Davis said. Dalley said the pile is fenced and has warning signs posted on it, but motorcycles and children sometimes play on it.

William P. Harlin, of W.P. Harlin Construction Co., applied for the change in the moratorium, so he could build a new plant for Brown Distributing Co.

"We feel the moratorium has been going on now for six years. We feel hopeful that someday somebody is going to do something about it. But in the meantime we stand to lose a very good client and lose a construction job," Harlin said.

The state and federal government for almost eight years now have been squabbling over the pile. The pile grew there because of the atomic weapons program, so the federal government should pay for decontaminating it, Dalley has said.

By contracting with Ford, Bacon and Davis to study inactive uranium tailings piles, the Department of Energy has indicated it may take responsibility for the piles — a position the federal government until recently showed no inclination to take.

Marriott's bill, H.R. 11698, the "Uranium Mill Site Restoration Act of 1978," would make the federal government pay for decontaminating a pile but give a state control over how the decontamination is done. Hearings on the bill are to be held June 26 and 27, Dalley said.

Ford, Bacon and Davis estimates of how much it may cost to decontaminate the tailings piles range from several hundred thousand dollars for merely fencing the more isolated piles, to \$30 million for moving the Vitro pile.

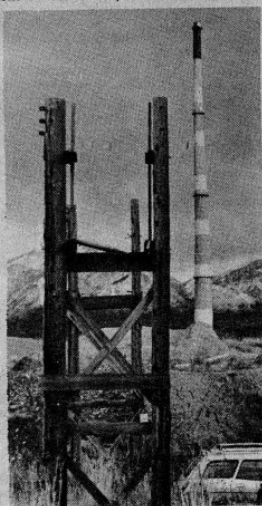


Photo by Jack McLellan

THE VITRO URANIUM tailings pile will kill 110 people in 25 years if high density housing is built near it, according to one study.

LAMAR FEEDLOTS FUEL POWER PLANT. The town of Lamar, Colo., was told several years ago that time was running out for its natural gas power plant. With some help from the federal government, the town has recently decided to substitute cow power for unreliable supplies of natural gas. The Secretary of Agriculture has approved a \$14.2 million loan to the Lamar Utility Board to build a plant that will convert 350 tons of cow manure from feedlots near Lamar into a million cubic feet of methane gas per day. It will be the largest such plant in the country. The methane will be burned in the town's existing power plant to meet the electrical energy needs of 10,000 residents. Part of the wastes left over from the digestion process will be used as a protein supplement for livestock.

MICROWAVES COULD COOK OUT OIL. Colorado and Utah have deposits of oil shale that could yield 2 trillion barrels of oil — enough to keep the United States supplied with liquid fuels for another 200 years at present levels of consumption. But so far that potential has been too costly and environmentally damaging to tap. Researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology say they can get around those problems by heating the shale beds with microwaves. Theoretical calculations and small scale tests indicate that high-grade shale beds could produce oil at \$10 to \$11 per barrel. The process would require electricity, but it would produce three to five times as much as it consumed, researchers say. The institute hopes to build a one-barrel-per-day experimental plant within the next three years and a 10,000-barrel-per-day demonstration plant by 1980.

"LAST DITCH ALTERNATIVE." If a \$900 million coal gasification experiment is a bust, the five participating utilities will pay back their investors by raising gas prices. That's the latest plan American Natural Resources Co., Peoples Gas Co., Columbia Gas System Inc., Tenneco Inc. and Transco have devised to lure capital to their proposed coal gasification plant in Mercer County, N.D. A spokesman for the group said that the plan, which will require Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval, is "sort of a last ditch alternative" they considered only after giving up on loan guarantees from the Carter administration. Coal gasification has never been tried on a commercial scale in the United States.

COAL SLURRY DEBATE. To Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) coal slurry pipelines would be "wasteful beyond belief" because they may "deplete the last reserve of potable water in the state (Wyoming)." To Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) "There is absolutely no difference between water used in a power plant or water shipped out of state in a pipe." Both testified before a subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which is considering coal slurry legislation. A coal slurry pipeline would mix pulverized coal with water and send it as far as 1,000 miles.

Solaron plans to cut the cost of solar heating devices

New collector design makes systems 10% cheaper

Not everybody can afford to put commercial solar collectors on their roof. In fact, without help from the government in the form of tax breaks or demonstration grants, very few people can.

One of the major U.S. suppliers of solar heating equipment has taken a step — albeit a small one — to change that situation. Solaron Corp. of Denver has come up with a new collector design that it says will reduce the price of its solar systems by 10-15% and up their efficiency by 10%.

The new collectors will reduce the cost of a solar heater from \$34 to \$31 per square foot of collector space, says John Meeker, a Solaron engineer. That would make the cost of a heater for an average 1,000 square foot house about \$7,750.

