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Congress, conservationists charge:

Agency's wilderness grazing policies 'too pure'

by Marjane Amble

For 15 years, conservationists have been telling ranchers that wilderness designation would not jeopardize their grazing privileges on public lands. But when Bill Cunningham, Wilderness Society rep-

resentative for Montana and North Dakota, made the statement to a group in Helena, Mont., recently, one rancher leapt to his feet and shouted, "That's a god-damned lie."

The rancher said that restrictions placed on his operation in the Absaroka-

Beartooth Wilderness Area were making it impossible for him to continue raising sheep.

At the heart of the issue is a section of the Wilderness Act of 1964 that says established grazing shall continue in wilderness areas, subject to "reasonable" regula-

tions enacted by the secretary of agriculture, whose department includes the Forest Service.

Conservationists have publicized this section of the act, hoping it would defuse ranchers' opposition to wilderness. But such information has not stilled rancher complaints. They tell conservationists of livestock phase-outs, barbed wire and motor vehicle bans, and backpackers getting precedence over livestock and, in some cases, over resource protection in wilderness areas — all contrary to Congress' intent.

While these problems have existed on national forest grazing lands in wilderness areas since the Wilderness Act became law, they have not received much attention in the past. Most of the early wilderness areas were in high mountain country, much of it above timberline — "wilderness on the rocks," as one person put it — and grazing was only an issue on a small percentage of the areas.

Now, however, millions more acres are being considered for wilderness in the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) and the Bureau of Land Management's wilderness review. (BLM has never managed any wilderness areas before.) Many of these areas include lower elevation lands that are now grazed.

Consequently, the question of how grazing will be managed in wilderness areas has become much more critical for both ranchers and conservationists.

WALKING A TIGHTROPE

Robert Rummell of the range management office of the Forest Service in Washington, D.C., thinks controversy is inherent in the question of wilderness grazing. "It's almost a tightrope we have to walk between production of a commodity and management for the intangibles — wilderness values," he said.

Ranchers and, ironically, many conservationists think the Forest Service has lost its balance by adopting regulations that would preserve a more pristine environment than either Congress or wilderness proponents intended.

"Any effort to manage wilderness as if it were in a strait jacket is ridiculous," said

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Forest Service photo by G.R. Wolstad

LIVESTOCK IN THE BEARTOOTH-ABSAROKA Wilderness Area in Montana. Conservationists say Forest Service Restrictions on grazing in such areas are too strict.

DeSmet coal-to-gas plant in the works again

by Geoffrey O'Gara

The small Wyoming town of Buffalo may face an influx of more than 20,000 people if Texaco, Inc. and Texas Eastern Corp. go ahead with plans for a strip mine and coal gasification plant near Lake DeSmet, just north of town.

Reaction in Buffalo to Texaco's recent announcement of an 18-month feasibility study varied from local merchants' enthusiastic endorsements to a wary note of caution from local school officials. In any case, the small town with the single movie theater and quaint frontier museum, where teenagers can ride their horses lazily through the weekend streets, faces a new way of life if the plant is built.

Company officials call their project the largest "firmly proposed" coal gasification

plant in this country. It would produce 250 million cubic feet of high BTU gas a day, double the gas expected from the first phase of the ANG coal gasification plant slated for Mercer County, North Dakota (see "From the Source").

The announcement of the feasibility study for the mine and plant means a final

commitment to build is still a long way off. Texaco and Texas Eastern officials say that after the study is completed they will still have to obtain federal aid under President Carter's as yet unfinished energy program, and the mine and plant would have to meet state and federal water, air,

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Learning to live with regulations

Anyone working in the energy or environmental field is aware of the long distance from the legislative battlefield to the regulatory treaty — the distance is often measured in years. In 1976, after members of Congress fought fiercely and successfully to pass tough strip mine reclamation laws, the strip-and-run gang was still operating in many states under antiquated or non-existent regulations, hurriedly undressing every coal-bearing hill it could find.

Three years later, with strip mining regulations now approaching final form, we find Congress possessed of a new demon, undoing all the "red tape" mechanisms it instigated in 1977 even as the coal industry is shaping up to meet the stringent regulations.

The lag between legislation and regulatory reality creates an interesting phenomenon: The politicians ride the tide of public opinion in one direction, and a few years later the bureaucrats get around to swinging the regulatory hammer — just as the politicians begin charging back in the other direction.

The heartening aspect of all this is that regulations are a little less windblown than fickle politicians. While the politicians have been changing their minds, the coal industry has been learning to live with planning, public participation and reclamation. For all their complaining, a new crop of executives and lawyers is sprouting with "hands on" experience of regulated mining.

This was apparent at a recent land use and reclamation conference in Denver, attended primarily by energy and mineral industry lawyers, but also by a *High Country News* reporter. There were the predictable jokes about the wild-eyed environmentalists and pettifogging bureaucrats who bedevil forbearing lawyers, but there was also a consistent theme that should make us all hopeful: The lawyers told each other that energy development is easier and ultimately cheaper in today's world if you work with the public, the regulators and the environmentalists, before you start to strip, dig or build. Look for ways to help the locals with their problems, they said, and they'll warm up to you.

Lawrence L. Waggoner, a pipeline specialist with the Northwest Energy Co., told how his company, trying to get a pipeline permit in Colorado, volunteered to fund a study of bald eagle nesting habits in the area. Not only did the company eventually get the permit, but, "We were known as terrific people for doing these things," he said with obvious satisfaction.

The one speaker at the gathering from the "other side," Robert J. Golten of the National Wildlife Federation, told the lawyers that energy development might go more smoothly if they actually funded their less well-heeled adversaries in the conservation field. If industry and environmentalists met on equal footing, he suggested, they might settle their differences before they entered the regulatory briar patch. "Instead of government being whipsawed by first one set of political pressures and then another, so its decisions go back and forth, industry and conservation groups could wrestle these issues to a resolution and then present them to federal agencies," he said. After Golten's speech, Charles Dietrich of Utah International, Inc., approached Golten and said, "I liked that. I think some of us might want to help with that idea."

By no means are we suggesting that it's time to relax and trust industry to come to landowners, environmentalists and the rest of the public for advice and permission. But it's heartening to realize that a whole generation of energy lawyers and executives are learning, by experience with regulation, to deal ahead of time with the parties whose environment they affect.

Politicians who are busy dismantling environmental laws they passed a few years ago eventually may discover this cadre of energy professionals who are accustomed and comfortable with pre-planning and public participation. Perhaps then they will charge back in the other direction. In the meantime, caught in the tide between regulatory reality and legislative whimsy, energy industry officials and environmentalists are discovering that, in many cases, they can work together to resolve their differences.

