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Roosevelt led charge for conservation

©1979 by Peter Wild

A month before Christmas 1902, Morris Michtom showed his wife a cartoon in a New York newspaper. It caricatured a stalwart President Theodore Roosevelt sparing the life of a bewildered bear cub held by an equally puzzled woodsman who had brought the bear into Roosevelt's camp

to be disposed of by the president's gun. Mrs. Michtom sewed several replicas of the cub and displayed them in the window of their Brooklyn candy store. In a few years the stuffed toy was accompanying thousands of children to bed, a symbol of the righteous — some would argue the word should be self-righteous — leader of the nation.

Far more persistent than any emblem since dreamed up by straining politicians, the teddy bear and the legend behind it represent Roosevelt's appeal to the ordinary citizen. At the height of T.R.'s popularity, a visiting Englishman observed that "Roosevelt is not an American, you know. He is America." Attempting to explain his giddy support, another man —

known to be sane in other respects — blurted out his reaction to a Roosevelt speech: "Roosevelt bit me, and I went mad."

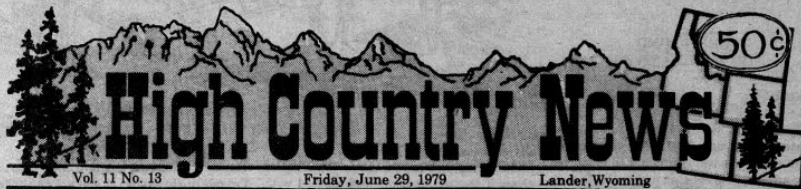
Born in 1858 to one of New York City's patrician families, young Teedie, as his parents called him, attended Harvard, where he first considered the sciences, then decided on a life in politics "to do something to help the cause of better government." His rise to become the youngest president of the United States followed a course not exceptional in itself: state legislator, U.S. Civil Service commissioner, chief of the New York Police Commission, assistant secretary of the Navy, Army officer, governor of New York, and vice-president. But Roosevelt brought luster to each rung on the political ladder. He saw himself as the guardian of the virtues that were making America the world's leading nation, and he dashed about with a vitality that made virtue seem exciting rather than stuffy.

His famous charge on horseback up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War was no more brilliant or brave than the unsung exploits of men in hundreds of other battles in the country's military history. However, to the reporters who dogged him, the robust New Yorker — his pistol drawn, shouting encouragement to his troops, polka-dotted kerchief flapping rakishly from his sombrero — seemed the paragon of the man with "the fighting edge" who could lead America.

His Rough Riders, many of them Western gamblers and saddle-worn cowboys who could tell a faker from the real McCoy, cheered him. To them, and to much of the nation reading about its new war hero, he was the embodiment of manly virtue. Some years later, when he led the country in its first national campaign for conservation on the presidential level, he did it with the same aggression, with the same sense of crusading righteousness, as when he dodged through the bullets up San Juan Hill.

On the other hand, a dramatic style also presents a large target for detractors. Roosevelt's short stature, spectacles, New York accent and sometimes outlandish dress drew chuckles from those disposed to ridicule. Added to that, both political parties of the time were riddled with corruption, typified by the skullduggery of the Democrat's Tammany Hall organization and on the Republican side by the bossism of financiers Jay Gould, James J. Hill and J. P. Morgan. Young Turks were mounting strenuous attacks against the self-seeking

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Vol. 11 No. 13

Friday, June 29, 1979

Lander, Wyoming

Frank Church: the kingpin in the River of No Return debate

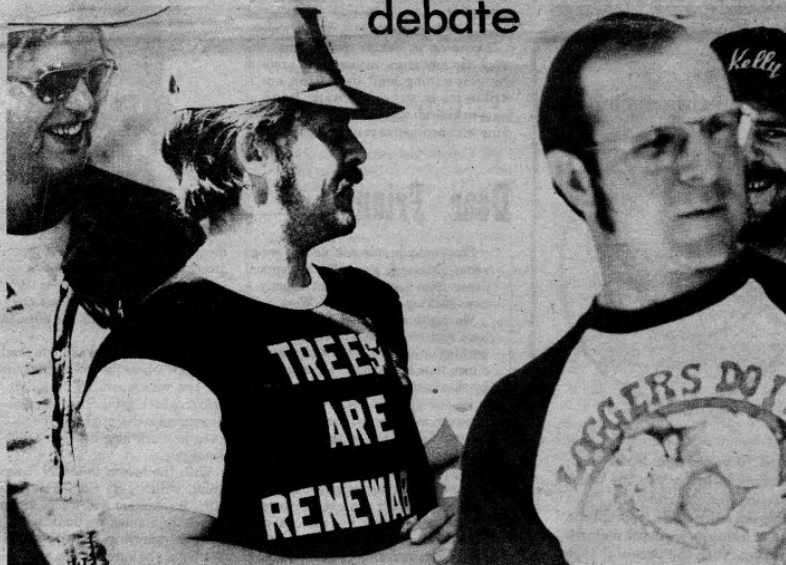


Photo by Tim Crawford

LOGGERS AND MILL WORKERS at wilderness hearing in Salmon carried their message on signs, shirts and facial expressions. One shirt said, "Lock it up, we'll burn it down."

by Glenn Oakley

BOISE, Idaho — Fifty-eight loggers and loggers' wives, each wearing a "Save Elk City" button, file into the room. While the cameramen set up lights, they find seats and talk. Some read and make disparaging remarks about the tabloid flyers set out by

the River of No Return Wilderness Council.

The crowd is more reserved here than at the previous hearing in Salmon. There loggers opposing wilderness carried signs that said: "Lock it up, we'll burn it down" and "Charles Manson was an environmentalist."

In both places, attention is riveted on Idaho's senior senator, Frank Church (D). When he raps the gavel to begin the hearing, talking stops. Idaho's other senator, James McClure (R), is also at the hearing, but it is Church the crowd wants to impress. The consensus is that whatever

(continued on page 4)



Conservation
pioneer series

2-High Country News — June 29, 1979



WHAT ABOUT NUCLEAR SUBMARINES?

Dear People,

Shortly after the near disaster at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, I wrote my state's congressional delegation and the men of the House and Senate committees investigating the incident.

Basically I told them the public demanded the truth and that in working with nuclear energy, we are children playing with fire. I also asked a question that so far hasn't been addressed in their responses to me. The U.S. Navy has lost (sunk) two nuclear-powered submarines (Thresher and Scorpion). Thresher was lost 200 miles off Cape Cod in April 1963, and I can't remember where or when Scorpion was lost.

National Geographic magazine published photos of wreckage from Thresher in 10,000 feet of water. A piece of piping was retrieved, and that's all the public ever

learned! More fearsome may be what we haven't been told.

Both subs carried nuclear reactors. Ten thousand feet of water pressure imploded Thresher like a tomato under a two-ton press. The reactors suffered massive and abrupt loss of all systems! Yet I've never heard anymore said.

Maybe the public never was told more because in 1963, nuclear power and propulsion were in their infancy, and to probe and raise questions might seriously have jeopardized the budding nuclear power industry.

Anyway, I'm not getting answers. News of Three Mile Island claims it will be 20 years before we know of the after-effects from that incident. Thresher, I believe, suffered worse than Three Mile, and it's been 16 years. Think we can afford to take a look?

Cesar Hernandez
Noxon, Mont.

OPEN MIND ON NON-NATIVES

Dear HCN,

Your review of actions of the Montana state legislature (5-18-79) referred to changes in the requirements to plant native species. The related picture of elk suggested wildlife might not fare well if non-native species are used for reclamation of disturbed lands.

If alfalfa is used as a first ground cover, rather than species native to the surrounding area, the disturbed soil is regenerated with nutrients faster than if native grasses are planted. After a season or two of alfalfa, which takes readily under many conditions



in Montana, native grasses do much better than if the reclamation had started with those grasses.

This practice of passing through one species to establish native species was forbidden by the earlier Montana legislation. That older version of the law was an example of well-intended legislation actually working against scientific ecological principles. Should not the environmentalist try to use ecology, such as the principle of succession, to achieve better reclamation practices? And alfalfa does elk no harm!

Succession of species may or may not work for any given reclamation problem (or post-mining land use plan), but it strikes me as environmentally sound at least to keep an open mind on what can be done with non-native replacement species.

The new Montana position does that, and I'm not quite so sure as you are that that is a step backward.

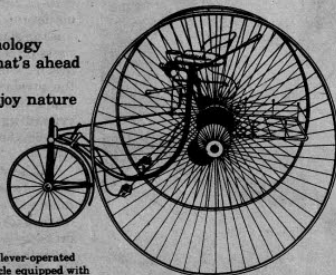
Roger Eldridge
Thorne Ecological Institute
Boulder, Colo.



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.

High Country News first appeared 10 years ago. Since then, HCN's news coverage has kept expanding to bring you the latest developments in environmental protection and degradation. From high gear hotlines on nuclear power, Alaska wilderness, appropriate technology and threatening pollutants, to leisurely in-depth features and book reviews, HCN keeps you up to date with the pace of change in the West.

HCN also shows you wildlife and natural wonders up close in its photo spreads and stories. You find out why the future of the columbine is precarious and how the peregrine falcon may be making a comeback.

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Dear Friends,

Frequently people ask us how we go about gathering news for a regional paper from Lander — not exactly a news-making center of the West.

We treasure our relative isolation here and occasionally even dream of packing up all our files and moving into a mountain lodge that's accessible only by skis in the winter.

In our clearer-headed moments, however, we know we couldn't do without our daily treks to the Post Office, which net bags full of newspapers, newsletters and press releases. We take about 35 different newspapers, in fact, which give us a general picture of events in the region. For national perspective, we subscribe to newsletters and magazines and receive clippings from the L.A. Times and the Wall Street Journal. Among the most valued of the newsletters are Public Lands News, Land Use Planning Reports, Environmental Action, The CERT Report and Conservation Report. The magazines include Audubon, Scientific American, the New Yorker, Coevolution Quarterly, Wyoming Wildlife, Montana Outdoors, and Solar Age.

But that's just the beginning. Our news staff travels about 15,000 miles a year and spends as much as \$350 a

month on the phone. We're happiest in direct contact with our news source whether it's a rancher who is trying to keep his county's air clean or a uranium executive who is planning a mine in the desert.

But we can't always afford to send our own staff where the news is happening, nor can we support full-time stringers in each of our states. So we often depend on reporters moonlighting for us, who have to work long hours to meet our deadlines.

With the help of the HCN Research Fund, which pays most of our phone bills, freelancers and travel expenses (10 cents a mile), we think we're constantly improving our news gathering. We hope you agree.

We face similar obstacles in our advertising department, which is why we're initiating an advertising representative program. People in several towns in the region will contact potential advertisers to whom our special audience would appeal. The reps we select will get a 15 percent commission on each ad they sell. See the classified ads for details on how to apply.

— the staff

POPULAR REALITIES

Ivory Towers, Animal House, and the Environmental Mafia

by Louisa Willcox

What do the ivory towers of New England have to do with the coal and uranium mines of the West? How important are environmental issues at colleges these days anyway?

Apathy, disillusionment and a return to traditional values have hushed many undergraduate college campuses. One student at the University of Massachusetts says, "90 percent of the students are deadheads. They couldn't care less about environmental issues. If you asked them about the Trident, they'd say it was a kind of gum. When Governor King raised the drinking age to 19 in Massachusetts this spring, thousands of students demonstrated. When the Three Mile Island acci-

"I sorta thought it was all just sage out there anyway."

dent happened, only a couple hundred turned out to protest."

College students in general are studying harder — "blindly following that road to the degree and the high paying job," as one says.

"It's so easy to be a good student with your head in the sand," another says. "They spoon-feed you with knowledge, set up interviews with Proctor and Gamble, take away your trash, and serve you meals. College can be a good excuse not to think about environmental problems."

At the same time, as a student at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., I've seen a small and highly motivated core of environmentally concerned students slowly beginning to expand, to become involved actively, not just academically. They are recycling cans and bottles, pushing for preservation of Alaska, holding energy conservation contests, conducting workshops on solar and wood heat, and designing and building wind generators. They are scrutinizing chemical waste dumps, nearby nukes, and Trident submarines. Some feel that the antinuke movement on eastern campuses is on its



way to becoming the Vietnam of the seventies.