The new collectors are cheaper because they require less glass, ductwork and installation labor, Meeker says. They are

more efficient because they have a "selective surface," which retains more of the sun's heat than conventional surfaces. The selective surface is also more costly than the conventional surface, but the extra cost is offset by the elimination of the need for two layers of glass over the collector. Since the selective surface re-radiates less heat than conventional surfaces, a two-layered cover isn't necessary, Meeker says.

Solaron says the new collectors are expected to last as long as the old ones — at least 20 years. The firm offers only a one-year warranty on materials and workmanship and an additional 9-year warranty on performance, however.

The new collectors are expected to be on the market by mid-July.

When asked if he expects Solaron's prices to dip lower in the future, Meeker says no, because of the increasing costs of labor and materials.

Solaron is among the six to 10 largest suppliers of solar equipment in the United States. It is the largest single supplier of equipment for federal solar demonstration projects.



The solution to the conservation crossword published in the June 2 issue is shown above. Accept our apologies for 24 down, which we listed as "Madagascar arboreal mammal." As some of you probably found out, we should have added "—r."

We had a three-way tie for the first correctly completed puzzle. Congratulations and a T-shirt to each of the winners: Carolyn Johnson of Denver, Colo., Don Snow of Fort Collins, Colo., and Phillip Lehr of Cheyenne, Wyo.

12-High Country News — June 16, 1978

Carter's water policy is "better than nothing"

by Dan Whipple

President Jimmy Carter's water policy got two cheers last week from a coalition of 27 national environmental groups, which praised Carter's willingness to tackle the controversial issue but said that improvements could be made.

The water policy received a mixed reaction from environmentalists and the Western states. Brent Blackwelder of the Environmental Policy Center says "The policy is better than the one we have now — which is nothing — but it could be a lot better."

Blackwelder says the policy is weak in two areas in particular — the exemption of

ceiling on this participation of one-quarter of one percent of the state's revenue per project per year. Carter says, "a small state would not be precluded from having a large project located in it."

The concept of shared financial participation has been generally applauded by the governors of the Western states, but they feared they would be unable to afford it at the levels required by the Carter message. By placing a limit on the amount necessary for participation, Carter has appeased many of his critics in the West. Idaho's Gov. John Evans, for instance, originally opposed the idea, but now says that it "has merit."

Among the governors of the West, reaction has been mild to the plan in general, a considerable change from a year ago, when

"The waste of water in the West is likely to continue. There are no teeth in the policy as far as agriculture is concerned."

agriculture from conservation requirements, and the handling of water projects already authorized by Congress.

The administration's policy is designed to provide a "new, national emphasis on water conservation," according to the President's message, delivered June 6. The policy requires that conservation be studied as an alternative to proposed water projects. It also requires development of water conservation programs "as a condition of contracts for storage or delivery of municipal and industrial water supplies from federal projects."

Carter says the policy would provide "technical assistance to farmers...on how to conserve water." The policy does not require conservation from farmers. Blackwelder says, "The policy is weakest in the area of agricultural water conservation. The waste of water in the West is likely to continue. There are no teeth in it as far as agriculture is concerned."

Also under the heading of conservation, Carter is altering the pricing mechanism for water from federal projects. To obtain greater repayment for project costs, the policy says that contracts for water from federal projects will be renegotiated every five years instead of every 40 years, as current practice dictates. The federal government will also reassess contracts to change water prices so that the government recovers operation and maintenance costs and increased repayment of capital costs.

Carter also insists that "projects should have net national economic benefits unless there are environmental benefits which clearly more than compensate for any economic deficit." In addition, projects whose economic benefits most heavily outweigh the associated costs of the project and have the fewest environmental consequences will be given priority for available funds.

Among the states, the most controversial aspects of the water policy are the provisions for state participation in the funding of federal water projects.

The policy says that, for projects that would produce salable commodities such as a water supply or hydroelectric power, the states would pay 10% of the costs of the project. For projects such as flood control that do not produce a salable commodity, the state financing share would be five percent.

In a concession to less populated states, like most of those in the West, there is a

policy was first suggested. The governors say that Carter has apparently listened to their complaints and fears about federal water policy and taken them into consideration.

Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, chairman of the National Governors' Conference subcommittee on water policy, said that Carter's "recommendation for flexible state participation appears to move in the direction recommended by the nation's governors."

A note of caution was sounded by Colorado, however. Harris Sherman, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, says that, because agricultural water users pay lower rates, only about 20 percent of the costs of agricultural water projects are repaid to the government. More money is realized through the higher rates charged to municipal and industrial users. Sherman says this may encourage more industrial and municipal projects than agricultural ones.