— GOG

FOIA liberates the feds' facts

by John E. Bonine

Because information can be power, the most powerful tool available to citizens trying to affect government decisions is the federal Freedom of Information Act. Under this law, any citizen has the right to obtain a copy of nearly any document in the possession of any federal agency. Furthermore, any public interest group intending to use the documents to benefit the general public has the right to get the documents free of charge.

The Freedom of Information Act does not require you to have a reason for requesting the documents; your right to them was granted by Congress.

You do not have to follow any particular form in your request. But in order to take advantage of the 10-working-day deadline that the agency must meet, you must put "FOIA Request" on the envelope and at the top of your letter. It will also help if you type the letter and if you mention the FOIA in the first sentence and your awareness of the 10-day deadline in the last sentence. You can refer to the act as "5 U.S.C. Section 552." But these details are not essential.

A request can be broad ("all documents concerning enforcement policy") or specific ("the memorandum of August 1978 on enforcement policy"). Only documents that meet nine criteria specified by Congress can be withheld, but agencies sometimes withhold others. You can never assume that the agency is correct when it withholds internal memoranda, unfilled materials, personal notes, rough drafts, legal opinions, correspondence or whatever. Check the law. All or most of these types of documents are legally available. If they are unfairly withheld, you have the right to obtain them through an appeal. Even if parts of a document are exempt, the agency must release the factual portions. If documents are withheld, the agency must provide an index of them.

Some agencies will fail to mention documents, rather than admit that they are being withheld. Or an agency may



overlook a document. The first thing to do when you receive a reply to an FOIA request is to see whether a follow-up letter should be sent asking for materials apparently overlooked.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of obtaining an agency's internal documents when preparing an administrative appeal, court action, complaint to Congress or release to the news media.

Environmental impact statements, for example, are often written in a hurried, sloppy manner that can be exposed if you obtain background materials, including memoranda written during preparation.

Federal agencies are beginning to recognize their duty to waive search and copying fees when the request is "in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public." An Aug. 21, 1979, legal opinion from the associate solicitor of the Department of the Interior warned the Bureau of Land Management that the public interest fee waiver provision should be "liberally construed" and that a public interest group may generally establish a case for waiver by showing "that it is a non-profit organization and that it intends to use requested documents for purposes other than its own immediate financial benefit."

But not all agencies have the same policies on waivers. The Forest Service generally has refused to give waivers to

groups that intend to use documents to challenge its policies.

Some agencies may deny a fee waiver request and not start looking for the documents until you write a second letter offering to pay. One solution is to ask for the waiver, but offer to pay some amount up to a fixed limit. If you are charged, you can still file an appeal of that charge and ask for a refund.

If documents are withheld or a fee waiver is denied, you have the right to file an "FOIA Appeal" to the head of the agency in Washington, D.C. If the 10-working-day deadline is missed by the agency, you can also appeal — or you can go straight to court. An appeal must be decided in 20 working days. However, the agency may give itself one 10-day extension either for the original request or for the appeal (but not for both) if it is having trouble finding the materials.

If your appeal is denied by the head of the agency you can file a lawsuit in the federal court where you live or where the agency is located. If you "substantially prevail" in such a suit, your attorney can be awarded attorney's fees by the court. If the government releases the documents after a suit is filed, your attorney can still be awarded the fees.

The act provides that agencies "shall" waive fees, yet they continue to refuse to do so in some cases. The Act allows only limited withholding, yet is sometimes used to justify massive claims of secrecy. The act sets short deadlines, but the ingenuity or workload of officials can stretch the time beyond the point of usefulness. For all these reasons, requests under the act should be made well before an undesirable government action is imminent.

The act is a tool designed to open up the processes of government to citizen participation. However, it requires the vigilance of citizens to make it work.

John E. Bonine is an associate professor at the University of Oregon law school.



1872 law: a hopeless hot potato

We read in a recent copy of *Public Lands News* that Morris Udall, the conservation-minded Democrat from Arizona, has scrapped the idea of reforming the 1872 Mining Law. One of his reasons seems obvious: An election year is approaching, and Udall's been burned by this hot potato before.

But there are other reasons for abandoning hope on the mining law issue — reasons so good that we recommend retreat, too. We'd rather drop the crusade than waste any more time trying to convince the present balking Congress of its merits.

Not that the antiquated law, which gives miners of minerals such as uranium, gold, copper and molybdenum a license to do pretty much as they please on public lands, isn't badly in need of revision. The West is full of deep, gaping, messy and sometimes toxic evidence of the law's inadequacy. While the miners of leasable minerals such as coal and oil have to measure up to tough requirements to protect land and people, the 1872 law makes it almost impossible to say "no" to hardrock miners. In our opinion, the 1872 law has to go — or undergo substantial changes.

But the mining law reform bill that Udall supported this year wasn't much in the eyes of conservationists. It proposed very modest changes supported by many of the large mining interests and left the present location-patent system basically intact. More daring reform proposed by the administration and pushed by Rep. Philip Burton (D-Calif.) would replace the status quo with a lease-royalty system.

But any mining law bill, modest or daring, would likely be ripped apart as it moved toward passage in this Congress. The 96th has developed a reputation for demolishing sound natural resource legislation and creating conservation disasters. Do we really want mining reform from the people who brought us the Synfuel Binge and the Energy Mobilization Board?

Do we want a mining reform bill that's softened by a subcommittee chaired by a good friend of the American Mining Congress, Rep. James Santini (D-Nev.)? Do we want the reform bill after it's been mined by Sen. Henry Jackson's (D-Wash.) Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the group that has tried to gouge the heart out of the strip mine act?

We think not. Only shabby reform is likely to come from the 96th Congress. Even when Udall thought reform was possible, he was playing it safe; timid changes were all he had in mind.

For the time being, we'd best approach mining reform through other channels — at least until an election substantially changes things in Congress. Working on state laws, federal withdrawals, court challenges — all might prove more worthwhile than writing to your congressional representative.

Nevertheless, we don't intend to stop spreading the word about the need to change the 1872 law. Let the public know about the problem and perhaps we'll see more sympathetic faces in the next Congress.

— JN



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Dear Friends,

As Walter Cronkite may have told you, we've been hit by some bad weather these past two weeks. Snow fell, temperatures dropped, and Thanksgiving was a good day for cross-country skiing.

When bad weather strikes, it affects almost every aspect of our lives. Marjane can't get into town because her car won't start. The dogs get sore paws in the crusty snow. And, most important of all, the mail does not come in or go out.

This can mean that the congressional report on which a story hinges does not arrive as expected. It can mean a penalty from the IRS because a tax payment wasn't returned in 10 days. It can also mean that copies of HCN lie moldering in a post office somewhere between Denver, Cheyenne and Salt Lake City. So in anticipation, here is an apology: If your paper is late, or your last one never came, it may not, for once, be due to our incompetence. In this area, rain, sleet, and snow do indeed stop the mail (sometimes) from making its rounds.

