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Road, rail, dam schemes dropped

The latest plan for the Clarks Fork: preservation

Story and photos by Lynne Bama

The Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone is a loop of water tossed into the northwest corner of Wyoming. Soon after leaving its headwaters in Montana's Beartooth Mountains, it slides across the border in a valley of broad, marshy meadows. Then it changes character completely, plunging into a colossal slot eight miles long, with sheer cliffs up to 1,200 feet high.

From the rims the river is a distant white thunder, accessible only by a few scrambling routes. If anyone has ever either walked or floated the entirety of this box canyon, there is no record of it.

Gathering in a series of tributaries — Deadman, Thief, Snowshoe, Leaning Tree, Dutch Charlie, Sunlight, and Dead Indian creeks (the last two in deeply incised canyons of their own) — the secretive river touches the base of a mountain called Dead Indian Hill before it veers off to the northeast.

At this point the canyon's character changes dramatically again, opening up to a half-mile-wide "U" shaped glacial valley with walls towering up to 4,000 feet above the river.

After leaving the canyon's mouth, the Clarks Fork finds its way back through arid flatlands to Montana and the Yellowstone River.

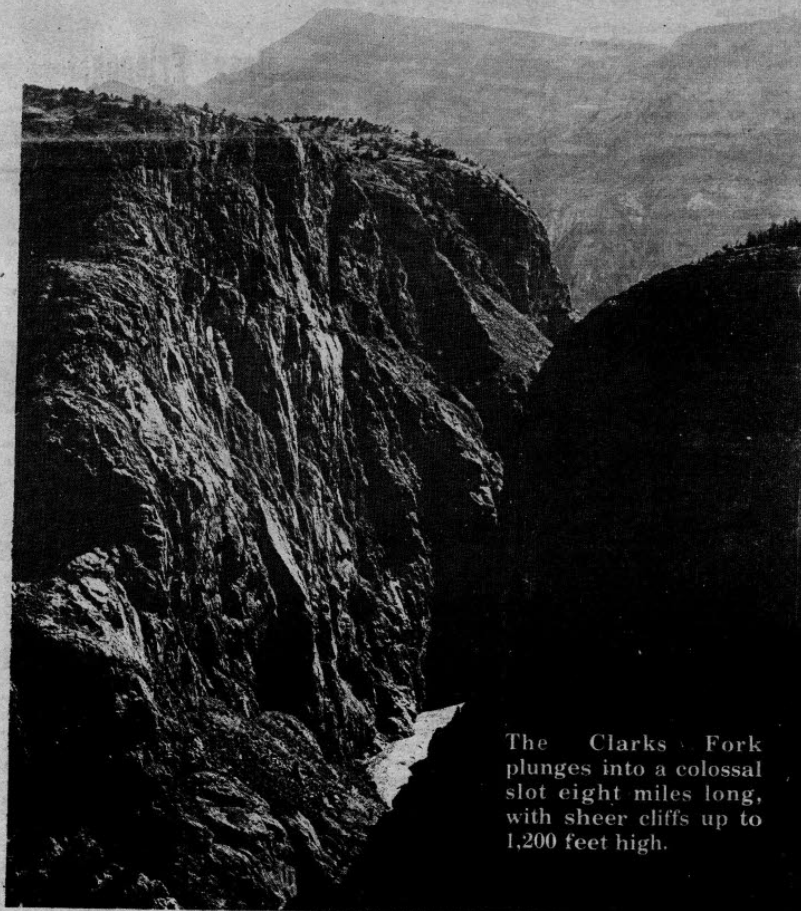
The gap where it emerges from the mountains is, from all the country to the northeast, the most noticeable feature in this stretch of ranges — a gateway to the high country that is both an invitation and a challenge.

Old Indian trails picked their way up its forbidding walls, and the first white men

(continued on page 6)

West will
bear brunt
of renewed
coal leasing.

See story,
page 4.



The Clarks Fork plunges into a colossal slot eight miles long, with sheer cliffs up to 1,200 feet high.

THE CLARKS FORK RIVER

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SHOOTING STARS

Dear Editors,

Visiting with our daughter's family in Jackson Hole, Wyo., this spring, earlier than ever before in order to see the nesting birds in breeding plumage, we read Myra Connell's timely column in the 15 June HCN.

She spoke of "Shooting Stars," and a flood of memories drenched me, from 60 years ago. At a Boy Scout Camporema at Salinas, Calif., on a botany field trip, we came across a patch of *Dodecatheon hendersonii* which I, proud of my knowledge, identified as "Shooting Stars." I was in immediate and vociferous argument with a red-headed, freckle-faced haybaler from Hollister who enlightened me — they were "Johnny-Jump-Ups."

But in Pacific Grove, the "Johnny" was our wild pansy, *Viola pedunculata*, whose cheery face brightens the hillsides in spring. I so informed my friend, vehemently! One word led to another and I was shortly flat on my back, with a bloody nose and 130 pounds of fury on my chest! So the primrose became, for the time being, "Johnny-Jump-Ups"! To make matters more confusing, I have recently heard them also called "gallitos" or little roosters.

The incident sparked my interest in Latin names, which will usually avert bloodshed.

Thanks to all of your staff for giving us some happy recollections and for keeping us posted on things going on in our world of which we should be aware.

Elgin B. Hurlbert
Pacific Grove, Calif.

PROUD TO BE
OUT OF STEP

Dear HCN,

I was puzzled by the editorial by Dan S. Whipple (HCN June 29) entitled "Slurry Pipelines — the Least of Evils"; it read more like a slick plug for coal development than a statement by one concerned about the environment.

DSW referred to the negative reaction of Westerners to having their water shipped elsewhere as "understandable...but increasingly out of step with today's energy hungry world." Since the U.S. consumption of energy is about twice that of other industrialized nations such as West Germany and nearly 10 times greater per capita than the world's average, I would suggest "...out of step with today's energy-addicted U.S."

In any case, we can be proud to be out of step with the economic and political forces that are out of step with this good earth's capacity to support the diversity of life it was endowed with.

I do realize that DSW's major point was that the use of water in situ (relatively speaking) for coal gasification and li-

quefaction, power plant cooling and the like would be more detrimental to this region's environment than the slurry transport of coal out of the region.

Nevertheless, "out of sight, out of mind"! Are we to ignore, for example, environmental problems at the other end of the pipeline? Or the global implications of adding even larger doses of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere? And why are we to believe that once the slurry pipeline is installed, "the relative increase in demand for Western coal would almost certainly be small"? Who has adequately evaluated this argument?

I ask: how can we, as persons concerned about the future of this region's way of life, its wildlife, and its unique environment, compare "evils" and approve the lesser while failing to address a more fundamental and crucial issue? Energy consumption in America is projected to increase from roughly 400 million Btus per capita at present to over 700 million Btus by the year 2000. In all likelihood, any attempt to meet such "demand" via the exploitation of conventional energy sources in the West will provide few if any options for maintaining, much less improving, the conditions for quality liv'n in this region.

Ask yourselves, why endorse the coal slurry idea apart from an acceptable overall policy of energy use and development at both regional and national levels?

Lucy Barker
Sheridan, Wyo.

COST OF PIONEERING

Dear HCN:

We read in your June 15 edition with considerable interest Mr. Owen Severance's letter concerning the "exorbitant price" for construction of a photovoltaic solar electric power system for Natural Bridges National Monument in southern Utah.

Mr. Severance displays a lack of knowledge in the costs involved in the development of new technology, alternative energy systems. More than half of the total cost of this project can be charged to research and development of photovoltaic systems. The project was never justified on the basis that it would be an immediate cost saver for the National Park Service but was designed to further the technological advances of alternative energy systems and to solve the problem of electrical power generation at the national monument.

The initial costs of any new energy system is high: I am sure that the cost of the first kilowatt of energy gained from the production of the first barrel of oil pumped or the first hydroelectric station built was considerably higher than the cost today. Due in part to this and similar projects of its type, the cost of photovoltaic cells has dropped from about \$22 per peak watt to a little over \$6 in the past three years.

Someone must bear these initial costs if we are to develop alternative systems. I am wondering if Mr. Severance proposes that this nation should ignore the sun as a source of electrical power.

In addition to the personnel living at the national monument, the system will also serve the needs of the 80,000 visitors to the area each year.

Peter L. Parry
Superintendent of Arches and Canyonlands
National Parks and Natural Bridges National Monument



Dear Friends,

Does anybody remember the story we ran in the May 4 issue that was headlined "Group Opposes Solar Project"?

Not that you should — it was a 3-inch energy item. Our source, *Engineering News-Record*, told us that a Utah environmental group was upset about a Park Service solar project because it would denude two acres of the Natural Bridges National Monument, possibly harming plants, animals and rocks.

A curious tidbit. But hardly one that we thought would provoke a steady stream of letters and phone calls from our readers. Now, two months later, the letters and calls are still coming.

We are hoping things will calm down with the publication of the story that we assigned to Ann Schimpf, a staff writer for *The Herald Journal* in Logan, Utah. Schimpf and a colleague, Janelle Brown, traveled to southern Utah to investigate the project and the group. Their story, we are relieved to announce, appears in this issue on page 10.

The first of the letters came from readers outside of Utah. They seemed to feel something like Little Red Riding Hood might have if her grandmother had bad-mouthed apple pie. "Why should this Committee to Protect the Environment voice such a protest when we've all been told that solar power is clean power?" one asked.

Then came the patient, but impassioned and informative, letters from Utahns. They explained, in effect, that Grandma was not exactly what she appeared to be. One told us, for instance, that one of the group's "environmentalist" members posted a sign saying "Sierra Club Go Home" at his place of business.

Little by little, we were learning — not only the facts behind the story but about the political climate in southern

Utah. One reader added as a postscript to his letter:

"Dear editors, if you wish to run this letter in HCN, please do not use my name. It has grown so dangerous in southeastern Utah for environmental activists that I have had to stop all overt activity."

Another pleaded: "Please do not use this as a letter to the editor because there are too many gun-carrying yahoos down here."

Some Utah environmentalists expressed support for the park's solar project. Brian Beard, president of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, wrote, "Considerable work needs to be carried out in the field of solar research and development, and the facilities at Natural Bridges are just a small portion of the total picture."

In retrospect, we should have been suspicious of that May 4th energy tidbit. Not because it was shocking that an environmental group would oppose a solar energy project. Solar energy has its black sheep, too — projects that are wasteful, impractical and inappropriate. But news of an unknown environmental group emerging in hostile southern Utah is questionable-sounding stuff. Thanks to the readers who set us straight.

We go to press with some trepidation this week because our old addressograph machine is nearly defunct and, due to the truckers' strike, the reconditioned one we've ordered hasn't arrived. We'll get your names on your papers somehow, but it may take a longer than usual. If this issue is late, that's the reason. We'll have the full story of the recalcitrant machine later.

— the staff

POPULAR REALITIES

MEDICINE BOW, Wyo. — The town brags of being home of "the Virginian," novelist Owen Wister's famous cow-puncher. It is also a stop for the Union Pacific railroad and home for several hundred miners who have moved in recently to dig uranium in the Shirley Basin, 35 miles to the north, or to dig coal near Hanna, 19 miles to the West. As mineral activity has accelerated, Medicine Bow has expanded to the limit.

"We're full," says Kay Curry, the mayor's wife, as matter-of-factly as if the town were a kind of motel. It's simple. No more trailer spaces will be developed until the town's expanded water and sewage systems are complete. Ten years ago, the town's population was 450. Now the mayor, Jack Curry, guesses it's around 1,000.

