

The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies and Great Plains

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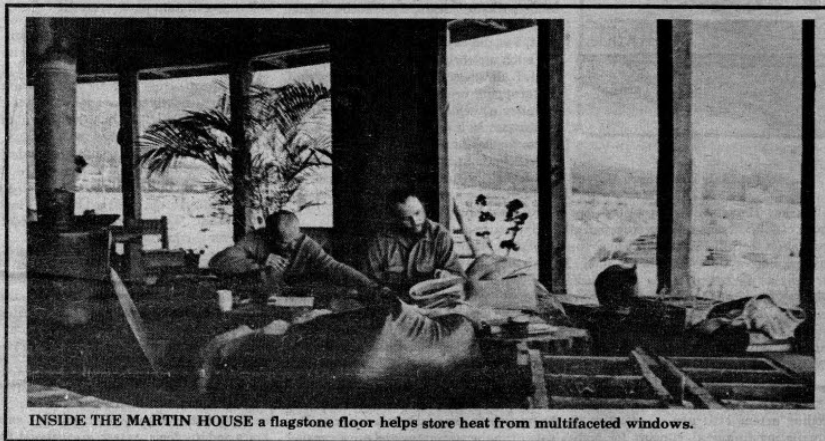
High Country News

Vol. 11 No. 10

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, May 18, 1979

The nation's hottest spot for cheap solar homes



INSIDE THE MARTIN HOUSE a flagstone floor helps store heat from multifaceted windows.

Text and photos by Evan Ravitz

TAOS, N.M. — In this county of 22,000 people in northern New Mexico, fire meets ice — the days are sunny, but the nights are cool and temperatures dip to 30 below in winter.

Traditionally, Taos homes have been heated by wood, but the stands of scraggly pinon juniper favored for firewood are receding before the increased demands of a burgeoning population. Taos is still one of the poorest counties in the United States; the average 1974 income for a family of four was \$3,600. Of necessity, many residents have turned to an inexpensive alternative to wood heat — solar power.

Of the approximately 6,500 homes in the county, over 160 are solar-heated — close to 2.5 percent, the highest concentration in the world. Five out of every six solar homes in Taos are passive — meaning that they don't use mechanical devices to move the solar heated air around the house. They have no expensive pumps or fans to break down or to fail when the electricity goes off. Rather, passive systems rely on the natural flow of heat by radiation, conduction and convection.

A group of solar homes in Taos were the first houses in the country to qualify for low-interest loans guaranteed by the Farmers Home Administration. The homes cost \$23 a square foot, including land, water, an electric hookup and a baseboard electric heater as a backup. Each of the home's south walls is mostly glass. A glass wall costs about what an insulated frame wall does. The sun shines in on the concrete slab floor, which is insulated around the edges, and the concrete block walls, which are bermed with earth for cheap insulation. The concrete absorbs enough heat on a sunny day to keep the temperature above 68 degrees on the coldest winter night, as long as the windows are insulated at night. About 90 percent of the homes' heat demands are met by solar energy. However, the homes often reach 80 degrees on a winter day unless vented, and the residents must live in direct sun. These houses operate on a principle solar engineers call "direct gain" (see sketch).

What are the cheapest and simplest ways to make these houses more comfortable? First, an extra heat storage wall can be added between the windows and living area, sectioning off a hot space, which makes a perfect greenhouse, and shielding the living area from direct sun. Windows or doors in this wall allow control of convection from the greenhouse to the house.

THE SHERER HOUSE

The Sherer house uses this scheme, and it is one of the most successful solar houses

MacKaye's reinvasion of nature galvanized conservation forces

©1979 by Peter Wild

Like a king expanding his domain, in 1905 Gifford Pinchot began sending small teams around the country to report back on potential lands for his new Forest Service.

The leader of one of these explorations, young Benton MacKaye (the name rhymes with sky), just that year had received a master's degree in forestry from Harvard Forest School. Knapsacks strapped to backs, MacKaye's three-man expeditionary force pushed and pedaled its bicycles through New Hampshire's White Mountains. After a summer of investigating New England's backyard, the men reported to Washington that the mountain range played a major role in protecting New Hampshire's water resources and thus deserved inclusion in Pinchot's national forest system.

Their findings may strike us as obvious today, but at the turn of the century the complexities of ecosystems were little studied and even less understood. Further, the report represented a wedge for establishing national forests in the East.

New England's pristine wildness was nearly gone by 1905. The loss was felt

throughout the heavily populated Eastern United States.

Early conservationists, often an elite band of two factions advocating forest or wildlife reform, had laid the groundwork for change. But, despite the sense of loss in New England and West Virginia, the ordi-

He lived "like the Biblical prophet, off what the ravens brought."

nary citizen of the crowded Eastern seaboard found it difficult to feel a personal stake in fights to establish a national forest out among the peaks of the Rockies or to save egrets off in Florida's gloomy swamps. Over the years, a third group slowly emerged to fill the psychological gap and add a new dimension to the conservation movement — the hiking societies.

REDISCOVERY

The oldest of these, the Appalachian Mountain Club, with headquarters in Boston, was founded in 1876, to be followed by the Green Mountain Club and the Dart-



mouth Outing Club. Far more gently than the first wave of settlement and exploitation, the hiking movement rediscovered the American hinterland. Volunteers spent weekends and summer holidays axing out trails through the underbrush, constructing shelters and delivering scientific lectures on their adventures.

"We discover a thing by losing it," Benton MacKaye would later observe. What the hikers, amateur scientists and spiritual seekers soon realized as they escaped New York City and Boston was that they were quickly losing the woodlands and wildlife they were just beginning to appreciate.

Thus the hikers saw that to enjoy also meant to preserve. Yet, while activists in the nation's capital pored over maps of the West to set aside huge blocks of real estate from the public domain as federal forests,

(continued on page 4)

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IMPRECISE

Dear HCN,

In your editorial you list the Rocky Flats Action Group among "groups that have been educating our leaders about the dangers of nuclear power." The actions of the same group were listed in the energy news column of the same issue and highlighted with a photo. Rocky Flats has nothing significant to do with nuclear energy, of course. (Rocky Flats produces triggers for nuclear weapons.)

I think that listing this group with the others in your list is a serious fuzzing of issues that will be detrimental to the evolution of a reasonable energy policy and procedure.

Kent Dannen
Estes Park, Colo.

(Ed. Note: While the Rocky Flats Action Group has staged its demonstrations at a nuclear weapons plant, the group is calling for, among other things, an end to nuclear power development in the U.S. and development of alternative energy sources.)

SLURRY OPPOSITION

Dear editor,

Noticed one inaccuracy in Dan Whipple's recent article on slurry pipelines (4-20-79). The Wyoming Outdoor Council did oppose the Energy Transportation Systems Inc. pipeline in 1974 as special interest legislation and because of unknown factors, such as water.

I know — as lobbyist for WOC in 1974, I made those statements.

Barb Koehler
Laramie, Wyo.

NATURE OF THE PLAGUE

Dear editors,

I liked very much the guest editorial by Tom Lyon in your April 20 issue. He sums up, clearly and concisely and bravely, the nature of the plague that is overrunning Alaska, our West, and most of the planet.

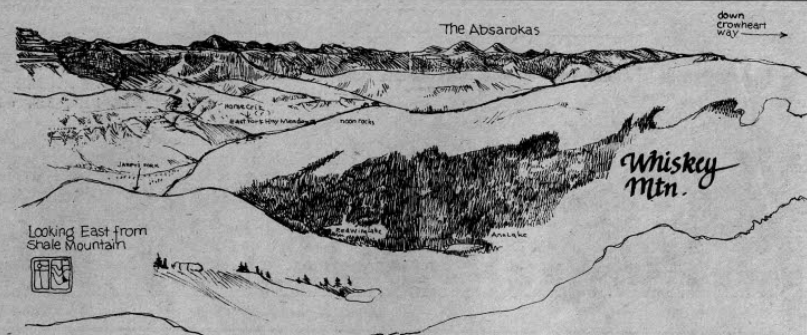
Edward Abbey
Wolf Hole, Ariz.

CONSTRUCTIVE CONSERVATISM

Dear HCN,

Like thundershowers that erode a bentonite-clay hill, TRUTH's cutting edge is slowly incising the festers of exaggerated rhetoric, willful ignorance and intellectual dishonesty. These tools are suddenly tired, old and obvious. Continued reliance on them will relegate today's environmental movement to yesterday's parade of passing fads.

For a time, these tools were — and to an



by Hannah Hinchman

Whiskey Mountain is an 11,000 foot chunk of uplifted sedimentary rock, part of the line of foothills that runs along the eastern side of the Wind River Range, straight as a breaker on a sandbeach. Whiskey Mountain is unusual, however, because it juts farther into the valley than most of the other foothills. From the top, with the Continental Divide at your back, you see 180 degrees of distant horizon, in-

cluding the entire Wind River Valley.

Whenever I climb Whiskey Mountain I end up with the same sense of bewilderment and surprise that I felt while reading *Through the Looking Glass*. I don't get lost; I would say it's impossible to get lost on such a clearly defined piece of terrain. But I always stumble on some new dell, outcropping or exposure that leaves me wondering what the real nature of the mountain is. It seems to invent some new form for itself each time. I feel sure I will never again find the depression thick with geodes or the limestone steps that seemed to have one pika per square yard. It might have been one Cheshire Cat pika.

This time it was weather that played the sleight-of-hand. My friend Dave dressed for a pleasant spring outing (he's new to the West) and I came battered down for a blizzard. We got both, and something neither of us had dressed for: an interval of desert summer heat. Clouds would boil up over the divide and begin advancing towards us, but not in any predictable way. Snow veils

would erase corners of our field of vision until, at one point, we were engulfed in a cloud with only one, small, colorful window showing a distant patch of sunlit valley.

On this journey it seemed to be the animals' turn to surprise us rather than vice versa. As we approached a rocky summit, a ground storm of rosy finches swept down on us, but fortunately passed over our heads. On top, several bighorn rams leaped out of a hunk of limestone right in front of Dave. An amorous blue grouse landed behind us in the forest and started to boom as if it meant business. We entered a clearing so full of singing birds it seemed like the Garden of Eden. They all fell abruptly silent whenever a squall obscured the sun.

One last blizzard, darkness and a drop in temperature sent us down the mountain. I'll climb it again soon, in time to watch the "old men of the mountain" sunflowers turn with the sun. I'll also be expecting something new from Whiskey Mountain's Pro- tean personality.

eroding extent still are — effective in stimulating financial support for high-sounding coalitions, councils or "Stop the Something" causes.

But a new season emerges. Its fresh spring blades of constructive conservatism are just barely apparent; its flower a harmonious hybrid of environmental stamens and economic pistils; and, like it or not, its stable, unseen root is money.

Constructive conservatism can be illustrated by a hypothetical cocktail party, as used by HCN's own slurry expert, Dan Whipple (HCN 4-6-79, page 3).

The bourbon cocktailer says, "I'm all for exporting our coal, socioeconomic problems and pollution problems to those gluttonous energy eaters of the Arkansas and Louisiana swamps, but make 'em send back the water in a recycle pipeline and sock 'em with severance taxes."

The scotch cocktailer says, "Export of Wyoming water should be a hideous crime — like rape. We need every drop of our water to preserve our lofty magical human heritage."

The beer drinker says, "Hell, let the railroads handle it. They haven't killed anyone in Wyoming anyway since May 13, 1979, and that was just an accident."

"But," I protest, "it's a waste of national resources to build a recycle line, pump water back 1,400 miles using non-renewable fossil fuel power to overcome the internal pipe friction plus an elevation rise of a mile. Water is a renewable resource which currently flows out of Wyoming at a rate equal to 1,000 pipelines. Much of it flows past Arkansas and Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico. It's better to let Nature recycle the water in its hydrologic system as snow and rain and let the motive power

be free, clean, renewable solar energy. This saves pipe, power money and preserves our unique lifestyle."