The Staff



GASOHOL NOT CHEAP

Dear High Country News,

I am a new subscriber enjoying your paper very much — because Wyoming owns my heart. However, your coverage of gasohol simply is way in left field.

Yes, it is for sale in Pennsylvania and the price \$1.10 a gallon. Inexpensive? Practical?

Yes, the truth does probably lie somewhere in between....

Count me out next year when you raise your subscription price, but I'll still manage to read Hannah Hinchman somehow and somewhere.

Charlotte Quarles
Springfield, Penn.

INSTANT POTATOES

Dear HCN,

The United States raises enough crops to make all the fuel we need. The residue after distillation is still good food for humans and feed for cattle all over the U.S. and the world.

No need to sell U.S. grain to Russia for a pittance; we can make alcohol first and sell them the residue.

Idaho, from its potato crops, could make all the fuel needed in the state, and the residue is "Instant Mashed Potatoes," which we pay a high price for anyway. Farmers could form a co-op and make their own fuel for their cars, trucks and tractors with modified carburetors. They do it in South America; why not here? Why not!!

Ed Egan
Denver, Colo.

NOT SO HARROWING

Dear Editor,

As a veteran of many thousands of miles of bicycle touring, including going cross country, I find Peter Wild's comments in his review of Raymond Bridge's *Bike Touring* (10-5-79) to be unnecessary. It is not nearly as harrowing as Wild depicts. I submit the following:

a) Riding in the city is more hazardous than on the open highway;

b) Eighteen-wheelers do take some getting used to, but they do give two-wheelers an adequate margin of safety. In the West, most are confined to the interstates. In other parts of the country, one usually is on less travelled side roads, where there are much fewer trucks.

c) Touring does call for stamina and skill, but one does not have to be a racing enthusiast. As with backpacking or ski touring, most people in reasonably good health will be able to take tours of moderate length or more. A few one day trips of 20 to 50 miles will get most people in condition.

Howard Wilkerson
Salt Lake City, Utah

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HORSES V. LIVESTOCK

Dear HCN,

Over the years HCN has consistently met superior heights in reporting environmental news relevant to the current concerns of the American citizenry. We enjoyed the courtesies in maintaining that same quality in the wild horse issues, a rarity to be sure. This is a tremendous service to those in regions somewhat removed.

In your article (10-5-79) the impression given to readers was that an organization founded by Wild Horse Annie (Velma B. Johnston) had endorsed an agreement with local ranchers. The only organization founded by Annie was WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE or WHOA! Her mother, Mrs. Bronn, serves on my board of trustees. The mix-up is of no high importance, but the endorsement of that agreement is — we did not endorse any such agreement.

If it were not so tragic, the panic by the commercial users of the public range would be hilarious. But for them, the problem would not exist. We do support reductions and have not blocked any fair reduction of horses where warranted by resource or numbers. In most areas the grazing still favors livestock somewhere around 80 percent or so. But if our resources are declining, then it would only make sense to reduce all grazing until productivity of the range can be reversed. Much of the stocking rate has been based on historical numbers rather than the true carrying capacity of the range; thus the EIS's are crucial to defining the use. According to the opponents of the horses, multiple use means more than one cow.

Dawn Y. Lappin
Executive Director
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Reno, Nev.

Ed. note: Wild Horse Annie, who died several years ago, was the first president of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, not its founder.

10 YEARS LATER

Dear HCN,

Greetings from Aldo Leopold Country, Wisconsin. I was delighted with the spread in the Sunday paper about High Country News (a wire service story about HCN).

When Tom Bell first took over, I stopped in Lander on my way to Reed College from Oberlin, Ohio. Tom said his wife had spent some time there. He gave me a wonderful map of the Lander area; I was learning to hunt petrified wood. One of the women there had an 11-year-old son who later sent me red-tailed hawk feathers for my science class. What a thrill that was.

I saw first-hand the fine spirit of the staff of the paper, so I am not surprised that you surmounted your difficulties.

I am retired now and live in Madison where we have a fine arboretum in the City limits, but I'm glad I have experienced the great Lander country.

Congratulations on a fine paper.

Mrs. Eleanore Faris
Madison, Wisc.



Wilderness grazing policies...

(continued from page 1)

Cunningham. I'm running out of patience with the Forest Service for its holier than thou attitude on grazing management when they won't hesitate to use motorized equipment in wilderness areas for fighting fires."

Ranchers have often been surprised to find that some wilderness proponents share their concerns about the Forest Service management.

When the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness was proposed in Montana, rancher

important to protect as wilderness itself," he said.

The Forest Service has not answered Cunningham's request for documentation of its decision on Thompson's allotment.

A Northern Rockies coalition called the Sheep Producer-Environmental Committee endorsed Cunningham's action at a recent meeting in Rock Springs, Wyo. The committee also called for an investigation of grazing policies in the Bridger Wilderness Area in Wyoming.

DISTURBING BACKPACKERS

Jim Magagna has a sheep grazing permit in the Bridger Wilderness, a backpackers' mecca with a quarter million visitors each summer. His grazing permit from the Forest Service says his sheep must be herded and controlled so they won't become a nuisance to recreationists. Backpackers, on the other hand, are never told not to disturb livestock.

Magagna thinks the priority should be protection of the vegetation and the watershed—not the backpackers' esthetic experience. Instead, the Forest Service has chosen to resolve the conflict by phasing out grazing in the Bridger area by "relocation of domestic sheep from wilderness allotments to outside areas whenever it appears possible," according to a 1978 letter to district forest rangers from their supervisor. Magagna once had three sheep permits in the wilderness, and now he has one.

Mel Bacon of the Bridger-Teton National Forest office said rangers often get messages on trailhead registration forms



Forest Service photo
BACKPACKERS and horse pack trains sometimes damage the resource more than grazing, according to ranchers.

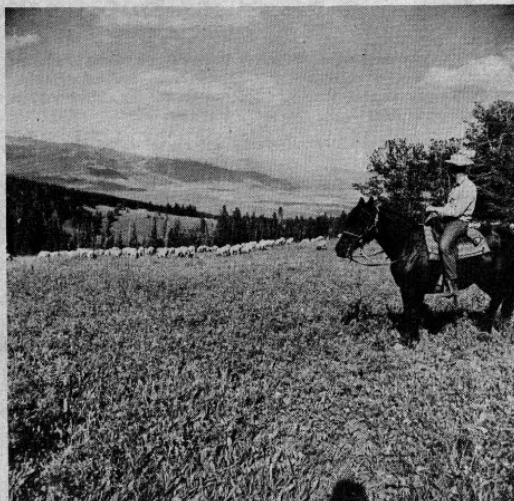
Teddy Thompson was one of its strongest opponents. His suspicions were confirmed when the Forest Service told him shortly after the wilderness area was designated that to prevent erosion in the wilderness, he had to delay taking his sheep to their summer pasture. Such a delay would shorten the season so much that Thompson felt it would not be worth taking his sheep into the area.