Medicine Bow, almost overwhelmed by its nearby energy riches, is well aware of the nation's hunger for power. But do local residents believe the country is also near the end of its fossil fuel rope? Is the country facing an energy crisis?

We discussed the matter with 13 people who happened to pass by the Medicine Bow Mercantile one hot afternoon last month. Five told us, "yes," there is a crisis; four said "no" and four said they weren't sure. Here's some of their comments:

Power Hunger

Photos by Sara Hunter-Wiles



LISA LUCAS: Yes, we're using up all of our energy. I know because in the middle of watching TV the power goes off around here.

ERNEST BIGELOW: Yes. I drive home to Nebraska every weekend and gas is getting kind of high, but I just keep right on going.

—JN



JOHN FRAUSTO: No. The big companies are ripping everybody off.



CARROLL REEVES: I've worked in the oil fields too long not to believe that the energy crisis is put on by the refineries.



TRUDY DIERENFELDT: Could be, but it doesn't bother me any. I'm going to Missouri.



PSST...

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Guest editorial

Short-term questions don't change long-term reality

There is an unfortunate tendency in the current debate over gasoline and diesel oil shortages to blur the distinction between short-term and long-term energy supply problems. This weakens our understanding of the precarious energy situation and undercuts U.S. resolve to deal quickly and effectively with the problem.

We all want to blame someone for causing this or that spot shortage. That's natural enough: Our lifestyle is being undercut by forces we cannot understand or control.

Implicit in this is the notion that there is enough oil to go around, at least for today, if only some difficulty in the supply system or nefarious conspiracy could be overcome. That assumption may or may not be true.

But an unfortunate, unwarranted conclusion many people are taking from this debate is that the long-range problem with oil supplies is likewise either a simple question of distribution or a pure contrivance of oil producers and processors.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The present difficulty is symptomatic of what is going to happen with increased frequency as we come closer and closer to the end of our world crude oil supplies.

The first air bubbles are beginning to appear in the straw that has sucked oil from the earth. Sheik Ahmed Yamani, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, predicted recently that truly serious shortages will develop by 1988, shortages that will make the current problems seem "like a mere passing event of trivial consequence." Yamani, in our opinion, voiced an unvarnished, bitter truth. The world is running out of oil.

The running out is going to be painful and most likely violent on occasion. How painful or violent depends on American resolve to deal with the problem while planning still is possible.

A way of life is coming to an end, and that is seldom accomplished gracefully — or quickly. More likely the spurts of economic and social upheaval will continue throughout the 1980s and on into the 1990s before a new equilibrium is established.

Never mind that something just as satisfying may take the place of our oil-based economy; the transition still will be tough and emotional. The age of oil is comfortable and familiar.

No one wants change of the kind the United States must accommodate in the next two decades. The human way is to deny the need for change as long as possible, then resist — angrily, violently if necessary — longer still. But this only postpones and intensifies the inevitable.

If we refuse to face up to the prospects now and plan for change, we give over control of our future. Is this what we wish for the United States, indeed for the Western world — to buy a few more years of blissful, ignorant luxury by blaming it all on the Arabs or oil companies? How much economic and social chaos are we willing to bequeath our children so we can avoid facing up to the problem today? Think about it.

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New coal leasing needed? Interior

by Dan Whipple

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus has announced a new coal leasing program that could increase Western coal production nearly tenfold by 1990 — to 1.2 billion tons annually.

Environmentalists and some industry officials have questioned the need for the renewed leasing. Others, however, watching the submergence of the nuclear power industry, the skyrocketing of world oil prices and the emergence of interest in synthetic fuel from coal, say that even more coal may be needed.

Interior's "preferred program" calls for leasing 531 million tons of coal in the Green River-Hams Fork region of Wyoming in January 1980, 109 million tons in Utah in mid-1981 and 776 million tons in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana in early 1982.

By 1990, Western states will bear the brunt of most of the increased production. A recent environmental impact statement describes the program, including Department of Energy estimates of how much coal will be needed by 1985 and 1990 and of low, medium and high production levels based on different assumptions about the world

price of oil, the effect of clean air and environmental regulations and other factors. According to the statement, by 1985 Western production will increase from 3.5 to five times 1976 levels — under the medium and high estimates. Projected 1990 increases would be even greater. In contrast, Eastern production would increase only 12 to 22 percent. Most authorities consider the "low" assumptions unrealistic because policy decisions being made in the Carter administration tend to favor dramatically increased coal production.

The area most affected by renewed coal leasing will be the Powder River Basin, which will provide most of the increased production. According to the statement, production from the Powder River region is desirable because producers are attracted to its "thick coal seams and relatively low ratio of overburden to seam thickness."

To answer one of environmentalists' main objections to an earlier proposed leasing program, Interior has tried to show a need for renewed coal leasing. Currently 534 federal coal leases containing 17.1 billion tons of coal are outstanding. But for various reasons, not all of these leases will be mined. According to the Department of

Energy's figures in the environmental statement, in the medium production case, if there were no new leasing at all, total U.S. production would be 1.105 billion tons in 1985. If the preferred program were initiated and new leasing undertaken, production would total 1.112 billion tons, a difference of only 7 million tons.

In the high estimates, with no new leasing, production would reach 1.201 billion tons in 1985. With new leasing, production would be 1.227 billion tons, a difference of 26 million tons. By 1990, the gap between the options would widen somewhat to 37 million tons at the medium levels and 101 million tons at the high levels.

Does the coal industry need the new

dig at one major mine until after 1990 because there is no current demand for the coal.

According to data collected by the National Coal Association, coal production will easily reach Andrus' goal of 1.2 billion tons annually by 1985 without additional leasing.

Jonathan Lash of the Natural Resources Defense Council says, "Interior has made a case for coal leasing, but not a convincing case. The decision is not based on a full explanation of the data. However, I'm not sure they could have done a whole lot better."

Sarah Gorin, staff director of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, a rancher-

The gas crunch in the cities "has Congress falling all over itself to produce something that comes from coal that will run an automobile."

leases to meet the production goals set by the administration? A source in the coal industry says, "No, they are not ready for them, and there is excess capacity now." The source says that, in fact, at least one coal company in the West — Amax — won't

conservation group in northern Wyoming, says, "The DOE figures are outrageously high. They want to lease by 1980 so that Carter can get re-elected."

Even the coal industry questions how spirited the bidding on the newly available

Coal management plan applauded by environmentalists

Hand in glove with the administration's decision to lease additional federal coal is the development of a new coal management system. The system replaces the proposal of the Nixon-Ford years — known as EMARS, the Energy Minerals Activity Recommendation System — which had been severely criticized by environmentalists.

The goals of the new management system are to "employ land use planning and effective enforcement of environmental laws to assure that federal coal is committed to production and produced in an environmentally sound manner," according to the final environmental impact statement on coal leasing.

Under the EMARS approach, the coal industry nominated tracts of federal coal lands from which the government chose for leasing those which it felt were least environmentally damaging and most likely to guarantee coal production.

With the current proposal, the government bases its land use planning efforts on the Bureau of Land Management's management framework plans — known bureaucratically as MFPs. The MFPs examine the resources and "best uses" of individual BLM management areas. From the plans, areas that are not environmentally suitable for leasing will be eliminated from consideration and those that can be most safely mined will be offered for lease.

Environmentalists generally are pleased with the management plan. In its comments on the draft environmental statement, the Natural Resources Defense Council said that the program "presents the structure of a rational approach to the management of the nation's coal. It integrates coal management decisions into the broader context of resource management. It establishes a cyclical process for the evaluation of the need for the leasing of

federal coal. It describes procedures intended to assure the development of that coal first that will cause least damage to the environment and to prevent development of coal which will cause irreparable environmental harm."

The coal industry is less pleased with the management system, largely because the system does not give the industry as much leeway as the original EMARS proposal. However, one source says, "At least some sort of leasing system is in place."

Sarah Gorin of the Powder River Basin Resource Council says, "They (the BLM) did a bunch of MFPs for the EMARS system. Instead of redoing the planning to fit the new program, they are trying to patch up the old ones. They're on a real tight schedule because, politically, they want to lease the coal. They're saying, 'Do the best you can, then we'll lease.'"

Perhaps the Interior Department's most important and controversial next step will be a decision on how to handle preference right lease applications. Under previous leasing procedures, a miner working outside a known coal resource area would be given an exploration permit. If he found "commercial quantities" of coal, he applied for a preference right lease. Once this application was received, the government was legally bound to give the miner a lease.

Currently 10 to 20 billion tons of federal coal are under these lease applications, which Interior may be obliged to grant — despite the new system. The agency has yet to issue final regulations covering the matter. It says it will try to refuse leases in areas of particular environmental sensitivity. In taking this approach, however, Interior is entering very murky legal water.

NRDC's Jonathan Lash says, "The handling of these preference right lease applications could have more impact than any new federal competitive leasing system. It

could mean the leasing of 10 to 20 billion tons of coal in the next five years."

The greatest concern of the coal industry is how Interior will determine which areas are not going to be leased because of their environmental sensitivity — its application of the 24 land unsuitability criteria. BLM recently ran a test of the initial criteria and found that "In practice, the application of a criterion often resulted in the elimination of very large areas from further consideration, whereas the application of the exceptions reclassified most of these same lands as 'acceptable.' Field personnel found this exercise confusing, especially to the public. They also expressed concern the bureau would come under attack from environmental groups on this procedure."

One company, Rocky Mountain Energy, owns private coal lands in southwestern

Wyoming that are interspersed in a "checkerboard" pattern with federal lands containing coal. The firm had hoped to lease adjacent federal lands to obtain a "logical mining unit."

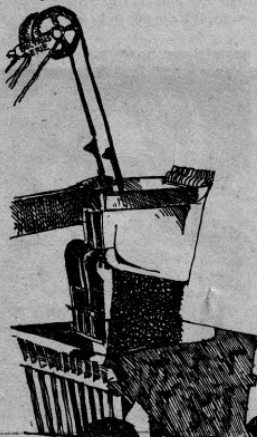
After BLM ran its initial test, the company discovered that eight of its ten choices for leasing would have been unsuitable for mining, mainly because they conflicted with critical antelope habitat. After considerable haggling with BLM, the areas were placed in a newly-created category called "suitable pending further study."

The company had argued that BLM lacked information about critical habitat. Clark Bolser, Rocky Mountain Energy's manager of environmental services, says, "There just won't be enough information available to designate most lands. It is going to cause the land manager a lot of trouble. The kind of information needed is very detailed and previously has been considered at the mine plan stage of development. Now they will have to study those issues before the lease is even issued."

Fred Wolf of the Rawlins, Wyo., BLM office says, "We will have to check to see whether the impacts are mitigable. The main thing is to replace the vegetation and topography."

Wolf says that there will be unsuitability problems in every Western state. "In Utah, some coal is in a municipal watershed. In Wyoming and Colorado, the biggest problems are wildlife. But, the results of the test were that under the criteria (after applying the exceptions), there is still potential for strip mining."

In a report issued on the test of the criteria, BLM has decided to do away with the distinction between the "criteria" and the "exceptions." The recommendation is "to merge the exceptions with the main criteria...primarily to avoid a potentially confusing jumbling of the criteria and their application."



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says yes

coal leases will be. There are currently about 125 million tons of excess capacity in the coal industry — that is, coal that can be produced but is not committed to long-term contracts. A utility source attributes this to "uncertainty about making fuel commitments for new facilities."