Others: "We'll drink to that. Slurry up for constructive conservatism!"

The influence of the money root, like rhizomes, is always spreading. The short-range shoots are the increased costs of inflationary delays, redesigns and imported fuels. (We now import coal for power plants, too, you know.)

The longer-ranging less visible roots are lower productivity, poorer efficiency, less reinvestment capital, less discretionary personal income, and monetary irresponsibility. The inexorable consequence is a decline in subscriptions, memberships, and financial contributions for formal environmental organizations. The "Stop the Something" crusades will tumble first. In the eventual shakeout, the survivors will

be those better-managed groups that embrace and implement creative constructive conservatism.

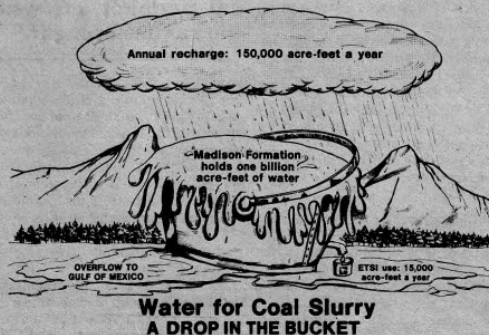
"Do Something" will replace "Stop Something." Not overnight, of course.

But, as the new generation emerges from the gentle rain of introspective searching and the bright sunshine of a holistic attitude encompassing both facts and philosophy, I hope we can all be content to hear them say, "Thanks, old man, for showing the way."

Slurry up!

Frank Odasz,
Rocky Mountain Area Manager,
Energy Transportation Systems Inc.
Member of the National Audubon Society,
The Wilderness Society and the Powder River Basin Resource Council

Cartoon submitted by Frank Odasz



POPULAR REALITIES

Gays, Machinists, Panthers

Some, trying to downplay the significance of the event, say there were only 65,000 people in attendance. Others say at least 125,000. But by anyone's count it was the largest gathering of protesters on the Capitol grounds since the Vietnam War protest.

But it wasn't just the location and the size of the crowd that gave participants in the May 6 anti-nuclear rally in Washington a sense of déjà-vu. The whole experience was like a Class of '69 reunion.

The anti-draft chants were reworked for the marchers between the White House and the capitol: "Hell no, we won't glow!" "Two, four, six, eight—we don't want to radiate!" The anti-establishment songs were recycled: Joni Mitchell sang, "You pave paradise and put up a nuclear hot-spot." The symbolic acts were reaffirmed: Dick Gregory, who also fasted during the war, vowed to forgo solid food until all nuclear plants were shut down. Old costumes from the anti-war days were dusted off. There was Uncle Sam and the Messenger of Death still celebrating what is wrong with America.

Remarkably, it was not just the Clamshell Alliance, Friends of the Earth, the Union of Concerned Scientists and other



traditional anti-nuclear groups carrying banners and handing out literature. Other groups, impressed by the lesson of Harrisburg, rallied to the cause. There were the Gray Panthers, the International Association of Machinists, the Mobilization for Survival, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and some representatives of the gay liberation movement.

The participants clearly were hoping that the anti-nuclear movement would inherit the intensity of the anti-war movement. California Gov. Jerry Brown has personal reasons for hoping this was the start of something big; his presidential aspirations depend on finding some source of

major unrest to propel him into the White House. But Brown, who has advocated a go-slow nuclear policy in his home state and has stopped just short of advocating a national no nukes policy, got a cool reception from the crowd. In fact, some participants booed him for his stands (or waffles and shifts) on non-nuclear issues.

Most didn't appear ready to totally abandon President Carter. They see him as sharing blame for the nation's nuclear policy with Energy Secretary James Schlesinger. The message was muddled, but read something like this: "We still want to believe in you, Jimmy, so drop Schlesinger and his nuclear ways now or we'll be forced to drop you in 1980."

There was some talk of Ted Kennedy as the standard bearer. He was the only senator invited to address the rally, but he cooled the crowd's potential enthusiasm by refusing to show.

A few days later, anti-nuclear activist Ralph Nader talked about the possibility of a third political party to raise the nuclear, environmental, consumer and civil rights issues. It was a statement of disenchantment with political leaders in both parties, but Nader had no suggestions about who should head the third party, and he made it clear he had no interest in the position himself.

In the days following the rally a few small bands of protesters knocked on the

doors of congressional offices, trying to find a few more champions. But the bulk of the protesters got on their buses and went back to their home towns. If those jubilant protesters don't keep up the clamor in every congressional district of every state, Jimmy Carter will have no compelling reason to dump Schlesinger; the public's memory of the Three-Mile Island nightmare will fade; the lesbians and Gray Panthers will go back to their primary crusades; and Jerry Brown will have to find a new, more powerful movement to lead. Let's hope it's not the pro-nuclear movement.

Amanda Whitney



by Tom Bell

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

It doesn't seem possible. There was only a wee gleam of hope in the beholder's heart when *High Country News* was launched (under its old name, *Camping News Weekly*) in May 1969. It was only a dream. Now, on this 10th anniversary, it forges ahead, vibrantly alive. In the intervening years there have been moments of agony and of rejoicing, of sorrow and of joy, of sadness and of happiness. There are sure to be more.

I sit here tonight at the old, round dining table where I have gathered my thoughts so often for columns in the past. My life has an entirely different turn now, so it is difficult to take up a train of thought that once motivated every waking moment. But the

memories flood back, of good times and bad, of deadlines and blank pages, of dear friends near and far—some of whom I have never met except through the pages of HCN. And who could forget the adversaries?

There are times, of course, when it still seems unreal. How is it possible to put aside something that had become so much a part of you? I can say frankly and truthfully that it is much like an amputation. But like an amputated part, which no longer functions in your life, you quickly put it out of your mind.

High Country News was conceived out of need. That need obviously still exists or the paper would not be alive and well today. People are concerned with the world around them. They do have a right to know how their lives may be changed by what happens across the river, or over the hill or even a thousand miles away. The realities of how lives are affected quickly come home in the consequences of a Three Mile Island incident.

The paper has never had a large circulation. Yet it has had an inordinate influence in some of the events of these times. Most of those it reaches are movers and shakers who are able to influence others. Politicians and bureaucrats alike have been goaded into actions during the past 10 years, which are reflected in what is happening today. Businesses, corporations and individuals have had to make accommodations for the concerns and interests of others. And all because they were alerted and informed.

The paper can take a certain pride in what it has been able to do to bring about change. It has done and said things that are normally impossible for any conventional newspaper to say. And that has been its strength. That also involves a certain amount of wisdom and courage.

I suppose HCN is a freakish, oddball curiosity in the eyes of most traditional

journalists. It must be like a bumblebee to an aerodynamicist—the darn thing isn't supposed to fly, but it does.

The reason it flies is in no small measure the result of staff. The paper has always been blessed with a tightly-knit, loyal and dedicated staff. In few other endeavors could you find people willing to dedicate themselves so unselfishly to such a worthy cause. It is a high calling.

I am justly proud of the people who have followed me and the original staff. The cause is such that the tradition is bound to

go on no matter who is at the helm and who takes care of the nuts and bolts. They have been and are loyal to the cause and the tradition.

Honors have come their way, such as the most recent one by the National Wildlife Federation. And more recognition is sure to come. I rejoice with them for I know not only how much work but how much sacrifice has gone into each issue.

My deepest thanks to all of you, to staff and readers alike, for keeping a dream alive. I thank God for the small part I was given to play in the continuing drama that is *High Country News*. May it live to a ripe old age.



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MacKaye's reinvasion...

(continued from page 1)

parks and wildlife refuges, the approach would not work in the populous East. There the government owned little unoccupied land.

In the East the land would have to be bought back by the government — an extraordinary proposal for the time, one that drew strong criticism. Some Congressmen huffed that they wouldn't spend one penny from the federal coffers for mere scenery. But the public, inspired by the hikers and supported by such diverse organizations as the Daughters of the American Revolution, garden clubs and local chambers of commerce, raised such an outcry for saving America's beauty that in 1911 Congress passed legislation sponsored by Rep. John Wingate Weeks of Massachusetts. The Weeks Forest Protection Law laid the basis for the system of preserved lands that Easterners now enjoy. Ironically, because abuses had left much of the East almost worthless for commercial exploitation, the land was cheap.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Despite their effectiveness, for the most part hiking clubs remained local organizations striving to protect nearby natural treasures. To sustain momentum with Congress, to gain publicity from national magazines and maintain public interest, the movement needed a wide appeal and a specific national goal. This was provided by Benton MacKaye.

Musing over a map of the new preserves, MacKaye noted their location along the crest of the East's spine, the rolling Appalachian Mountains within relatively easy access for city residents. Local hikers had established trails over some portions. Why not, he asked himself, connect the sections already built and extend them through new territory to create the nation's first hiking trail on a truly grand scale?

The public was ripe for the idea when MacKaye published "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning" in the October 1921 issue of the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*. Within a year, Boy Scouts finished the first official section over New York's Bear Mountain. By 1937 the world's longest designated path was complete. Enjoyed by millions of people since then, the trail begins on Mt. Katahdin in Maine, winds through 14 states and ends 2,031 miles to the south on Georgia's Springer Mountain.

The Appalachian Trail represents a culmination of conservation awareness in the East, and it remains a focus for outdoor pleasures as well as a rallying point. Over the years, droves of desk-bound volunteers from Eastern cities have gladly broken the urban pace with backpacking holidays and stints on maintenance crews. And these same men and women have felt personally affronted whenever subdivisions and spreading freeways threatened their outdoor bailiwick. They have written thousands of letters to Congressmen and turned out en masse at public meetings to protect the forests of the Appalachian Trail. As David Brower of Friends of the Earth puts it, the hiking movement has "built battalions of people who care. Without those people, there might have been no solitude at all."

RESCUE AMERICA

But what about the second half of MacKaye's 1921 proposal, "A Project in Regional Planning"? It would add, belatedly, a fourth dimension to conserva-

tion. George Perkins Marsh, Frederick Law Olmsted, Carl Schurz, and Teddy Roosevelt had urged society to bring its demands in line with the limited resources of the planet. By the 1920s and 1930s an ecological crisis seemed imminent to a second generation of planners. Such men as

The quiet harmony of farm, country store and town hall became MacKaye's ideal for the nation.

Aldo Leopold, Lewis Mumford and Benton MacKaye not only proposed nationwide programs of social change but banded into organizations to carry them out. As MacKaye described the needed shift of perspective: "Our early settlers first planted civilization by inroads of population through the forest; we today, in order to restore civilization, must develop forest inroads." MacKaye's Appalachian Trail, then, was only one element in a scheme to launch a "counterinvasion" against free-wheeling industrialization. His goal was nothing less than to rescue America.

"Bah," protested "the Father of the Appalachian Trail" to the promptings of one interviewer a few years before his death in 1975, "my personal life isn't important. I am interested in ideas." The wily Yankee didn't like to discuss the upbringing that shaped his thinking far more than he was willing to admit.

His father, Steele MacKaye, enjoyed a reputation as one of the country's leading actors and playwrights. A schoolmate of novelist Henry James and painter Winslow Homer, he ran away from his wealthy parents at age 14 to study art in Paris. His frenetically romantic career, highlighted by the ability to gamble — and lose — huge sums of money on grandiose plans, titillated Victorian society. Philosopher William James remembered Steele MacKaye as "effervescing with incoordinated romantic ideas of every description." The actor, still pursuing his elusive dreams, died of nervous exhaustion in Timpano, Colo.