After his public confrontation with Thompson, Cunningham arranged a trip to the area with the sheep producers and subsequently wrote several letters to the Forest Service, Montana's governor and the Montana congressional delegation on Thompson's behalf. Cunningham, a professional forester by training, disagreed with the Forest Service's assessment of Thompson's grazing impact.

Cunningham emphasizes that grazing curtailments may be necessary in some cases to protect wildlife or other resources. But he feels these decisions should be made independent of whether the area is a wilderness—not because of it.

He does not think that widespread support for wilderness from agricultural groups will result from his and others' efforts on behalf of ranchers. But Cunningham does hope the agricultural community will keep an open mind and judge each proposed area on its own merits rather than absolutely being opposed to all wilderness.

He also thinks it is important to try to remove obstacles for ranchers. "Livestock production is a vital part of the Western heritage that we're fast losing. It is just as



Forest Service photo by Eugene Decker
SHEPHERDER tending his flock in the Lionhead Allotment of the Gallatin National Forest. Herders try to keep the sheep from congregating around water and from overgrazing. In the Bridger Wilderness Area, they are also instructed to keep the sheep from being a "nuisance" to backpackers.

ronment and about water quality. Cattle and sheep feces can contaminate water, just as any warm-blooded animal's feces can.

Because the Forest Service is giving backpackers priority and phasing out grazing in the Bridger Wilderness, many

derness designation would prevent. He said, "I'd want my whole grazing allotment to be wilderness if I had assurance that I could continue to graze cattle in the same numbers." He thinks other ranchers in the area would also support wilderness designations if their grazing privileges were protected. "But the level of skepticism is so profound that it would take a lot of time and some very sincere effort to convince them," he said.

CONGRESS UPSET

Congress is aware that Forest Service policies are discouraging grazing in wilderness. One of the more flagrant examples the committee discovered was in North Dakota last year, where the Forest Service RARE II study report said that wilderness designations on grasslands there might result in a loss of 50 percent of the grazing potential. Then, as if to rub salt in the wound, the study said that ranchers who hold grazing permits "may be able to adjust by working part-time for the oil companies."

"These ranchers are alarmed, and I don't blame them a bit," said an aide to the House interior committee. "I think they've been had."

In an attempt to solve the ranchers' problems, the House interior committee last session sent two reports to the Agriculture Department stressing that grazing should not be curtailed. However, RARE II hearings and field inspection trips convinced the committee that Forest Service policies still do not comply with the law and are interpreted differently from forest to forest.

At one RARE II hearing, Lee Spann, a Colorado cattle rancher, told the committee he and other Colorado ranchers would like to see the law changed to protect grazing privileges, particularly to guarantee the right to use motorized vehicles under some circumstances.

Although national Forest Service regulations say motor vehicles can be used

"We haven't changed the Wilderness Act. We're just trying to get the Forest Service to be more sympathetic to the practical needs of the grazing permittees."

— House interior committee staff

objecting to livestock in the high country. One note at the Bridger Wilderness Area last summer said, "Hey, Forest Service, sheep shit stinks."

Recreationists say they are concerned about distractions from the natural envi-

ranchers in the area oppose wilderness. One of those ranchers, John Barlow, whose cattle graze in several RARE II wilderness study areas in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, objects to clearcutting and damage from four-wheel drive vehicles, which wil-

Wilderness Society sides with sheepmen

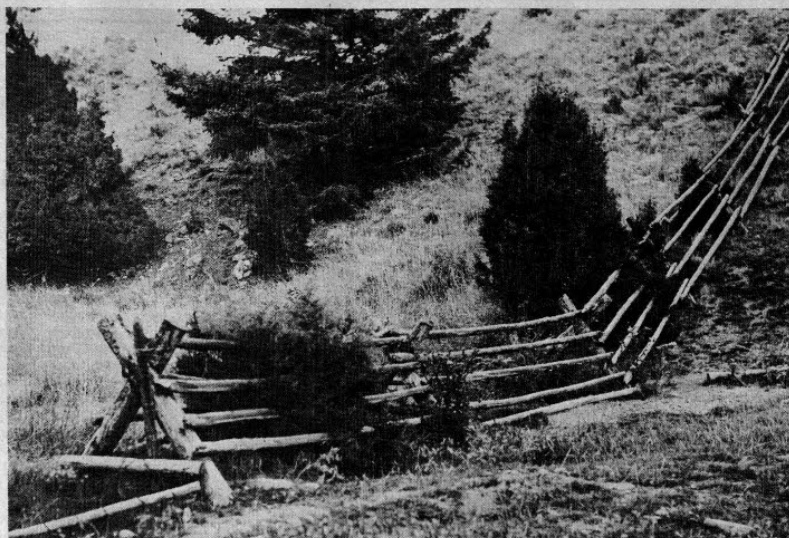
The first part of July Sweet Grass County ranchers Ted Thompson and Elaine Allestad, Forest Service District Ranger Roger Siemens and the Montana Wilderness Society Bill Cunningham, plus several others, took a trip in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The purpose of the expedition was to view first hand what effect a July 1 average entry date into the mountains for the sheep would have on the terrain.

When the Wilderness Society championed the cause of a local rancher, it was front page news in the Pioneer newspaper.

the jeep road was snow-free and mostly dry. We side-hilled south into the headwaters of the East Boulder Creek. The higher range was in above the meadows. The higher range was in condition but not ready for grazing as of July 6. / dropped in elevation the range readiness increased point where the range was ready well before we reached the confluence of the East Boulder and Rainbow Creek. The drive up the East Boulder was certain and it was apparent that both sides of the East above Rainbow Creek could be used as drive alternate years to reduce impact.

Both Mr. Thompson and the Allestad's common concern: they need to move their band and low elevation grazing and around the first of

(see next page)



Forest Service photo by G.R. Wolstad
FENCES OF NATURAL MATERIAL, such as this one, are allowed in wilderness areas. The House interior committee says ranchers should have more leeway to use barbed wire fences, too, when the costs of using wood are "unreasonable."

"when necessary" with permission of the regional forester, the Forest Service in Spann's region — and in most areas of the country — interprets that as almost never.

Gerry Nyborg, range conservationist for the Forest Service in that area, told HCN motorized vehicles can be used only when human life is in danger, such as when a helicopter is brought in to rescue a climber.