College environmental groups seem to be getting more sophisticated, according to Tom Jorling, Environmental Protection Agency administrator and Williams professor. Interdisciplinary environmental studies programs have become increasingly popular on many campuses. Another professor at Williams, which developed in 1968 the first program of this type in the country, says, "We are trying to teach them there are more effective ways of changing things than by lying down in front of bulldozers — by joining the system in a sense."

While undergraduate students usually try out a wide variety of environmental courses, their knowledge of specific issues

tends to be regional. "Coal slurry — what's that?" asks a Connecticut College student.

This spring, Reed Zars of Wyoming's conservationist-rancher group, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, spoke to environmentally concerned students at Williams College on the problems involved in mining coal in northeastern Wyoming. He met with wide eyes and dropped jaws. "I sorta thought that it was all just sage out there anyway," one student said. "I never really understood the consequences of mining so heavily in that area — boy, it sure is easy to say 'no nukes' when you don't know about repercussions elsewhere," said another.

On some campuses the gap seems to be widening between two groups: the old guard fraternity set and the hard core environmentalists. Almost as fast as the "no nuke" and Alaska posters go up, they are defaced. Jeers attack the "granolas" wearing "ecofreak" T-shirts. "The problem is the environmental types are mostly motivating people like themselves, who eat healthy foods and write their congressmen anyway. They aren't really attracting a broad base of people," says a University of New Hampshire student.

While environmentalists continue to be in the minority on campus, many who



graduate from small New England colleges like Williams are getting interesting, policy-shaping jobs with Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, and the government in various environmental positions. The assistant director of the University of Vermont calls this group the "Environmental Mafia, which seems to be spreading all across the country."

In her summer vacation from English and environmental studies at Williams College, Louisa Willcox is working as an intern at High Country News and as an instructor at the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyo.

Slurry pipelines—the least of evils

Wyoming's Gov. Ed Herschler recently rejected a proposal by Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. to build a coal slurry pipeline from Montana to Texas using Wyoming water. Herschler rejected the pipeline because there were "unanswered questions" about the project.

The Texas Eastern pipeline emerged suddenly on the political scene. It was presented to the legislature early in the 1979 session and approved before all of the implications of the project could be studied.

In the fuss and bother that surrounded that particular pipeline, however, we should remember that in some situations, slurry pipelines may be the least objectionable solution to a number of difficult problems.

The major roadblock to slurry pipelines' acceptance is water. Nothing boils the blood of Westerners like the suggestion that some of their state's rare water be sent elsewhere. This is an understandable reaction but one which is increasingly out of step with today's energy hungry world.

Most environmentalists, ranchers and farmers would like to see the West's water go to wise agricultural uses, instream flows, recreation or municipal uses. However, the pressure being exerted on the water supplies — along with the financial

resources to reinforce the pressure — is coming from energy and mineral extraction industries. These companies want to use water for coal gasification and liquefaction, power plant cooling, uranium mining and milling and the like. Given the cost of developing the water and the price that is offered for competing energy-related uses, it is inevitable that many of the other preferred uses will come out on the short end of the deal.

These are unfortunate facts, but they make slurry pipelines look good — the least of the evils. Slurry lines use less water than the other alternatives; they are relatively benign environmentally; and they are consistent with a policy of exporting coal from the region rather than burning it here in power plants or converting it to gas or oil at the mine mouth. This reduces social impacts, air and water pollution and overall water consumption.

It may be a fatalistic outlook, but it appears now that a very high level of coal mining is inevitable for the West. Once mined, the coal must be moved. The railroads want all of this lucrative business. The railroads are not without problems, however. They have created traffic tie-ups in communities, and the companies have

been very high-handed in response to requests that they do something about it. Railroads also disturb land, stir up dust and present safety hazards along the lines. However, there ought to be enough coal coming out of the West to keep both railroads and slurry lines well supplied. A little competition might do the railroads good.

A lingering fear is that slurry lines, by providing cheaper transportation for Western coal, will encourage the mining of Western coal for markets at greater distances from the coal fields. This is a possibility and at least one Texas utility has said that the cheaper slurry transportation would cause them to look again at Western coal supplies. However, because of the already massive scale of production and the distance to potential markets, the relative increase in demand for Western coal would almost certainly be small.

There is one very large "but" in all this, however. Slurry pipelines should not be granted eminent domain by the federal government. Enough evils have been perpetrated already under the current uses of eminent domain without extending it to yet another potential abuser. Railroads should not be allowed to arbitrarily block slurry pipeline routes by refusing to let pipelines cross railroad rights-of-way — as is happening in the Energy Transportation Systems, Inc. case. But solving this problem with the vast power of eminent domain is like hitting a fly with a brick — the brick will do the job, but a lighter weapon would have served as well.

—DSW

High Country News

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River of No Return debate...

(continued from page 1)

Church wants will be what Congress passes. "Church will have a major role, if not THE major role in the final bill," says Church's press secretary, Cleve Corlett.

Wilderness Society representative Steve Payne puts it more succinctly: "It will be Church's ball game."

Reacting to requests from three different groups, Church introduced three bills Jan. 18, each proposing a different sized wilderness for the largest chunk of wild land remaining in the Lower 48 states. The area is known as the River of No Return, the popular name for the Salmon River, which courses in rips and roars through the heart of central Idaho. Before the advent of jet boats, anyone going downriver could never return by river; the rapids are too severe. Hence, the name.

Even the smallest proposed wilderness area is larger than Yellowstone Park. It ranges from canyon bottoms 2,000 feet in elevation to 10,000-foot precipices. The streams within are gin clear — the spawning chinook salmon clearly visible several feet below. The Chamberlain Basin within the wilderness is one of the most productive elk calving grounds anywhere.

Environmentalists say only S. 95, the 2.3 million acre River of No Return Wilderness Council bill, will adequately protect the area. They say the middle-ground option, the 1.9 million acre administration bill (S. 97), excludes invaluable river tributaries and prime wildlife habitat.

It is the industry bill that environmentalists are fighting, however. That bill (S. 96) calls for 1.3 million acres — less wilderness than is presently protected by primitive area classification. And it is the environmentalists' bill the industry is fighting. At the three Idaho hearings held in Lewiston, Salmon and Boise, no one spoke for or against the administration bill.

The Elk City residents are here because Bennett Lumber Co. Resource Manager Tim Mueller has told them, as he now tells the senators: If 2.3 million acres goes into wilderness classification, "we will close the mill."

ON WELFARE

The mill IS Elk City. Unlike Salmon, Idaho, where 60 percent of the residents

testifying favored the 2.3 million acre bill, tourism is unimportant in remote Elk City. Most of the families' breadwinners work for the mill. They have held town meetings, and they have leased a bus to carry 58 of them — a large portion of the town — some 200 miles to Boise for the hearing. They tell Church and McClure: Pass S. 95 and you put us out of work, on welfare. Pass S. 96, they say, and we can keep our jobs, and the environmentalists, whom they sometimes refer to as "freeloaders," can have some wilderness.

But environmentalists argue that the timber industry is asking for federal subsidies — another form of welfare. The industry bill directs the Forest Service to spend \$10 million to build logging roads in the Warren Planning Unit, most of which is not included in any of the River of No Return study areas.

Boise-Cascade Corp. spokesman R. Kirk Ewart told the senators the \$10 million allocation is not a subsidy. This money, he said, "would be a means to facilitate development of a multibeneficial transportation system with minimum risk to aquatic resources." Ewart says the industry is asking the public to build these roads because "the sizable costs of this approach make it prohibitive for the purchasers of federal timber to bear."

What he means is that the value of the timber is too low to warrant paying for roads to get to it — unless the government pays. The forest industry argues that the money spent on logging roads will be recovered over the long run through additional logging, made accessible by the roads.

The road construction would be expensive and difficult. The entire area is within the Idaho batholith, and the granite there erodes furiously when exposed. If roads are built, the underlying granite could rapidly decompose and wash into the tributaries of the Salmon River and into the main stem itself. Entire pools in the rivers could fill up with decomposed granite.

This is not just theory. The Forest Service inadvertently proved it on the South Fork of the Salmon and spent a few million dollars in the process.

The Forest Service spent \$1 million in the early 1960s blasting 35 miles of logging

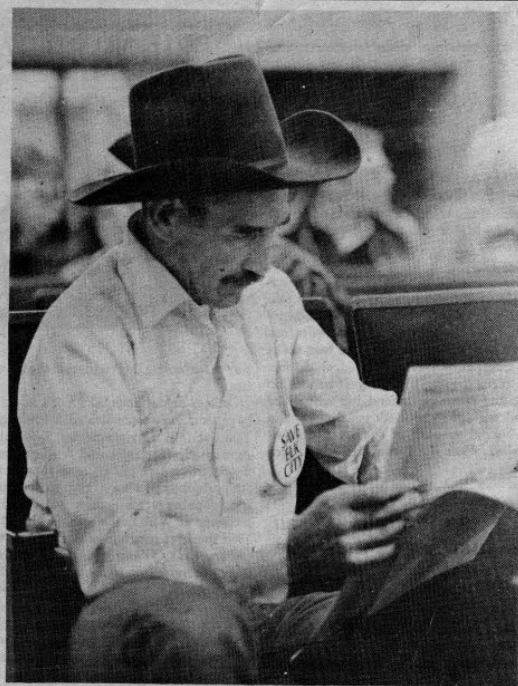


Photo by Glenn Oakley

ELK CITY resident reads a River of No Return Wilderness Council brochure.

roads out of the batholith. By 1964, the South Fork of the Salmon, a major spawning ground for chinook salmon and steelhead, was filling in. The Forest Service dredged the renowned fishing and spawning pool, Krassel Hole, at a cost of \$20,000. And despite 20,000 cubic yards of decomposed granite removed from the hole, it filled in again the next year. The watershed that once held 10,000 salmon nesting beds was eventually reduced to as few as 100, according to Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game Department figures.

Neither the river nor the chinook salmon have recovered. In fact, as a result of both hydroelectric dams and logging, the salmon populations are so low that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was forced to skip this year's fishing season.

But new logging techniques have eliminated those kinds of mistakes, says Dennis Hurtt, a public relations representative with Boise-Cascade. "They're not out there just to cut trees," he says of the loggers, "they care for them." Logging some of the area proposed for the River of No Return wilderness is "better for everyone," he says. The conscientious loggers will "keep a healthy, vigorous, dynamic forest. Just like cutting your lawn." Hurtt says, "Our official position is we favor wilderness, but let's be reasonable about it."

Six years ago, when the Forest Service began to ponder the future of the River of No Return, the forest products industry opposed all wilderness. Instead, industry suggested a 580,000 acre "roadless recreation area" corridor along the Salmon and its middle fork. The rest was to be open to timber cutting.

Ewart says the industry now supports the 1.3 million acre wilderness reluctantly. "We still think we were right from a resource standpoint," Ewart says. "But the



SEN. FRANK CHURCH will determine the fate of the River of No Return Wilderness Area.

people of Idaho don't seem to support our right position of the past."

The River of No Return Wilderness Council is trying to tell Church that the people of Idaho don't support the industry position of the present, either.

Before the hearings, which were held in late April and May, Ted Trueblood, president of the wilderness council, said "If we can demonstrate that the Idaho people are for strong wilderness, then he's (Church) going to be a lot braver."

In Lewiston and Salmon, testimony ran two-to-one in favor of the 2.3 million acre

(see next page)



Photo by Ted Trueblood

CHAMBERLAIN BASIN, which is within all three proposed wilderness areas, is one of the most productive elk calving grounds anywhere.

proposal. In Boise, testimony was about 50-50.

Following the final May 24 hearing in Boise, Trueblood said the testimony had apparently not convinced Church. "He has it in his mind to make some sort of concession to the loggers," Trueblood says. "I don't think the hearings made a bit of difference to him."

Church has hinted all along at a compromise. Following the Boise hearing, he said, "It is clear no one of these bills commands the support of the Idaho people in sufficient number. The ultimate bill must bring into balance all of these interests."