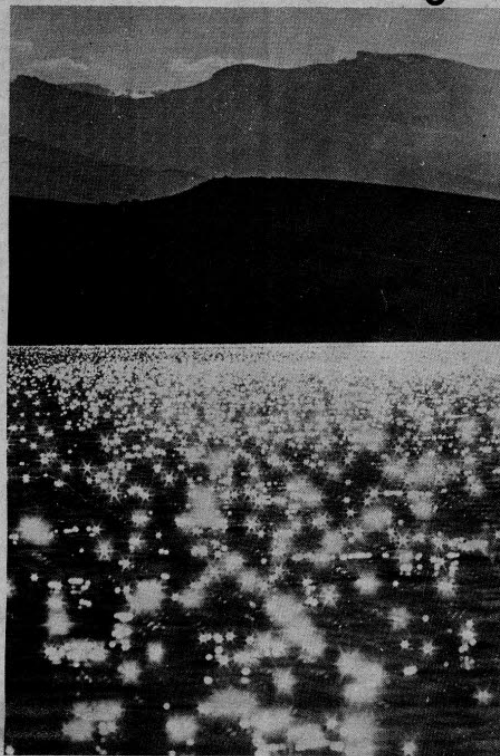
Sherman also warns that the administration may be able to enact a de facto cost-sharing program with the states simply by refusing to seek funding for projects the states are unwilling to help finance.

Carter is emphasizing maintaining in-stream flows of water to protect fish, wildlife and other values. This aspect drew criticism from Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler, who says the emphasis on minimum stream flows shows that Carter lacks understanding of Western water needs.

Carter did not recommend changes in the discount rate that is used to determine the economic feasibility of projects. The Environmental Policy Center calls the current rate of 6.625% "unreasonably low" and charges that it does not reflect current bank interest rates.

EPC's Blackwelder also says that a major flaw in the plan is its treatment of projects that have already been authorized or funded. These projects will be exempt from the water policy and not be re-evaluated according to the guidelines established by the administration. There are currently 800 projects that have been authorized, though most of them have not been funded.

The only major portion of the policy requiring Congressional action is the proposal for state financial participation. Blackwelder says, "They won't get that



WESTERN WATER will have to be conserved by municipal and industrial users under the new federal water policy.

through, without a lot of work, and not in this session in any case."

Carter has promised to veto any legislation that includes funding for the eight new water projects he rejected in his "hit list" last year. A House vote on those projects is the first test of the water policy on Capitol Hill. Western water projects that may be affected are Narrows and Fruitland Mesa in Colorado and Savery-Pothook on the Wyoming-Colorado border.

Agreement reached on St. Joe River

"Peace has come to the St. Joe Valley," Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) said as he introduced compromise legislation that would place about half of the St. Joe River into the nation's Wild and Scenic River System. About 66 miles of the Idaho river above the town of Avery would be included. The upper 26 miles would be a wild river, and the lower 40 would be a recreational river. No mining would be allowed along the river under either designation.

Conservationists had asked that the entire length of the river be included in the system. They were particularly concerned about the possibility of dredge mining in the upper half, however. Property owners along the lower half of the river had fought any classification.

Audubon finds dam a bad investment

The proposed Narrows Dam in northeastern Colorado would yield about 15 cents for each dollar invested by the federal government — not the \$2.10 projected by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, says an economist.

The economist, Thomas M. Power of the University of Montana, was paid to analyze the project by the National Audubon Society, which opposes the dam.

Power says government analysts overestimated how much farmers would be willing to pay for water from the Narrows reservoir.

Meanwhile, the city council of Fort Morgan, the town seven miles northeast of the dam site, has voted 6-1 against the dam. The council says it is worried about seepage, the high cost of building the project and opposition from local farmers. It suggested that the project be built upstream near Greeley, Colo.

With the exception of Rep. Pat Schroeder (D), the Narrows project has the backing of the Colorado congressional delegation. Congress already has appropriated \$1.5 million for the project. A decision on whether it can be built is expected from the U.S. Interior Department soon.

Environmentalists say the project could harm critical habitat for sandhill and whooping cranes downstream on the Platte River in Nebraska.



Western Roundup



June 16, 1978

13

EPA recommends relaxed national smog limits



DENVER STILL would not meet clean air standards, despite the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to tolerate more smog in the air. Cities such as Colorado Springs and Pueblo would meet the proposed new standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed tolerating more smog in the air, a move that would make it easier for communities to meet federal clean air standards, the **Rocky Mountain News** reports.

Smog, one of five pollutants for which standards are set, will now be allowed in the air up to levels of .10 parts per million per hour instead of the previous .08 parts per million.

EPA also says that smog will henceforth be identified as "ozone" instead of "photochemical oxidants."

According to the **News**, EPA says the new standards would probably mean that Colorado Springs and Pueblo, currently out of compliance with the smog standard, would be able to comply. Denver still would not comply, however.

Critics are charging that EPA is giving in to the petroleum industry, which filed a lawsuit last year challenging the standard. However, the petroleum industry wanted the standard raised by 300 percent to 500 percent—to between .25 and .4 parts per million.