The House subcommittee on public lands refused to include grazing protection in the bill. The subcommittee members think the Wilderness Act allows ample statutory flexibility but that the Forest Service's regulations and the interpretation given to them at different levels of the agency are faulty.

Instead, the committee chose to include grazing guidelines for the Agriculture Department in a committee report. The report asks the secretary of agriculture to review all policies, practices and regulations regarding livestock grazing in wilderness areas.

As a result of the committee's actions and boundary changes agreed upon by area ranchers and conservationists, Spann and other ranchers agreed to support the bill. Nineteen new wilderness areas totaling 1.3 million acres would be created in the state by the bill (HR 5487).

The guidelines suggest when motorized vehicles should be used, saying horses or other alternatives should still be used when "practical." Vehicles can be used occasionally for major fence repairs, for maintaining stock ponds and for rescuing sick animals. The guidelines also say natural materials shouldn't have to be used for repairing or replacing existing facilities if such materials would impose "unreasonable" additional costs. This means, for example, that barbed wire might be used instead of buck and pole fences.

"We haven't changed the Wilderness Act. We're just trying to get the message across to the Forest Service to be more sympathetic to the practical needs of graz-

ing permittees," said an aide to the committee.

If the bill passes, as it is expected to, and if the Department of Agriculture abides by the committee's guidelines, which don't have the force of law, then some regulations of the Forest Service manual would have to be changed, according to Cunningham.

If changes were made, the problem of communicating Congress' intent to all levels of the Forest Service would remain. Interpretation of the current regulations vary from region to region and forest to forest. "They're scared to death that someone higher up will disagree with their interpretation so they think, 'If I say no, I know I'm safe,'" said rancher Spann.

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Conservationists charge that in some cases, Forest Service personnel use strict interpretation of the regulations as a way of deliberately arousing antagonism toward wilderness.

The interior committee report instructs the Department of Agriculture to distribute copies of the committee guidelines to all levels of the Forest Service and to all ranchers who have grazing permits in wilderness areas.

STILL RESTRICTIONS

Bruce Hamilton, Northern Plains representative of the Sierra Club, does not think the new guidelines will eliminate the livestock industry's opposition to wilderness; their activities in wilderness areas will still be restricted. In addition, the committee's guidelines leave lots of room for interpretation. However, Hamilton thinks the guidelines are important to make the Forest Service administer the existing wilderness areas more consistently and to reassure ranchers.

Cunningham is more optimistic about the committee's action. "When the interior committee of the U.S. Congress lays its wishes out in that kind of detail, the Department of Agriculture has to pay attention. Especially if conservationists side with the livestock operators. Where can the department go for its constituency?"

Conservationists do not all agree on the question of wilderness grazing, however. Some have become frustrated and embittered by unsuccessful attempts to work with ranchers. Some would like to phase out all grazing on public lands.

However, Cunningham and Hamilton think there is a growing awareness of the importance of agriculture and the compatibility of grazing with wilderness. "If we continue to educate our people about grazing, and they educate their people about wilderness, we will have gone a long way toward solving our problems," Cunningham said.

Research for this article was paid for in part by the HCN Research Fund.



Photo by Rick Allen
CATTLE in the Popo Agie Primitive Area in Wyoming have always been managed without using motorized vehicles since the area, like many high country wilderness areas, is inaccessible.

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6-High Country News — Nov. 30, 1979

by Peter Wild
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Eyes twinkling, a brunette approached him as he idled through magazines in a drugstore, then suggested they go to her place for a discussion of foreign affairs. On another occasion a winsome blonde sidled up as he mused over the cookie display in a Safeway store. Would he like to help her, as she put it, move some furniture?

Members of the Senate subcommittee looked on with appropriate shock as the same young man reeled off a catalogue of offenses. He had spotted gumshoes lurking around his hotel lobby in Des Moines. Strangers descended on his acquaintances and asked about his drinking habits, his sex life, his politics. Telephone calls aroused him in the night demanding, "Why don't you go back to Connecticut, buddyboy?"

A few months earlier, Ralph Nader had published *Unsafe at Any Speed* (1965), a book denouncing the automobile industry and specifically condemning General Motors' Corvair. In an effort to discredit the best seller, GM sicced agents on its obscure author. Guards caught the corporate spies snooping even in the halls of Congress. Now before the Senate subcommittee GM's President James M. Roche apologized. But the damage had been done — to GM and to the public image of all corporate America.

There have been other causes since then, many of them environmental: Campaigns against nuclear power, toxic food additives, and industrial air and water pollution, to name but a few, have made Nader a familiar face at congressional witness tables.

JUST ANOTHER KOOK

Washington swarms with "kooks, dreamers, utopian schemers, chicken littles, and political alchemists ready to turn the dross of contemporary America into golden utopia," as capital observer Laurence Leamer once put it. Before his testimony in the Senate caucus room propelled him into *Time* and *Newsweek*, Nader was just another "kook." Arriving at Princeton University from small-town Connecticut, he branded himself a nonconformist by refusing to wear white buck shoes. Once he donned a bathrobe for his classes to protest the unofficial college dress code of the 1950s. Harvard Law School, for him, was a "high-priced tool factory," turning out parts that neatly fit the requirements of status-quo corporate America.

Nevertheless, he earned a Harvard law degree with distinction, and set off to roam Europe, Latin America and Africa as a free-lance journalist. In 1964 Daniel Patrick Moynihan rescued Nader from a desultory legal practice in Hartford. Impressed by Nader's independent researches on auto safety, the assistant secretary of labor hired him as a consultant. While expanding his studies into a book, Nader also fed information to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's traffic-safety subcommittee. With the GM fiasco, fate yanked the unknown lawyer out of the Washington ranks and sat him blinking in the glare of nationwide attention.

"He's just like Jesus," croons one woman after Nader — lean, rumped and earnest — ends a speech in Cleveland. Others see him as an "ambulance chaser," "a high-minded crackpot," "a Lenin or a Hitler." Despite the varied judgments, Ralph Nader remains one of the most trusted

men in the nation. After 15 years of crisscrossing the country with his messages, he is still a favorite on the lecture circuits — something of a phenomenon in a country that characteristically demands glittering novelty from a succession of short-lived celebrities.

Nader's asceticism, too, sets him apart from the horde of Barnum-and-Bailey politicians, gurus, and starlets clamoring for the nation's attention. When the GM episode launched him on his career as America's ombudsman, he was living in a \$20-a-week rooming house. He clothed his lanky six-foot-four-inch frame in baggy blue suits. He didn't smoke, rarely drank; he worked 18 hours a day.

'SACKCLOTH AND ASHES'

Despite the fame — the fact that many people equate his name with the consumer movement, that one glance from Nader can make a corporation chief tremble — he has remained unchanged. He owns, it is rumored, only one very ancient, narrow tie. Apparently, his only concession to the flesh is an occasional double order of strawberry shortcake. He explains that marriage would distract him from the central causes of his life. To use the words of

Lone Ranger Nader: Just what does he want?