Son Benton determined to avoid such pitfalls. His life proved to be a modified and more controlled version of the eccentricities that accompanied his father's originality. MacKaye scholar Paul T. Bryant summarizes the influence: "Young Benton early reacted against the mercurial impracticality of his idealistic father, but he absorbed his father's vision of improving human society. The result for Benton was an Emersonian idealism grounded in a Thoreauvian appreciation of practical ways and means."

THE VILLAGE IDEAL

Born in 1879 in Stamford, Conn., Benton spent his first decade tending his actor father from city to city. But eventually the MacKays made Shirley Center, Mass. — located only 20 miles from Walden Pond and Thoreau's famous bean patch — a home base for the family. It was a thoroughly rural New England town, one then just being discovered as a refuge by artists and intellectuals. Young MacKaye, like Olmsted in his boyhood, spent free time exploring the fields and mountains surrounding his home. And, as was also true of Olmsted, the syntheses of community and rural life in the New England village — the quiet harmony of farm, country

store and town hall — became MacKaye's ideal for the nation.

Concentrating on his ideas, MacKaye avoided repeating his father's financial mistakes by ignoring money matters. From 1905 until his retirement in 1945, he worked sporadically for the Forest Service, Department of Labor, Indian Service, Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Administration. He strove to open bureaucratic eyes with innovative approaches to the problems arising from industrialization.

Mumford, "like the Biblical prophet, off what the ravens brought."

It would be a mistake, however, to characterize MacKaye solely as a 20th-century, self-reliant, New England monk. True, his eccentricities amused friends, who note that he kept a mood chart — and that he washed his dishes precisely at 2:30 p.m., so that the day's bleakest task would correspond with the low ebb of his emotional cycle. An extreme fear of dogs in a man who could outrun a bear in the wilds caused additional chuckles. A fellow activist remembers: "He would meet our well-behaved pet with such a purposefully booming affectionate greeting (Gude Dawg! Gude Dawg!) that she would slink away to hide."

The other side of his personality was a "warm and generous spirit," marked by readiness for banter and the love of good food and drink shared with companions. Out on backpacking trips, MacKaye led the singing — and dancing — around the campfire. The little band of planners with which he associated could break out of its serious thinking with unpredictable ebullience. An official of the TVA recalls, "We once danced 'Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane' on the passenger platform of the Southern Railway station in Knoxville



Photo by Harvey Broome, courtesy of the Living Wilderness

BENTON MACKAYE

BELOW: BENTON MACKAYE (at right) with other founders of the Wilderness Society. From left: Bernard Frank, Harvey Broome and Bob Marshall.

Photo by Mable Abercrombie Mansfield, courtesy of The Living Wilderness



while waiting to see Benton off on one of his infrequent trips to Washington." Certainly, much of the energy came from frustration; but the joie de vivre also arose from the group's planning for a future just possibly made brighter through its efforts.

POSTWAR SHIVERS

A German, Oswald Spengler, had caused a shiver to run through Western civilization with his *Der Untergang des Abendlandes* (*The Decline of the West*). World War One was finishing its paroxysms, and many intellectuals, sharing little of the faith that the conflict had ended all wars, believed the book's main thesis — that like years passing through their seasons, all civilizations go through the sequence of spring, summer, autumn and winter. According to the book, the Western world was in its winter, its death throes. Spengler pointed to one symptom of the slow demise: overgrown, unmanageable cities. He noted the history of ancient Rome and Carthage and the decay of modern metropolises. The comparison seemed to confirm his gloomy conclusion.

Basically, MacKaye agreed with

Spengler's analysis, as far as it went. MacKaye, however, held out hope. If a society could understand the reasons for the enervation, it could then act on the knowledge to short-circuit the cycle and begin the process of rebirth. The causes, perceived

"We discover a thing by losing it."

neither by Rome or Carthage — nor by present-day New York or London — stemmed from abuse of the environment, accelerated in the 20th century by modern technology.

As with environmentalists before and since, MacKaye saw technology as neither good nor bad in itself. The problems arose from its misuse and overuse — "How at once to do and not to overdo?" as he succinctly put it.

One might look on MacKaye as a traditionalist rather than a radical. He wanted to defend the traditional American values of the pastoral dream — open space, social and environmental diversity, the abundance of resources resulting in pros-

perity and freedom of choice. In contrast, by the turn of the century the nation had struck out on a radical adventure, shifting from a rural to an urban society to be dominated by the automobile.

The New Englander foresaw the "wilderness of civilization" and the "slum of commerce." In reaction to the government's blindness to the coming crises, in 1923 MacKaye joined the Regional Planning Association, an informal "group of insurgents." Living in or near New York City, the innovative "architects and planners, builders and rebuilders," as they called themselves, pondered how the nation might substitute "harmonious balance" for the recent "blind creation" of an urban America. Stimulated by his fellow thinkers, in 50 years of writing articles and books — particularly *The New Exploration* (1928) and *From Geography to Geotechnics* (1968) MacKaye outlined how the developing country could reverse the trend. It could, if it chose, remodel "an unshapen and cacophonous environment into a humanized and well-ordered one."

Yankee simplicity and practicality typified MacKaye's thinking. In essence it called for keeping wilderness and technology separate, so that society could enjoy the advantages of both. A founder of The Wilderness Society, its president for five years (1945-1950), and a member of its governing council for 17, MacKaye maintained that wild lands form a nation's basic resource, both economically and spiritually. Thus, he drew up maps designating additional mountain ranges and river systems that should be preserved. These would protect the timber and watershed treasures on which city life depends. They would form wedges between urban areas, limiting the unmanageable spread of cities one into

Photo by Harvey Broome, courtesy of The Living Wilderness

BELOW: THE HIKING SOCIETIES added a new dimension to the conservation movement. Benton MacKaye (in the foreground with a knapsack) helped give them wide appeal and a national goal.



BENTON MACKAYE

Photo courtesy of The Living Wilderness



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another, while offering outdoor recreation to the nearby populations.

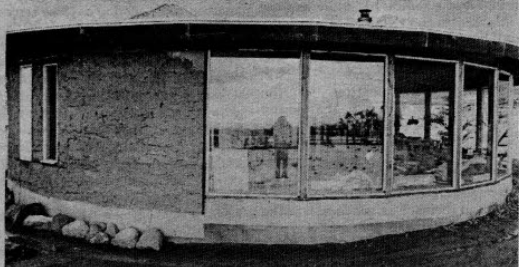
As to the cities themselves, the New Englander remembered the harmonious microcosm of Shirley Center and asserted, when few were listening, that when cities grow beyond a certain point they defeat their purposes. They lose the sense of community essential for smooth functioning and individual happiness. Partly to limit their spread, partly to enhance their environment by a "reinvansion" of nature, he saw the ideal city as a wheel. A greenbelt formed its outer rim, beyond which it could not expand, while roads radiating from its hub preserved natural, park-like spaces along their right-of-ways.

Roads in fact were one of the chief villains. The proliferation of the "gasoline locomotive," with the attendant spread of "motor slums" into the countryside was a curse, and it set MacKaye's teeth on edge. He praised the example of Radburn, N.J., "a new kind of city — a town deliberately built for the motor age" by MacKaye's associates, one which took its cue from Olmsted's Riverside, Ill., built decades before. Typically, main roads passed through cities, creating environments of noise, congestion, pollution and danger. Radburn preserved tranquility by confining through traffic to through avenues; dead-end streets in residential sections discouraged unwanted traffic. Not that MacKaye was a horse-and-buggy primitivist. He simply wanted to keep the machine in its place. As he saw it, the automobile was built for speed, and he appreciated the advantage. He advocated motorways placed outside population centers, designed with limited access, overpasses and centralized facilities for motorists — in other words, freeways.

"This is not utopia," insisted the crusty, impatient Yankee, "merely intelligence, effectively applied." However, MacKaye had his blind spots. His visions of organic, sensible growth all but ignored the realities of population increase — from 50 million to over 200 million in his own lifetime. That fact alone would have made any plan, no matter how intelligent, difficult to carry out. He didn't foresee that massive use of the automobile would make the word "freeway" nearly synonymous with urban blight. And lastly, his designs didn't take into account the psychology and politics of a nation that traditionally placed the short-term economic advantage of the individual before the long-term welfare of all.

Yet as far back as the 1920s "The Father of the Appalachian Trail" was suggesting solutions to the problems that now plague the country. Though not carried out as he envisioned, his proposals have resulted in some major gains. One of the first to propose a wilderness bill, he lived to see the national wilderness system become a reality decades later in 1964. Activists have expanded his idea for the Appalachian Trail into the National Trails System Act, passed in 1968. Insisting with Thoreau that man is "rooted squarely in the earth," he urged massive preservation, suggesting for instance that ecological study areas representative of the continent's natural diversity be set aside for the future — a proposal yet to be carried out.

As to MacKaye's farsighted approaches to today's gnawing problems, the *Washington Post* says: "Throughout his life, Benton MacKaye's thoughts have run ahead of his time. Had the postwar explosion of cities been guided by his principles, we would have a finer, more habitable country; we would have been spared the cost and ugliness of urban sprawl; and we should have a less burdensome task of rebuilding our cities." ☺



MULTIFACETED WINDOWS in the Martin house provide a spectacular view — and a more even heat gain throughout the day than would a bank of south-facing windows.

Nation's hottest spot...

(continued from page 1)

in Taos. The Sherer storage wall is made of one-foot-thick welded steel tanks containing water. The south sides of the tanks are painted black to absorb the sunlight. The light striking the tank is absorbed as heat and transferred to the water within. Because water heated on the sunny side of the tank mixes readily with the cooler water, a water wall can absorb heat faster than a masonry wall. Water also holds more heat per pound than masonry.

The Sherer home cost \$30 a square foot and is over 95 percent solar heated.

Multifaceted windows are another way to temper solar homes. Instead of pointing all the windows at the blazing noonday sun, some are oriented toward the sunrise,

when the house is coolest, and some toward the sunset, to keep the house from cooling prematurely.

A study prepared for The Architects of Taos shows that in winter, southeast and southwest facing windows gather about 70 percent of the heat per day that a south-facing window would. But they collect the heat at a cooler time of day, when it is needed.

THE MARTIN HOUSE

Several round houses in Taos provide this advantage, as well as spectacular views. The Martin house uses adobe walls and a flagstone floor to store heat from

multifaceted windows. In the shadowed parts of the home, frame walls and a concrete slab floor over one inch of styrofoam insulation were used. The home cost \$16.70 a square foot for materials — and untold labor. About 80 percent of the home's heat is provided by the sun.

THE LOBB HOUSE

The Lobb house uses multifaceted windows on a series of levels contoured to the land. Light and shadow play across the rooms of the house, providing a variety of temperatures and atmospheres that differ every day of the year. A massive adobe fireplace absorbs some sunlight, as does the masonry and dirt in the greenhouse area. The home cost about \$10 a square foot for materials and is about 80 percent solar-heated.

THE DAVIS HOUSE

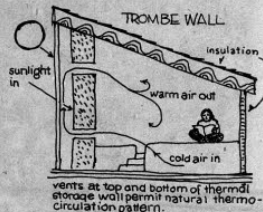
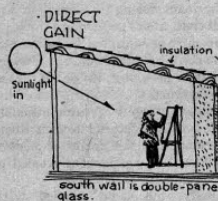
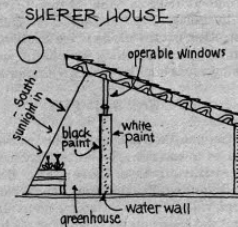
Even some cold, old adobe homes in Taos have been adapted to make better use of the sun. At the Davis house, fiberglass on a 2 x 4 frame wall sealed over the adobe serves as a Trombe wall (see sketch). This traps heat which is stored in the adobe. Vents are broken through the adobe at the bottom and the top of the air space, allowing control over convective heat.

Triangular clerestory windows on the roof work better than a horizontal skylight because they directly face the low winter sun. They are covered with insulation at night.