The **News** quotes an attorney who worked on the petroleum case predicting "disappointment among the oil industry,

which had been hoping that there would be a greater relaxation of that standard."

EPA says it is not giving in to the oil industry. Terry Thoen, deputy director of the energy office in EPA's Denver headquarters, says the standard was changed because the original one was based on faulty data.

EPA is required to set two standards for smog, a primary standard to protect human health and a secondary standard dealing with effects on the public welfare. Since 1971, the same standard has been used for both. The proposed change would affect only the primary standard, leaving the secondary standard at .08 parts per million.

Major sources of smog in cities include gasoline stations, oil refineries and automobiles. The noticeable health impacts of the pollutant are eye irritation, chest tightness and coughing.

EPA's decision is not final and the agency is requesting comments on the proposal. Comments should be sent to Joseph Padgett, director, Strategies and Air Standards Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709.

Carter asked to step into Foothills

"The real question," said Rep. Bill Armstrong (R-Colo.), "is no longer which version of Foothills should be built but who will control the destiny of metropolitan Denver and the state of Colorado."

With that, Armstrong asked President Carter to overrule Alan Merson, regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, and grant a permit Merson had denied for construction of the Foothills water treatment project.

Merson said the Denver Water Board, in proposing a 243-foot dam, was trying to "kill a flea with an elephant gun" because a 40-foot dam would adequately have served Denver's needs. He refused to grant a dredging and filling permit for the project.

Douglas Costle, the EPA's national administrator, has indicated he would support Merson's decision. Armstrong asked Carter to order Costle "to withdraw EPA's objections to the Foothills plant."

"Environmental and economic issues have been debated for years," Armstrong said in a letter to the White House. "But just about everybody agrees the Foothills decision will have a crucial effect on the future of Denver and, to a lesser extent, on the rest of Colorado...It is truly a local issue, an issue which the people of Colorado are well able to settle."

Gov. Dick Lamm, Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) and Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) also oppose the EPA decision.

James L. Ogilvie, manager of the Denver Water Department, has said the city may fight the EPA decision in court.

In the meantime, the water department has posted "keep out" signs at both ends of Waterton Canyon, where the project would be built. The signs went up because construction work has begun on access roads for the project.

Developments shrinking Platte River

For many years, the Platte River used to be described as "a mile wide and an inch deep." It's no deeper now, but it certainly is narrower, says Garnett Williams, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver.

A six-month study of the Nebraska river shows that reservoirs, groundwater pumping, power plants and other diversions have reduced the Platte's flow so much that, in some sections, it carries only one-fourth the water it did in 1865, Williams says.

"The drastic changes due to various developments associated with man" are common to other Western rivers such as the Colorado in Arizona, he says.

Because of the reduced flow, Williams says, wildlife habitat has been endangered and the amount of irrigation water reduced. What used to be a river channel in many cases is overgrown with vegetation, he says. Predators hide in the vegetation and prey on the sandhill cranes and the endangered whooping cranes, he says.

Outfitters win elk season hearing

For two years now, game wardens in Cody, Wyo., have been urging the state Game and Fish Commission to shorten the

Propose 34,500 acres for DuNoir

The House Interior public lands subcommittee has approved a 34,500-acre DuNoir addition to the Washakie Wilderness Area in Wyoming.

"It's a balanced proposal," said Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.), sponsor of the measure. "The bill would preserve one of the most beautiful areas in Wyoming. But we also made deletions of oil and gas leased land and areas of immediate timber sale potential."

Roncalio originally had proposed a 43,700-acre addition, but scaled that down to compromise with the Carter administration's proposal for 28,800 acres.

The measure now goes to the full House Interior Committee.

elk-hunting season in the area because they said the herds are declining.

Last month, reports the **Billings Gazette**, the commission held a hearing on the matter in Cheyenne.

Robert Dohse, a Cody businessman, past president of the Cody Chamber of Commerce and director of the State Motel Association, testified that hunting "is a \$2 million a year industry," and shortening the hunting season "would jeopardize the economy of the area."

Bill Vehnekamp, at the time president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and in 1977 the holder of an outfitter's license, said, "The Wyoming Wildlife Federation is strongly opposed to changing the dates without further study." The week after his testimony, the federation voted Vehnekamp out of office.

Game wardens produced figures showing the local elk population was declining.

The commissioners, who are political appointees, voted not to change the hunting dates, but said that "studies (should) be conducted."

The town of Cody is named after Buffalo Bill Cody, who contributed a great deal to the disappearance of the buffalo from the plains.