Leases in the Uinta-Southwest Utah area are expected to attract bidders because a number of companies need federal leases to combine with private leases to make economically attractive mining units. Other leases will probably be bid upon in anticipation of increased demand after 1990.

David Masselli of Friends of the Earth says, "The only way one can explain the DOE projections (that new leasing is needed) is if one makes the assumption that people are going to turn in their leases and get new ones. This ignores the fact that some of those leases were bought for a song. It also ignores transportation costs."

Despite environmentalists' objections that the federal coal projections are too high, there are indications that they may be too low. In order to assess the demand for coal in comparison to oil and other energy sources, DOE assumed that, for low and mid-range projections, world oil prices would be \$15 per barrel in 1985 and \$18.50 in 1990. The high range estimates were \$21.50 in 1985 and \$23.50 in 1990. As a result of recent decisions by foreign oil exporters, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, world oil prices are

already in the high 1990 ranges. This could increase the demand for coal over oil.

In addition, nearly everyone now believes that DOE's projections for production of power from nuclear energy are too high. Repercussions from the Three Mile

Island accident and the rapidly increasing costs associated with nuclear plant construction have slowed that industry considerably. The power will have to come from somewhere, and coal is the most likely source at the moment.

In addition, there are many uncertainties that will affect the future of coal mining and federal leasing that simply cannot be answered now. The gas crunch in the cities "has Congress falling all over itself to produce something that comes from coal that will run an automobile," according to Leah. A major spur to the synthetic fuel industry could dramatically increase the demand for the West's coal resources, which are ideally suited to gasification and liquefaction. In fact, one source believes that, as a result of OPEC's price increases, synfuels may now be economical without government help.

Congress is currently considering legislation that would provide \$5 billion in assistance to the synfuels industry. The administration is circulating a memorandum, known as the Eizenstadt plan, to build up to 16 synthetic fuel plants — half located in the West — and eight oil shale retorting facilities. Under the various options outlined in the plan, between \$30 billion and \$90 billion in direct federal aid would be provided to the synfuels industry.

However, the government now estimates that synfuels might be commercially attractive without government help at a price of \$28 per barrel of oil and definitely attractive to private investors at \$30 a barrel. World oil prices are now averaging \$20 to \$25 a barrel.

If synfuels received a major boost, as now seems possible in the current "energy crisis" climate, more Western coal would probably have to be leased and fairly soon. Ed Essertier, a public affairs officer at the Interior Department, says, "If they go for synthetic fuels, the coal will have to come from somewhere, and much of it is located on federal lands."

Critics argue that the Department of Energy projections overlook the potential

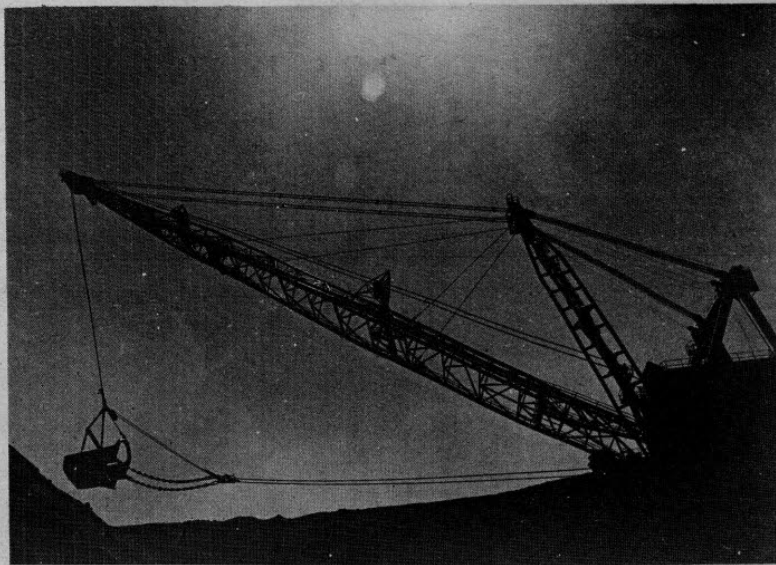


Photo by Mike McClure

MORE DRAGLINES will be put to work in the West as coal leasing is resumed. According to the Interior Department, by 1985 Western coal production may be increased by as much as five times 1976 levels.

Western states will bear the brunt of increased coal production.

for energy conservation or alternative energy sources to supplant coal demand.

Some coal leasing by the early 1980s seems certain, however, and a massive increase in Western production, with or without new leasing, seems inevitable. The lowest DOE projection calls for a tripling of coal from the West by 1990, to 327.6 million tons annually, without new leasing.

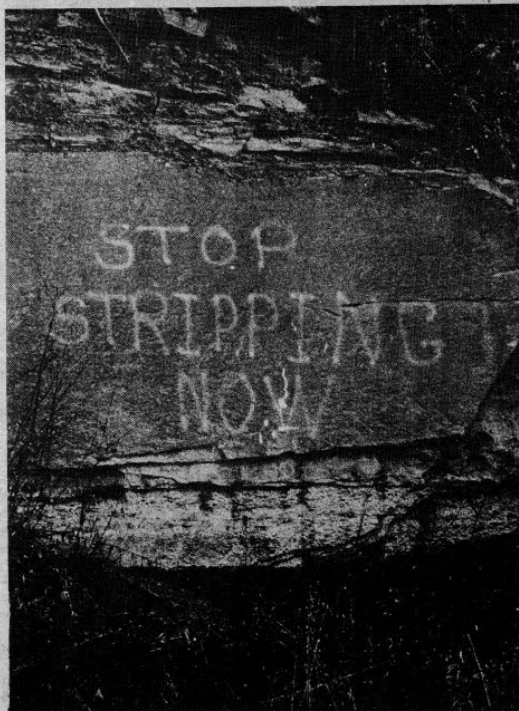


Photo by Kent and Donna Dannen

GRAFFITI in Kentucky painted on the high wall of a strip mine.

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.

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Clarks Fork...

(continued from page 1)

followed them. During the past century, the canyon has inspired dreams of railroads, highways and dams. The most recent proposal is to include 22 of its most spectacular miles in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

TRAGIC RETREAT

In 1877, this country was the setting for the escape of 600 to 800 members of the Nez Perce tribe from the U.S. Army in one of the greatest — and most tragic — retreats in history.

The Nez Perces, traditionally friendly to whites, had lived in central Idaho and eastern Washington and Oregon. Their exodus was prompted by a tragic series of events set in motion by white encroachment on their lands.

With U.S. troops in pursuit, the tribe fled over a divide on the eastern boundary of Yellowstone Park and down the Clarks Fork. Once out of the mountains, they planned to head north through Crow country and into the safety of Canada.

To prevent this, the Seventh Cavalry under General Sturgis had been sent to guard the mouth of Clarks Fork Canyon. Sturgis arrived, took a look at the terrain, and decided the canyon was impassable. Anticipating that the Nez Perces would climb out of the Clarks Fork drainage to the south over Dead Indian Hill, he headed his column in that direction.

The Nez Perces evidently did climb out over Dead Indian Hill, but from the top they must have seen the troops ahead of them. Instead of falling into Sturgis' trap, they sent a decoy party toward him. Meanwhile, the main body slipped back down the canyon through a narrow gorge, making a clean escape from the troops.

They were only caught much later, when they stopped to rest and hunt buffalo 30 miles from the Canadian border. Joseph, the chief who surrendered, said, "I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

The Clarks Fork has not changed much since those days. Just upstream from the box canyon below the town of Crandall, grizzlies on their way from Yellowstone Park to the Beartooth cross the river. Golden eagles nest in the canyon walls, and mountain goats can be seen on the cliffs in winter.

The river has inspired a long series of development proposals. After 1870, when mineral deposits were discovered at Cooke City near the headwaters of the Clarks Fork in Montana, several abortive attempts were made to get a railroad built up the canyon.

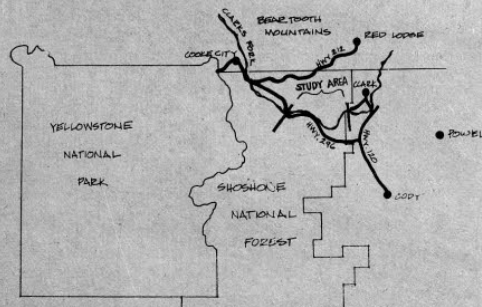
In 1932 the Forest Service commissioned the Bureau of Public Roads to study a route for a logging road down Clarks Fork Canyon — mostly in the bottom of the gorge. The road was never built.

In 1956 the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposed hydroelectric development on the river. The agency wanted three dams and

The canyon was the setting for one of the greatest — and most tragic — retreats in history.



FOREST SERVICE OFFICIALS who studied the segment of the Clarks Fork River shown at right have recommended that it be included in the nation's Wild and Scenic River System. The river offers colossal vistas, such as that shown in the photo above where Sunlight Creek enters the Clarks Fork canyon.



three power plants on the main stem and another dam on Sunlight Creek. Since the benefit-to-cost ratio of the project was only 1.09 to 1, nothing came of this proposal either.

In 1965 Park County obtained federal aid to improve an old road that went over Dead Indian Hill into the Sunlight Basin-Cooke City area. The next year the routing was changed to take the road through the canyon, and the eight-mile segment that now enters its mouth from the east was built.

As planned, the road would have climbed 1,100 feet to the south rim. From there it would have gradually converged with an old route to Cooke City. It would have crossed slopes that ranged from 35 degrees to near-vertical. The result would have been less a road than a string of tunnels and bridges — seven of each in a distance of 3 1/2

miles — and, many people suspected, an unsightly gash in the Clarks Fork scenery.

By 1970, public opposition to the canyon route had crystallized. Congress had passed the National Environmental Policy Act, which required an environmental impact statement describing other alternatives. The final decision, reached in 1973, was to return to the original plan of improving the existing road over Dead Indian Hill. More people favored that route — and the canyon alternative was three times as expensive.

QUESTION MARK

The piece of canyon road that had already been built was left hanging like a question mark, but the debate that had centered around it set off another train of events.

Opponents of the canyon highway could look back over the history of proposals for

the Clarks Fork and see that the road scheme was probably not the last. Controversies and battles over the river would continue until the Clarks Fork's status had been defined for good.

In 1972 Wyoming Rep. Teno Roncalio (D), at the urging of several Clarks Fork area residents, introduced an amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to have 23 miles of the Clarks Fork, from a bridge at Crandall to the mouth of the canyon, studied for possible inclusion in the system. In January of 1975 his amendment became law. On June 15 of this year the Forest Service released a draft environmental statement on the Clarks Fork.

The study area includes only three tracts of private land — 106 acres just downstream from the bridge, a small ranch about four miles farther down, and 200

(see next page)

acres at the lower end. The other 94 percent is national forest land.

The study team has concluded that the entire segment is eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System because of its "outstandingly remarkable" scenic, recreational, and historic values.

Since the study segment is, with the exception of a half-mile below the bridge at Crandall, virtually pristine, the team also concluded that it deserves a "wild" classification. ("Scenic" or "recreational" classifications allow more development.)

The environmental study recommends designating the entire study area a wild river except for the private lands at the lower end. According to a Forest Service spokesman, these private lands were omitted because they are outside the forest's boundary, and thus the agency may not be able to get scenic easements.

Building Route 292 any farther west into the canyon seems to be a dead issue: last March the state of Wyoming told Park County they were considering abandonment of the stretch that had already been built.