Conservation pioneer series

Nader observer Charles McCarry, there is "a whiff of sackcloth and ashes" about this man dedicated to restoring "the original humanism of America" by ferreting out the evils in its structure. He appeals to the

country's residual puritanism as well as its lingering romanticism.

There is of course much more than that to the story of Nader's ascendancy. He lectured students that they were being "taught the freedom to roam in their cages." Years ago he warned the country that "If people knew what the facts were and if they had to choose between nuclear power and candles, they would choose candles." This was not simple hyperbole. Watergate, illegal CIA tactics, the disaster of Three Mile Island seemed to bear out his warnings, to confirm the country's gut-level qualms about its direction. And Nader knew how to play on the fears of political conservatives as well: "Unless the challenge of corporate reform is undertaken, this country will be headed toward a choice between a corporate state or a socialist state."

Nader had another key to fame. He understood reporters, often frustrated by the double-talk from what they were labeling "The Establishment." What he said was almost always newsworthy. Journalists deemed it a privilege to receive calls from insider Ralph — frequently in the wee hours, thus heightening the mystery. To top it off, again in McCarry's words, the calm voice on the other end of the line represented "a reporter's dream because he not only had accurate, and sometimes sensational, information, but he knew how to present it to a newsman in a way that often saved the reporter from having to do much work. The facts were straight, the quotes were vivid, and the substance was a declaration of conscience."

It became a kind of conspiracy. Nader passed on the hot copy about the latest corporate skulduggery; reporters deflected attacks from Nader enemies. As shall be seen, however, a shift in the zeitgeist changed that chummy relationship.

EXPANSION

Nader pyramided his gains. He organized; he expanded his attacks. Nagged by a suit for invasion of privacy, GM settled out of court, reportedly anteing up a check for \$425,000. Into the Nader pot went the burgeoning royalties from *Unsafe At Any Speed*, lecture fees, foundation grants and private contributions. For himself, the nation's foremost consumer advocate took only enough to support his monkish needs. The rest of the kitty went into formation of Public Citizen, Inc., an umbrella organization that funds more than a dozen other Nader creations.

Critics point out that he has spawned a conglomerate as unwieldy, diffuse, and sometimes as secretive as the government agencies and corporations he condemns. In response, Nader asserts that his goal is "nothing less than the qualitative reform of the industrial revolution," a task requiring a complex attack. The famed Nader's Raiders group, for instance, is a yearly assemblage of students, summertime shock troops whose investigations have probed everything from the workings of the Federal Trade Commission to pollution in the Gulf of Mexico. Lawyers of another Nader organization, the Public Interest Research

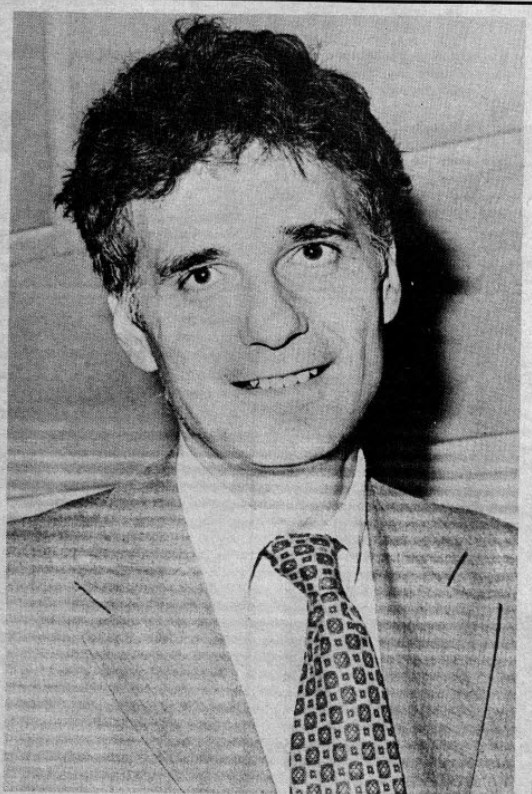


Photo by Berny Krug

"If people knew what the facts were and if they had to choose between nuclear power and candles, they would choose candles."

Group, have ranged widely to unearth irregularities in the Office of Management and Budget, support property-tax reform, and ghostwrite for sympathetic congressmen.

The Nader groups hold more than a commitment to crusading in common. Their offices — used furniture, bare floors — verge on the ramshackle. Critics also like to mention the staffs. Largely volunteer, at best underpaid, they tend to attract hyperactive and youthful idealists from the upper economic stratum. The ranks of former workers include, for example, wealthy Edward Cox, who became Richard Nixon's son-in-law. Nader's requirements are enthusiasm, brilliance, and, often, the ability to pay one's way.

Nader himself is often described as an extremist, a departure from the norm. But he argues the case differently. "I don't consider myself abnormal. I consider the auto industry abnormal — people who, for great profit, sell cars with built-in defects that they know will kill people. That, to me, is real abnormality."

A PRODUCT OF IDEALISM

A look at Nader's background lends support to a view of him as a product of America's traditional idealism — an idealism that has generated conflicts throughout the country's history because it is frequently at odds with political and economic realities.

"If everyone knew my father," says the advocate's sister Laura, "there would be no reason to wonder why Ralph is the way he is." In 1912 when Nadra Nader sailed past the Statue of Liberty, he brought with him the mental baggage of many a poverty-stricken immigrant. Behind lay a Lebanon ruled by Turkish potentates — a country of hunger, corruption and repression. His only hope was to leave.

As he worked at menial jobs in New Jersey, it soon became evident to the newcomer that America was not a land of milk and honey, of justice for all. Yet in his mind that was no reason why the country should not strive for worthy goals. He saved his money, went back to the old country, and returned with a Lebanese bride, Rose Bouziane.

Seeking a "better life" — the standard American pursuit — eventually the couple escaped polluted New Jersey and settled in Winsted, a town nestled among the green, rounded Berkshire Mountains of northwestern Connecticut. On one of Winsted's main streets they opened a restaurant, the Highland Arms. They bought a spacious white house perched on Hillside Avenue. Their four children grew up mopping floors and washing dishes to support the family business, while looking ahead to Princeton and the University of California. They were comfortably middle-class, with upward-mobile ideas.

Except for Nadra's intense streak of idealism. At the Highland Arms people got "10 cents worth of coffee and a dollar's worth of conversation," remembers one steady customer fondly. Another Winsted resident recalls with some annoyance that "Mr. Nader would never let anything alone." Nadra was a colorful, sometimes trying, small-town Socrates; he kept town meetings lively by extending constitutional principles to, say, the debate over installing parking meters on Main Street. "Never tip your hat and never look down on anyone," the father drummed into his brood.