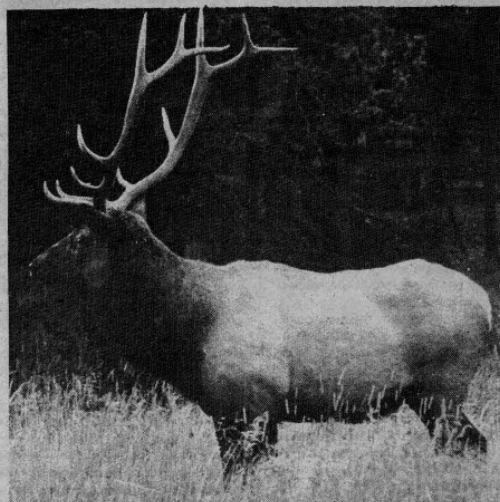


Photo by Lynne Bama

ELK HERDS are declining around Cody, Wyo., yet the state Game and Fish Commission, after hearing from outfitters, has decided not to shorten the hunting season.



14-High Country News

— June 16, 1978



Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world



DIRTY DOZEN. For the first time, Environmental Action's Dirty Dozen list includes U.S. senators. Sens. Jesse A. Helms (R-N.C.) and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) join 10 congressmen on the list of legislators Environmental Action deems most worthy of defeat this year because of their anti-environmental voting records. The congressmen are: William L. Armstrong (R-Colo.); Garry Brown (R-Mich.); Samuel L. Devine (R-Ohio); Willis D. Gradison, Jr. (R-Ohio); George V. Hansen (R-Idaho); Jerry Huckaby (D-La.); John T. Myers (R-Ind.); Ted Risenhoover (D-Okl.); Ray Roberts (D-Tex.); and Jamie L. Whitten (D-Miss.).

INFLATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Charles Schultze, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, recently told Douglas Costle, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, that proposed regulations governing industrial emissions would be unnecessarily costly to business. Since Schultze is close to the president, an EPA spokesman said he carries clout. Schultze's statement was part of an anti-inflation campaign, and environmentalists are worried that the campaign may signal declining emphasis by government on pollution control, reports the *Omaha World-Herald*.

WATER NOT A MINERAL. Jesus Christ turned water into wine. Charlestone Stone Products Co. has been trying to turn it into a mineral. Thirteen years ago, the Interior Department sued Charlestone, saying the company's 25 sand and gravel mining claims were invalid because they were not based on discovery of a valuable mineral. Charlestone persuaded lower federal courts that the water it uses for washing sand and gravel was a valuable mineral. But the Supreme Court, after hearing the Interior Department and several water-short states argue that the lower courts' ruling would "unsettle the law of water rights throughout the Western states," this month unanimously rejected Charlestone's argument.

GAS PRICE DEREGULATION. A House-Senate conference committee recently reached a compromise to deregulate natural gas prices by 1985. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger says he expects Congress to adopt the compromise. Furthermore, Schlesinger says, "There will be some small increase in energy prices, in gas prices. (But) I would think the impact on the cost of living for consumers would be negligible." Schlesinger made the comments June 4 on NBC's "Meet the Press."

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Western energy show hits the road

They describe themselves as "an unparalleled extravaganza," and "smashing theater," but they carry a message about pollution, conservation and the sun.

The New Western Energy Show is off on its third summer tour with skits, music, exhibits and workshops about renewable energy.

In June and early July the tour will visit the Montana towns of Lewistown, Glendive, Havre and Conrad.

In late July the show will offer classes for children in Helena, Mont.

In August, it will perform at Glacier and Grand Teton national parks.

The troupe hopes to spend September, October, and November touring schools in the region. The show costs schools or towns a minimum of \$250 per day.

For those who would like to set up their own energy show, the group has published a book entitled *The Energy Show* that contains music, stage directions and a 35-page script for a children's show. A movie about the show will also be available soon. The show, which is sponsored by the Alternative Energy Resources Organization, is based in Helena at 226 Power Block, 59601, (406) 443-7272. Robin Leenhouts and David Nimick are its co-directors.



ROBIN LEENHOUTS AND DAVID NIMICK are co-directors of the New Western Energy Show, a traveling band of entertainers and technicians promoting renewable energy.

classifieds

WYOMING NAM. For a democratic socialist view of the energy crisis, nuclear and solar power, send \$1.50 to help cover mailing costs to Wyoming NAM, Box 238, Laramie, Wyo. 82070.

CANYON COUNTRY GUIDEBOOKS.

For a list of 12 guidebooks and maps describing the canyon country of southeastern Utah, write Wasatch Publishers, P.O. Box 963H, Moab, UT 84532.

UTAH WRITERS sought by HCN. We are interested in stories from Utah on air pollution, alternative energy innovations, coal development, and people making the news. Pay is two cents to four cents per word for fair, accurate news reporting. One-sided diatribes unacceptable. Contact Joan Nice, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520 with story ideas.

RANGER WANTED. Now taking application for the position of Montana Wilderness Association Wilderness Ranger for the 1978 field season. Applicants must be personable, in good physical condition and willing to spend much of the summer in Montana's designated and de facto wilderness areas, distributing wilderness literature and soliciting members for the association. Pay will be based on a 50% commission of new memberships obtained and a one-time "grubstake." Please mail personal resumes to: Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, Montana 59601.