Some of the windows in the background are angled from the southwest wall towards the southern sun. The north wall has been insulated on the outside, turning the old adobe wall from a heat-leaking liability to a heat-storing asset. The house is about 70 percent solar-heated.

The Taos area also has homes with: a \$50-dollar solar hot water heating system; cheap, insulative "pumice-crete" walls, made of a mixture of concrete and pumice; cheaper, heat-storing dirt-filled tire walls; and solar outhouses.

These and other experiences in Taos show that a solar house need be no more expensive than a conventional house. Many Taos residents have found that solar greenhouses provide cheap edibles, as well as space heating and a humidified, oxygen-rich atmosphere. They've determined that water walls are probably the most efficient and simplest storage systems and that multifaceted windows provide a more even heat gain throughout the day than huge south-facing windows.



They've learned that a solar hot water system in a greenhouse will be considerably cheaper than one outside because it won't need freeze protection.

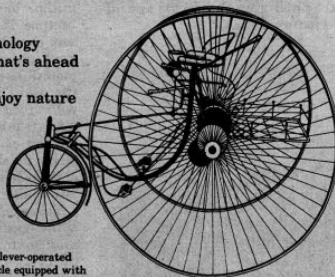
More information is available from the Taos Solar Energy Association, Box 2334, Taos, N.M. 87571. Please enclose one dollar with a request for information.

Evan Ravitz has worked for the Architects of Taos and has designed and helped build several solar homes. In early 1978 he surveyed 140 solar buildings within a 35 mile radius of Taos for the New Mexico and Taos solar energy associations. He now lives in Boulder, Colo.

What does High Country News have in common with this cycle?

- appropriate technology
- a good view of what's ahead
- an anniversary
- opportunity to enjoy nature
- all of the above

(answer below)



This lever-operated tricycle equipped with speed adjustments appeared in 1879—the first appearance of changeable speeds for cycles.

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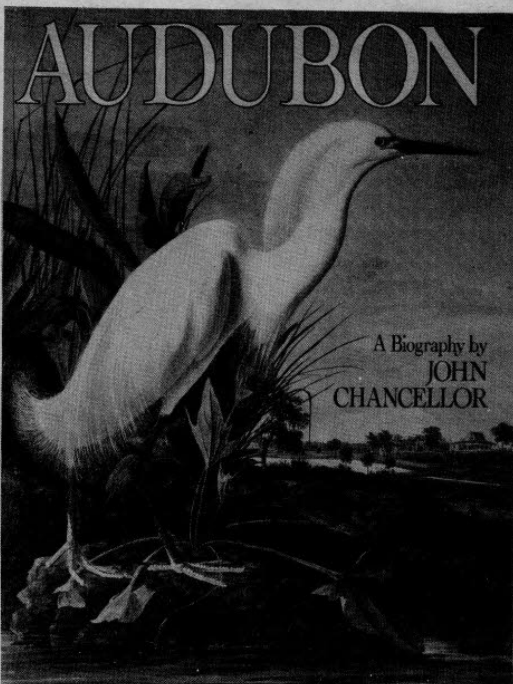
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THE LOBB HOUSE'S MULTIFACETED WINDOWS provide a variety of changing temperatures and atmospheres inside.



by John Chancellor, Viking Press, New York, 1978. \$17.95, cloth, 224 pages. Illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

When naturalist John Burroughs first opened *The Birds of America* (1838), he

"took fire at once. It was like bringing together fire and powder." Thoreau counted *Ornithological Biography* (1839) among his most cherished reading, calling it "a thrill of delight." Together with *The Quadrupeds of North America* (1848), these works of John James Audubon created a standard of American wildlife

drawing that has yet to be surpassed for its influence and lavish artistry.

The drama of Audubon's watercolors fired more than a small group of early naturalists and conservationists, The National Audubon Society, one of the oldest and most determined environmental organizations, bears the name of the artist and writer who helped move the nation toward appreciation of its natural treasures.

The 19th Century lauded Audubon as a kind of woodland genius, the bright product of the American frontier. However, in the words of his latest biographer, for all his talent, the watercolorist was no "latter-day St. Francis of Assisi" — no saint either in his dealings with his fellowmen or with the creatures he so brilliantly painted. Born in 1785 in the West Indies, Audubon, the illegitimate son of a French planter, tried to add a tint of royal mystery to his life by claiming parentage from no less than Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

He was indeed a dreamer — if not at times an outright liar — and for much of his life remained ineffective on both scores. Seeking his fortune in America, he played the role of the dandy, wearing "satin pumps and silk breeches." In 1808 the future artist married Lucy Bakewell, the daughter of a Pennsylvania landowner. The following years saw Lucy's dowry running through Audubon's fingers as his many business ventures in the Ohio River Valley failed.

A womanizer when opportunities presented themselves, he also abused the confidence and funds of associates. In England, John Keats didn't marry Fanny Brawne because his brother George unhelpfully invested the poet's money in Audubon's ill-fated scheme to build a steamboat. Audubon himself stayed poor. At one point he had to discontinue his journal for lack of money to buy a notebook. Simply put, he was too lazy and undisciplined to be a businessman. Instead, he in-

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dulged his passion for wandering up and down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers — and later through Labrador, Florida and the American West — painting bird life.

To add to his troubles, fellow artists and naturalists recognized the genius of his work — and rebuffed Audubon out of jealousy. Hoping to put his life in order, the bankrupt artist set off at the age of 35 for England, determined to find a publisher for his drawings. Like many an American writer and artist before and since, Audubon found the English eager to be titillated by exaggerated accounts of life in the wilds. He proved himself an able showman. Wearing a wolfskin coat and his hair in "frontier ringlets," Audubon quickly became a celebrity. To gape-mouthed audiences in English drawing rooms he held forth on his narrow escapes in the wilderness: "The Red Indian tortured my ears with horrible yells. Snakes, loathsome and venomous, entwined my limbs, while vultures, lean and ravenous, looked on."

It perhaps was a necessary scam, given the circumstances, which linked renown with publication. But to his credit, once launched on his publishing career Audubon drove himself, buoyed with creativity, to complete the documenting of American wildlife on a grand scale. Often he worked steadily from four in the morning to eleven at night. "I have laboured like a cart horse for the last 30 years on a Single Work," he said looking back on his landmark efforts.

Readers who wish a detailed account of the artist's life might turn to Francis Herrick's *Audubon the Naturalist*, the standard biography, published in 1938. However, this new work by John Chancellor, splendidly printed and graced with illustrations from the times, offers a delightful but shorter excursion through the life of one of wild America's most colorful figures. The price is high, but well worth the many full-page reproductions of Audubon's birds.

Public Grazing Lands

by William Voigt, Jr., Rutgers University Press, 1976. \$19.95

Review by Bernard Shanks
Department of Forestry and Outdoor Recreation
Utah State University

Two facts are striking about livestock grazing on the public lands. First, more acreage is impacted by it than by any other use. Second, management and policies have been directed by one region, the West. Historically, the few politicians and stockmen who influenced range policy ignored not only other public land uses but often declining range and soil conditions.

A current account of grazing policy is needed. Those that exist are outdated or incomplete. Unfortunately, William Voigt, Jr. misses the opportunity to place livestock grazing in a historic perspective and give a comprehensive modern view of public land grazing in this book. While Voigt looks closely at the Western livestock industry and particularly the Forest Service management during the 1940s and 1950s, he doesn't pay enough attention to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing policies. For example, the important 1952-1976 timeframe of BLM management is covered in only two pages. Also, the lengthy and expensive book fails to discuss what is known about grazing impacts on forestry, wildlife, watershed, and other public land values, although this is a problem central to livestock grazing policy.

Public Grazing Lands was finished prior to the BLM Organic Act of 1976 so

this important legislation is not discussed. Numerous landmark grazing issues, most notably the Natural Resources Defense Council's settlement with BLM, are ignored. The settlement requires BLM to issue 212 environmental impact statements over 13 years and has literally revolutionized BLM range planning.

Unfortunately, Voigt also fails to comment on other agencies' grazing policies. Over 30 National Park Service areas have substantial livestock grazing. In some areas, such as Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, the impact on park values has been severe. The National Wildlife Refuge System also has grazing problems that are not mentioned in the book. Such areas as Charles M. Russell Wildlife Range and Charles Sheldon and Grey's Lake Refuges have livestock grazing that has been directly in conflict with wildlife resources.

What *Public Grazing Lands* does well is detail the attempted "land grab" by a few stockmen in the 1940s and 1950s. A minority of stockmen proposed to buy the public grazing lands at prices ranging from 9 cents to \$2.80 per acre. Terms would have been favorable. The stockmen would have 30 years to pay and a 1.5% interest rate. Voigt, a veteran conservationist and battler for the public lands, details the land grab account well. He deserves credit for insisting that all stockmen do not wear black hats and accurately portrays the takeover as an attempt by a few individuals.

His account of political pressure on fed-



eral employees is also good. Most insightful are the case studies of Forest Service employees banished to meaningless jobs for their efforts at reforming grazing management. Voigt's accounts of Earl Sandvig and others contain useful lessons for today's environmentalist dealing with federal land management agencies. Threat of reprisal is very real to federal employees. They are not fired. Instead they are sent to meaningless jobs or undesirable locations. Most shocking to the uninitiated is the realization that natural resources, their protection and management, is secondary to politics.

Unfortunately, this narrow but worthwhile account of grazing management during and immediately after World War II is marred by the author's personal comments, digressions, and speculations. The author has relied on relatively few historic sources. In some cases he speculates on issues where additional research would answer his own questions. For example, he wrote of Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes, "I suspect Ickes did not like the Taylor grazing bill." Evidence is available in Ickes' lengthy diaries as to what he did think of the legislation.

Another example is the author's description of BLM grazing advisory board operations. Voigt's description is inferred from indirect congressional hearing testimony. Yet Phillip Foss's excellent account of graz-

ing advisory boards in *Politics and Grass* is not cited.

Voigt states that he can't believe that Nevada's reactionary Pat McCarran purposefully set out to weaken the BLM in the 1940s. Again McCarran's intention to exactly that is detailed in Louise Peft's *Closing of the Public Domain*, a classic study of Western political influence over public land management.

After discussing the land grab era, Voigt comments that "the Western public lands seem safely national" and suggests the move to take over federal lands died out in the 1960s. However, a drive through rural Nevada, or Utah, or Idaho will reveal bumper stickers advocating the citizens' "right to their lands" (i.e., federal lands). Nevada's influential congressman, James Santini (D), has sought to transfer substantial portions of Nevada's federal land to state and private ownership. The movement to transfer Western lands out of federal ownership is hardly dead, nor will it die as long as the outstanding wilderness and desert lands in the Great Basin and other remote areas of the West remain virtually unappreciated by not only urban dwellers but Western conservationists as well.

For those who want some perspectives on public grazing policies, this book is useful. Today's environmentalist would benefit from understanding how earlier important issues were faced by an earlier generation. But for more information, the old studies of *Politics and Grass*, *Closing of the Public Domain*, and Paul Gate's massive *History of Public Land Law Development* remain the best.

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HEART OF LODORE. In this 1871 photo by J.K. Hillers, F.K. Dellenbaugh, a member of Powell's expedition, is reflected in the still water of the Green River.

MAJOR POWELL had a harrowing ride through the canyon strapped to this chair in the boat. Powell led two scientific expeditions on the Green and the Colorado rivers.



SURGING RIVER. Members of Powell's expedition to the Colorado Plateau check the ceaselessly running heavy rapids in

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by William L. Graf

"It was a wild, a fierce, an impressive situation. The unending heavy roar of the tumbling river, the difficulty if not impossibility of turning back even if such a thing had been desired, the equal difficulty if not impossibility of scaling the walls that stood more than 2,000 feet above us, and the general sublimity of the entire surroundings, rendered our position to my mind intensely dramatic."