According to the environmental statement, no economically feasible water storage sites exist within the study area. By 1975 the benefit-cost ratio of the Bureau of Reclamation dams studied in the 1950s had sunk to 0.47 to 1.

No known mineral deposits of any value are in the study area. There is very little grazing, and the small amount of commercial timber on the upper river is inaccessible.

The public has been generally apathetic about the study in spite of newspaper articles, radio talk shows and Forest Service slide programs. Only 15 and 16 people, respectively, showed up at the two public workshops.

The most controversial subject surrounding the study is the fate of the private lands in the Crandall area, some of which have already been subdivided. Without designation, according to the environmental statement, "The trend toward commercial establishments, large residential subdivisions, permanent parking of trailers and mobile homes on the river, and erection of signs and billboards will probably accelerate."

If the whole study segment were designated, the secretary of agriculture could

buy rights of way for public access and scenic easements to protect the view from the river. If a landowner was unwilling to sell, the government could use its powers of condemnation. But land uses in effect before the purchase of the easement would not be affected.

Most of the landowners in the study area oppose designation of any part of the river. Other public comments received during the study favored a combination wild and scenic designation for most of the river,

excluding the private lands at the beginning and end of the study stretch.

Local interviews reveal a whole spectrum of views about the Clarks Fork:

"I fell in love with that place at first sight. It just takes your breath away the first time. That's why I fought that road — I just couldn't imagine that view with all those road cuts in it. I came up here when I was brand new in Wyoming, and I said then, I want to move to Cody."

"It is a scenic river now. You can't get down to the river except in three places. It's unsuitable for a dam site — they've already proved that. I just don't see that we should bother it."

"I'm a little disappointed that they didn't include more. You're never going to run out of developers. And they're never going to stop putting pressure on."

"It is a wild and very scenic river now. I'm afraid if they designate it, it will shorten the time it will remain in its very primitive state. People are like locusts — when they start to flood in on an area in great numbers, they blight it. This country is made for the few but growing number of people that thrive on hardship, that will make a little effort to come in here."

"There's still a possibility of (the highway) going down the canyon. I hope that it

THE CLARKS FORK slides across the border of Montana in a valley of broad, marshy meadows.

isn't made a Wild and Scenic River that far down."

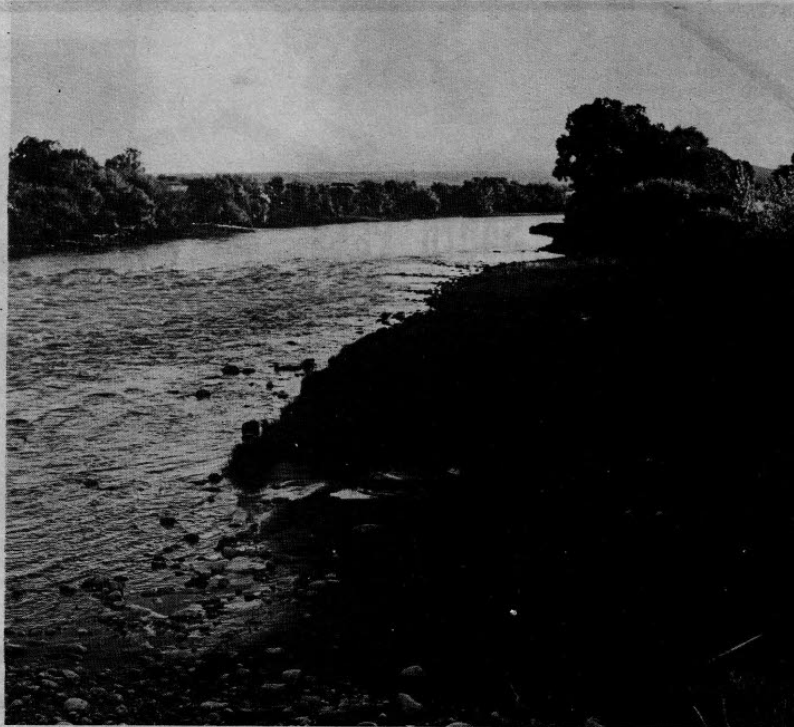
"I personally would like to see it designated just because it would save the country a lot of money and grief trying to decide what to do about it. We hadn't ought to be wasting a lot of our time on it."

No public hearing on the draft environmental statement is scheduled. Written comments should be sent to the Shoshone National Forest, West Yellowstone Highway, P.O. Box 961, Cody, Wyo., 82414 by Sept. 14.

Lynne Bama is a free-lance photographer and writer who lives near the Clarks Fork in Wapiti, Wyo. Last year she received the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment's communications award for her work published in Wyoming News.

AT LEFT, a deceptively peaceful stretch of the Clarks Fork, just above a box canyon where the river becomes white thunder.

This article was paid for in part by donations to the HCN Research Fund.



8-High Country News — July 13, 1979



South Pass



perched above the common world

(Ed. Note: Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, crossed Wyoming's South Pass in 1861 on his way to Nevada in search of adventure, gold and silver. The following is excerpted from *ROUGHING IT*, a book Twain wrote about his Western experiences.)

by Mark Twain

Toward dawn, we got under way again, and presently as we sat with raised curtains enjoying our early morning smoke and contemplating the first splendor of the rising sun as it went down the long array of mountain peaks, flushing and gilding crag after crag and summit after summit, as if the invisible Creator reviewed his gray veterans and they saluted with a smile, we hove into view of South Pass City. The hotel keeper, the postmaster, the blacksmith, the mayor, the constable, the city marshal and the principal citizen and property holder, all came out and greeted us cheerily, and we gave him good day. He gave us a little Indian news and a little Rocky Mountain news, and we gave him some plains information in return. He then retired to his lonely grandeur and we climbed on up among the bristling peaks and the ragged clouds.

South Pass City consisted of four log cabins, one of which was unfinished, and the gentleman with all those offices and titles was the chiefest citizen of the place. Think of hotelkeeper, postmaster, blacksmith, mayor, constable, city marshal and principal citizen all condensed into one person and crammed into one skin. Bemis said he was a "perfect Allen's revolver of dignities." And he said that if he were to die as postmaster, or as blacksmith, or as postmaster and blacksmith both, the people might stand it, but if he were to die all over, it would be a frightful loss to the community.

Two miles beyond South Pass City we saw for the first time that mysterious marvel which all Western untraveled boys

have heard of and fully believe in, but are sure to be astounded by when they see it with their own eyes, nevertheless — banks of snow in dead summertime. We were now far up toward the sky, and knew all the time that we must presently encounter lofty summits clad in the "eternal snow" which was so commonplace a matter of mention in books, and yet when I did see it glittering in the sun on stately domes in the distance and knew the month was August and that my coat was hanging up because it was too warm to wear it, I was fully as much amazed as if I never had heard of snow in August before.

Truly, "seeing is believing" — and many a man lives a long life through, thinking he believes certain universally received and well-established things, and yet never suspects that if he were confronted by those things once, he would discover that he did not really believe them before, but only thought he believed them.

In a little while quite a number of peaks swung into view with long claws of glittering snow clasping them; and with here and there, in the shade down the mountainside, a little solitary patch of snow looking no larger than a lady's pocket handkerchief, but being in reality as large as a "public square."

And now, at last, we were fairly in the renowned SOUTH PASS, and whirling gaily along high above the common world. We were perched on the extreme summit of the great range of the Rocky Mountains, toward which we had been climbing, patiently climbing, ceaselessly climbing, for days and nights together — and about us was gathered a convention of nature's kings that stood ten, twelve and even thirteen thousand feet high — grand old fellows who would have to stoop to see Mount Washington in the twilight. We were in such an airy elevation above the creeping populations of the earth that now and then when the obstructing crags stood out of the way it seemed we could look around and abroad and contemplate the whole great globe, with its dissolving views of moun-



NATURE'S KINGS. "About us was gathered a convention of nature's kings that stood ten, twelve and even thirteen thousand feet high — grand old fellows

who would ha
the twilight."

tains, seas and continents stretching away through the mystery of the summer haze.

As a general thing, the pass was more suggestive of a valley than a suspension bridge in the clouds — but it strongly suggested the latter in one spot. At that place the upper third of one or two majestic purple domes projected above our level on either hand and gave us a sense of a hidden great deep of mountains and plains and valleys down about their bases which we fancied we might see if we could step to the edge and look over.

These sultans of the fastnesses were turbaned with tumbled volumes of cloud, which shredded away from time to time and drifted off fringed and torn, trailing their continents of shadow after them; and catching presently on an intercepting peak, wrapped it about and brooded there — then shredded away and left the purple peak, as they had left the purple domes, downy and white with new laid snow.

In passing, these monstrous rags of clouds hung low and swept along right over the spectator's head, swinging their tatters so nearly in his face that his impulse was to shrink when they came closest.

In the one place I speak of, one could look below him upon a world of diminishing crags and canyons leading down, down and away to a vague plain with a thread in it which was a road, and a bunch of feathers in it which were trees — a pretty picture sleeping in the sunlight — but with darkness stealing over it and glooming its features deeper and deeper under the frown of a coming storm; and then, while no film or shadow marred the noon brightness of his high perch, he could watch the tempest break forth down there and see the lightning leap from crag to crag and the sheeted rain drive along the canyon sides and hear the thunder peal and crash and roar. We had this spectacle; a familiar one to many, but to us a novelty.

We bowed along cheerily, at the very summit (though it was all summit to us, and all equally level, for half an hour or more), we came to a spring that spent its

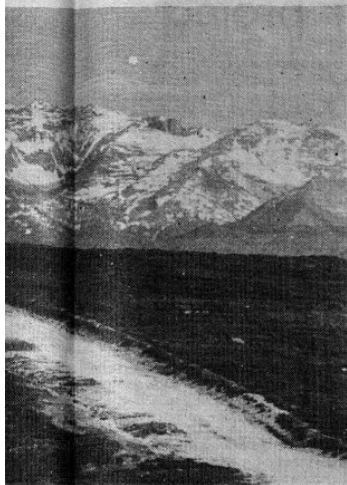


Photo by Mike McClure

to would have to stoop to see Mount Washington in twilight."



Photo by Mike McClure

VISITORS TO SOUTH PASS CITY today can look over the shoulders of the poker players at the Grecian Bend Saloon or visit the Sherlock Hotel for a glimpse of a bride in her 1860s gown.

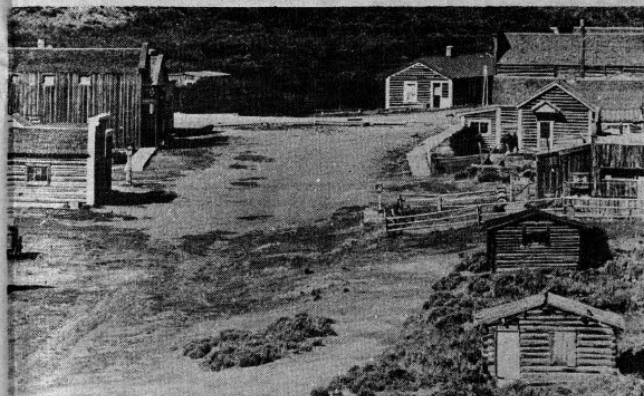


Photo by Mike McClure

YOU ALMOST EXPECT the South Pass City hotel keeper, postmaster, blacksmith, mayor, constable, city marshal and principal citizen and property holder to step out to greet you when you arrive in town. South Pass has been restored by the Wyoming Recreation Commission with help from a local group known as the Friends of South Pass.

water through two outlets and set it in the opposite directions. The conductor said that one of those streams which we were looking at was just starting on a journey westward to the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean, through hundreds and even thousands of miles of desert solitudes.