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HCN Survey

The May 5, 1978 issue of High Country News contains the current HCN Survey and Reader Profile. Tell us where to go! Fill out the survey and send it to HCN, Box K, Lander Wyo. 82520.

WILDLIFE PHOTOS

ORIGINAL CUSTOM PRINTED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHS HAND PRINTED ON BEAUTIFUL GLOSSY NON-FADING CIBACHROME PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER. VERY TRUE COLOR. ALL AGAINST BEAUTIFUL NATURAL BACKGROUNDS.

ANTELOPE — Newborn fawn, running doe, buck, big herd. DEER — Buck in velvet, buck leaping fence, fawns in winter. ELK — Bull on snow, bull in velvet, bugling bull. GOLDEN EAGLE — Immature bird in nest (extreme closeup). CANADA GEESE — Feeding.

PRAIRIE DOG, MARMOT, STRUTTING SAGE GROUSE, TRUMPETER SWANS 8x10 print — \$10 — add \$1 for matboard mount. Available on beautiful REDWOOD PLAQUE for \$5 extra 11x14 print — \$20 — add \$2 for matboard (no plaque) Other wildlife scenes — write, probably have them.

ED'S CAMERA ADVENTURES, 242 Main Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520 (307) 332-3000.

Classroom rates

Educators, order High Country News for classroom use in bulk for the September school term.

HCN centerspreads often cover the flora and fauna of the West. Natural history classes have found them an exciting resource.

Journalism classes use HCN as a research tool and as an example of alternative reporting. Environmental design classes read HCN for ideas on alternative energy use. Business and law schools subscribe to HCN for news of natural resource conflicts.

For bulk rates for your school or students, contact HCN at Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520 or call (307) 332-4877. (Individual issues of HCN may be purchased in bulk, too.)



HCN Bulletin Board



High Country News-15
June 16, 1978

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

Those people who run EPA
Held Colstrip and Foothills at bay.
They faced the big stacks
And Denver's attacks.
May their skies be not smoky all day.

SOLAR ENERGY HEARINGS

On May 3, Sun Day, President Carter said he wanted to speed up the development of solar energy. To promote this, the Department of Energy will hold public hearings this month. In the Rocky Mountain states, the hearings will be: June 19, 1 to 9 p.m., at the Northern Hotel in Billings, Mont.; June 21, 1 to 9 p.m., at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City; June 27, 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., at the Auraria Student Center in Denver. Pre-registration deadlines for the Billings and Salt Lake meetings have already passed. For the Denver hearing, register by June 21 at DOE Region VIII, P.O. Box 26247 — Belmar Branch, Lakewood, Colo., 80226.

NEW MEXICO URANIUM

The Southwest Research and Information Center has prepared a publication with details on New Mexico's uranium industry, including lists of operations, people and organizations involved. It is current to March 1978 and will be updated quarterly. The document is available from Southwest Research and Information Center, P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106. The price is \$15 for individuals and not-for-profit organizations, \$50 for profit-making corporations.



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Tim O'Brien —
Eclectic fiddle

Guess Who's in Town

This album's query: "Guess Who's in Town?" is answered with such a variety of musical styles and songs that one knows Tim O'Brien and friends must be in town.

O'Brien is a fine singer and a triple-treat instrumentalist. He plays fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. His voice is a haunting tenor.

There are 15 selections on this album. Side one is fiddle-filled, with eight tunes from the country. Side two vocals include some sweet, vibrant, swing numbers like "Guess Who's in Town" and "Cadillac-in" (with the Ophelia Swing Band).

To order: send \$5 to:
Tim O'Brien, 1251-A, Verbena Street, Denver, Colo. 80220. (Biscuit City Records — BC 1317)
HCN is sharing the profits on sales of this album.

IDAHO AQUATIC NATURAL AREAS

The Idaho Water Resources Institute has published an inventory of Idaho's aquatic natural areas. The areas have been classified scientifically to aid in the evaluation of each area. **Aquatic Natural Areas in Idaho** is available for \$5.00 from the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843. The institute will also conduct a summer aquatic biology workshop from July 18 to 27, which will be limited to 12 students. For further information, contact Dr. Fred W. Rabe at the University of Idaho.

SMALL FARM ENERGY NEWSLETTER

The **Small Farm Energy Project Newsletter** is an irregular publication, designed to disseminate information on renewable alternative energy sources for farms. The newsletter is available to anyone who wants to receive it by writing to the Small Farm Energy Project, P.O. Box 736, Hartington, Neb. 68739.