So Frederick Dellenbaugh, a topographer with Major John Wesley Powell's 1871 exploratory expedition, described one of the rapids of the Green River in northwest Colorado.

Now part of Dinosaur National Monument on the Colorado-Utah border, these rapids in the Canyon of Lodore present today's river runners with the same thrilling challenges

faced by the first explorers of the American West.

But rapids contribute only part of the experience in this most dramatic of the four major canyons in the monument.

Not nearly so large as the Grand Canyon — and thus more human in scale — the Canyon of Lodore makes a more direct impact on the senses. The vertical walls of dusky red rock, the massive boulders and the surging river here combine to confront the visitor with an almost frightening sense of challenge. River travelers often have expressed awareness of these powerful natural forces in Lodore; the journals of early river runners are filled with references to the gloomy nature of the canyon.

The first white men known to have descended the river through the canyon were members of an exploratory party led by General William H. Ashley of the American Fur Company in 1825. They braved the unknown river in boats built of poles and buffalo hides in the hope of opening up new areas for the fur trade. So hazardous was the journey, however, that the plan was quickly abandoned.

In 1838 a trapper from St. Louis, Denis Julien, made the trip and left his initials in bold block letters half a foot high on the walls of Whirlpool Canyon,

just downstream from Lodore. A decade later, in 1849, gold seekers bound for California took a harrowing shortcut through the canyon aboard dugout canoes. But because of the dangers and difficulties encountered on these early trips, the canyon remained a source of myths and half-truths until the late nineteenth century.

Then, in 1869 and 1871, Major John Wesley Powell led two scientific expeditions through the canyon as part of his famous explorations of the Green and Colorado river systems. Traveling in heavy wooden boats, camping and exploring along the river's edge, and making numerous glass plate photographs, Powell and his men provided the first accurate portrait of the Canyon of Lodore.

Powell's party named the canyon after a popular poem of the day, "The Cataract of Lodore," by Romantic poet Robert Southey. Many of the place names in the canyon — such as Disaster Falls, Rippling Brook, Cliff of the Harp, and Hell's Half Mile — reflect experiences vividly described in their subsequent accounts of the journey.

Unfortunately, so many people now visit Lodore that the qualities of solitude and isolation from the surrounding world so intrinsic to this wilderness

canyon are threatened with destruction.

With the rising popularity of river running, the canyon that once saw a few people each decade is now visited by several thousand each year. In 1967 about 2,500 people traveled the rivers of Dinosaur National Monument; in 1972, more than 17,000 did so. Since 1972 restrictions have kept the number slightly below 17,000 and have banned motorized craft. Only a portion of this total travel is through Lodore, but the increase in usage is representative.

The rise of this river cult brings into focus a major question facing both the Park Service and the river users: how can the sense of solitude be preserved in Dinosaur's river canyons with so many users to experience it?

By the end of May, the Park Service will publish a final draft of the river management plan for Dinosaur National Monument. The draft plan addresses problems generated by this vast increase in river users.

Parties of as many as 50 people per trip now run the river and can expect to encounter equally large groups at campsites each night. These congregations of river runners not only shatter the solitude they seek, they have a de-

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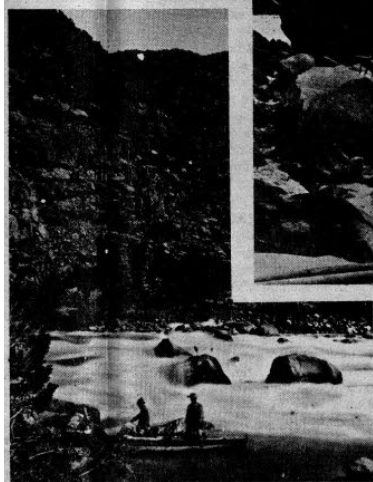
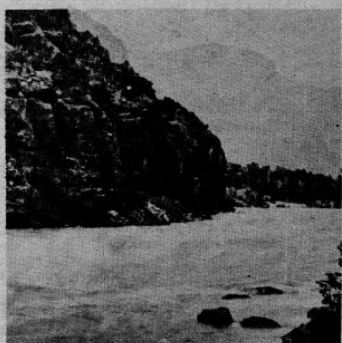
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MAJOR POWELL had a harrowing ride through the canyon strapped to this chair in the boat. Powell led two scientific expeditions on the Green and the Colorado rivers.

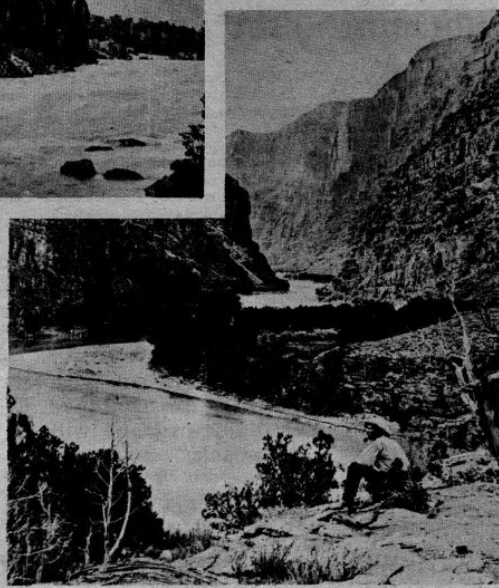


1871 photo by E.O. Beaman.



SURGING RIVER. Members of Powell's 1871 expedition to the Colorado Plateau check their equipment after successfully running heavy rapids in the Canyon of Lodore.

The vertical walls of dusky red rock, the massive boulders and the surging river combine for a frightening sense of challenge.



GATE OF LODORE. James C. Pilling, a member of Powell's expedition, contemplates the calm water ahead that he knows will give his party only a short respite. 1871 photo by J. K. Hillers.

ened with destruc-

popularity of river on that once saw a decade is now visited each year. In 1987 traveled the rivers al Monument; in 7,000 did so. Since ve kept the number 00 and have banned nly a portion of this gh Lodore, but the s representative. iver cult brings into tion facing both the he river users how litude be preserved r canyons with so erience it?

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Running the Canyon of Lodore: for Powell it was wild, fierce and intensely dramatic

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.

vastating effect on the surrounding wilderness.

Park Service studies show that the size of individual groups rather than the number of launches per day most affects the canyon's environment. Vegetation around heavily used campsites is destroyed, leaving only hard-packed earth where juniper, sagebrush, and box elder once flourished. The buildup of ash and charcoal from campfires also has an adverse effect on the canyon's ecosystem.

Of primary importance, therefore, is the need for a management policy that will enable as many people as possible to visit Dinosaur's canyons without at the same time impairing the wilderness experience that attracts them.

Should a limit be placed on total numbers and sizes of groups? Should there be specific limits on the number of launches each day? Should river runners be required to haul out ashes and human waste?

The decisions on these issues by the Park Service and the public will determine the survival of the canyon's integrity and appeal.

Americans of the Jeffersonian Era thought that they had a manifest destiny to occupy the land from one ocean to the other. Perhaps the modern

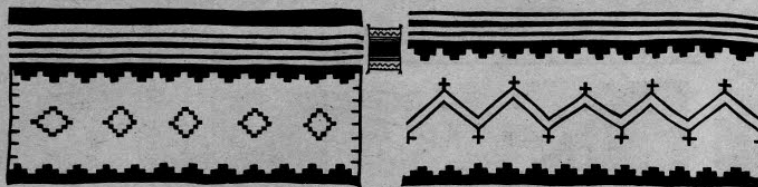
version of the idea should be that the land has a manifest destiny that derives from both its natural and its human history. Some parts of the land yield agricultural or mineral wealth; others provide space for everyday living. Some places like the Canyon of Lodore should, perhaps, be preserved as places of grandeur, peace, solitude and adventure.

William L. Graf is an environmental scientist in the Department of Geography at Arizona State University. He has conducted several research projects to study environmental change in the canyons of the Green and Colorado river systems. He has published many papers on environmental subjects.

National Parks & Conservation Association is a private conservation organization primarily concerned with protecting and expanding the National Park System. To join, send \$15 (\$10 students) to:

Membership Services, Dept. HCN, National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

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WOMEN'S BLANKETS, NAVAHO

Uranium mining sacrilege to Indian protesters

by Dede Feldman

MT. TAYLOR, N.M. — About 500 Indians and others gathered here at the end of April near one of the most promising uranium fields in the country to protest uranium mining and milling on Indian land.

The peaceful meeting, organized by Indian groups in New Mexico, focused on the spiritual implications of uranium development and featured speakers from the Navajo, Hopi and Lakota tribes. Dr. Helen Caldicott, a Boston pediatrician; Nobel Laureate George Wald, and a representative of the Black Hills Alliance, a group fighting uranium mining in South Dakota, also addressed the group.

Over 50 percent of the nation's uranium lies beneath Indian land. While tribal leaders have been convinced by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to lease their land for uranium, the meeting was an indication that others in the tribes regret those leases.

The scene of the protest was Mt. Taylor, which lies at the heart of the Grants uranium belt. It is a 11,000-foot extinct volcano that both Navajos and surrounding Pueblo regard with reverence. But Mt. Taylor holds something besides religious significance — 100 million pounds of uranium that Gulf Oil Corp. has been trying to unearth for over five years now. Gulf has drilled two of the largest and deepest mine shafts in the country and spent over \$200 million.

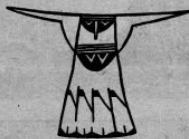
"From the beginning, we had knowledge of this mountain from our grandparents. We use the turquoise and other stones from the mountain for our ceremonies, and we want our young people to learn about the sacred mountains, too," Navajo elder Key Shay told the crowd in his native tongue. Shay was one of a group of 20 Navajos who walked for six days to the gathering from

Big Mountain on Black Mesa in Arizona.

Another Navajo elder, medicine man John Smith, sounded a common theme of the protest. "Our elders have taught us that when you push nature," he said, "the balance changes and she will fight back." Gulf officials say that Navajo officials never brought it to their attention that a sacred mountain might be desecrated by development.

"We respect the traditional beliefs of Native Americans. We hope that our temporary use of the land will not be seen as a sacrilege but rather as a limited distur-

"Our elders have taught us that when you push nature, the balance changes and she will fight back."



bance designed to help alleviate this nation's dangerous dependence on foreign energy sources."

Another problem mentioned by two Navajo miners at the rally was the trade-off between health and money.

"Uranium mining has been part of the Navajo people for some time now — because it has provided jobs and a means to

provide for our families," said Raymond Keeswood, a former uranium miner from the Shiprock area. "But," he added, "material things begin to dwindle after a few years, and there's a lot of human suffering associated with mining. I have had friends who have died because of the mining, and I have seen Navajo widows eking out a living, holding out their hands and begging."

"We're not getting rich off of uranium," Raymond Arviso, a Navajo rancher from Crownpoint, N.M., told the crowd. "Our water continues to flow out of the mines. Our safety and that of our livestock is threatened. Once the jobs are gone, there isn't anything left for the Navajos to do."

Arviso pointed to uranium mill tailings as a sign of the arrogance of companies like Kerr-McGee, United Nuclear, Anaconda, Sohio and Mobil.

Tailings — or the dust-like waste material left after the yellowcake (pure uranium oxide) is milled out of the raw ore — have become one of the state of New Mexico's biggest environmental problems. Sixty million tons of waste material have been left uncovered at 10 sites on or near Indian land in New Mexico.

The tailings contain 60 to 75 percent of the uranium's original radioactivity, mostly in the form of radon gas and thorium. A member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has called tailings "the dominant contribution to radiation exposure from the nuclear fuel cycle."

The greatest hazards from the tailings are that the radioactive elements in the waste will leach into the surface or ground water or be blown into the lungs of nearby residents. Although Congress recently passed a bill providing for federal cleanup of abandoned tailings piles, in New Mexico most tailings are still uncovered.