He said that the other was just leaving its home among the snow peaks on a similar journey eastward — and we knew that long after we should have forgotten the simple rivulet it would still be plodding its patient way down the mountainsides, and canyon beds, and between the banks of the Yellowstone; and by and by would join the broad Missouri and flow through unknown plains and deserts and unvisited wildernesses; and add a long and troubled pilgrimage among snags and wrecks and sand bars; and enter the Mississippi, touch the

traversing shoals and rocky channels, then endless chains of bottomless and ample bends, walled with unbroken forests, then mysterious byways and secret passages among woody islands, then the chained bends again, bordered with the wide levels of shining sugarcane in place of somber forests; then by New Orleans and still other chains of bends — and finally, after two long months of daily and nightly harassment, excitement, enjoyment, adventure and awful peril of parched throats, pumps and evaporation, pass the gulf and enter into its rest upon the bosom of the tropic sea, never to look upon its snow peaks again or regret them.

I freighted a leaf with a mental message for the friends at home and dropped it in the stream. But I put no stamp on it and it was held for postage somewhere.

Two miles beyond South Pass City we saw for the first time that mysterious marvel ...banks of snow in dead summertime.

10-High Country News — July 13, 1979
Pseudo-environmentalist

Attack on federal government hits solar project

by Ann Schimpf and Janelle Brown

BLANDING, Utah — Residents of southeastern Utah are determined to give the federal government a taste of its own medicine.

The Committee to Protect the Environment, a "tongue-in-cheek" local environmental group, has filed suit against the National Park Service to prevent construction of a small solar electrical generating plant at Natural Bridges National Monument.

Although their complaint is couched in environmentalist jargon, committee members readily admit they are no typical environmental group. Their villain is not development in southeastern Utah but a federal government that they say has outstepped its bounds.

"We formed our group and initiated this project because we feel very strongly about the way things have been happening down here with the federal government handing out one order after another," says John Black, president of the committee.

The committee's suit maintains that the construction of a proposed photovoltaic solar electric plant constitutes a "major" federal action and as such requires an environmental impact statement rather than the environmental assessment report filed by the Park Service.

Construction of the 100-kilowatt photovoltaic plant will cost \$3 million and will result in the removal of about two acres of vegetation at the monument.

"We had no intention of making the project cost efficient, and we know it's going to cost a great deal of money," says Gary Howe, management assistant for the Canyonlands office of the Park Service. "We've begun it as a demonstration project and are receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Energy for the bulk of the cost."

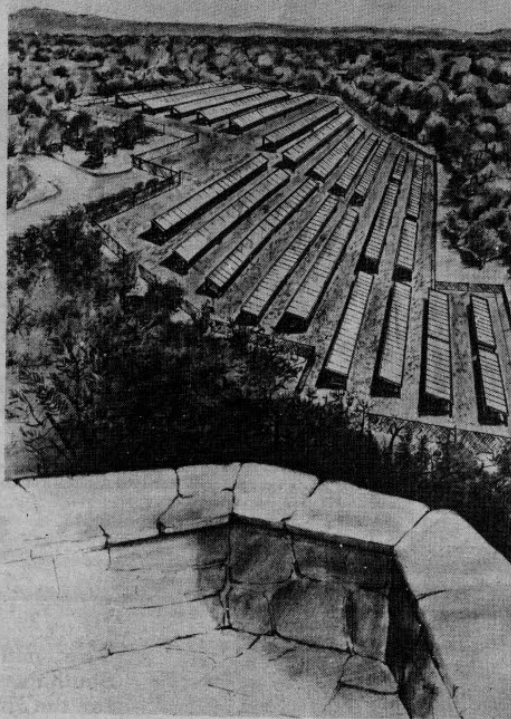
APPLE PIE

"We felt that only an EAR (environmental assessment report) was required since it involved no major construction like a dam," Howe says. "We thought the project was like apple pie and motherhood since most everyone is in favor of solar energy."



energy news from across the country

TVA OPPOSES CONCENTRATION. S. David Freeman, chairman of the board of the Tennessee Valley Authority, says the agency opposes major oil companies continuing to acquire independent coal and uranium companies. Testifying before a Senate subcommittee, Freeman said, "We believe legislation is needed to halt the growing concentration of all our energy resources in the hands of a few massive multiple-fuel companies." TVA, which is the country's largest coal consumer and one of the two largest uranium purchasers, has had to pay "skyrocketing coal and uranium prices," Freeman says. While opposing such monopolies, TVA has become a coal and uranium producer itself.



Drawing courtesy of National Park Service

FEDERAL VILLAINY. The solar energy project shown in the artist's conception above has spawned a "tongue-in-cheek" environmental group that sees the federal government as a villain.

But local residents are not in favor of this particular solar energy project.

"The federal government made the White Mesa Uranium Mill south of Blanding spend \$200,000 to excavate every

single piece of pottery before they could build," Black says. "And yet when it comes their time to build, they don't want to do one thing to protect the environment."

"It's really stupid to tear out a couple of

acres of trees to put in solar cells," he says. "A better place for that kind of use of technology would have been at Halls Crossing or Bullfrog where man's imprint is more obvious. We need to develop solar power but not there."

When asked if his group was an environmental group, Black says, "No, we're just about the reverse. We don't intend to lock things up."

Then, why the choice of name? Phil B. Acton, one of three trustees of the committee, says, "I felt like it would open a lot of doors for us that a name like the 'Committee to Sue the Government' might not."

Black is a miner. Acton is a certified public accountant. And the other trustee of the group, which formally organized as a non-profit organization in early March 1979, Jerry Halliday, is a construction worker. The group has about 50 members.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Does the committee have the support of local government officials? San Juan County Commissioner Calvin Black says with a chuckle, "I've been accused of setting up the group. The (solar) project is economically ridiculous."

The project would be the first large photovoltaic system in the National Park system. The power generated from the solar cells will replace electricity now obtained from diesel generators.

The 70-page EAR filed on the project by the Park Service examines the possibility of developing such a demonstration project at a total of 10 sites. Cottonwood Ranger Station at Joshua Tree National Monument in California received a second place rating because it lacks water pumping, a modern appearance and room for interpretive displays.

According to Howe, contractors for the initial site preparation are ready to begin work. Jack Kelly of the U.S. Department of the Interior's regional solicitor's office in Salt Lake City says that until the court rules on the case, "Our plans are to proceed with construction."

Ann Schimpf and Janelle Brown are staff writers for *The Herald Journal* in Logan, Utah, where this story first appeared.

Congress, Carter pushing synfuels

Congress is now considering legislation to subsidize synthetic fuel production, a concept rejected in previous sessions for environmental and economic reasons. The U.S. House has passed a bill that may cost as much as \$22 billion.

The Senate is considering two bills: S. 1308 sponsored by Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) that would provide \$4.37 billion and S. 1377 sponsored by Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), for which a dollar limit hasn't been determined. Hearings will be held on the two bills at the end of July.

President Carter is expected to approve subsidies; the administration is considering proposals that would allow as much as \$90 billion.

Environmentalists oppose the subsidies for synthetic fuels such as oil or gas from coal or oil from oil shale because of their effects on air and water and because they think the money would be better spent on renewable energy.

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) has been quoted as saying he supports the subsidies because "The American people are in the mood to do something even if it is wrong."

THE POCKETBOOK INCENTIVE. Consumers in six cities in the United States and Canada will have a chance to watch the daily growth of their utility bills in a conservation demonstration program sponsored by the two governments and several utilities. An energy indicator will be hung on the wall in each of 100 homes selected for the test in each city. The indicator will show the cost of the household's gas and electricity as it mounts, penny by penny, for 24 hours. In addition, with a touch of a button, the homeowner can see utility costs of the previous day or the accumulated cost for the month. The devices are expected to encourage conservation. The cities include Boston, Dallas, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Montreal and Vancouver.

GETTING COAL MILEAGE. While consistently opposing new air pollution control standards, several major coal producers nevertheless are trying to get some mileage out of them. In a newspaper ad, companies say, "If you are paying exorbitant bills for energy, answer this question: Why not coal? Coal can now be burned cleanly....All new coal-fired plants are re-

quired to be equipped with scrubbers to remove sulfur emissions." The ad is sponsored by Burlington Northern Inc., North American Coal Corp., Peabody Coal Co., Westmoreland Coal Co., several other coal and railroad companies and several labor unions.

USING WIND. U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.) has introduced a bill to require the federal government to purchase \$500 million worth of wind energy equipment over the next five years. The bill, the Wind Energy Systems Utilization Act, would direct the Department of Energy to purchase and install wind energy equipment on government-owned buildings and power-generating facilities.

PEDAL POWER. The gasoline shortage has not created problems in China, according to United Press International, because there are virtually no private cars. Government officials estimate about 2.5 million bikes travel Peking's streets. People carry briefcases looped over their hand-lebars and put their cargo — from laundry to planks of wood — on the back. Gasoline is used by delivery trucks, government limousines and buses.

ENERGY

1979



HCN

energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

July 13, 1979 — High Country News-11

Park Service fights geothermal plan

by Philip White



Photo by Philip White
WILLIAM WHALEN talks with participants in the National Audubon Society convention at Rocky Mountain National Park.

NUCLEAR UNSAFETY. The Associated Press reports that records obtained from the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory indicate that the government testing facility has had five nuclear accidents resulting in four core meltdowns and three deaths in the 30 years that testing has been going on. All of the incidents released radioactive gases into the air, the reports say. Causes of the accidents included sabotage, human error and mechanical malfunction. All of the core meltdowns were contained by safety systems before any severe damage could be done. The three workers were killed in a steam explosion in 1961 when INEL was experimenting with a portable reactor for the Army.

RIDING HIGH. The high price of gasoline may be driving Denver motorists into car pools. The *Rocky Mountain News* reports that since gasoline prices began rising in February, requests to the Denver Regional Council of Governments for car pool riders have increased 127 percent. Regional Transportation District officials say that 300 new riders each month are using buses to get to their jobs.

ANR SET BACK AGAIN. An administrative law judge has turned down a "last-ditch" plan by American Natural Resources to build a \$900 million coal gasification plant in North Dakota. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the judge objected to the company's plan for financing the unit, which involved passing the costs of the project to ratepayers if the project failed. The judge, ruling on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, said, "Whatever benefits are to be derived from this project will be shared by the entire country, not merely some ratepayers." The judge recommended that the Carter administration and Congress consider federal financing for the project. The company says it will appeal the decision to the full commission.

UTAH OIL STRIKE—OFFSHORE. Amoco Production Co. says that a test well sunk in the northern arm of the Great Salt Lake struck what could be a major new oil field. The well is more than five miles offshore. An Amoco spokesman says that early tests show the well could be producing 1,500 barrels of oil daily. Further testing is needed to determine the well's commercial potential.

TREATMENT WATER FOR SLURRY? Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. says it is considering using water flowing from several cities' sewage treatment plants in its proposed coal slurry pipeline. The company's proposal to take 42,000 acre-feet of water from the Little Bighorn River in northern Wyoming for a slurry line to Texas was rejected earlier this year by Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler. A spokesman for the company says that Texas Eastern will probably lobby for approval of the pipeline in the 1981 Wyoming legislative session. Consideration in Wyoming's 1980 budget session is considered unlikely.