1980 ELECTION

Press Secretary Corlett says Church will support what's best for Idaho and won't compromise because of the upcoming election.

Trueblood, however, is skeptical. He thinks Church will try to win the loggers' votes in the 1980 election, but he says, "If Frank Church tries to cater to business, he's being very foolish." Conservationists have supported Church all along — he's played leading roles in passing the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act — and they say he'll need their active support in 1980.

Payne says, "No matter what he (Church) does, he'll never get the support of the timber industry."

U.S. Rep. Steve Symms (R), who is Church's most likely opponent in 1980, is an arch-conservative whose politics and antics leave liberals amused and incredulous.

"I don't think the hearings made a bit of difference to Church."

ous. He wants a "cap" placed on the number of acres of wilderness allowed in Idaho. And he thinks that limit has about been reached.

Yet in a conservative state such as Idaho, where "Keep the Panama Canal American" is a popular battle cry, some observers say Symms has a chance of knocking Church off his powerful seat.

Conservationists will not vote for Symms — no matter what Church does. But if Church decides something less than 2.3 million acres is best for Idaho, conservationists plan to fight him on that issue.

"If things go bad for us," Trueblood predicts, "we'll take it to court. And we'll do

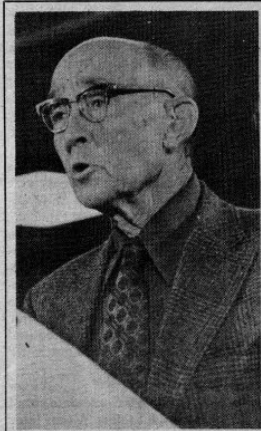


Photo by Glenn Oakley
TED TRUEBLOOD brought 20,000 signatures supporting the environmentalists' wilderness proposal to the Boise hearing.

that rather than give up a good wilderness."

Payne explains that the conservationists have time — and the law — on their side. "We feel the 2.3 is protected already," he says, referring to the Supreme Court's Parker decision. In the case the Supreme Court ruled that areas contiguous to primitive areas that have wilderness characteristics must be protected as wilderness until Congress acts.

Although conservationists say they won't bargain with the 2.3 million acres, Idaho Conservation League Director Pat Ford suggests that contested RARE II (the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) lands may eventually become bargaining chips.

But Payne says conservationists need not compromise with RARE II lands. Because of the Parker decision, "We're not going to bargain away areas already protected to get it (2.3)," he said.

Many conservationists, Payne says, "have been making a very fervent effort to separate" RARE II and the River of No Return wilderness.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Anti-wilderness groups have been trying equally hard to join the two. Hurtt of Boise-Cascade said the combined effect of RARE II, Bureau of Land Management wilderness studies and the River of No Return legislation is "very dramatic." He said the River of No Return Wilderness Council is "piecemealing" away Idaho land by refusing to talk about RARE II together with the River of No Return issue. "Divide and conquer" is how he describes the conservationists' tactics. The timber industry bill specifies that no more wilderness will be designated in certain national forests in the vicinity.

Anti-wilderness witnesses at the Boise hearing called for a plan to decide which lands are protected and which are available for exploitation. Church and McClure agreed the land use issues should be resolved soon but said Congress is not ready to resolve RARE II, and the BLM studies have just begun. Church guaranteed everyone that the River of No Return would be the "last major wilderness prospect in Idaho."

State Sen. Ken Robison says, "Even with S. 95, the potential increase (in logging statewide) is about 90 million board feet" because of released RARE II lands.

This and other facts have led conservationists, such as Ford of the Idaho Conservation League, to believe the Elk City mill is in no danger of closing because of a 2.3 million acre wilderness. Rather, Ford claims, Bennett Lumber Co. wants to expand to a two-shift operation so it can make more money faster.

The wilderness council says back country recreation contributes \$80 million per year to the Idaho economy. On the other hand, they argue, logging in the River of No Return would not pay for itself because of road construction and Forest Service management costs. If one includes the potential damage to the already devastated chinook salmon, the entire stream system and game habitat, the cost would run off the graph, they say.

Ewart says that the logging in this area can be done "in an environmentally sound manner." Church asked Mueller during the Boise hearing if a contested drainage in the River of No Return wilderness could be logged without jeopardizing the salmon. Mueller replied logging would not affect the salmon.

There is more to the River of No Return country than increased income from back country visitors, timber potential, salmon fishing revenue or fresh water, however. Ted Trueblood says, his fight for wilderness designation is payment of a debt, a debt of personal growth and challenge,

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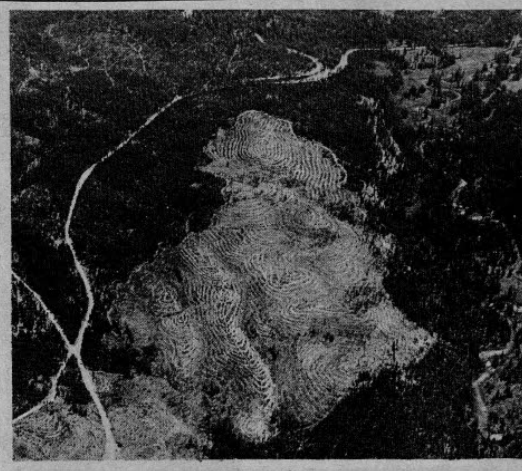


Photo by Ted Trueblood

SILTATION FROM CLEARCUTS such as this one on the west side of the South Fork of the Salmon River has drastically reduced salmon populations.

self-confidence and humility gained in the River of No Return country.

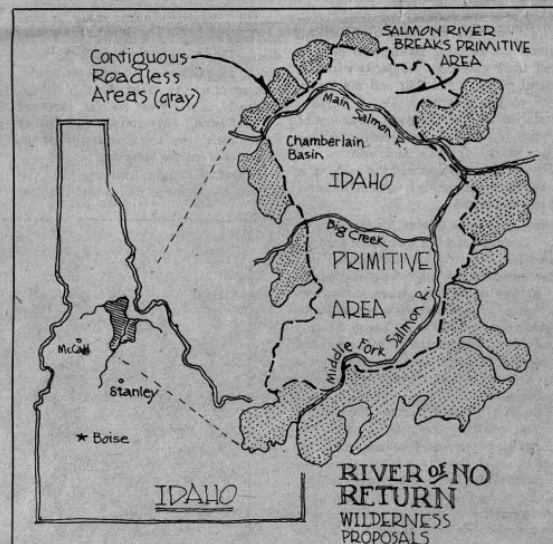
He says he may make an elk hunt in the River of No Return this fall — half a century after he first ventured into it. If Congress acts on the legislation this summer, he may know whether the land he hunts will be as wild in another 50 years.

And in Elk City, residents wonder, too, whether their town is due for a change. For

their lifestyle to continue, they believe some of this wilderness must be opened to the chainsaws.

Glenn Oakley is a freelance writer and photographer in Nampa, Idaho.

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THE CONSERVATIONISTS' BILL (S. 95) proposes 2.3 million acres, including the Idaho Primitive Area, the Salmon Breaks Primitive Area and 14 roadless areas that adjoin them.

THE ADMINISTRATION BILL (S. 97) proposes a 1.9 million acre wilderness, excluding two relatively small areas from the Idaho Primitive Area, which are said to have mineral potential. After the RARE II inventory, the administration asked that its bill be amended to include 284,000 additional acres from adjacent roadless areas.

THE INDUSTRY BILL (S. 96) proposes 1.3 million acres, excluding the east half of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and the Big Creek drainage of the Idaho Primitive Area. It would open roadless areas adjacent to the primitive areas to timber harvest.

6-High Country News — June 29, 1979

Theodore Roosevelt's charge...

(continued from page 1)

leaders of Roosevelt's Republican Party. By pressing for sweeping reforms, they guaranteed constant struggles for anyone attempting to hold the GOP together.

T.R.'s heart was with the reformers. Using his famous trustbusting "Big Stick," he translated idealism into changes for the public good, strengthening the Civil Service, supporting food and drug legislation, restraining the steel and railroad monopolies that were choking their competition and gouging consumers.

He accompanied the actions with words that warmed the heart of the common man: "I do intend, so far as in me lies, to see that the rich man is held to the same accountability as the poor man." However, the capitalists of industry held the party's purse strings, forcing Roosevelt at one point to accept J. P. Morgan's campaign check for \$150,000. Blustering Roosevelt, for all his rhetoric, knew when to tread lightly in order to stay in the political arena.

If Roosevelt's enforced dance of compromise on the home front left him open to charges of hypocrisy, in his foreign policy he rarely dissembled. Roosevelt praised Western society's brand of civilization as the ultimate good. Having said that, he shouldered the white man's burden to prepare the "backward" peoples of the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Cuba for democracy — at the point of a gun if necessary. He recognized potential conflicts with other industrialized and expanding nations. To remind Germany, Japan and Great Britain that might was on the side of right, he sent the nation's Great White Fleet of warships steaming around the world.

Whatever the political storms his boisterous policies at home and abroad fomented, one thing needs to be kept in mind: their enormous popularity with the general public. "His flair and his integrity," writes biographer David Burton, "combined to give Roosevelt a variety of enemies, but they also provided him with a great many friends and admirers." Roosevelt's stands matched the mood of a United States eager for reform within and expansion abroad.

Popularity often allowed the president to defy Congress and the traditional leaders within his own party, enabling him to hand conservationists, for decades standing on the fringes of political power, their first solid gains — perhaps the greatest gains they have ever made in one sweep. Seeing conservation as essential to his broad plans for domestic change, Roosevelt promoted it with the thundering rhetoric of the progressive idiom.

"We do not intend that our natural resources shall be exploited by the few against the interests of the many, nor do we intend to turn them over to any man who will wastefully use them by destruction, and leave to those who come after us a heritage damaged by just so much. Our aim is to preserve our natural resources for the public as a whole, for the average man and the average woman who make up the body of the American people."

There is irony in the bold position. Despite reformist tendencies, T.R. remained wary of what he deemed to be fanaticism. At one point he dubbed those who were ferreting out government improprieties as "muck-rakers," and at another he lumped Carl Schurz, the sharp-tongued Secretary of Interior under President Hayes, with the "loud-mouthed" proponents of reform. No doubt his penchant for orderly change

stemmed from his patrician background. Then again, he became president after an anarchist shot William McKinley at Buffalo's Pan-American Exposition of 1901. He himself would know the horror of suddenly looking into an assassin's gun barrel, suffering a wound, if only a slight one, during his unsuccessful presidential campaign of 1912. When it came to conservation, however, T. R. saw himself as the leader of a holy cause, and he pursued his goals with much the same fervor that he occasionally ridiculed in the proponents of other reforms.

He had always loved the outdoors. His father, a founder of the American Museum of Natural History, instilled a fascination for nature in his son. Nine-year-old Teddie worked in his bedroom assembling bird nests and seashells into his own Roosevelt Museum of Natural History. The boy became an avid bird lover, an amateur naturalist who took time out from politics to travel the world, sending back specimens for the Smithsonian and the U. S. Biological Survey. A bright and active youngster, he faced a future marred by asthma, but he overcame the debility by boxing, wrestling and long exercise in the outdoors. "The Strenuous Life," as he later termed it in a famous speech, was his ideal.

As a rancher in North Dakota, he hunted buffalo, caught thieves, subdued bullies,

"Let us rather run the risk of wearing out than rusting out."

and once stood off a menacing band of Indians. They were things to write home about, the excitements of the young city man savoring the Wild West. More significantly, in the West he also witnessed "at first hand," says conservation writer James Trefethen, "the ripening of the bitter fruits of unwise land use."

A lover of danger and the hunt, he founded the Boone and Crockett Club, an

organization of wealthy Easterners, devoted to preserving habitat for big game. But most important to his conservation policies was his association with a man who would turn the president's longings about preserving nature into national projects.

Rarely in the history of the country has there been a relationship as close, as symbiotic — and as effective for conservation — as existed between T. R. and Gifford Pinchot. Some seven years younger than the president, Pinchot also came from a patrician and influential family; he also was a reformer, a lover of the strenuous physical and moral life, a champion of the underdog. Serving as the "unofficial crown prince" of the Roosevelt administration, he walked, talked, galloped and swam with the president on boyish outings. He deftly fielded the chief executive's badly swatted tennis balls, all the while maintaining the relationship of protege to mentor. While he reinforced the president's values, Pinchot offered suggestions, ultimately giving shape to many of his conservation policies.