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Hot Line**

energy news from across the country

REGIONAL DISPUTE? Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) and several other Eastern and Midwestern senators recently tried to convince President Carter that the sulfur dioxide standard for new power plants should not be strengthened. The senators argued that if the Environmental Protection Agency lowers the standard as proposed, it would preclude the use of almost all of the high sulfur coal reserves in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, west Kentucky and northern West Virginia. EPA Administrator Douglas Costle is wavering as a result of the pressure, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Environmentalists argue that high sulfur coal could meet the standard if an efficient scrubber were used. They say the weaker standard would add significantly to pollution, and if it is implemented, they will sue.

RENEWED COAL LEASING. Federal coal leasing could be resumed in 1980 if Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus determines this spring that additional leasing is necessary to meet the nation's needs. The coal would be leased under one of the coal leasing program options described in a recently released environmental statement. The document is being reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency during May, after which Andrus will make the final decision. Copies of the Final Federal Coal Management Program Environmental Statement are available from state Bureau of Land Management offices and from the Office of Public Affairs, BLM, Room 5623, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

THREE MILE TOURISTS. Pennsylvania's Commerce Secretary James Bodine says the Three Mile Island nuclear accident may boost the state's tourist industry. "I think Three Mile Island is becoming a tourist attraction of its own," says Bodine. He says coverage of the incident has put the area on the map and "visibility is the name of the game when it comes to the travel business."

CONSERVATIVE HITCHHIKERS. The San Francisco suburb of Novato, Calif., is trying to save energy by encouraging safe hitchhiking. The project registers commuters through a screening process. Both drivers and hitchhikers display code letters for their destinations, which helps them find each other along specified routes. The program's staff says that if commuters hitchhiked only two times each week they could save \$1,000 a year.

GAS SHORTAGE ADDS SMOG. Surprisingly, air quality has decreased along with the gas supplies in Southern California, even though fewer cars are on the roads. Two practices brought on by the gas shortage may be responsible for the poor air, says a *Los Angeles Times* staff writer. First, cars which sit in long gas lines with their engines running emit high concentrations of carbon monoxide. Second, many people who should be buying unleaded gasoline are purchasing leaded gasoline, which is cheaper and more abundant. About five tanks of leaded gasoline ruin the emissions device on most new-model cars, the catalytic converter.



Photo by Dede Feldman

ABOUT 500 Indians and others gathered in New Mexico at the end of April to protest uranium mining and milling on Indian land.

Feds defend the poor against rising energy bills

by Sara Hunter-Wiles

Stories of the elderly poor, freezing to death because their utilities are cut off are in the news each winter. Now, the elderly, the poor, and those on fixed incomes can protest what they consider unfair utility policies and rate increases — at federal expense.

The Energy Advocacy Program is a newly funded federal project aimed at helping elderly and low-income people reduce energy costs. With funding from the Community Services Administration, the Community Action Agencies Association has established an advocacy office in each state in Region VIII — Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. Similar offices have been established in most other states.

State Energy Advocacy Programs have organized coalitions of people most affected by the rising cost of energy — senior citizens organizations, community action agencies, weatherization policy committees, legal aide offices and other public and private consumer groups. The coalitions are promoting legislation that would reduce energy impact and energy costs, intervening at Public Service Commission hearings on utility rate increases and pushing for the development of low-cost energy alternatives. In addition, the coalitions in several states are encouraging the formation of state offices of consumer counsel, which would give consumers, especially those who cannot afford to pay for private counsel, a voice in energy policies.

Funding for the offices of consumer counsel is available from the Department of Energy, but so far Idaho and New Mexico are the only Western states that have used it. Montana and Utah have both established state-funded offices, however.

State energy advocacy coalitions have already begun to intervene in utility rate increase hearings. In March, the Wyoming Energy Advocacy Coalition protested gas

Photo by Sara Hunter-Wiles
BRUCE COLE, attorney for the Wyoming Energy Advocacy Coalition, consults with Lorraine Beall of the Riverton Senior Citizens Organization at a rate hearing in Riverton.



rate increases at a Public Service Commission hearing in Riverton, Wyo. The hearing was requested by State Rep. John Vinich (D), who was supported by the state coalition.

"We participated in the hearing because this is the only way we know to help the people who can't pay," said Kathy Shippen of Wyoming Senior Citizens, Inc., a member of the Wyoming Energy Advocacy Coalition. "The rate increases affect senior citizens and those on fixed incomes — it hurts them badly. There is no organization in Wyoming other than the Coalition which can intervene this effectively, at least until a consumer counsel office is established."

Energy companies have full-time attorneys to present their case to the Public Service Commission. Under the Energy Advocacy Program, there are, for the first time, resources available for similar representation for the consumer's point of view, according to Lorna Wilkes, coor-

dinator of the Wyoming Energy Advocacy Coalition.

In January at its first meeting the advocacy program's regional low-income advisory board drafted a policy statement supporting the development of energy from sources such as the sun, wind and biomass. The board said, "Solar power is the only reasonable way to deliver the low-income person out of the poverty cycle."

Given this mandate, the Regional Energy Advocacy Program staff says it "will seek to remove any and all barriers to the accessibility of the benefits of appropriate technology to our clients."

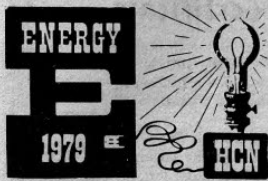
One such "barrier" to the development of alternate energy sources is deregulation of gas and oil prices, says Wilkes. Wilkes says that deregulation of prices would not only hit the poor and fixed-income person the hardest, but would not encourage conservation — at least among this segment of the population. "Increasing energy costs to consumers does not encourage conservation when the consumer has already done

what he can to conserve or is too poor to buy storm windows or insulate his home. Because the market has always been controlled by the government, you cannot just suddenly take away all controls and expect the consumers to take it in the shorts."

In existence for only five months, the Energy Advocacy Program is still in its infancy. It has suffered some legislative setbacks and is still awaiting results of its rate interventions. It is just beginning to develop policies on the use and development of solar energy.

According to Jim Smith, deputy director of the Region VIII program, the greatest accomplishment so far is that "we have brought together the poor and the old — two groups which have never worked together before. Because the impact of high energy costs is so severe, they are now cooperating throughout our region."

The Energy Advocacy Program may be contacted at the Region VIII Community Action Agencies Association, 310 Power Block, Helena, Mont. 59601.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

WYOMING OFFICIAL OPPOSES NUCLEAR. Wyoming's second-ranking official, Secretary of State Thyra Thomson, has joined the call for a moratorium on nuclear power plants. Thomson was recently briefed by two nationally-recognized nuclear experts, Dr. Norman Rasmussen and Dr. Henry Kendall. After listening to Kendall, she became convinced that there are "obvious defects" in the nuclear power safety program that should be corrected before more nuclear power plants are built. Not known as an environmental advocate, her comments came as a surprise to many people in the state, which currently leads the nation in uranium exploration activity. Bill Budd, director of the

Wyoming Mining Association, sharply criticized Thomson for her remarks, saying she had aligned herself with the Far Left. "I don't think Thyra knows anything more about nuclear power than Jane Fonda or Ralph Nader," he said.

MONTANANS FOR COLSTRIP. A majority of Montanans favor the construction of Colstrip coal-fired power plant units 3 and 4, according to an opinion poll commissioned by four Montana newspapers. Fifty-two percent of the 401-person sample supported construction and 19 percent opposed it. Sixteen percent of those polled said they were not familiar with the issue and 13 percent had no opinion. In the same poll, 43 percent of the Montanans said they favored "removing some of the present environmental requirements for locating new industries in Montana," while 33 percent did not. The survey was commissioned by the *Billings Gazette*, the *Montana Standard*, the *Helena Independent* and *The Missoulian*.

NAVAJOS BID FOR LEASE RENEGOTIATIONS. In an effort to force energy companies doing business on the Navajo Reservation to terminate old agreements and renegotiate, Navajo Tribal

Chairman Peter MacDonald has frozen the issuance of right-of-way permits across tribal lands. A company must acquire a right-of-way for construction of facilities such as transmission lines and pipelines. Without a right-of-way, a company would be unable to mine coal or uranium even if there were an existing lease. A spokesman for the tribe says, "In general, what was granted to the tribe by the BIA 20 years ago...is insufficient." The BIA approves leases and has a trust responsibility to protect the tribe's resources. By trying to force the lease renegotiation, MacDonald is carrying out a campaign promise made during his successful re-election bid last year.



IN SITU CONTAMINATION. A Wyoming Mineral Corp. "in situ" uranium mine in Johnson County, Wyo., is contaminating groundwater above the mine, according to water samples taken recently by the company and confirmed by state officials. "In situ" mines involve injecting chemicals into the ground which bring up dissolved uranium. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality says the company has 60 days to correct the problem. If it is

not corrected, the DEQ can order the company to shut its operation down. The Powder River Basin Resource Council, a rancher-conservationist group, had not opposed the mine — Wyoming's first commercial in situ mine — because it feels the technology presents fewer environmental problems than surface or underground mining. Now both the group and the state are concerned and say they will be watching the mine closely. A DEQ spokesman says in situ mining is a "new and untried technology," and no one is sure what has caused the unexpected contamination, according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*. The samples showed high amounts of chlorides, alkalinity and conductivity.

FORT ST. VRAIN PROTEST. The Coalition to Close Fort St. Vrain is planning a peaceful demonstration June 2 at the Fort St. Vrain nuclear power plant in Colorado. The demonstration is part of the International Days of Protest declared last summer by anti-nuclear activists in Europe. The coalition says it is concerned about releases of radioactive gases from the plant, disposal of wastes and the cost of producing nuclear power. Exhibits of solar, wind and other renewable energy alternatives will be at the rally site.

12-High Country News — May 18, 1979

BLM shies from destroying excess wild horses

by Genevieve Dodd

In the area of wild horse management, the Bureau of Land Management appears to have been backed into a corral. On one fence sits federal law, which says some wild horses should be killed. Along the other fence stands a wild horse-revering segment of the public, which believes the wild horse is a symbol of American freedom and beauty and should be protected.

Responding to public pressure and recent nationwide publicity, BLM has not been destroying excess wild horses, and that appears to be costly as well as illegal.

The 1971 Wild and Free-roaming Horse and Burro Act gave protection to wild horses and burros living in 10 western states. No longer victims of massive, unmonitored roundups, the animals' populations grew rapidly. By July 1978, BLM estimated that 20,000-30,000 excess wild burros and horses existed on public lands; rangeland quality was suffering. (See HCN 7-4-78).

Congress addressed the management of excess wild horses and burros in a section of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, passed on Oct. 25. Congress said excess wild horses and burros are to be removed by BLM from the public range; old, sick, and lame animals are to be destroyed; and the additional excess animals are to be put up for adoption through BLM's Adopt-a-Horse program. The remaining animals "for which an adoption demand does not exist (are) to be destroyed in the most humane and cost efficient manner possible."

Defenders of Wildlife, the Humane Society of the United States and the American Horse Protection Association fought the proposed management changes. Some opponents argued BLM doesn't know enough about horse populations to determine how many horses should be considered "excess." Other groups, including the Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation, supported the changes. ABC's "20-20" program, which recently revealed some gruesome mismanagement incidents, has added voices to the outcry to protect the wild horses.

However, approximately 545 wild horses captured in federal roundups have been returned to public lands since September, according to BLM's Robert Springer, program manager for wild horses and burros in Washington, D.C. Many were returned after Congress said they should be destroyed.



Photo by Tom Treick

CORRALED. Despite a federal law stating that any wild horses that aren't adopted must be destroyed, BLM has been returning some to the range and holding others in corrals for many months.