William Whalen, director of the National Park Service, told the National Audubon convention in Estes Park, Colo., June 30 that he would be prepared to back legislation if necessary to bring the Island Park Geothermal Area into Yellowstone National Park.

Whalen said the Interior Department should use its powers under the Geothermal Steam Act to stop leasing in the Island Park area (see HCN, 6-1-79). "If that doesn't work and the Forest Service is determined to develop that area for geothermal, it would be my responsibility to have the area added to Yellowstone Park," Whalen said.

The draft environmental statement on Island Park geothermal drilling proposals has drawn fire from other federal officials and environmental groups, too. The eastern border of the area is within 13 miles of Old Faithful and is even closer to other Yellowstone thermal features.

The Interior Department says Yellowstone has been designated a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, giving the park "the highest possible recognition of its significance to the world."

"Any man-caused threat to the integrity of (Yellowstone's) thermal resources is totally unacceptable," according to the

department's comments, signed by assistant secretary Larry E. Meierette.

Interior mentions two geyser areas in New Zealand that were destroyed by development of an area that was thought to be independent of them. Four of the 10 world-ranked geyser areas have been adversely affected by man's activities, and three have been destroyed, Interior says.

The department says Targhee National Forest officials should amplify their discussion of potential impacts on Yellowstone and should discuss three other alternatives in the final environmental statement.

One alternative suggested by Interior would provide a two-mile no-leasing zone along the Yellowstone border with an elaborate monitoring program. Another alternative would exclude all critical wildlife and scenic areas from leasing. A third proposal would defer all leasing "until we have more information as to possible relationships to the geothermal regime at Yellowstone National Park."

Under the Geothermal Steam Act, the Interior secretary must approve geothermal development on federal lands. Interior's comments said "We obviously will not authorize any geothermal exploration or development in this area without adequate safeguards and evidence that the activities will not jeopardize" Yellowstone.

The Interior Department says the environmental statement should discuss threats to the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, both endangered species, and the trumpeter swan, which could be "adversely impacted by toxic effluent if a blow-out" from a geothermal well occurred.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the environmental statement doesn't adequately consider the potential for contamination of underground or surface waters important as sources of drinking water.

The Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Wyoming representative of Friends of the Earth expressed concern about the "treasured features of Yellowstone" and about critical grizzly bear habitat.

The conservation groups say even if Island Park could be developed to the level of "The Geysers" plant in California, which is unlikely, the area would provide only 0.0125 percent of the nation's year 2000 energy needs — insufficient to justify the endangering of Yellowstone's wonders.

ALMOST LUDICROUS

In a *Denver Post* article on June 24, 1979, applicants for geothermal leases in the Island Park area played down the risk to Yellowstone. Malcolm Mossman of Occidental Petroleum in Bakersfield, Calif., is quoted as saying the chances of a Yellowstone-Island Park underground connection "are very remote. The thought is almost ludicrous."

Denver realtor and lease applicant S. Paul Wasserstein is quoted as saying "We cannot set aside all land in the face of progress. The beauty of Yellowstone Park cannot be allowed to influence the development of alternative sources of power in other geothermal fields of our country. Why let our emotions restrict development of an energy source outside the park?"

The Targhee National Forest in St. Anthony, Idaho, plans to publish its recommendation in the final environmental statement by Oct. 1.

Coal plants can reduce reliance on surface water, report says

by Jim Verley

Imagine: Two groups are in confrontation. One advocates building a coal-fired electrical generating plant to provide badly needed power to metropolitan areas. The other says surface water used to cool the plant will cause surrounding communities and crops to suffer and eventually die. A serious threat? Not necessarily, according to a February 1979 report from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories.

The report, *Water Supply - Demand Alternatives for Electric Generation in the Colorado Basin* by David Abbey, looks at alternatives to surface water consumption by plants in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Nineteen thousand megawatts of additional power are either planned or under construction in these states. This will nearly double the energy capacity that has been put into production in the region since 1962. A major concern is that surface water consumption by the plants' cooling towers could deplete water resources of the region. Abbey's report contends, however, that alternative methods of cooling the plants could prevent this.

The use of dry cooling towers, where the water remains in a closed system, would reduce water use dramatically. Costs are higher than for evaporative cooling, but the overall expense of electrical generation would increase by only six to seven percent, according to Abbey.

Groundwater (from wells) can also be an option. Approximately 70 percent of the

groundwater in the Upper Colorado River Basin is saline. While this restricts many of its applications, Abbey says it could be adapted for plant cooling. Municipal sewage disposal water, waste water from mining operations and brackish waters from irrigation return flows are also alternatives.

No one method has to be used exclusively, says Abbey. Plant cooling facilities could range from completely dry to a wide variety of wet-dry combinations. These options coupled with utilization of waste or groundwaters could make the demand on surface waters very low.

Not having to rely on surface waters would also increase the number of potential plant site locations. It would also provide relief to areas that have surface waters but that are not appropriate for plants due to environmental, economic and social problems.

Provisions are already being made for reducing use of surface water. Of the 14 plants planned or under construction in the Colorado River Basin between now and 1987, only five rely solely on surface water.

Abbey says, however, that water depletion should still remain a concern. Social and economic impacts from the reallocation of water rights are possible, and water tables and stream flows may be reduced with the increased use of underground water.

More information about the report can be obtained from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, N.M. 87545. Refer to report number LA-7662-MS.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Boston Old Colony Insurance Company
390 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.
60606
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$61,378
Gross Premiums Paid 126,463
Gross Premiums Received 126,463
Gross Premiums Paid 126,463
Total Admitted Assets 27,544,134
Total Admitted Liabilities 2,000,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 4,867,161
Surplus 18,686,983
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 13,409,824
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 13,409,824
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Beneficial National Life Insurance Company
3700 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90010
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$55,010
Gross Premiums Paid 62,619
Gross Premiums Received 62,619
Gross Premiums Paid 62,619
Total Admitted Assets 200,057,952
Total Admitted Liabilities 4,700,555
Capital Stock Paid Up 38,200,640
Surplus 162,357,312
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 96,057,418
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 73,001,621
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Birmingham Fire Insurance Company of
70 Pine Street, New York, New York 10005
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$7,477
Gross Premiums Paid 3,856
Gross Premiums Received 3,856
Gross Premiums Paid 3,856
Total Admitted Assets 66,510,000
Total Admitted Liabilities 1,900,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 6,466,412
Surplus 60,043,588
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 26,005,477
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 26,005,477
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bonville Life Insurance Company
P.O. Box 151028, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$16,600
Gross Premiums Paid 9,300
Gross Premiums Received 9,300
Gross Premiums Paid 9,300
Total Admitted Assets 3,041,914
Total Admitted Liabilities 500,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 109,275
Surplus 2,541,639
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 2,018,705
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 2,018,705
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Beneficial National Life Insurance Company
200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$779,420
Gross Premiums Paid 5,685
Gross Premiums Received 5,685
Gross Premiums Paid 5,685
Total Admitted Assets 72,717,432
Total Admitted Liabilities 62,873,658
Capital Stock Paid Up 7,465,200
Surplus 65,252,232
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 7,465,200
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 44,915,421
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Birmingham Fire and Marine Insurance
Company
200 Pine Street, New York, New York 10005
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$None
Gross Premiums Paid None
Gross Premiums Received None
Gross Premiums Paid None
Total Admitted Assets 13,694,486
Total Admitted Liabilities 2,000,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 6,047,910
Surplus 7,646,576
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 706,702
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 706,702
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Life Company
711 High Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50307
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$6,999,824
Gross Premiums Paid 228,519
Gross Premiums Received 228,519
Gross Premiums Paid 228,519
Total Admitted Assets 6,771,025,352
Total Admitted Liabilities 537,000,000
Capital Stock Paid Up None
Surplus 6,234,025,352
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 1,732,086,786
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 1,732,086,786
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Life Insurance Company
360 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84128
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$1,329,000
Gross Premiums Paid 907,000
Gross Premiums Received 907,000
Gross Premiums Paid 907,000
Total Admitted Assets 335,520,280
Total Admitted Liabilities 1,107,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 1,107,000
Surplus 334,413,280
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 778,900,004
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 778,900,004
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Life Insurance Company
1701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$458,975
Gross Premiums Paid 46,279
Gross Premiums Received 46,279
Gross Premiums Paid 46,279
Total Admitted Assets 129,786,019
Total Admitted Liabilities 11,420,728
Capital Stock Paid Up 12,758,480
Surplus 117,027,539
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 65,398,987
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 65,398,987
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Multiple Life Insurance Company
Insurance Exchange Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50300
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$1,118,110
Gross Premiums Paid 62,450
Gross Premiums Received 62,450
Gross Premiums Paid 62,450
Total Admitted Assets 61,300,409
Total Admitted Liabilities 1,320,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 20,627,351
Surplus 40,673,058
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 39,934,850
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 39,934,850
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Banmont County Corporation
200 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84128
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$72,725
Gross Premiums Paid 11,407
Gross Premiums Received 11,407
Gross Premiums Paid 11,407
Total Admitted Assets 310,429,688
Total Admitted Liabilities 27,118,029
Capital Stock Paid Up 6,000,000
Surplus 304,429,688
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 14,429,311
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 14,429,311
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska
at "O" Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$2,256,658
Gross Premiums Paid 22,750
Gross Premiums Received 22,750
Gross Premiums Paid 22,750
Total Admitted Assets 64,032,484
Total Admitted Liabilities 64,032,484
Capital Stock Paid Up 64,032,484
Surplus 0
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 14,335,359
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 14,335,359
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers National Life Insurance Company
1599 Lathrop Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$1,041,200
Gross Premiums Paid 22,750
Gross Premiums Received 22,750
Gross Premiums Paid 22,750
Total Admitted Assets 1,008
Total Admitted Liabilities 207,339,271
Capital Stock Paid Up 4,000,000
Surplus 15,478,823
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 72,560,966
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 72,560,966
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Beneficial National Life Insurance Company
700 South Street, Philadelphia, Penn. 19101
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$9,406
Gross Premiums Paid 5,611
Gross Premiums Received 5,611
Gross Premiums Paid 5,611
Total Admitted Assets 400,024,478
Total Admitted Liabilities 57,044,394
Capital Stock Paid Up 26,566,270
Surplus 373,458,208
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 87,565,697
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 87,565,697
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Life Insurance Company of New York
4333 Edgewood RD., NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52409
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$1,298,010
Gross Premiums Paid 28,800
Gross Premiums Received 28,800
Gross Premiums Paid 28,800
Total Admitted Assets 63,222,746
Total Admitted Liabilities 63,222,746
Capital Stock Paid Up 4,500,184
Surplus 58,722,562
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 60,177,466
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 60,177,466
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers National Life Insurance Company
3640 S. Gledhill, Englewood, Colo. 80110
P.O. Box 1197, Englewood, Colo. 80110
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$1,971,690
Gross Premiums Paid 63,741
Gross Premiums Received 63,741
Gross Premiums Paid 63,741
Total Admitted Assets 4,550,002
Total Admitted Liabilities 4,550,002
Capital Stock Paid Up 300,000
Surplus 4,250,002
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 1,542,189
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 1,542,189
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

STATE OF WYOMING

Beneficial National Life Insurance Company
1771 Howard Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$673,000
Gross Premiums Paid 551,728
Gross Premiums Received 551,728
Gross Premiums Paid 551,728
Total Admitted Assets 144,340,651
Total Admitted Liabilities 15,000,000
Capital Stock Paid Up 15,000,000
Surplus 129,340,651
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 100,041,610
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 89,494,851
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