For all the self-serving that one might read into it, the friendship was genuine, characterized by mutual admiration. Roosevelt reflected on Pinchot's "fearlessness, his complete disinterestedness, his single-minded devotion to the interests of the plain people," and concluded that "among the many, many public officials who under my administration rendered literally invaluable service to the people of the United States, he, on the whole, stood first."

Sharp differences in later years caused pain between the two men, but Pinchot glowed through the heady presidential days. His hero, much to the younger man's satisfaction, rarely drank, didn't smoke, and limited his profanity to an occasional "By Godfrey!" To emphasize T.R.'s extreme propriety in language — in contrast to his bullishness in other matters — biographer Henry Pringle recounts a time during roundup when "two hardened cowboys nearly fell from their saddles" after rancher Roosevelt "called in his high voice to one of the men: 'Hasten forward quickly there!'" Years after Roosevelt gave up ranching, the command survived, repeated as a mock battle cry across the bars and

ranges of the Badlands. But whatever gulfaws Roosevelt suffered from cowpunchers and, later, from political satirists, in the judgment of Pinchot and most of the nation the mannerisms reflected a goodness that went all the way through the man.

A missionary's drive powered both men. Although Pinchot applauded T.R.'s general reforms, he wasn't about to see the president's energies diverted from his own foremost goal. A remarkable example of single-mindedness, all his wealthy life Pinchot had schooled himself to promote a rational forest policy and, once established, to become its federal administrator. Urged by Pinchot, Roosevelt and the American Forestry Association in 1891, President Benjamin Harrison had quietly established 13 million acres of Western forest reserves, the beginnings of the present national forest system. Five years later, when the secretary of Interior asked for guidance in administering the vast tracts, Pinchot joined the National Forest Commission. Then, when the directorship of the Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division fell vacant, Pinchot presented himself, a natural for the job. He soon turned the obscure group of statisticians into a campaigning agency of change — just when Roosevelt was emerging as a national reform leader.

Even before Roosevelt, suddenly promoted by an assassin's bullet from vice-president to chief executive, could move his stuffed buffalo heads into the White House, his old friend Pinchot was camped on his doorstep. Pinchot's detailed timber management program, the new president realized, not only would translate his morality into concrete results. By controlling rampant timber corporations, it also would dovetail nicely with his projected campaigns against monopolies. Further, T.R. reveled in Pinchot's style of aggressive righteousness. Together they schemed to end the evils of natural resource waste. Roosevelt, chortled Pinchot, was for the program, "horse, foot, and dragons." Yet, as always in government, the two schemers had to deal with political realities.

"Look," moaned one Republican boss, "that damned cowboy is president of the United States!" Traditional leaders, financially supported by the timber industry, shifted in their seats as the new president preached in his first state of the union message that "The preservation of our forests is an imperative business necessity" — words Pinchot had penned into the speech. In essence, they proposed what Carl Schurz had unsuccessfully urged two decades before, a plan since advocated by a growing number of conservationists: scientific management that would result in sustained-yield forestry of federal lands. This would be achieved by expansion of the forest reserve system and creation of a national forest service.

Yet Roosevelt moved with caution. He was, after all, president by accident, with all the political uncertainties that entailed. Furthermore, to carry out Pinchot's ideas, the forest reserves would have to be transferred from the Department of Interior to Pinchot's Department of Agriculture. The move would likely generate opposition that the new president wished to avoid. Pinchot would have to bide his time, but meanwhile he hurried about behind the scenes, "laying pipe," as he put it, for the expected change.

In 1904 the largest wave of support ever recorded for a presidential candidate swept colorful T. R. back into office. A year later Congress bowed to his popularity by upgrading Pinchot's Forestry Division to the U.S. Forest Service and transferring the (see next page)



Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library
THE DEBUT of the Teddy Bear, from a pen & ink drawing now at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

reserves to the new agency's control. Now, with the machinery for conservation firmly in place, T.R. and Pinchot set a new goal: to add millions of acres to the system.

However satisfied conservationists were at this point, the youthful Forest Service, with its tough regulations, raised howls of discontent from people accustomed to a free hand in exploitation. To add to the growing confusion, T.R. made one of his few obvious political mistakes. He announced that he would not run for re-election. The news weakened his leverage with a Congress becoming difficult to move.

In the meantime, the two conservationists in the White House enjoyed a spree of setting aside national forests from the public lands. One Western newspaper lamented that soon "there would be little ground left to bury folks on." Alarmed and increasingly hostile congressmen began their own schemes to undo the runaway T.R.-Pinchot team.

They did it in the usual congressional

way — by tightening the Forest Service's purse string. They also passed legislation taking away the president's power to create forests by decree. Roosevelt didn't wish to worsen the situation by using the veto, but he had another card to play. He and Pinchot pulled out their maps of the public domain. In the 10 days given a president to sign legislation, they carved out 21 new forests with enthusiastic swipes of their pens — "midnight forests," grumbled the opposition. All in all, during his career Roosevelt set aside some 148 million acres of national forest — a huge total, one well over four times the size of his native state, New York.

As a forward-looking scientist and unblinking patriot, Pinchot represented the utilitarian wing of conservation. To him, and to the majority of early activists, conservation meant the use of resources in ways that would guarantee the republic's future prosperity. Other people concerned about nature were pained by the narrow-

ness of this approach. Men such as John Muir saw nature as worthwhile in its own right, possessing scientific and spiritual values that cried for absolute preservation. Thus the preservationists, as they have been labeled, often found themselves in opposition to the nation's chief forester.

As much as he was under the influence of Pinchot, Roosevelt was not a slave to his lieutenant's outlook. He had a broader vision of the natural world. The man who lectured Congress about the "imperative business necessity" of conservation could also gaze in wonder over the Grand Canyon and say, "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it." As a result, T.R. set the country on a dual course of wise use and preservation.

Having introduced conservation through the front door of politics by stressing the benefits of good business practices, the president swept past a puzzled Pinchot

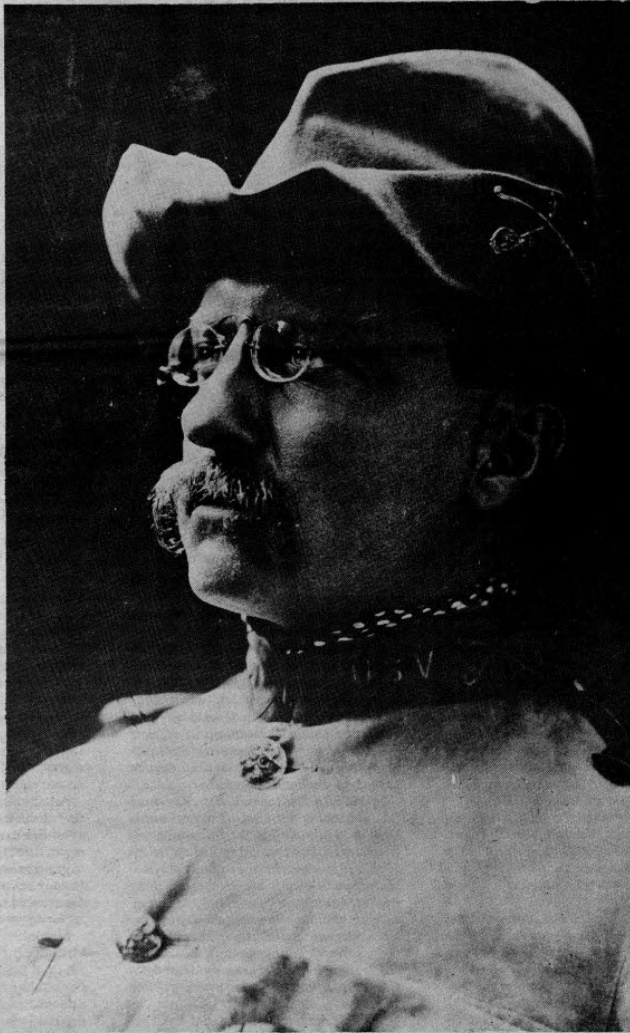
to preserve some parts of the natural world. Responding to the need for wildlife protection, he promoted hunting regulation and created America's first federal wildlife refuge on Florida's Pelican Island. He so relished the new idea that he proclaimed some 50 additional reserves that now dot the map from Alaska to Puerto Rico. To stem the looting of archaeological sites on public lands, he supported passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, then under its provisions he created 16 national monuments totalling 1.4 million acres. While trying to keep Pinchot busy with his new Forest Service, he further gladdened the preservationists by approving five national parks — more millions of acres set aside as natural treasures.

"We are face to face with our destiny," Roosevelt thundered to the country, "and we must meet it with a high and resolute courage. For us is the life of action, of strenuous performance of duty; let us rather run the risk of wearing out than rusting out." It was an age when power, rather than complex negotiations, carried the day and seemed to ensure the future.

Historians debate heatedly over the wisdom of many of T.R.'s brusque policies. But as far as conservation is concerned, Roosevelt emerged at precisely the right time — when the abuses to the natural heritage had gone on long enough to appear criminal to many Americans, yet when sufficient public land still remained to be saved by a strong-willed president.

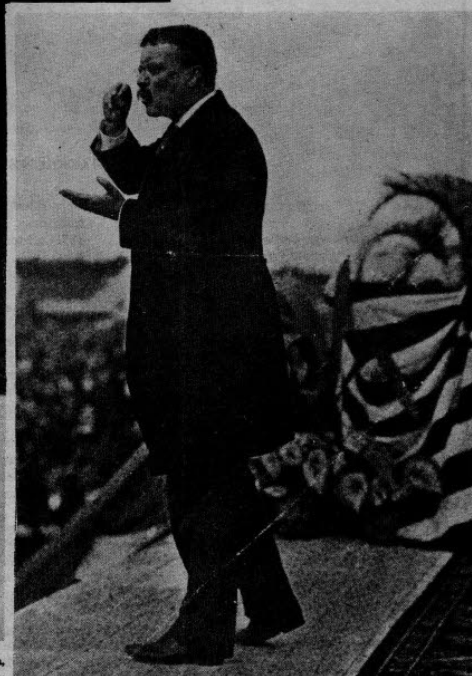
Roosevelt thus was able to accomplish what had eluded Carl Schurz: he placed conservation in the realm of official government policy. However, environmental victories are never inviolate. As activists soon realized, the federal bureaucracy's stewardship of nature could be a mixed blessing.

★



ROOSEVELT'S flair and integrity combined to give him a variety of enemies — and a great many friends.