TRAILS PROCEEDINGS

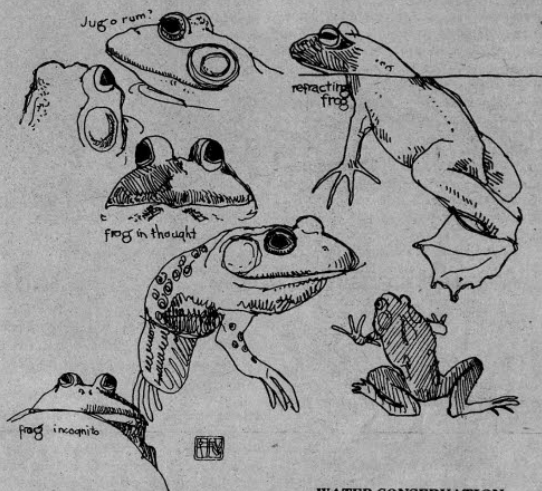
A limited number of copies of proceedings are available from the 1977 Idaho Trails Symposium held Nov. 12-13 at the University of Idaho. The 62-page publication is based on the theme, "River and Trail Restrictions — New Approach to Recreation in Idaho?" Presentations were by river and trail users (both motorized and non-motorized) and by public land managers. Send two dollars with checks payable to the University of Idaho. Write to the Coordinator of Continuing Education, College of Forestry, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

WORK

The National Center for Appropriate Technology is looking for a publications editor. NCAT also seeks an education-media specialist. The publications editor job would pay \$17,000 per year and is available Aug. 1. The education-media job pays \$14,000 and is available June 1. Resumes should be sent to: The National Center for Appropriate Technology, Attn. Business Office, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Mont., 59701.

MULTIPLE USE

The public is invited to comment on Bureau of Land Management proposals for multiple-use management of the Lea-East Eddy Planning units in New Mexico at a public hearing June 22 at 7 p.m. in the Holiday Inn at 3700 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, N.M.



ENERGY MAPS

Maps of U.S. energy transportation systems are available from the U.S. Geological Survey. The series of 19 multi-colored maps show oil, gas, coal, electricity, and other forms of movable energy from production to consumption points. The maps are \$1.50 each. Order lists are available. For maps from west of the Mississippi, write to USGS Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, Building 41, Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

NUCLEAR COSTS

The cost increases of nuclear power since the early 1960s are the subject of a report prepared by the California Institute of Technology. The study, **Cost Escalation of Nuclear Power**, concludes that nuclear capital costs have risen more rapidly than the gross national product deflator or the Construction Industry Price Index. The report is available free from the Environmental Quality Laboratory, CIT, Pasadena, Calif. 91125.

CLEARINGHOUSE

Almost a year ago, Organizers Clearinghouse began helping people who wanted to work for nonprofit community groups. To further aid those seeking that type of work, the clearinghouse now is printing a newsletter. For more information, contact: Tim Sweeney, 149 Ninth St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103.

SOLAR ENERGY PROMISE

The Council on Environmental Quality says that by the year 2000, the United States could produce one-quarter of its energy from solar technologies. And by the year 2020, half of the country's energy needs could come from the sun, according to **Solar Energy: Progress and Promise**, a CEQ sponsored review of the technical and economic status of solar power. Copies are available from CEQ, 722 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The price is \$2.30.

WATER CONSERVATION

A pamphlet on water conservation devices has been published by the U.S. Government Printing Office. The publication gives general information on advantages and disadvantages of using different devices, ranging in price from nothing to several thousand dollars. According to the pamphlet, one community reduced its water consumption by 25% by using the devices. For a copy, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402 and ask for publication number 024-000-00837-1.

JOBS WITH EARS

Flexible working hours, generous vacations, access to one of the largest alternative energy libraries in the world, and produce from an organic garden are among the inducements the Environmental Action Reprint Service is offering potential employees. The service says it soon will have one, possibly two, openings for full-time workers at a salary of \$100 per week. Resumes and letters should be sent to: EARS, 2239 E. Colfax, Denver, Colo., 80206.



16-High Country News — June 16, 1978

Carl Whitman: a drop-out with alternative ideas

by Marjane Ambler

Carl Whitman is a drop-out and proud of it. He won't say if he dropped out of school or established society, but he makes it clear he's dropped out of the conventional energy race.

At Indian energy conferences in the West, two or three speakers inevitably argue against exploiting coal under the reservations because they say such development could ruin Indian culture. Whitman usually is the only one to attack coal development from a technological, as well as cultural, viewpoint.

A stocky man in his mid-60's, who usually wears a vest with Indian beadwork and has long gray braids that dangle over his shoulders, Whitman stands before a microphone and tells his audience that coal development is premature since we haven't learned yet to get the full value out of coal.

"Coal-burning power plants were developed during a time of abundance. We can't afford to use them now...it's a needless squandering of our resources," he says. More than half the potential energy from coal is wasted.

At a meeting in Billings, Mont., he accused professors from Montana State University of prostituting their profession by assuming that further coal development was necessary rather than trying to improve the efficiency of coal-burning.