It wore off on his children, especially on Ralph, born in 1934. Perhaps because he arrived when the family's prosperity al-

ready was assured, he received the greatest emphasis on ideas. Nadra and Rose had a special dictum for their youngest: "We made Ralph understand that working for justice in the country is a safeguard of our democracy." In brief, Ralph took his father seriously.

The ideals that form a sacred legacy from Ralph Nader's childhood are broad, simplistic. The price of liberty may be eternal vigilance, but constant watchfulness is impossible for most humans. Just as Winsted's citizens wearied of Nadra Nader's perennial carping, the American public, materially well-off despite injustices, has tired of Nader's tirades. Nader himself understands the problem: "We ask people to think, instead of asking them to believe. And history has always gone to those who ask people to believe."

DECENTRALIZED SOCIALISM

Nader targets the large, monopolistic-tending corporations as the prime enemies of the public weal. By uniting the citizenry, according to Laurence Leamer, he wants "to drive the corporate moneychangers from the temple of democracy" — as if once purged, the temple will remain pure. Beyond that well-intentioned urge, Nader has offered few designs for a better system.

It comes as some surprise to Nader's many conservative detractors that at the beginning of his fame he proclaimed allegiance to free enterprise. But in Nader's view it is a will-o'-the-wisp, a system that big business has never allowed to function. More recently, reflecting the thinking of economist John Kenneth Galbraith, he has spoken in terms of decentralized socialism, promoting cooperatives and local control.

Yet whatever the shifts in the reformer's thinking, his theories present few clear-cut beliefs for the public. His broad frontal attacks have added to the confusion. Nader spurs his Raiders into assaults on so many windmills — the dangers of rock 'n' roll deafness as well as the hazards of nuclear reactors — that people are sometimes left wondering just what it is he wants. Is he, after all, simply a malcontent, a chronic complainer?

Post-Vietnam and post-Watergate cynicism has not been kind to public figures; a distrustful nation now demands that they subject their personal lives to harsh scrutiny. In the process sometimes personal quirks become magnified out of proportion to accomplishments. Added to that, the Nader who once appeared saint-like has not solved problems with the usual saintly dispatch. Reporters who once respected Nader's privacy have concentrated in recent years on shirt-sleeve psychology.

They have found nothing scandalous, but Nader's life is cryptic enough to be of gossip interest. And while discovering supposed flaws, journalists have raised some valid questions about Nader's future effectiveness. The advocate can be brusque, unintentionally cruel. Dashing through an airport, jaw set, clutching his mound of files, he brushes aside autograph seekers as foolish time wasters. He has been known to make a scene in a restaurant over a dead fly in his salad — as if the speck were evidence of corporate America's malfeasance and the embarrassed waiter a party to the crime.

He expects followers to share his zeal absolutely, to stick it out 18 hours a day, seven days a week — forsaking wives, children, comfort. Few can take the pace.



RALPH NADER

Photo courtesy of Public Citizen, Inc.

"I don't consider myself abnormal. I consider the auto industry abnormal."

Hays Gorey passes on a telling incident in Nader and the Power of Everyman. Striding through a Washington park, a young aide, father of two children, living on his wife's income, dared ask his preoccupied boss for the weekend off:

"What for?"

"To lie on the beach and rest in the sun."

"Here — help me pull this bench into the sun. There. Now lie on the bench, pretend you're at the beach, and rest in the sun."

Nader of course was serious.

THE ASCETIC LONER

Novelist Gore Vidal has urged that Nader run for president, but the man from Winsted, Conn., remains the ascetic loner. Though now in his 40s, he proceeds as if he were still the young abused lawyer single-handedly tweaking the nose of General Motors. The constant, negative homilies, the overextension on issues, the rickety structure of his organizations, the inability to accommodate shifts in the country's moods — all cast shadows on his prospects. Titles of recent magazine articles sum up his position: "Is Nader Losing His Clout?"; "How Far Can a Lone Ranger Ride?"

What's often overlooked is that he already has ridden far. Still a relatively young man, Nader has left an indelible mark on the nation, one that is so broad that he often fails to receive the credit. The nation can thank his organizations for major laws promoting traffic safety and

regulating food additives. Thousands of ordinary Americans can look forward to more secure retirements because Nader unearthed swindles in pension funds and goaded Congress into passing reforms. Nonsmokers can thank Nader for their own sections on airlines. During the Watergate upheavals, Nader lawyers rushed to court after the "Saturday Night Massacre" to stop a president from further trampling the democratic process. A series of Nader-sponsored "sunshine laws" has forced elected officials closer to the ideal of serving the needs of their constituents.

One wonders how many senators — how many presidents, for that matter — have left a comparable record of benefit to others. Without a political machine and without traditional financial backing, private citizen Nader has taken on the medusal corporations and government agencies of a complex, trillion-dollar economy. In view of the odds, he has been a phenomenal success.

Few Nader students have grasped his larger impact: his example has armed other activists, conservationists included, with hope. As Washington Post writer William Greider said, Nader has sparked "the romanticism of America's self-image." He has helped rekindle the American belief that ordinary people can work together to bring about significant changes. And no matter how ephemeral it has been, that belief's periodic rebirth has always been a prerequisite for practical reforms.

8-High Country News — Nov. 30, 1979



THE ELKHORN RANCH, ON THE GALLATIN RIVER, MONTANA

GETTING ALONG WITH A PACK HORSE

From Horses, Hitches, and Rocky Trails: The Packer's Bible

by Joe Back

The ideal pack horse is a mixture. He has a short back well equipped to carry a load without sagging (the best ones do), helped to be that way by one less vertebra in the load-carrying area, handed down from an Arabian ancestor; and he has heavy build and weight gotten from the more cold-blooded horse of the colonists from England and France. If you can, pick a good short-backed horse, thick in the body, with strong sturdy legs. A long-pasterned horse cripples up faster than one with short pasterns. You'll find a lot of thin, spindly-legged ponies that'll pack OK

Photos by B. A. King



A STOP DURING A CROSS COUNTRY RIDE TO A RODEO IN INNESS, MONTANA.

but they don't stand up well. Too heavy and too big horses slow you down and are not agile. About a 1200 lb. horse is just right for weight, though lots of smaller horses are used and stay right in the ring. The Morgan type is the boy if you can pick and choose, but don't get too choosy or we'll never get to camp.