Theodore Roosevelt Collection,
Harvard College Library



8-High Country News — June 29, 1979

COLORADO'S CROSS OF

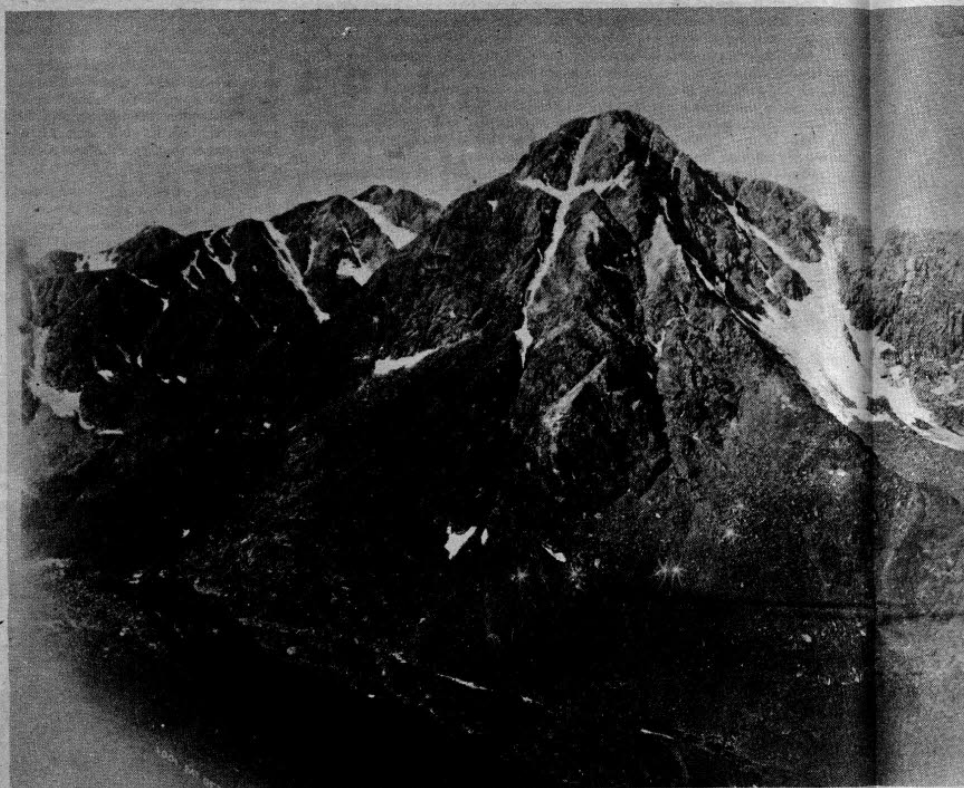


Photo by William H. Jackson (1878) Courtesy of Denver

WILLIAM H. JACKSON'S photograph of the Mount of the Holy Cross made the mountain famous.

by Thomas Jenkins

Indians were probably the first people to see the gigantic engraving on the east face of Colorado's Mount of the Holy Cross. But no one knows who first noticed the peak's similarity to the Christian symbol. A folk tale about 17th century Spanish explorers discovering the 14,005-foot mountain is unsubstantiated. More likely a fur trapper of the 19th century unexpectedly came upon the cross of snow.

The first known written description of the peak was made in 1869 by William H. Brewer after an ascent of 14,270-foot Gray's Peak over 40 miles away. In a letter to his wife, he reported seeing the distant mountain's "cross of pure white, a mile high, suspended against its side."

William H. Jackson's photograph of Holy Cross made the mountain famous four years later. After four struggling days of route-finding and timber-bashing, Jackson and two friends, carrying 100 pounds of photographic equipment, topped 13,237-foot Notch Mountain. From this vantage point, he saw and photographed

Holy Cross, which is strangely sheltered from easy, direct view elsewhere. At the 1876 centennial celebration in Washington, D.C., his photograph won seven awards and still remains one of the best in existence.

Likewise, one of Thomas Moran's greatest paintings, "The Mount of the Holy Cross, Colorado," was awarded special recognition at the 1876 centennial. It and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Cross of Snow," added to the publicity surrounding the awesome mountain.

Some 50 years later, religious pilgrimages to the Notch Mountain summit began. In the summer of 1927, O.W. Randall, a Colorado dentist, led 12 boys and girls on a four-day hike that culminated in a view of the cross.

The following year, the Denver Post sponsored a 218-person pilgrimage to the same summit. Randall and the Post contributed funds for construction of an automobile road to Camp Tigiwon at the base of the Notch Mountain trail head. The camp had a gold rush look about it. Numerous tents dotted the grounds. Amid the

wildflowers and thick pine forest, pilgrims sang around a huge bonfire and listened to a small orchestra.

As a result of the increased accessibility, over 800 people participated in the 1932 pilgrimage and almost 1,000 in 1933. On these pilgrimages, which were non-denominational, religious services were conducted on Notch Mountain in sight of the cross of snow two miles away. Few people continued down into the deep canyon and up to the foot of Holy Cross.

In 1928, a Denver minister, Reverend S.H. Patterson of the Radio Prayer League Church, announced to the ill members of his congregation that if they had sufficient faith and journeyed to the summit of Notch Mountain to kneel in prayer, they would be healed. After returning from this pilgrimage, he said he was swamped with assertions of cures. One 66-year-old invalid who rode a horse to the summit, reportedly threw away her crutches and walked down the mountain unaided after praying before the cross.

The practice of "handkerchief healing" was introduced by the same minister.

Those unable to hike up the mountain invited to send handkerchiefs with the summit where they would be over and then returned. Over 100 sent their handkerchiefs the first with reported cures of an "astor number." The next year the Denver Post received over 2,000 handkerchiefs. Rangers were necessary to help him the load up the trail. Even more received the following year, and cures remained high.

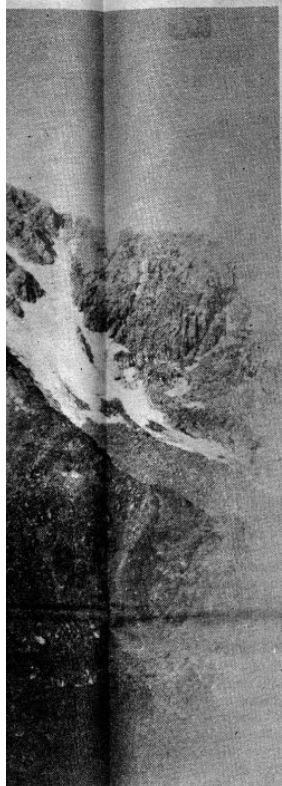
Another kind of pilgrimage is made by a few climbers each year who ascend snow-filled couloirs that is the upright cross. Backpacking over the Notch Mountain ridge and down to the base of the day before, they arise at 3 a.m. the crusted snow before the sun brings terror to its surface.

In winter, the Notch Mountain is virtually inaccessible; but in summer a six-mile trail, which rises 3,237 feet, is a backpacker's dream. The summit is achieved easily in one day. The descent beyond the Notch Mountain into East Cross Creek canyon is so

OF SNOW

ETCHED IN A MOUNTAIN WITH A HISTORY OF HEALING

One 66-year-old invalid reportedly threw away her crutches and walked down the mountain unaided after praying before the cross.



Jackson (1873) Courtesy of Denver Public Library

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more demanding, but those who make it
...can pitch their tents at the base of the awe-
...some cross.

Beginning at the Camp Tigiwon
...trailhead, the trail rises gradually through
...heavy timber, crosses rushing, ice-cold
...creeks and winds through scattered pines
...and aspens. As the trail steepens it reaches
...lush, high mountain meadows with abun-
...dant wildflowers. Then it leads hikers
...above timberline into the tundra, through
...boulder fields and, finally, to the summit.

At no point during the ascent of Notch
...Mountain can the 1,200- by 400-foot cross
...be seen until the last dramatic moment
...when the hiker reaches the ridge. To many,
...the difficult-to-reach viewing place seems
...providentially planned. In any event, one
...has to earn the reward of seeing the cross of
...snow.

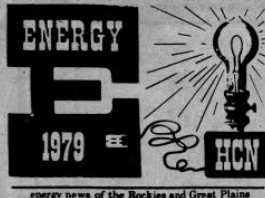
Thomas M. Jenkins is the director of
...communications and arts at the Red Rocks
...Campus of Community College of Denver.



Photo by Thomas Jenkins

THE SNOW-FILLED COULOIR that is the upright of the cross is occasionally ascended
...by climbers equipped with ice axes and crampons.

10-High Country News — June 29, 1979



MINE MOUTH SAVINGS. The Montana Board of Natural Resources and Conservation says that electrical power consumers would be able to save \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion (in 1975 dollars) if the Colstrip 3 and 4 power plants are built near Montana's coal fields rather than closer to where the electricity will be used, according to the Associated Press. While transporting the power over transmission lines will result in energy loss, so will transporting coal by rail. The board said the loss would be about equal — but diesel fuel, which powers the railroads, is harder to get than coal, which would supply the energy for the power lines.

WATER WAR. Four mineral companies and a group of Wyoming ranchers are protesting Pacific Power and Light Co.'s plan to buy agricultural water rights dating as far back as 1908 for its Jim Bridger power plant in southern Wyoming. A rancher outside the group wants to sell the water permits. Under Wyoming water law, the permits would still be dated 1908, 1910 and 1921 even though the use would be changing. The four companies involved in the protest are Texas Gulf Inc., FMC Corp., Allied Chemical Corp., and Church, Dwight and Co., according to United Press International.

UTAH NUCLEAR STUDIES. The federal government is studying Utah and South Carolina as possible sites for nuclear power centers with more than 12,000 megawatts of capacity. The two states are being considered because they are the only two to display any interest, according to the Associated Press. However, Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, while agreeing to the

study, says his state may not allow the plants. One of the study directors says a major obstacle in Utah is water, which would have to be purchased from those who now hold the water rights. The Utah complex would increase the assessed valuation of the state by nearly two-thirds and create a construction city of 20,000 people.

STRIP MINE FALLOUT. Western coal-producing states are upset with the federal Office of Surface Mining's final rules and regulations on mine reclamation. Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler called OSM "an inflexible bureaucracy" that has frustrated states and "pushed the whole surface mining program from complexity to regulatory overkill." Herschler says he was told by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus that there are 67 different areas of conflict between the federal rules and current Wyoming regulations. In Montana, State Lands Commissioner Leo Berry says the federal rules are too detailed and the federal office is duplicating the state review of reclamation. The president of the North Dakota Public Service Commission charges Andrus with "total failure" in implementation of the strip mine act.



COAL STATE UNITY. Montana State Sen. Thomas Towe has asked several North Dakota legislators to convince the North Dakota Legislature next year to join with Montana and Wyoming in ensuring that all three states benefit to the utmost from the extraction of coal. He points out that Montana's 30 percent coal tax, the highest coal tax in the nation, is lower than what the state of Texas and other Southern states levy on their oil and natural gas, when compared on the basis of heating value. Texas has filed as a friend of the court in a suit challenging Montana's coal tax. Before the North Dakota Legislature adjourned March 29, the Republican majority succeeded in lowering the state's coal tax from 88 cents a ton to 85 cents a ton.



The **HCN**
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

ENERGY PLAN STRESSES SOLAR POWER. President Carter's energy plan calls for the United States to obtain 20 percent of its energy needs from solar power and other renewable resources by the year 2000. To help achieve that goal, Carter wants Congress to establish a \$400 million Solar Development Bank over the next three years to help finance private projects. However, advocates of solar power have criticized the Carter proposal, the *New York Times* reports. Richard Munson of Solar Lobby says, "It's basically just a lot of fine symbolism and rhetoric without a lot to back it up. President Carter has not provided leadership on solar issues." The Carter plan does not contain the extensive tax credits for solar projects that solar advocates wanted. A business would be able to take a 30 percent credit, instead of the 50 percent credit recommended by an administration study group last year.

CARTER BACKS SLURRY PIPELINE. President Carter says he supports legislation now before Congress that would grant federal powers of eminent domain to coal slurry pipelines. Congressional supporters of the legislation say that the administration is supporting the bill because he wants to get coal to the Southwest, where oil and natural gas are now the major industrial fuels. Last year eminent domain legislation was defeated in Congress, largely as a result of railroad lobbying. The railroads have refused in several cases to allow the construction of slurry pipelines across their rights-of-way.

INTERIOR PROPOSES NEW OIL LEASE SYSTEM. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus is asking Congress to expand competitive oil and gas leasing to public onshore lands. Andrus said that the present system, the "oil and gas lottery," does not promote development of petroleum resources. He said, "The low cost to obtain and hold a non-competitive lease — a \$10 filing fee and a dollar per acre per year in rent — encourages speculation, not development. Diligence requirements are inadequate, allowing a lease to be held for 10 years with no activity on it." Competitive oil and gas leasing, in which parties bid on specific lease tracts, has been used for years to sell federal offshore oil leases.

DRC charges: N.D. catering to energy companies



Photo by Jeff Blume

RICHARD ELKIN says, "Our concern is meeting the demands of people who want energy."

by Jeff Blume

"The North Dakota Public Service Commission is more concerned about meeting the demands of the energy industry than the concerns of the people of this state," Evelyn Newton of the Dakota Resource Council charges.

DRC, an agricultural conservationist group, accuses the agency of "wrist-slapping" instead of penalizing coal companies that have violated the state reclamation law. It also says the agency's new proposed energy siting regulations don't provide adequately for public input.

Richard Elkin, president of the PSC, disagrees with Newton's accusation. He says, "By law, we have an obligation to meet public demands. Our concern is not meeting the demands of the energy industry. Our concern is meeting the demands of people who want energy."