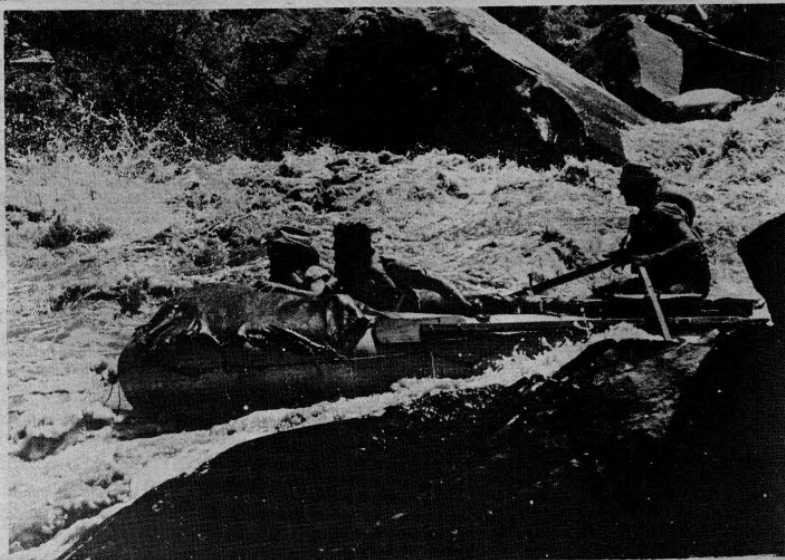
STATE OF WYOMING

Bankers Life Insurance Company of New York
4333 Edgewood RD., NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52409
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1978
Gross Premiums Received \$1,298,010
Gross Premiums Paid 28,800
Gross Premiums Received 28,800
Gross Premiums Paid 28,800
Total Admitted Assets 63,222,746
Total Admitted Liabilities 63,222,746
Capital Stock Paid Up 4,500,184
Surplus 58,722,562
Income during year ending December 31, 1978 60,177,466
Expenses for year ending December 31, 1978 60,177,466
Pursuant to Section 26-5-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 24, 1979
John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

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



Western Roundup



RIVER RUNNING on non-navigable streams that pass through private land is now considered trespassing in Colorado.

Photo by David Sumner

Colorado Supreme Court says rafters guilty of trespass

The arrest of three men rafting on the Colorado River has led to a Colorado Supreme Court ruling that "dramatically alters the law of Colorado," according to one of the dissenting judges. The court ruled that the public has no right to the recreational use of "non-navigable" parts of rivers and streams where they flow through

private property, upholding a lower court's conviction of the men.

The five judges who concurred on the decision relied on the medieval English doctrine of "he who owns the surface of the ground has the exclusive rights to everything which is above it."

Two judges dissented. One of them said

the court would have done better to consider the American Indian concept that all people are caretakers, and "everyone had a right to use the Earth; no one a right to abuse it. That was the law in Colorado when the English feudal courts adopted the rule (applied by the court)...It would be a sounder precedent for this case."

FWS raids taxidermists' bird collections

Special agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have seized the skins, carcasses and mounted specimens of hundreds of protected birds from a Michigan jewelry store and a Colorado taxidermist. The birds include peregrine falcons, eagles, hawks, owls, waterfowl and songbirds.

On May 7, agents raided a Franklin, Mich. jewelry store that also ran a taxidermy operation. The store allegedly sold a large number of federally protected birds,

with some bird mounts, such as eagles, bringing as much as \$500.

Information from the Michigan investigation led to the property of a taxidermist in Aguilar, Colo. There, agents found over 800 mounted birds, including 15 peregrine falcons, and over 1,000 birds in freezers.

The owners of the jewelry store were arrested and charged with multiple violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. No charges have been filed against the taxidermist yet.

It's Kingsley Dam's turn to help cranes

Prodded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the builder of the Graylocks Dam in Wyoming, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is investigating possible effects of a hydroelectric project in Nebraska on whooping crane habitat. "What's fair for the goose is fair for the gander," said a spokesman for Basin, referring to the settlement that forced his company to pay \$7.5 million to protect the cranes. Basin feels, the spokesman said, that since it had to provide water for wildlife, other entities that store water on the river should, too.

The project in question is a proposed hydroelectric plant at Lake McConaughy's

Kingsley Dam, downstream from Graylocks on the Platte River. If the investigation establishes that there is a danger to the cranes, the operators of Kingsley Dam could be required to release certain amounts of water for the cranes' welfare. Kingsley's owners say mandatory releases would endanger existing contracts to irrigators and to the Nebraska Public Power District.

Although Basin's settlement stipulated that certain amounts of water would be guaranteed to flow down the Platte to the Nebraska border, an unanswered question is how the water will get past the Kingsley Dam to the whoopers downstream.

Idaho, Indians settle salmon fishing rights

A heated dispute over how to protect salmon in Idaho ended amicably after the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes agreed to close salmon fishing to tribal members all summer.

The state of Idaho had asked the tribes to forego fishing except for two days of ceremonial fishing and offered them 2,500 salmon from fish hatcheries. The tribes protested the state's authority to dictate Indian fishing regulations since their rights were set by treaty.

Experts say that only about 10 percent of the normal number of salmon are spawning in the river this year. The decreased run is blamed on the severe drought in 1977, plus the new dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers, through which the salmon must swim to reach Idaho.

"The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes think more about conserving the chinook salmon than the state of Idaho does....To prove it, the tribe will close salmon fishing until Sept. 16," Tribal Chairman Gilbert Teton said. He referred to the offer of 2,500 hatchery fish as a "bribe of trinkets and beads."

The Nez Perce Tribe accepted the state's offer of 2,500 salmon and two days of ceremonial fishing, saying they wouldn't fish unless 2,700 salmon reach a certain hatchery. Fishing was later opened for them.

In another action affecting salmon, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled July 2 that Indian fishermen in Washington state have the right to as much as half of the available catch. The decision generally affirms a 1974 decision by U.S. District Judge

Water: don't use it, lose it at a profit

In the Colorado River Basin most states figure they must find ways to develop their water or risk losing it to downstream users. They believe in the use-it-or-lose-it philosophy.

Foes of the Central Arizona Project, however, have come up with a new approach to water management. They say the state should forget about building CAP, a multi-billion dollar water development project which they say the state doesn't need, and sell some of Arizona's water rights to thirsty Southern Californians.

By doing so, the state could make more than \$100 million a year, according to Frank Welsh of the Citizens Concerned About the Project. That income would be enough to allow the state to eliminate its property tax, Welsh says.

In addition, not building the Central Arizona Project would save Arizona and federal taxpayers \$10 billion as well as several billion kilowatt-hours of energy, says another backer of the proposal, Robert Witzman of the Maricopa Audubon Society.

Wesley Steiner, executive director of the Arizona Water Commission, finds the whole proposal ridiculous, however. "It's silly to sell any part of Arizona's entitlement to Colorado River water," he said in a Phoenix Gazette story.

No excess cancer evident near INEL

A study of a five-county area around the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, a nuclear testing facility, indicates that the cancer death rates have not increased since 1974. In fact the 1977 death rates for the counties were all below the national cancer death rate of 1.69 deaths per thousand and Idaho's rate of 1.37 deaths per thousand. The study was based on information supplied by the state Bureau of Vital Statistics. Because of the small populations in each of the five counties, state radiation control director Robert Funderburg says that it is impossible to say whether those deaths that do occur from cancer are the result of INEL activities.

Cancer or no, Idaho Gov. John Evans told federal officials at a hearing on nuclear wastes in Carlsbad, N.M., that his state would not accept long-term storage of nuclear waste within its borders. Evans said "The buried waste material is in a deteriorating condition and presents the largest potential for contamination in the near future." Evans said that he cannot understand the failure of the U.S. to make some decision on the final storage of wastes buried at INEL.

14-High Country News — July 13, 1979



HCN Bulletin Board



RANGELANDS FILM

A new film, "The Maverick," has been released by the Society for Range Management's Old West Range Program. The film explains the latest techniques for range improvement in the Northern Great Plains. Free copies of the film can be ordered for viewing. Requests should be submitted early, indicating both first and second choice viewing dates. Write Piccadilly Films, P.O. Box 17999, Broadway Station, San Antonio, Tex. 78217.

BACKPACK TRIP FOR TEACHERS

The Sierra Club is offering an "Environmental Education Backpack Workshop" Aug. 5-15 in the Lost Creek Scenic Area of Pike San Isabel National Forest in Colorado. The trip is designed to show teachers and youth leaders how to plan educational backpacking trips. The trip leader is John Stansfield, 402 E. Del Norte, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80907.

DENVER SOLAR SEMINARS

The newly opened Energy Conservation Center in Denver offers solar seminars every Thursday on topics such as water heating, wind conversion and solar greenhouses. Each session costs \$2 and is limited to 30 participants. For more information call (303) 234-0229.

SOLAR CELL CONFERENCE

The Department of Energy's Solar Energy Research Institute is sponsoring a two-day conference in Denver Sept. 17-19 called "Photovoltaic Advanced R&D Annual Review Meeting." Participants will "review the status of advanced photovoltaic cells, materials and mechanisms and identify research issues needing emphasis." To register, write to Vicky Curry, Conference Coordinator, Solar Energy Research Institute, 1536 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colo. 80401; or call (303) 231-1467.

PREDATOR POLICY EMERGING

Nine possible alternatives for controlling coyote and other wild animal damages to Western livestock are detailed in a final environmental impact statement released by the Interior Department in June. The document and the comments it generates will shape the national predator control policy expected to emerge from the department later this summer. Comments, which are due Aug. 11, should be addressed to the Director (ADC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES PRIMER

A Toxic Substances Primer is a terse (six-page) leaflet discussing health effects, federal laws, definitions, misconceptions and industrial perspectives. Copies are available for 40 cents from the League of Women Voters of the United States, 1730 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Ask for Pub. No. 545.

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES

Energy-Efficient Community Planning by James Ridgeway looks at how innovative American communities are solving their own energy problems and avoiding high food costs, unemployment, waste disposal dilemmas and inefficient transportation. The book includes descriptions of projects in Davis, Calif.; Northglenn, Colo.; and Clayton, N.M. It will be available after Oct. 1 from The JG Press, Inc., Box 351, Emmaus, Pa. 18049 for \$9.95 in paperback and \$14.95 in hardcover.

MONTANA WILDERNESS TRIPS

The Montana Wilderness Association offers several free trips led by experienced members of MWA who have donated their time. The program is designed to inform people about wilderness, gain new members and offer an outdoor experience. Write MWA, Box 635, Helena, Mont. 59601.



Photo courtesy of the New Western Energy Show

ENERGY SHOW IN WYOMING. The New Western Energy Show, a Montana-based troupe devoted to theater, music and alternative energy, will be touring Wyoming this summer. They offer two shows daily, plus displays and other events. Among the new skits this year is one entitled "The Frog Does Not Drink Up the Pond in Which It Lives." The troupe will be in Casper Aug. 1-4, in Sheridan Aug. 6-10, in Worland Aug. 12-14 and in Lander Aug. 20-22. For more information, contact the show at Power Block Building, Room 226, Helena, Mont. 59601. Pictured is a scene from last year's tour.

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Dr. Sherman Prece Jr.,
Chairman, Dept. of Botany,
University of Montana

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by Kim Williams

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PECULIAR PEOPLE by Myra Connell

An odd assortment of people gathered near a small lake recently, circled their gas-powered wagons to break the wind and shared a bountiful picnic supper. The occasion? To compare notes on the annual spring bird count sponsored by the local chapter of National Audubon Society.