BLM has instructed its staff to return healthy but unadoptable animals to the range. The object of the roundups, Springer says, is to "try and reduce the numbers of mares producing colts out there," so the agency usually returns stallions and old mares to the range. The 1978 Act, however, says all excess animals must be removed—permanently.

"Frankly, I'm dumbfounded," commented Andrew Wiessner, an attorney for the House Interior subcommittee on public lands, upon learning that BLM is returning some unadopted wild horses to the range. He says the law instructing BLM to destroy excess unadopted horses is clear. "I don't see how anyone could interpret the law in any other way," he says. Yet BLM's Springer, referring to healthy unadoptable horses, told HCN, "We haven't outright destroyed any horses to date in that category."

Springer says it costs BLM as much as five dollars a day to care for each horse in captivity, depending upon the location and needs of the animal. John Winter, BLM's

be done to restore the money for the independent review."

ORVS DESTROY LAND. Off-road vehicles "have damaged every kind of ecosystem in the United States: sand dunes covered with American beach grass, pine and cypress woodlands, hardwood forests, prairie grasslands, chaparral and sagebrush hills, alpine meadows, conifer forests and Arctic tundra," according to a study completed for the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality. The CEQ report says that some of the damage will heal naturally, while other damage will not. However, the report notes that the damage is caused "not, in the main, because the drivers are irresponsible, but because their machines are inherently destructive." The study recommends that ORVs be taxed to pay for land reclamation and to develop special use trails; that enforcement activities be stepped up; and that motorized recreation be separated from other uses.

wild horse specialist at Rock Springs, Wyo., estimates the cost there to be about one dollar per day. Initial costs for the roundup, health care and the first 45 days in captivity are about \$120 for each animal, he says. Based on Winter's figures, BLM has spent at least \$8,151 caring for the 33 horses at Rock Springs alone over the last six months.

Approximately 7,200 horses remain on public range in the Rock Springs district. That is about 14 percent of the country's wild horse population, according to BLM figures. Management of the Rock Springs herd alone costs BLM between \$200,000

and \$300,000 a year or approximately \$30 a year for each animal. Managing big game in the same district costs Wyoming's Game and Fish Department about \$4.30 a year for each animal, according to department figures.

Winter says BLM officials are not considering returning the unadoptable horses at Rock Springs to the range, but no healthy animals have been destroyed either. Asked why he thinks BLM hasn't been killing wild horses despite the congressional mandate, Jack Steinbreck of Rock Springs' BLM, says that such action would be "too sensitive."

Eavesdropper

WATER POLICY SUFFERS SETBACK. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has voted not to authorize \$1.5 million for independent review of new water projects by the Water Resources Council. The independent review is one of the cornerstones of President Jimmy Carter's water policy, proposed last year. However, the House Interior Committee has included the funding for the independent review in its bill. The matter will be settled in a House-Senate conference committee later this year. Leo Eisel, chairman of the Water Resources Council, says, "The basic idea of the independent review is to implement technical review outside of the agency sponsoring the water project and the Office of Management and Budget. I'm confident that something will

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Western Roundup

HCN

Alaska victory for caribou, conservationists

by Bruce Hamilton

In a victory for caribou and conservationists, the House gave its approval on May 16 to the most protective version of an Alaska lands bill. The showdown vote was between the version sponsored by Reps. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and John Anderson (R-Ill.) and a less protective version sponsored by Reps. John Breaux (D-La.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.). Udall-Anderson won over Breaux-Dingell 268 to 157. The vote on final passage of Udall-Anderson was 360 to 65.

"It was the sweetest victory I've ever had a part in," says Brock Evans, director of the Washington, D.C., office of the Sierra Club. "We beat big oil; we beat big timber; we beat big mining; we beat the National Rifle Association; and we beat them all at once on an issue they really cared about."

"Every year or so the forces of development try to talk up the illusion of an environmental backlash by citing the energy crisis and using other scare tactics," says Doug Scott, campaign manager for the Alaska Coalition. "The vote on Alaska proves that the conservation movement is as strong, if not stronger, than ever." The Alaska Coalition, the main lobbying group supporting Udall-Anderson, represented all the major national conservation groups as well as numerous unions, civic groups and local environmental organizations.

A member of Dingell's staff said the congressman anticipated a much closer vote. He thinks the results can be explained by the fact that many supporters of the Udall-Anderson bill voted early, thus swinging subsequent votes. He says there was unfair treatment by the press, which identified the Udall-Anderson bill as the conservationists' bill and the Breaux-Dingell bill as an industry-backed bill. Actually, he says, Dingell was concerned that the National Park Service wouldn't take the proper steps to protect wildlife. Consequently, he supported more wildlife refuges.

Both the Udall-Anderson and Breaux-Dingell bills, would have created in Alaska over 100 million acres of new national parks, national preserves, national wildlife refuges and national wild and scenic rivers, as well as over 50 million acres of wilderness. The key differences were in the degree of protection given to the conservation system units.

Breaux-Dingell mandated an oil and gas exploration program on the coastal plain of the existing Arctic National Wildlife Range. Udall-Anderson closed the area to exploration to protect the largest remaining caribou herd on the continent.

Breaux-Dingell deleted six million acres from proposed national parks and gave the state of Alaska pieces of wildlife refuges and park land. Udall-Anderson placed complete ecosystems and river drainages under unified management.

Udall-Anderson closed all Alaskan national wildlife refuges to hardrock mining. Breaux-Dingell opened the refuges to mining at the discretion of the secretary of the Interior.

In Southeast Alaska, Breaux-Dingell cut the existing Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords national monuments in half and prescribed policies for the Tongass National Forest that Agriculture Secretary

Robert Bergland called "a mandate to overcut the forest." Udall-Anderson gave wilderness protection to the monuments and followed U.S. Forest Service's recommendations for the management of the Tongass National Forest.

The Udall-Anderson bill is similar to the Alaska legislation the House passed last year, which died in the Senate. A major

"The conservation movement is as strong, if not stronger, than ever."

difference is the designation of the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Last year Misty Fjords was dropped from the legislation because U.S. Borax wanted the option to develop a major molybdenum deposit in the middle of the area. In December of 1978 President Carter used his executive authority to create Misty Fjords National Monument — a designation that would have allowed a molybdenum mine to be developed on the existing claim but offered some protection to the surrounding land.

The Udall-Anderson bill designated the monument as wilderness, while also

guaranteeing U.S. Borax the right to develop its claim. The Breaux-Dingell version proposed to deal with the U.S. Borax problem by eliminating the southern half of the existing monument.

The Udall-Anderson bill is stronger than President Carter's executive action of last December in two respects. First, it places the existing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge off-limits to oil and gas exploration. Second, it designates wilderness on about 68 million acres. On Dec. 1 the Carter Administration designated 56 million acres of national monuments in Alaska, directed the establishment of 40 million acres of wildlife refuges and withdrew 11 million acres of national forest land from mineral entry.

Conservationists say some strengthening amendments were added to the Udall-Anderson bill before it received final House approval. One amendment made the National Petroleum Reserve (Pet-4) on Alaska's North Slope into a giant national wildlife refuge. Oil and gas leasing by private industry will be allowed in the refuge. Another amendment created a Copper River Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

One weakening amendment would allow new hardrock mineral claims to be staked within a three-quarter-mile radius of valid, existing claims within conservation

system units for the next five years, according to the Alaska Coalition.

The Udall-Anderson bill would create about 128 million acres of new conservation system units. (There are 375 million acres of land in the state of Alaska.)

The House bill now goes to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Most observers don't expect the Senate to take up the bill for months. Last year the Senate committee delayed action until the final days of the session and then reported a greatly weakened version. Similar action is expected this session.

Bruce Hamilton, Northern Plains Representative for the Sierra Club, has worked as a lobbyist for the Alaska Coalition.

THE VOTE

Here's how this region's representatives stood on the choice between the Udall-Anderson and Breaux-Dingell Alaska bills. "Yes" indicates a vote for Udall-Anderson.

ARIZONA: Rhodes, No. Rudd, No. Stump, No. Udall, Yes.

COLORADO: Johnson, No. Kogovsek, Yes. Kramer, No. Schroeder, Yes. Wirth, Yes.

IDAHO: Hansen, No. Symms, No. MONTANA: Marlenee, No. Williams, Yes.

NEW MEXICO: Lujan, Yes. Runnels, No.

NORTH DAKOTA: Andrews, No. SOUTH DAKOTA: Abdnor, No. Daschle, Yes.

UTAH: Marriott, No. McKay, No. WYOMING: Cheney, No.

All of the region's congressmen voted for final passage of the Udall-Anderson bill except: Rudd, Stump, Kramer, Hansen, Symms, Runnels, Marriott and McKay.



Photo by Boyd Norton

THE YUKON RIVER, near the confluence with the Charley River, would be the heart of the Yukon-Charley National Preserve under the Udall-Anderson Alaska lands bill approved by the House. The area would be managed like a national park, except it would be open to sport hunting.

Flats demonstration 'like a festival'

This year's Rocky Flats demonstration seemed "more like a festival than a bitter ideological battle," according to a Rocky Mountain News account of the nuclear protest near Golden, Colo. Where 10,000 nuclear foes had gathered for a rally at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant the day before, nearly 300 protesters with smiles, songs and flowers blocked the entrances to the plant. As was expected, they all were arrested and charged with violating the U.S. Atomic Energy Act. The charge is a misdemeanor that carries a maximum fine of \$1,000 and no jail term.

The protesters say that the plant, which manufactures plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons, should be shut down and converted to a non-military use.

The two-day demonstration reportedly cost the government and Rockwell International, which operates the plant, more than \$45,000. Chris Moore, a spokesman for the demonstrators, said that despite these costs the demonstration was necessary to dramatize the issues.

"There also are thousands of dollars being spent every day at that plant to manufacture plutonium triggers that aren't doing what they're supposed to do — keep this world safe," Moore said in a Rocky Mountain News article.

A local unit of the United Steelworkers of America is planning a counter-demonstration to show that "the working people in the Denver area support Rocky Flats," according to the Denver Post.

Submarines could substitute for MX

While Pentagon officials courted Utah's to win their approval of the controversial mobile missile known as the MX, the Carter administration appeared to be having second thoughts about the scheme.

A site on the Utah-Nevada border is emerging as the Air Force's number one choice for the "shell game" defense scheme, which would involve shuttling some 250 new intercontinental missiles among thousands of underground silos (see HCN 5-4-79).

Early in May the missile program received the unanimous approval of a Utah Five County Association of Governments steering committee. It has already been welcomed by Utah Gov. Scott Matheson (D).

Meanwhile, according to a New York Times Service story, the Carter administration is considering scrapping its plans for the MX in favor of a more lethal submarine-launched rocket. While the Air Force opposes this move, it is supported by other government officials who believe it could ease future arms control talks with the Soviet Union. However, without the MX Carter might find it almost impossible to gain conservative support in the Senate for the new strategic arms treaty, according to the story.

14-High Country News — May 18, 1979

Montana environmental laws suffer 'flesh wounds'

by Dan Whipple

Environmental issues occupied center stage at the Montana state legislature during what everyone involved agrees was a "tough session." After the dust had settled last month, some environmental legislation had been weakened but only with "flesh wounds," according to Pat Smith of the Northern Plains Resource Council.

Northern Plains had three lobbyists, including Smith, working full-time at the legislature. He says, "This session, the industry's attack on the laws was more intense than it has been in the past. We held the line in most areas but did lose some

ground, particularly with weakening amendments to the state reclamation act."

Under the changes to the Strip Mine Reclamation Act, the legislature will now allow reclamation of lands with non-native plant species, including crops, under certain circumstances. NPRC and other environmental groups opposed the change because Smith says that native grasses are "the true test" that the soils will be able to sustain vegetation, even in Montana's toughest years.