Asked about the accusation of "wrist-slapping," Elkin says companies aren't violating the law intentionally. In the case of Consolidation Coal Co., for instance, he says violations occurred as a result of confusion between the bookkeeping and production departments.

Last year Consol conducted mining operations in an area where its permit had expired. The company admitted the violation, was fined \$750 by the PSC, and its permit was later renewed. According to North Dakota law, the company could have been fined up to \$10,000. A few months earlier, the company had been fined \$500 for the same violation.

In another case, Falkirk Mining Co., a subsidiary of North American Coal Corp., mixed topsoil and subsoils, which is prohibited under state law because it decreases productivity of reclaimed land. The company was fined \$500, which DRC also considers too low.

The problem in enforcing the regulations, according to Elkin, is that the commission is dealing with an industry that for years has placed its entire emphasis on production and now must consider production with reclamation. He said mining companies' attitudes are changing, however.

Asked if he would describe the violations as careless, he said, "Careless is not a bad word."

At a recent hearing on proposed regulations for energy facility siting, DRC said the commission should send notices of siting hearings to each surface owner and tenant affected, set up citizen advisory

committees for siting application hearings, and hold public hearings on applications for emergency waivers of procedures and time schedules. The PSC is now required only to publish notice of opportunity for such hearings, and if someone shows "good cause" for a hearing, it is scheduled.

Elkin says the requirement for written notices to landowners and tenants is impractical. If one landowner were overlooked, it could be used as grounds for voiding all the proceedings, he says.

He says it would be easy for the commission to relinquish responsibility for siting decisions to committees such as those suggested by DRC. "However," he said, "the public elected me to take the responsibility."

Summing up, Elkin said the PSC can tell utilities where not to build facilities but can't tell them whether or not to build a facility at all. He said the PSC can slow up the construction of facilities, but the cost is always passed on to the consumers.

Newton of DRC says, "That interpretation of the siting law reflects the shirking of responsibility to North Dakota citizens that has been evident in many recent PSC decisions."

AMORY LOVINS AT FEATHERED PIPE RANCH

• September 24-30, 1979



Soft Energy Path Explorations is a special opportunity for individuals and organizations to directly benefit from Amory Lovins' experience with distributive energy systems, emphasizing practical implementation of "soft" technology in relation to participants' needs and situations. In an open exchange of ideas and resources, a series of presentations and discussion will focus on techniques for problem identification, trouble-shooting, skill-sharing, and networking, related to renewable and conserving energy strategies. The longer range goal of this program lies in participants' enhancing their communities' awareness of energy needs and uses, and developing alternatives to existing systems to further "soft path" solutions on a widespread basis.

The workshop will be held for seven full days at the Feathered Pipe Ranch, an informal atmosphere conducive to learning, relaxation, and renewed perspectives. Workshop fee is \$400.00 which includes all presentations, meals, and lodging.

HOLISTIC LIFE SEMINARS
BOX 1682, HELENA, MT 59601
406-442-8196

June 29, 1979 — High Country News-11

Frustration, outrage at hearing on nuclear waste

by Dede Feldman

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Both critics and supporters of the nuclear industry agree that one key to the industry's future is the question of nuclear waste disposal, which was the subject of two days of emotion-packed hearings here June 7-8. The hearings dealt with the Department of Energy's draft impact statement on its plan to bury radioactive wastes in salt beds in New Mexico.

Supporters of DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) were frustrated by "never-ending studies," which they say erode public confidence in the government's ability to solve the waste problem. WIPP critics were outraged by DOE's restrictions on public participation in decisions about the wastes.

If constructed, WIPP will be the nation's first repository for plutonium-contaminated wastes from the nation's weapons program. It will also be the site for demonstration disposal of 1,000 spent fuel assemblies from commercial reactors.

The U.S. House Armed Services Committee voted to cut off funding for WIPP because it will include commercial as well as defense wastes. The Senate Armed Services Committee, however, has approved funding for the project. The next move will be a Joint Armed Services Committee recommendation due at the beginning of July. Congressional approval may hinge on the president's upcoming recommendation for a national waste management policy. The facility may also need to be licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, some congressional representatives say.

WIPP will contain about 44 tons of

TERRY LASH:

"The loss of money will be nothing compared to the loss of credibility if the project fails."



Photo by Dede Feldman

plutonium-contaminated wastes that will remain radioactive for 250,000 years. The other component of WIPP, spent fuel, contains fission products such as tritium, iodine and krypton gas. Even in small doses, these substances can cause cancer and genetic defects.

DISCOURAGED PUBLIC

Prior to the hearing, critics told DOE the two-month comment period for the 1,000 page impact statement was too short. They also objected because hearings were planned only in Idaho Falls (the source of most of the defense wastes to be transported to WIPP) and Albuquerque — not in Carlsbad, the city closest to the WIPP site. Speakers were asked to submit remarks in advance so DOE could screen them to avoid duplication at the hearing, which discouraged many people from testifying. In the end, however, all persons who appeared and asked to speak were allowed to do so.

At the urging of the states of New Mexico and Texas, the comment period was extended two months to Sept. 6, and a hearing was hastily scheduled for Carlsbad.

Representatives of Indian tribes and Chicano organizations said they had been totally excluded from the process because the DOE statement was only provided in English.

The state of New Mexico is 56 percent non-white, and the state constitution requires bilingual translations of official state documents.

Antonio Carrasco, who lives in Loving, a Chicano town 14 miles from the proposed site, said that although the people of Loving don't go to hearings or read technical documents, the majority is against the project.

At the hearings, three medical doctors criticized the document's failure to discuss radiation's health effects and questioned the adequacy of evacuation plans in the state.

Dr. Kathleen Schneider of Physicians for Social Responsibility said radiation exposure figures in the document were misleading. A transportation accident in an urban area that releases 2.2 grams of plutonium could distribute more than 110 million doses of lung cancer to the affected urban population. Schneider's calculations are based on the figures of Dr. John Gofman, a well-known nuclear critic.

Dr. Anthony Braus, an intern at the Bernalillo County (N.M.) Medical Center, said that not one medical doctor was quoted in the document although it concluded,

"The project produces no significant radiation health impact."

"Only information favorable to WIPP and information which ignores or underestimates hazards is offered in the draft statement," said Sally Rodgers, a representative of Friends of the Earth in Santa Fe, N.M. Rodgers said the statement's section on transportation was particularly misleading. The section implies American Association of Railroads studies don't support the use of special trains to transport waste to WIPP.

The association, however, has repeatedly called for tougher nuclear shipment requirements — including the use of special trains traveling less than 35 mph and special tariffs on nuclear wastes. The requests were turned down by the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1978, however.

Three-fourths of the waste will be shipped to WIPP by train.

Several speakers criticized the impact statement for saying WIPP would not af-

fect the tourist trade and might even increase it. Tourism is one of the largest industries in the Carlsbad area.

TOURISM UP?

"Tourism up? That's crazy. Once people realize that nuclear waste can cause cancer, do you seriously think they will go down to Carlsbad Caverns?" asked Rosa Grato of the Nuclear Alert Committee, an anti-nuclear group in Albuquerque.

At the hearings, critics said there were several other problems not dealt with in the draft statement including:

- salt that has been slowly dissolving deep underground, meaning it may not provide the permanent protection;
- small diameter shafts within the salt that present potential pathways for escape of radioactive gases;
- pockets of brine and hydrogen sulfide gas within the site; exploratory drilling unexpectedly hit one of these pockets, exploding drilling equipment and forcing relocation of the site six miles southwest;
- potash and natural gas reserves near the site that will leave open the possibility of drilling into the site;
- a major underground fault directly through the 2,000 acre underground storage area.

"The site is plagued by problems, unknowns and uncertainties," said Peter Montague of the Southwest Research and Information Center. Montague recommended waiting a few years until more alternatives, such as deposit in basalt in Washington state or salt domes in Georgia, are studied.

Under heavy pressure from both the nuclear industry and the arms producers to demonstrate the feasibility of nuclear waste disposal, the DOE is reluctant to slow down, however.

Millions of gallons and thousands of cubic feet of wastes are now piling up at government repositories and nuclear reactors around the country. In the state of Washington, hundreds of thousands of gallons of stored liquid wastes have leaked into the Columbia River. In Idaho, the DOE has promised state officials that it will remove low-level wastes by 1980. In California, the legislature has indicated that there can be no nuclear power plants built until a "satisfactory solution" is found. Although a California court recently struck down the California law, the heat is on.

WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY

On April 18 WIPP Project Manager Don Schueler said in Albuquerque that it would be a waste of taxpayers' money to investigate other sites as thoroughly as Carlsbad.

Money shouldn't be an overriding factor, according to some project critics. Terry Lash of the Natural Resources Defense Council said at the hearings: "The EIS (environmental impact statement) states that the greatest consequence of delay is cost. Well, the loss of money will be nothing compared to the loss of credibility if the project fails."

DOE officials said at the hearing they could not respond to specific criticism of the document but said they would relay public comments to the DOE in Washington, D.C. Copies of the draft statement are available from Don Schueler, WIPP Project Office, DOE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87115. Comments should be sent to Eugene Beckett, WIPP Project Office MS B-107 Washington, D.C. 20545 by Sept. 6.

NEXT TIME YOU FLUSH YOUR TOILET THINK OF YOUR NEIGHBORS DOWN-RIVER

Thoughtful people do not wash their wastes into sewers. That is unkind to our neighbors downstream, and to our lakes and rivers. It also wastes a torrent of fresh water.

Such profligacy is not necessary. The Clivus Multrum is a waterless waste treatment system for the home or public facility which saves all that water and protects our environment. Toilet wastes and organic garbage are composted into a rich fertilizer right in your basement, conserving water, nutrients, and energy.

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Saratoga, WY 82333

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Victor, ID 83455

Clint Elston
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Clivus
Multrum
organic waste
treatment system

STATE OF WYOMING

360	Wells Fargo Bank, Chicago, Ill.	1976
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR		
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STATE OF WYOMING

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DEPARTMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS STATE OF WYOMING

[illegible]

STATE OF WYOMING

[illegible]

STATE OF WYOMING

BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978	
Direct Premiums Received	\$678,492.00
Investment Income	6,086,885.00
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	2,381,393.00
Investment Expenses	1,698,881.00
Other Administrative Expenses	62,572.66
Liabilities	1,342,690.00
Capital Stock Paid Up	7,654,277.00
Surplus during year ending December 31, 1978	44,015,421.31

Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1978

Insurance to Section 263.1 (29.0%)	\$4,350,544.00
Insurance to Section 263.2 (29.0%)	4,350,544.00
Insurance Code, certainty that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is an all insured in compliance with statute	1,000.00
It is hereby authorized to release the holding of insurance in the State of Wyoming.	

Dated July 24, 1979

Insurance Commissioner

STATE OF WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

[illegible]

STATE OF WYOMIN

Item	1976	1977
7111 Health Insurance	\$4,900	\$4,900
7112 Life Insurance	44,300	44,300
7113 Business Insurance	22,500	22,500
7114 Insurance in Wyoming for the Year Ending December 31, 1976	72,700	72,700
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	100,000	100,000
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	5,000,000	5,000,000
Liabilities	5,000,000	5,000,000
Capital Stock Paid Up	194,477	194,477
Surplus	194,477	194,477
Expenses during year ending December 31, 1976	1,902,960	1,902,960
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1977	1,902,960	1,902,960

Permanet to Section 36-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, as amended, which is hereby approved in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance companies and the business of insurance, and the use of insurance in the State of Wyoming.