The assembled picnickers were delighted when a total of 55 species was announced.

"We saw a brown thrasher!" "We saw a Western grebe."

A few hours before, nine people divided into three teams to travel country roads and some highways within a 15-mile in

diameter circle, observing, identifying and recording all birds seen.

Other motorists gazed curiously at the daft people staring through binoculars where there seemed to be nothing to see. Quite likely they were unaware of the pleasure and excitement they were missing. The stimulation of the chase in hope of discovering a rare species can be as keen as a hunter's eagerness for a kill.

Each time that I have taken part in a count it has been a learning experience.

Time was, when to me a swallow was just a creature that built a mud nest against a cliff face and swooped over a pond to catch mosquitos. Suddenly I was confronted by cliff, cave, tree, barn, rough-winged and violet-green swallows, not to mention purple martins.

I have lived in this locality the greater part of 70 years, but it was only the other day that I became aware that we have Wilson's phalaropes. I suppose I mistakenly thought them killdeer or night-hawks, though the distinction is easily apparent to an observant person. The leader of our team pointed out a group of four, flying in formation 200 yards away. To the unaided eye only the silvery-white flash of swiftly moving wings could be seen. The birds obligingly settled in a bare spot and, with our binoculars, we could see their characteristic white necks and breast.

Later, a savannah sparrow cooperated by sitting still atop a fence post. A brown thrasher, very rare in this locale, competed with robins and blackbirds for territory. Two brilliant Bullock's orioles flaunted their finery.

Red-tailed hawks gave us the most excitement. A pair flew toward us, one of them dangling a small snake in its claws, the other apparently trying to take it away. They disappeared in the trees so we missed the finale.

Farther on, an adult red-tail sat on the edge of a nest in a dead cottonwood, guarding two fluffy, white hawks. When it flew to a perch on rocks nearby, we saw its four-foot wingspread.

About four days later, feeling that this was a rare sight, I guided my granddaughter and her four children to the site, fearful lest a marauder might have destroyed them. They were still there — hawk, nest and hawklets!

We bird-watchers aren't crazy. We just act that way.

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.

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 distastes unacceptable.

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July 13, 1979 — High Country News-15

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

The mining man wrinkled his brow
When he heard that the feds would allow
More coal land bidding.
"You've got to be kidding!"
We can't sell the heaps we've got now."

CHIEF FORESTER REPLACED. After three years of preparing for the move, John McGuire, chief of the Forest Service, has retired. McGuire told Gannett News Service he had considered retiring in 1976 but didn't because he didn't want to be replaced by a political appointee when the administration changed after the election. A veteran of 39 years with the agency, he stayed until the agency's wilderness study was complete. He is being replaced by R. Max Peterson, his deputy.

SALT CAVE LEAKING? Researchers near Purvis, Miss., are trying to determine if radioactive material is leaking from a salt cave where two nuclear tests were conducted in the mid-1960s, according to Newhouse News Service. High levels of radioactive tritium and traces of other radioactive isotopes have been found in groundwater, and 20 of 80 tons collected near the site are deformed. Nuclear waste from the first atomic test at the site was pumped back down an abandoned well, but federal officials can't find records of what was done with contaminated materials after the second test.

Nuclear waste gains Western opponents

Opposition to nuclear wastes is gaining momentum in the West. In Nevada, the governor has ordered the closure of a nuclear waste dump, according to the Associated Press.

Gov. Robert List said, "I'm fed up with being responsible, as a state, for having this site within our boundaries and not being able to count on people elsewhere to do their job." List was upset because of two incidents in Nevada within two months involving transportation of nuclear wastes. About 10 people were exposed to low-level contamination when a truck burned in May. In June, a truck driver carrying waste from a nuclear reactor near South Haven, Mich., noticed that his truck was leaking. Inspectors were unable to find any radioactivity in the areas of the state where he noticed the leaks, however.

In Montana, the Missoula City Council has passed a resolution to regulate or prohibit shipping nuclear wastes through the city. Two anti-nuclear groups have been asked to draft the proposed ordinance because the city attorney is too busy, according to *The Missoulian*. Voters in Missoula County passed a referendum last November which banned nuclear facilities in the county but did not mention nuclear wastes transportation.

Several Eastern cities also have passed ordinances banning some or all shipments of nuclear wastes.

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by Hannah Hinchman

LANDER, Wyo. — High summer under a big July full moon. I'm knee-deep in a still pond looking at the way insects disturb its bright surface. Water striders provide a new understanding of surface tension. Because hairs on the ends of their legs distribute their weight, they do not break the surface, but skate around on it as though it were the slickest ballroom floor. Wind can blow them across the pond. When they move, they leave four perfect circular ripples.

Debris mars the surface. At first I assume it is all cottonwood cotton, which has been filling the air lately in blizzards. Looking closer I see hundreds of pale, blue-white mayfly bodies floating, intact. As I watch, one lands in front of me. Light as it is, the mayfly hasn't the strider's mobility on the water. Its wings are stuck to the pond as if magnetized.

Everywhere I turn weeds and grasses are making their dramatic growth spurt before flowering. Ubiquitous hollyhocks have leapt from 2½ to four feet in a week.

Maybe I'm reacting to our severe winter, but I've never seen summer's power and abundance so 'early before.

Ed Foss of Condon, Mont., writes about watching both rufous and calliope hummingbirds perform courtship dives against the "Montana blue." Ed tells me you can distinguish the two species by listening to the sound they make when they dive. He feeds hummingbirds at his place and says that on the peak feeding day this season they drank 10 full cups of syrup.

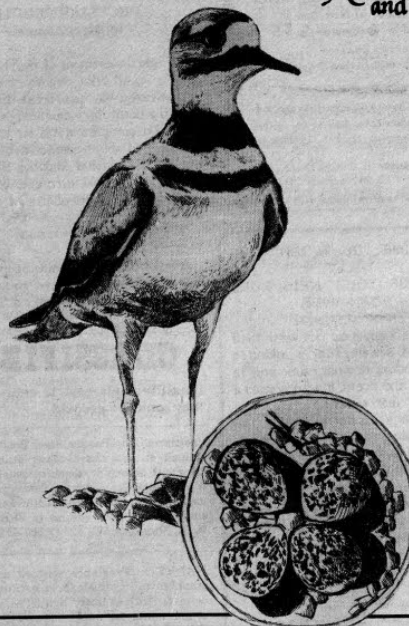
Alan Kesselheim sends a tale of canoeing the Chama River in New Mexico:

"The river is brown and swollen, like a chocolate milkshake in consistency. Most of the rocks are covered up, so the river's challenges revolve around handling large hydraulics, not dodging obstacles. We travel downstream, totally absorbed in the paddling techniques demanded by the white water. Here the quiet day is a focused world of churning water and shouted instructions.

"During the quieter sections our view expands and we contemplate the textured curves of the sandstone cliffs. Violet-green swallows dip and dive for insects, sometimes cleaving a tiny wake in the water with their bills. We are entertained by a yellow-breasted chat, sounding like a flock of 15 birds with its astounding repertoire of calls. Spotted sandpipers probe the mud banks and fly by us with stiff wings.

"We run the final rapid and take out from a large eddy, after floating around in it with various pieces of river flotsam.

The feel of summer has been with us all day. We attest to its presence with burned noses and a healthy thirst for a cold one on the way home."



ABBEYS ROAD

EDWARD ABBEY



by Edward Abbey, E.P. Dutton, New York, 1979. \$9.95, hardcover; \$4.95, paperback, 198 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

There are several types of Edward Abbey aficionados. First the barnacles. They swarm about in the larval stage, numerous, immature, in search of attachments. Finally affixing themselves to Abbey's volumes, they feel comforting vibrations, the more powerful versions of their own frustrations, through their hulks.

Next the coyotes. A smaller but numinous tribe, they squat on the stony hilltops, howling each time the moon of another Abbey book heaves itself over the horizon to grin down on them with its sneering, imperfect light. "O Desert Solitaire 2, where are you?" they wail. They want Lucrétius, Melville, Thoreau with a slingshot — even would settle for a bearded Annie Dillard.

Throughout his impressive production of five novels and eight nonfiction works, Abbey has kept up an honest drumming, making perfectly clear to his readers that

he cultivates "the art of the arrogant sneer, the venomous put-down, the elegant hatchet job." He knows that the barnacles and coyotes will keep coming back to have their noses rebloodied by insults and boorish puns. Like Punk Rock, Abbey's writing excites masochists. To be insulted is to be loved, in some twisted way. And so, for a world largely unloved, this bad-boy writer, this bully of the literary schoolyard, serves a social function.

But what about the rest of us — you and me — the tiny phalanx of sensitive and rational souls who make up Abbey's true admirers? We are the sloths. Lazy, relaxed about ourselves, we browse through the trees, our pleasure our end, savoring only the choice fruits.

We find pretty good chomping in Abbey's Road. The collection of essays reprinted from Audubon, the now-defunct Mountain Gazette, Playboy and other publications takes us to Alice Springs, Australia, to Mexico's Sierra Madre, and to bomb-wrecked Naples, Italy. Such gusto for us, as E. A., his own Byronic hero, lives out his pathos and wackiness on the constantly tilting stage of the world.

The book is flawed, however. Page after page is pure filler. Take, for instance, the chapter "The Right to Arms." No surprises, no delightful Abbey quirkiness, here. It might have dropped — kerplow — out of The American Rifleman. But we forgive, knowing that Abbey is one of the six or seven scarred souls left in the nation eking a living from his creative writing. A book,

padded though it may be, means a little bread on the table in Wolf Hole, Ariz.

What stuns our taste buds finally is Abbey's no-nonsense journalism. This scene of a night cattle-loading in Australia's outback:

"Their big bellies glow in the ruddy light; no true Aussie would allow himself to be seen, after the age of thirty, without a proper beer gut. Dick Nunn leans against his Toyota truck, sipping beer, conferring with Norm Wood, watching everything. The terrified cattle groan, grunt, bellow, pressed hard against one another inside their bars of planking and iron.... I see one cow with its head caught and twisted between the hind legs of another, unable to extricate itself. Two more cars are loaded. The loading goes on by moonlight, by truck headlights by the calamitous, sinister, wavering flare of the burning railway ties."

Hemingway would have approved.

In places Abbey forgets the world's woes to have a lark playing on his own frailties. Here he is hoofing up central Australia's only tourist attraction:

"Families of Aussies from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, groaned, grumbled, laughed, and kidded as they climbed, exactly like tourists anywhere. My attention was caught by a pair of smooth brown thighs in short shorts, far above; lashed on by my incurable satyrmania, I passed the halt, the lame, the fat, and the blind, until I caught up with the lure. Her name was Melissa Rhys-Jones, she came from London, she was (she told me) a dancer and a student of Romance languages... For the second time within an hour I fell instantly in love. Trying to impress her, I flourished my press credentials... All for naught; she would not be parted from her "group" — she was traveling with a busload of cack-

ing, red-nosed, glass-eyed, faggoty little Tory fops from Oxford and Cambridge."

But, so as not to leave Abbey completely in the lurch, later that evening Melissa shares a modest drink with him. Then, before saying goodbye in the parking lot, she edifies this strange American with a lesson on the Southern Cross. How to find one's direction when lost in the desert? "Through the center stars and four lengths beyond, then straight down to the horizon is south."

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