The federal Office of Surface Mining, which enforces the federal strip mine law, says that the bill's language is acceptable if the provision is used as the exception rather than the rule. Smith says that

NPRC will be monitoring the board's decisions closely.

The biggest fight of the legislature was over the Major Facility Siting Act. Montana has a tough siting law, and some efforts to "streamline" the process were aimed at substantially weakening the act, according to Smith. He says, "The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has a streamlining bill that cleaned up some of the procedural problems with the act. We went along with some of DNR's streamlining proposals. But industry wanted to gut the act under the mask of streamlining."

The bill came out okay. Major industry initiatives on the siting act were defeated,

but there were some weakening amendments."

Two significant "victories" for environmentalists involved killing legislation that would have changed Montana's water reservation systems and would have exempted Colstrip 3 and 4 power plants from siting jurisdiction.

The state of Montana has recently made a number of water reservations in the Yellowstone River for uses including fish, wildlife, water quality and irrigation. The legislation would have abolished these reservations and stripped the state of the authority to make such reservations in the future. The legislation was killed in the Senate.

Legislation that would have exempted Colstrip 3 and 4 from siting requirements passed the legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Tom Judge. The coal-fired power plant units have been held up by a lawsuit based on the siting act and by difficulty in meeting air standards. The legislation would have solved half of Colstrip's problem by exempting it from further litigation under the siting act.

Also defeated was a bill that would have lowered Montana's air quality standards to the level of federal ambient air quality standards.

Several bills backed by environmentalists were defeated. NPRC was pushing a bill that would have limited the right of eminent domain, taking the power of condemnation from speculative water projects. A bill to allow alternative energy districts to be established, along the lines of sewer and water districts, also was killed in the House.



ELK and other wildlife might not fare very well if non-native plant species are used for reclamation, according to many biologists.

Photo by David Sumner



HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Coloy

The state of Alaska's a wreck
You all know it's colder than heck
The trees are all lean
The grizzlies are mean
So why not preserve just a speck?

SOLAR POWERED IRRIGATION PUMP

A free pamphlet published by the Department of Energy discusses ways to use the sun to pump water to irrigate crops. It is available from DOE — Technical Information Center, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830. Stock No. DOE—OPA-0014.

WILDERNESS AND CIVILIZATION COURSE

The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana will offer a special interdisciplinary course titled "Wilderness and Civilization" next fall. The program combines courses on forestry, English, philosophy, humanities and economics as related to wilderness. Participants will receive 18 undergraduate credits. For further information, contact the Institute, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59812 or call (406) 243-5361. Applications must be submitted before July 1, 1979.

SURFACE MINE REGULATION REPORT

The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining has completed a report on the first year of its activities after the passage of the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977. Highlights of the report include: more than \$9 million in federal funds were distributed to agencies in 21 coal producing states; 42 former coal mining sites were set for high-priority reclamation projects; and regulations covering four key areas were completed by the agency. Copies of the report are available from OSM, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Interior Department, Washington, D.C. 20240 and at the OSM regional office in Denver, Colo.

GUIDE FOR CITIZEN ACTION

The National Audubon Society has published a booklet, *Guide for Citizen Action*, containing basic information about the workings of Congress, community organizing, use of the media and meeting with legislators. Also included are tips on writing to members of Congress, a glossary of congressional terms and other information. The booklet is available for \$1 from the society, 1511 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

SOLAR HOME BIBLIOGRAPHY

A comprehensive bibliography of books for the builders of solar homes has been compiled by the Director of the Center for Solar Energy Applications at San Jose State University. A Bibliography for the

Solar Home Builder is available from the Office of Appropriate Technology, 1530 Tenth Street, Sacramento, Calif. 95814. It is free to California residents, \$1 to out-of-state residents.

SOLAR FILM CATALOG

The National Solar Heating and Cooling Information Center has published a free catalog of over 50 films, 45 sets of slides and 30 videotapes about the solar heating and cooling of residential and commercial buildings. Topics range from basic introductions to technical discussions with leading experts. For a copy of the catalog write Solar Heating, Department M, P.O. Box 1607, Rockville, Md. 20850 or call toll-free (800) 523-4700.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The U.S. Forest Service is asking for comments by June 15 on the agency's proposed public participation procedures. The guidelines are required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Copies of the proposed regulations can be obtained from: Chief, USFS, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013. Send comments to the same address.

URANIUM MEETING

The League of Women Voters is inviting citizens of Wyoming and Colorado to attend a workshop on uranium mining. The workshop will be June 13-15 at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. There is no registration fee, and about 150 scholar-

ships covering room and board are available. To register contact Charles P. Cooper, Conferences and Institutes, Box 3274, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071 or phone (307) 766-2124.

SERI SEEKS SUN USERS

The Solar Energy Research Institute wants to hear from people who live in solar homes. Anyone using domestic solar hot water, passive, active, wind or hybrid space heating systems in houses, apartments or mobile homes is asked to write. Respondents may be contacted later to help design effective government policy concerning residential solar applications. Residential solar consumers are asked to send their name, address and telephone number before July 1 to Solar Users Information, SERI, 1536 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colo. 80401.

THIRD ANNUAL CITIZENS' FOOTRACE

High Country News is sponsoring the third annual Lander Citizens' Footrace to be held June 2.

To enter, come to the southeast end of City Park between 5 and 5:45 p.m. The fee is \$1. Starting time is 6 p.m. Classes of competition will be based on interest and number of entries. For more information contact Sarah Doll (307) 332-3929 or Joan Nice (307) 332-4877.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads cost 10 cents a word; they must be prepaid.

WANTED. Freelance writers and photographers to cover Montana natural resource news for *High Country News*. Pay is two cents to four cents per word or \$4 to \$10 per photo. One-sided diatribes unacceptable.

HELP WANTED. Get away from it all. Live by yourself, remote area, southern Wyoming. Tree cutting, some log construction and upkeep. Starting date and duration open. Prefer mature individual with chainsaw experience. Salary, board and room, benefits. Apply: Cloud Nine Ranch, c/o 1241 Palisades Avenue, Rock Springs, Wyo.

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT. The Idaho Conservation League, a citizens' organization, is accepting applications for a Bookkeeper and a Volunteer Coordinator. Both positions are half-time. Job descriptions are available on request. Submit resume with references to ICL, Box 844, Boise, Idaho, 83701, as soon as possible. Telephone (208) 345-6933. Due date June 1.

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BRANCHING OUT



Young Golden Eagle

by Carol Snow

OPPORTUNITY LOST

by Myra Connell

Various circumstances have kept my life lacking in adventure. The butte near my home at Lander, Wyo., is the highest mountain I have ever climbed. I have never backpacked into the wilderness nor floated the Snake River. I have never met a grizzly bear. Many of these activities I would not undertake if I could, but one experience I have always craved is to look into an eagle's nest.

So I eagerly accepted an invitation from a member of the local chapter of the National Audubon Society to go to a golden eagle's nest. An auto trip of 65 or 75 miles was necessary — partly on a track that was next to impossible for an ordinary car.

It was with feelings of guilt that our small group of five adults and three small boys approached the nest. One of the huge dark birds, (surmised to be the male) flew swiftly down country as we were getting out of the car. He was out of sight before I could focus my binoculars. We approached the nest site quietly, cautioning the children to keep still. The female flew away while we were still a city block away. I got her in my binoculars for a split second.

The younger people climbed the crag on which the nest was built and leaned over the crest to peer into the nest a few feet below. There were two white eggs, speckled with brown.

The timidity that has stalked me all my life grabbed me as I was halfway up the crag, and I gave up. I kick myself for turning away from adventure when it stares me in the face.

We lingered only a short while, as we knew the brooding female would not return to keep the eggs warm until we were gone. We saw her come back toward the nest before we were out of sight.

At one point our guide pointed out an abandoned nest high on a cliff near the road. Until recently the road had served mainly ranches. Then the impact of uranium mining hit the area and the road became a dusty thoroughfare for ore trucks moving from mine to mill. As late as last year the nest had been occupied.

My hard-working imagination began leaping to confusions. I thought: "If I were an eagle I wouldn't wish to rear my family near that road," and "sheepmen feeling as

they do about eagles, the pair that nested here last year has very likely been shot," and "they probably lit on high-voltage electric lines and were electrocuted."

After we came home, I talked to a biologist and learned that most of my speculations were probably untrue. This very knowledgeable person said that about 20 percent of eagle nesting sites will be empty in any one season and that the pair that used the nest in question last year might very well be nesting not far away. Further, the newer power lines are constructed so that birds cannot be electrocuted on them. Moreover, eagles are more vulnerable to disturbance by people on foot than to such things as truck traffic.

These statements gave me a feeling of reassurance, to a degree, plus a certain satisfaction that I had muffed my chance for adventure. The eagles may be slightly better off for my timidity.

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May 18, 1979 — High Country News-15



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Dear Friends,



Left to right Sarah Doll, Joan Nice, Dan Whipple, Will Murphy, Marjane Ambler, Hannah Hinchman, Jazmyn McDonald.

HCN APPROACHES
ADOLESCENCE

These are the faces that belong to the people who make up the staff that continues the work that began with crusaders who wrote of the country that everyone's after from rapers and dumpers to stalwart defenders who buy up the news purveyed by the paper that's now ten years old.



BLM wilderness — 'the heart of the American Southwest'

by Jack Kutz

"New Mexico's BLM wilderness is the heart and spirit of the American Southwest," said Dave Foreman, Wilderness Society representative, at a recent wilderness workshop in Albuquerque.

Foreman says that the lands currently under wilderness review by the Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico do not easily fit the stereotyped concept of wilderness areas. There are few high country meadows, sparkling streams or snow-clad peaks in the BLM roadless area inventory.

Nevertheless, he says the areas under consideration are of extreme importance. "We're not talking about just saving a few, unique wild areas," Foreman says. "We're talking about preserving the character of the land. We're trying to keep the west as The West."

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, BLM has been directed to review all public land roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more to determine their suitability for wilderness designation. In New Mexico, this extensive inventory will eventually decide the fate of many of the state's landmark areas.

The lands involved range from the vast 280,000 acre West Portillos Mountains in the wild, volcanic wastelands along the Mexican border, to the small rock-walled desert canyons east of Socorro.

For the most part, these are lands that are usually viewed from a distance — jagged bursts on the horizon like the Ladrón Peaks, or black, sprawling lava mazes like the Grant's Malpais. They have been largely ignored in the past, but now they

are receiving much closer scrutiny — from BLM, energy industries and conservationists.

New Mexico conservationists fear that the review is not being conducted objectively. The BLM has already placed several key areas in the "not recommended" category in the initial inventory. Excluded areas include land contiguous to the Chama Canyon Wilderness, the rugged mesas of Chimayo and the rare grasslands of Cerro de la Olla. BLM recommended dropping these areas because of flat topography or

signs of man that make them appear unnatural.

Jean Herzegh of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee says, "According to the process, the only areas which should have been dropped are those which 'clearly and obviously' do not meet basic wilderness criteria. We must insist that those areas which do meet the basic criteria should be studied further. If there is any controversy over an area which has been left out, it must go back in."

"Too often responsible officials have not bothered to acquaint themselves with the

process they are administering," Herzegh says.

However, Randy Botkin, BLM's district wilderness coordinator in Albuquerque, says that BLM's decisions up to this point in the process have merely been recommendations. "If the public disagrees with us and thinks that an area deserves more study, we're going to put it back in the inventory," he says. "We're trying very hard not to miss anything this go around."

The public comment period on the initial inventory in New Mexico ends June 9. "We have until then to submit our recommendations to reinstate areas," Herzegh said. "The integrity of the wilderness review process will not be maintained by itself. It's up to us."



Photo by LaDonna Kutz
THE BLACK, SPRAWLING LAVA MAZE of Grant's Malpais in New Mexico, one of the roadless areas the Bureau of Land Management is assessing for wilderness potential.

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