Dated May 24, 1979

s. John T. Langston
Insurance Commissioner

STATE OF WYOMING

INDEMNITIES IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978	
Insurance Written	\$1,720,000
Gross Premiums Lessed Paid	659,700
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	500,000
Net Premiums Lessed Paid	388,250
Total Admitted	\$1,331,750
Liabilities	1,100,000
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,100,000
Income during year ending December 31, 1978	79,900
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1978	1,100,000

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (a), Wyoming Insurance Code, the Wyoming Insurance Department hereby certifies that the above information is a true and correct statement of the insurance company's business in Wyoming for the year ending December 31, 1978, and that it fully authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.

 s. John T. Langston
 Insurance Commissioner

STATE OF WYOMING

BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEARS	
1701, Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006	
Insurance Written	\$48,971,197
Direct Premiums Received	6,411,217
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	5,277,000
Investment Income	786,000
Liabilities	114,272,815
Capital Stock Paid Up	2,765,729
Surplus during year ending December 31, 1979	12,766,000
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	9,282,000
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979 pursuant to Section 263-129 (b). Wyoming Insurance Code, (entirely that to the best of our knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in compliance with the provisions of the Wyoming Insurance Code, and is duly authorized to transact the business insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 24, 1979 Insurance Commissioner:	

STATE OF WYOMING

Insurance Exchange Building, Box 100000	
BUSINESS IN WONING FOR THE YEAR	
Great Premium Received	1,179
Losses Paid Deducting Salvage	62
Losses Incurred	62
Liabilities	61,300
Capital Stock Paid	1,350
Surplus	20,072
Income during year ending December	
Expenses for year ending December	
1978	58,398
Forward to Section 26-5,129 (b), Wyoming	

STATE OF WYOMING

[illegible]

Rank
Corner at "O" Street I need

BUSINESS IN WORKING FOR THE YEAR	
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979	\$7,299.6
Gross Premiums Received	219,724
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	147,933
Unpaid Claims	1,000
Liabilities	81,552
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,000
Surplus (Policyholders)	2,000
Contingencies	1,000
Income	141,595
Expenses for year ending	141,595
Insurance to Section 86-1219 (b)	141,595

Pursuant to Section 86-1219 (b), Virginia Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurance above recited is the true and correct statement of the status of the insurance. It is duly subscribed to and attested by the insurance in the State of Wyoming.

John T. Cummings
 Insurance Commissioner

STATE OF WYOMING

[illegible]DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING[illegible]

STATE OF WYOMING
United Life Assurance Co.

[illegible]

STATE OF WYOMING

[illegible]DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

Company	1977	1978
Continental Casualty Co.	\$23,000,000	\$23,000,000
Continental Insurance Co.	\$1,122,000	\$1,122,000
Continental Western Insurance Co.	\$1,122,000	\$1,122,000
Direct Benefits and James Paid	\$78,177,000	\$78,177,000
Direct Benefits and James Insured	\$14,430,000	\$14,430,000
Total Admitted Assets	\$1,606,000	\$1,606,000
Total Capital Stock	\$16,111,000	\$16,111,000
Income during year ending December 31	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
Expenses for year ending December 31	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000

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STATE OF WYOMING
Financial statements of Insurance
Companies which are Authorized
to do business in Wyoming
Published in High Country News
June 1, 15, 29; July 13, 27;
August 10, 1979

Published in High Country News
June 1, 15, 29; July 13, 27;
August 10, 1979



Western Roundup



Recreation boom could block dam on Elk River

Citing its scenic, recreational and free-flowing values, the Routt National Forest has proposed that 35 miles of the upper Elk River in Colorado be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The designation would prevent construction of a dam proposed by Colorado Public Service Co.

The Elk River starts in the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area 20 miles north of Steamboat Springs, Colo., and flows westward and southward, joining the Yampa River west of Steamboat Springs.

U.S. honors plants it's destroying

Four of the 1,700 seriously threatened U.S. plant species are depicted in the 15-cent endangered flora stamps issued in June by the U.S. Postal Service.

Each of the four stamps shows a plant species soon likely to become extinct.

In the upper left of the block of four stamps is the persistent trillium (*Trillium persistens*), a member of the lily family, which grows only within a five-mile area in northern Georgia and neighboring South Carolina counties.

The Hawaii wild broadbean (*Vicia menziesii*), a member of the pea family, is in serious trouble. Only a few acres of it have been located.

The other two plants shown on the stamps grow on California's Antioch Dunes, which once covered 500 acres of the south bank of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River. More than 90 percent of the area has been destroyed by agricultural, urban and industrial development.

The remaining 10 percent is zoned for commercial use or power line rights-of-way, leaving a grim future for the Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* var. *angustatum*) and the Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoidea* var. *howellii*).

Frank J. Waslick of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing designed and modeled the stamps. He previously created the block of four owl stamps in the Wildlife Conservation Series.



In a draft environmental statement, the Forest Service proposes that 17 miles of river and 3,800 acres of corridor be designated as "wild," the most restrictive designation. Twelve river miles and 2,700 acres would be designated "scenic" and six miles and 900 acres "recreational."

The proposed "wild river" segments include all of the South Fork of the Elk and the upper portion of the North Fork, which flows over several waterfalls in a deep gorge.

The Elk River has excellent fishing and elk hunting opportunities, according to the Colorado Division of Wildlife, as well as black bear, big horn sheep, ptarmigan and a variety of other animals. The greater sandhill crane, on the state endangered species list, nests in the lower South Fork.

Coal and power development in Routt and Moffatt counties could cause a quadrupling of population by the year 2000, which could rapidly exhaust recreational resources, the statement says. Protection of the river under the federal act, it says, would give the Forest Service its best chance of meeting these burgeoning demands. The main stem of the Elk is used for both rafting and kayaking.

The statement says the designator would have little impact on timbering in the area but would prevent the construction of a proposed dam by Colorado Public Service Company. The power utility has a con-

ditional water right to build a 44,000-acre-foot reservoir at Hinman Park, just below the confluence of the three forks of the Elk, to store cooling water for coal-fired generating plants.

The draft statement says most landowners in the area are opposed to the dam proposal. The Routt County Regional Planning Commission opposes the desig-

nation, while the Colorado Department of Natural Resources supports it.

The area is adjacent to the Mad Creek roadless area which is recommended for wilderness designation in the president's RARE II report.

Comments are due by August 24 and should be sent to Forest Supervisor, Routt National Forest, Box 1198, Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477.

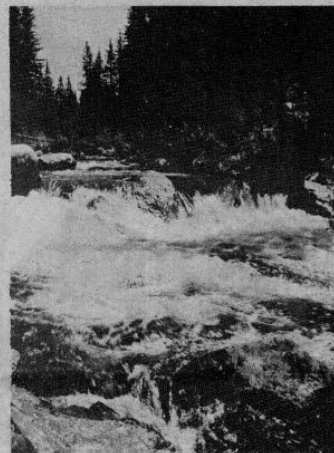


Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service

ELK RIVER. All three forks of the river are "remarkably scenic," according to the draft impact statement.

Western problems spark move South

The nation's timber industry is slowly moving south, according to a N.Y. Times article, in search of a secure supply of mature trees and low transportation costs.

One indication of the shift is Georgia Pacific's decision to move its headquarters from the Pacific Northwest to Georgia. The firm is the nation's largest forest products company. Boise Cascade Corp. of Idaho has just bought 130,000 acres of timber land in the Carolinas. Half the holdings of two other major companies, Weyerhaeuser and Crown Zellerbach, are in the South.

The industry faces supply problems in the Northwest, according to the article. Most of the old trees have been cut, and second generation plantings are still too young to harvest. In addition, most of the West's timber supplies are uncertain because they are on public land, where logging must compete with various other uses.

Wallop would scuttle Alaska withdrawals

Wyoming Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R) is a co-sponsor of a bill introduced by Alaska's two senators that would undo the protections established by President Carter last year on federal lands in Alaska and make executive land protection more difficult in the future.

On Nov. 16 after Congress failed to pass an Alaska National Interest Lands bill, Carter withdrew from development 110 million acres of federal lands in Alaska under powers granted to him in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. On Dec. 1 he provided extra protection for some of these lands by creating 17 new

Dirty Devil case key to future wilderness

A court case in Utah could affect the future of federally-managed roadless areas throughout the West.

At issue is whether a company may bulldoze a road across federal land with wilderness potential to reach a mineral lease on state land. Cotter Corp., a uranium-mining subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, is halting road building for three weeks while a U.S. District Court judge decides whether it can go ahead with its project in the Dirty Devil area near Hanksville.

Much of the land being considered for wilderness designation by the Bureau of Land Management is peppered with isolated sections of state land. Since a wilderness area must be roadless, a road built across federal land to provide access to a

state automatically would disqualify the federal land from wilderness designation.

The Wilderness Society is considering intervention on the side of the federal government in the case to preserve the Dirty Devil area's wilderness values. The state has intervened on Cotter's side to assert its access rights.

In Wyoming, Gov. Ed Herschler has threatened to sue the Bureau of Land Management if it ties up any state lands with wilderness studies.

Judge calls nuclear protesters arrogant

A federal judge's reaction to the first of the 283 persons arrested in a civil disobedience action at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant April 29 may mean tough sentences for those who follow.

Three of the protesters, who could not appear in Denver court, pled guilty to the charge of trespassing. Calling their actions "arrogant," Chief District Court Judge Fred M. Winner fined two of the three the maximum allowable for the offense — \$1,000.

He also severely limited the arguments that are being accepted at the rest of the trials by forbidding discussion of government policy, motives of the defendants and political beliefs. His order was not considered absolute, however, and in June trials, a number of defendants have managed to express their general concerns.



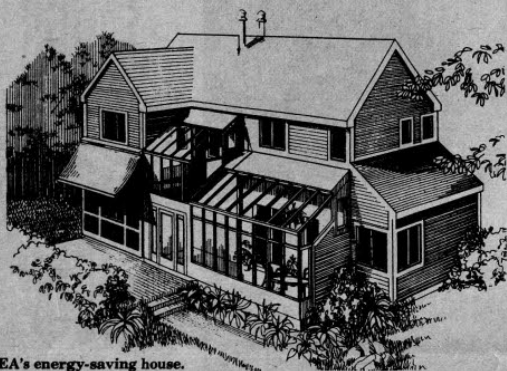
HCN

Bulletin Board



HEAT SAVING HOUSE

Total Environmental Action, Inc., of Harrisville, N.H., has designed a two-story house that dramatically reduces heating costs. TEA says that their house will use one-third as much energy as those built to current codes and one-fifth as much as typical existing homes. Research for the design was funded by the Department of Energy. A report is being prepared, entitled "Design of Residential Buildings Utilizing Natural Thermal Storage." For further information, contact TEA, Church Hill, Harrisville, N.H. 03450.



TEA's energy-saving house.

1872 MINING LAW REFORM

The Sierra Club National Board of Directors will meet in Crested Butte, Colo., July 21-22 to study and discuss the implications of the 1872 Mining Law as it affects a town such as Crested Butte. Everyone is welcome. Contact Dick Wingerson, Box 1041, Crested Butte, Colo. 81224 or call (303) 349-5625.

PASSIVE SOLAR BUILDING

A series of conferences will be held in Montana in July for people involved in the building trades who are interested in passive solar construction. For more information, contact Levi Hanson, Box 1776, Gildford, Mont. 59525. The conferences are sponsored by the Alternative Energy Resources Organization in Billings.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Solar Energy Research Institute is hosting a conference on community-scale renewable energy systems August 20-22 in Boulder, Colo. For more information, contact SERI Conference Group, 1536 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colo. 80401 or call (303) 231-1000.

PUBLIC INTEREST PERIODICALS

A Citizens' Guide to Periodicals of Public Interest Organizations has been published by the Commission for the Advancement of Public Interest Organizations. It costs \$4 for public interest groups and \$5 for individuals, schools, government agencies and libraries. Bulk rates are available. Write to the commission at 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, No. 1013, Washington, D.C. 20009.

WILDERNESS TRIPS

People who would like to check out little-known, threatened wilderness areas and wild rivers and help save them may be interested in Colorado Open Space Council Wilderness Workshop trips. Participants will learn and apply the skills of wilderness conservation. Each trip starts on a Monday and ends on a Friday and will be led by experienced wilderness guides. The cost is \$200, with some discounts available. Contact COSC Wilderness Workshop, 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo. 80206 or phone (303) 333-0932.

ANTI-NUCLEAR GRANTS

Proceeds from a series of "No Nukes" concerts to be held in Madison Square Garden in late September will be distributed to groups all over the country that are fighting nuclear power. For a grant application, write Musicians United for Safe Energy Foundation, Inc., 72 Fifth Ave., New York City, New York 10011 or call (212) 691-5422. Applications are due by August 1.