His facile use of the jargon of physics and chemistry shows he has had years of academic training, but he won't say how much. "Too many people measure what you say by where you graduated from instead of by the content. I like to pride myself on being a drop-out—you can take it as either an academic drop-out or a social drop-out," he says.

In the 1960s, he quit teaching at Arizona State University to become a field coordinator for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). He had become "disenchanted with dishing out second hand knowledge" and was eager to find new knowledge (new to him, he is quick to add). He returned to his reservation, Fort Berthold in North Dakota, but became disillusioned with tribal government as a means of improving the lives of his people. He had served on the tribal council and was tribal chairman for three terms.



CARL WHITMAN: "I pride myself on being a drop-out."

Now he is director of the Industrial Development Commission, which is funded by the Economic Development Authority, a federal agency, and is responsible for economic planning for the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation. His emphasis there has been on alternative energy. He was responsible for an alternative energy conference last winter at Fort Berthold, which was attended by representatives of tribes from several states. He also brought speakers to the reservation for a workshop on solar energy for Sun Day this spring.

In fact, he has been so preoccupied with alternative energy that some tribal members say he has been derelict in his duties. "He has a job as an EDA planner, and he's not doing it," one tribal member says. However, the critic admits that part of the

showed little interest in alternatives, "You'll end up with a mess." His hopes lie largely with young people, whom he considers more "turned on" than their elders.

A son, Jason Bluebird, has adopted many of his father's interests. He recently built a subterranean earth lodge with a solar greenhouse, which utilizes many principles of energy conservation.

To Whitman, the use of alternative energy is more than a hobby. He says he feels a responsibility to the next generation

"If we can demonstrate that there are viable alternatives without destroying the land, then it would be shameful for the petroleum companies to take fossil fuels from under us."

problem might be that "you can't be a prophet in your own land."

Whitman is seeking a grant that might resolve the conflict. A new tribal corporation, Noughbaha, Inc. (The People Inc.), applied to the Department of Energy for \$560,000 to be used for research, design, development and testing of solar and other alternative energy systems. Whitman hopes the tribal corporation can produce the alternative energy equipment at low cost. He also hopes the corporation can demonstrate that such alternatives are practical. Indians, like whites, have developed the habit of turning on switches, Whitman says. Few reservation residents attended the two alternative energy meetings, and that to Whitman showed they distrust what they consider to be exotic new technologies.

"How many adults do you see here?" he asked school children at the Sun Day workshops. He told them that because adults



to leave a livable world. He thinks the petroleum industry has an "insidious scheme" to upset the values of rural people. "When we have a taste of affluence, we're primed for exploitation," he says.

"If we can demonstrate that there are viable alternatives without destroying the land, then it would be kind of shameful for the petroleum companies, etc., to take these resources (fossil fuels) out from under us," he says.

"Much of what I'm doing is dismissed as wild fantasies," he says. However, that doesn't stop him. "If this happens (massive energy development), it will not be because I didn't do my part to avert it," he says.

Dear Friends,



JAZMYN McDONALD

Welcome to Jazmyn McDonald, our new office manager, bookkeeper and typesetter.

She's the only person who could make nine errors in two paragraphs on her typing test and still convince us to hire her. The staff gathered one afternoon to discuss the applications and decided, based on intangibles, that we wanted McDonald. She would learn to typeset. There were no dissenters.

She comes to us from SEERS WEEKLY in Albuquerque, N.M., where her duties included advertising, promotion, bookkeeping, layout, a

weekly news page and the city council beat. She has a B.A. in economics from Stanford University and experience waitressing in Grand Teton National Park, planting trees, gardening, and doing legal research.

Three summers in the Tetons were what convinced her she wanted to live in Wyoming year-round. The first thing she noticed about High Country News was that we used a reversal of the Tetons for our flag on the front page. She liked the reporting and the "friendly feel" of the paper, too, she said.

After only a few weeks together, we suspect that McDonald intends to make a dent in the disorder that sometimes prevails at High Country News. Already she has our weekly cleanup as-

signments charted in the lunch room. She has tamed the typesetting machine and has gone on to upgrade our budgeting techniques.

What brings such a whirlwind to High Country News? In a letter of application McDonald told us that Lander was central to areas of the country that are endangered, "and I am eager to further their preservation."

We made it through our second annual Lander Citizens Footrace June 3rd. The event happened to coincide with meetings of the Sierra Club and the Wyoming Outdoor Council in Lander. Six High Country News staff members finished the five-mile course, as did countless inspiringly fit High Country News readers and friends.



Photo by Katherine Morehead

THE STARTING LINE at the High Country News Footrace.

In The News

Wyoming

in Washington. 1

NCAT

caught. 1

Colstrip

declared too dirty. 10

Salt Lake City

business before health. 11

Carter

still stalking pork barrels. 12

Carl Whitman

wary about coal. 16