SOLAR ENERGY CONFERENCE

The Center for Renewable Resources is sponsoring the second annual National Citizens' Solar Energy Conference at the University of Colorado in Boulder Aug. 16-19. The purpose is to disseminate information about workable model programs in conservation and renewable energy. The fee is \$25. Write to the center at 1028 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (202) 466-6880.

RAMMED EARTH

David J. and Lydia Miller, who have built five rammed earth houses, will conduct workshops in Montana July 26-27, July 27-28, and July 28-29. Earth is hand-rammed directly into wall forms, creating structures that are low-cost, energy efficient and durable. For information, contact Alternative Energy Resources Organization, 435 Stapleton Building, Billings, Mont. 59101 or call (406) 259-1958.

BLACK HILLS ALLIANCE

The Black Hills Alliance, a coalition of non-Indian ranchers, Indians and others, is holding a National Gathering of the People July 6-8 in the Black Hills. Speakers including Dick Gregory, John Trudell and Bill Means of the American Indian Movement, and Judith Johnsrud, low-level radiation expert, will discuss uranium and coal mining. Entertainers Friday night will include Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt and Jesse Colin Young. The gathering will begin at 6 p.m. at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, S.D. For more information, contact the Black Hills Alliance at (605) 342-5127.

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HUMOR HELPS by Myra Connell

When my husband and I and our two children first returned to Wyoming from Michigan in the mid-'30s, the Great Depression had not yet ended. No winter jobs were available, and there was no unemployment insurance, no food stamps and no subsidized housing. Amid the struggle, however, the grinning of our position was often lightened by incidents that provided a good, relaxing laugh.

One of the best of these happened in early spring, the time of year when food supplies are apt to be lowest. We were on the edge of desperation.

The tumble-down homestead cabin that served us as shelter had no modern conveniences. In cold weather we bathed in a

galvanized washtub beside the kitchen range. A folding screen warded off drafts.

One morning Taylor was bathing behind the screen, and I was sewing by a window that overlooked a brushy ravine. He had just soaped up good when I happened to glance out the window and see across the ravine a male ring-necked pheasant strutting about.

I quickly got the .22 rifle that a friend had loaned us, and Taylor, disregarding the soap suds, stood in the altogether and drew down on the pheasant through the window. The bird leapt about five feet in the air and plummeted to the ground.

Taylor exclaimed, "Get over there and get him before he gets in the brush!" I scrambled down into the ravine, through the bramble bushes and up the opposite bank to the spot where the pheasant had dropped. No pheasant — though I

searched high and low. It looked like another meatless day. But that evening there was Mr. Ring-neck again, down the gulch below the house.

Taylor got the rifle and this time took extra careful aim. He made a hit, but the pheasant flopped into a big wild rose bush. Taylor reached into the bush and pulled the pheasant out by his long tail feathers, certain that he had killed him.

The ring-neck gave a big flop and flew down the gulch. Taylor stood holding a handful of pretty feathers, the expression on his face shifting from astonishment to consternation.

About that time I began to laugh. It was a little while before Taylor joined in.

But the pheasant didn't fly far. We saw him drop again, and all four of us made a wild dash to seize him. The bullet had gone straight through the ring on his neck.

We didn't have to fall back on "lumpy dick," wheat flour mush, for supper that night. A small pressure cooker tenderized the pheasant, and we feasted.



June 29, 1979 — High Country News-15

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Colegy

The loggers would like to beamirch
The record of Senator Church.
Can he appease
These choppers of trees
Without leaving land in the lurch?

DARTER IN JEOPARDY AGAIN. The Tellico Dam issue has arisen again. The House has passed an amendment attached to the public works appropriations bill that would exempt the Tennessee project from the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, despite its threat to the endangered snail darter. The bill will go to the Senate Appropriations Committee early in July, where Liz Kaplan of Friends of the Earth predicts it has a 50-50 chance of passage. On June 13 the Senate narrowly defeated a similar measure, Sen. Howard Baker's (R-Tenn.) amendment to the Endangered Species Act. The Rocky Mountain senators who supported completion of the dam by voting for the Baker amendment were: Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), William Armstrong (R-Colo.), Jake Garn (R-Utah), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), James McClure (R-Idaho), Quentin Burdick (R-N.D.), and Milton Young (R-N.D.). The fate of the dam probably will be decided by a vote by the full Senate in mid-July.



CLASSIFIEDS

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

Positions. The Powder River Basin Resource Council, an agricultural-conservation group dealing with energy development issues in eastern Wyoming, seeks to hire two field organizers immediately. Self-motivated, enthusiastic applicants desired. Send resume to PRBRC, 48 N. Main, Sheridan, WY 82801; 307-672-5809.

ART Show. An exhibit and sale of drawings and watercolors by Hannah Hinchman opens July 7, 1979 at the Cat's Cradle, Main St., Lander, Wyo. Running through the month of July.

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 distributives unacceptable.

WANTED. Persuasive people to sell advertising for HCN. 15 percent commission. To apply, send references and letter with your ideas for selling advertising in your area to Hannah Hinchman, HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

Mother Earth Meets The Mountain King — Women. We need your help with stories, anecdotes, advice about and for women and wilderness recreation and careers. Writing book about same. Outfitters, backpackers, x-country skiers, kayakers, conservation-preservatians, rangers, biologists, etc., we'd like to hear from you. Will include your name-business in credits if you wish. Please contact Jackie Johnson Maughan, Box 8264, Pocatello, Idaho 83209.

International Directory of Mountaineering Clubs & Organizations just published. Indispensable for hikers and climbers: names, addresses, publications, etc. \$5.00 from Dept. CH, Mountain Press Publishing Co., Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806.

HORSES, Hitches and Rocky Trails, the Packer's Bible. How to pack anything possible on horse or mule. Eighteenth printing. Fifty-two illustrations. \$7.50 postpaid. Joe Back, Box 26 Dubois, Wyo. 82513.

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WESTERN WILDLANDS

A Natural Resource Journal

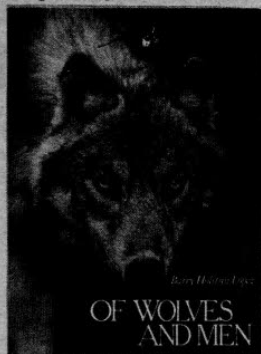
Where do you stand on

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These issues and many more are being discussed in WESTERN WILDLANDS, a quarterly journal published by the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station. WESTERN WILDLANDS strives to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on natural resource issues. We print food for thought. For a one-year subscription (four issues) sent \$6 to WESTERN WILDLANDS School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula 59812. Or send \$2 for a sample copy of our latest issue.

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16-High Country News — June 29, 1979



by Barry Holstun Lopez, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1978. \$14.95, cloth, 300 pages. Illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

Three hundred years ago, German peasants killed a marauding wolf. To their amazement, they recognized him as the reincarnation of an evil former mayor. In revenge, they outfitted the dead beast with a suit, a wig and a human mask. Then they hung the corpse in the village square, satisfied that justice had been served at last. Animal punishment was common in Europe. Our society has continued the bizarre tradition with aerial hunts and cyanide guns.

The "human mind," writes Barry Lopez, "likes to frighten itself." Because it prefers

the simplicities of good and evil to more exacting mental exercise, it has always looked around for scapegoats, transferring to them "the lust, greed, and violence that men saw in themselves." The story of "Little Red Riding Hood" serves as the classic example.

There's more than a little voyeuristic pleasure to be had as *Of Wolves and Men*

"The human mind likes to frighten itself."

reveals the often Freudian witchcraft and fire-and-brimstone torturings that further support the point. Perhaps this is a major element in the popularity of this new book, which is more a probing of the human mind vis-a-vis the wolf than it is a study of the wolf itself. As our own fascinated reading of the volume seems to confirm, we like to frighten ourselves.

But science, we'd like to think, can liberate us from superstitions. It assumes a knowable reality and furnishes us with supposedly objective methods to discover it. The author remains skeptical that science



always can deliver its bright promise, however. Scientists, we tend to forget, also are vulnerable to the preconceived ideas of society. Up until very recently they also damned wolves as "bad" animals and enthusiastically participated in their mass slaughter.

Like the rest of us, scientists often see what they want to see. Their tools, the glittering technology that can propel a man through space to the moon, may give a one-sided and hence distorted picture of the wolf. Lopez suggests that we delude ourselves when we suppose that the complex, organic nature of an animal can be reduced to the figures on a computer printout.

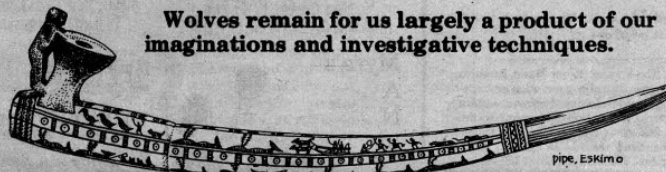
In such ways, "we create wolves," he says. The animal remains for us — whether German peasant obsessed with transmuting demons or backwoods biologist armed with radio collars — largely a product of our imaginations and investigative techniques. Is there any hope, then, of finding the real wolf that stands behind our

prejudices and technological paraphernalia?

When asked who knows more about surviving in Alaska's Brooks Range, an old man or an old wolf, an Eskimo answered, "The same. They know the same." Both share the dangers of blizzards, both must find their way through the same wilderness and both live mainly from the same prey, the caribou. To survive they must know the same things, and the traditional Eskimo often learns by observing the wolf. The Eskimo acknowledges that there may not be any ultimate wolf reality. Instead he knows wolves intimately as individuals, recognizing that they can be just as dull or crafty, as lighthearted or cranky, as his own kind. It is this closeness of the hunting Eskimo and the hunting wolf that provides Lopez the key for looking "the animal in the face again."

In contrast to the ancient wolf knowledge of the Eskimo, the first serious study of the animal by our culture was *The Wolves of Mt. McKinley*, written by Adolph Murie only 35 years ago. We have a long, long way to go to shed centuries of ignorance, cruelty and pride. Years from now, *Of Wolves and Men* surely will be remembered as one of the books that helped steer our culture into a new attitude and a re-evaluation — not only of wolves, but of itself.

Wolves remain for us largely a product of our imaginations and investigative techniques.



pipe, Eskimo



by Mardy Murie

MOOSE, Wyo. — After dinner on a June evening my niece and I sat quietly on the big front porch. It was the magical time of day. Slanting sunlight lit the tall aspen trees at the far side of the clearing like candles; behind them the taller Douglas firs and spruces were green-black, framing our view of the Grand Teton against the still blue sky. In a moment we realized we were listening to a symphony from the woods. "Warble, warble, warble, chevy, chevy, chevy" — the ever-present ruby-crowned kinglet, the constant voice of these summer forests. But there were many more last night — a Swainson's thrush, an Audubon's warbler, a warbling vireo, a robin, of course — that strong indomitable one always speaking of hope — and others I could not identify, but all blending, making a concert. It seemed last night that each singer had his place, sang his song, waited for the next one to sing his, did not interrupt, came in on the last note — a symphony.

In the afternoon we had walked down to the natural "swimmin' hole." It lies a third of a mile through the woods, across a couple of small spring runs, a natural meadow and then a gravel bar to the grass and willow-

bordered waterway. The waterway used to be a channel of Snake River but is now fed by springs, the river having moved eastward.

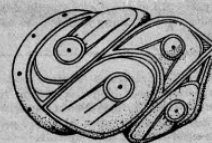
Across the swimmin' hole stood two yearling moose gazing curiously at us. On the water swam a Barrow's goldeneye duck. All around us the lupine was in full bloom. On the way back, as we crossed the little foot bridge across one of the channels, a muskrat swam busily under our feet, in-

ter on his own affairs. We stepped up into the path through the woods again and noticed what we had not noticed on the way out — the little blue violets in clumps under the cottonwoods, and blue-eyed grass. I discovered for the first time that some of the blue-eyed blossoms were not blue, but white.

Little things. They make the flavor of a summer day and the richness of life.



Illustration by Mardy Murie



In the News

No Return

last of the lower 48's
big wildernesses.

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the righteous
conservation pioneer.

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