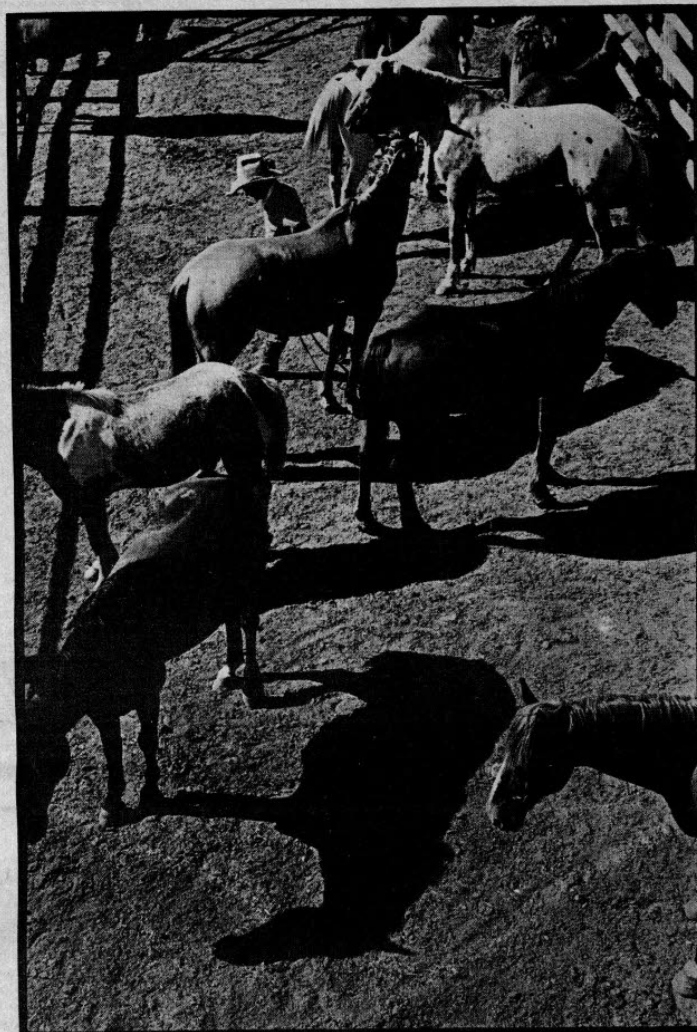
The times you'll find that a pack horse comes into camp intact, despite very loose cinchas and poor rigging: that horse had a well-fitted saddle and pads and also had a prominent backbone, higher withers, and a well-defined area on the back side of the shoulder blades, plus well shaped chest area and barrel. That is one reason a round, cylindrical-shaped animal, who from hips to shoulder points and all points between is plumb circular, is the animal to stake to somebody else for a pack horse. Don't do this to a good friend you want to keep!

The mind of the horse of today, yesterday, or of several thousand yesterdays hasn't changed or improved up to date any more than our own. He doesn't care any more for work than the average human. The horse like the man has found out through sad and sometimes humiliating experience that work is something he can't get out of. But give him credit for lots of ways and means of trying to avoid it. Each time you unload him, he thinks, "That's it!" But next day, here comes that bill again, I mean halter. You grubstake your horse, that's right, but maybe he thinks your share is kind of high.

All colors, creeds, and dispositions are represented in this longshoreman's division of the equine world. Their union leaders aren't organized, but just watch the pack string, there's a stevedore boss in each one. Sometimes a small insurrection turns up in this line of porters, at which time no small damage is done to poorly packed cargo. Usually the rebellious broomtail who causes it is shown the error of his ways, but sometimes a small flicker in that rolling eye says, "I ain't through yet!"

Usually big heavy horses carry the heaviest loads. Extra gentle and experienced horses are appointed the custodians of the more precious, fragile, and breakable goods. The small horses, and horses with poor backs, and the uncertain boys, get packs not easy to hurt or break, should their imagination overcome their good sense. Not every one of these hairy gents has "horse sense." In fact, quite a few sober and industrious-looking ponies have odd superstitions and peculiar ideas they must eat with the grass. But most of these old boys seem to know that the packer is trying to give them a square deal. After they have had a lot of trails under their shoes, they try to make the best of their lot.

In handling any animal, horse, mule, or burro (I am going to let the experts work with the camels and yaks), you have got to get along with each one's way of thinking — if you want to call it that, and I do. Some people argue that animals besides man don't think or reason. Well, now, my own mentality isn't that far above a horse's, so I am going to be plumb obstinate and say I know different. Enslaved animals, including man, have been known to voice orally or physically their own opinions, even at point of death. Freedom of



AT THE ELKHORN RANCH

speech for these pack animals is respected by a good animal man, even though he may not agree and can't bray or whinny.

The bow-legged slavemaster who figures on success without broken bones knows all this, and he allows for the pride, and the public and private whims of these oppressed. To keep all the votes of his four-legged constituents, this two-legged dictator has to be a durned good politician. He knows that some are honest, some crooked, some gentle, some vicious, and some with a conglomeration of all these qualities. There is also a lot of politicians among horses and mules. What we sometimes mistake for affection is a four-legged politician doing his stuff. They have real affection for their own kind, but what they exhibit toward the human is pure wile. If you are a stern disciplinarian and also a benevolent despot, you'll make the grade. Give

them hard work, good treatment, and plenty of respect, and they'll respond in kind. Give them hard work and a dirty deal — you'll get paid in full, sometimes sudden.



Joe Back, an old-time "pan-slinger and bull-slinger" from Dubois, Wyoming, has been a horsepacker and guide as well as an illustrator, author and sculptor. His book *Horses, Hitches, and Rocky Trails: The Packer's Bible*, in its nineteenth printing, is available for retail sale from the Backs. Box 827, Dubois, Wy. 82513.

10-High Country News — Nov. 30, 1979

Solar suit flares out of greenhouse project

by Phil White

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Problems with the ventilation system and the methane digester at the community solar greenhouse project here have led to the filing of a \$140,000 lawsuit by Community Action of Laramie County against Malcolm Lillywhite of Evergreen, Colo.

Community Action officials, however, were quick to point out that the greenhouse, modified slightly from its original design, is performing well. With plant beds tended by senior citizen volunteers, food production has tripled in the second year of operation, and produce is being provided to the volunteers, to Meals on Wheels and groups that provide emergency food services.

The suit, filed in Laramie County District Court, charges Lillywhite with breach of a 1977 contract under which the defendant provided technical assistance in the design and construction of the large passive solar greenhouse and methane digester. The suit was filed in July in Laramie County District Court.

Lillywhite has filed a counterclaim for \$401,000, charging "damage to professional reputation" caused by CALC. Lillywhite alleges he fulfilled all contract obligations.

CALC director Al Duran says the suit arises from "a particular business transac-

tion" and should not be interpreted as a dissatisfaction with the concept of alternative technology.

"We don't want to shed bad light on alternative technology," said Duran, "especially as it relates to low income people. We firmly believe that alternative energy projects can be productive. All we are asking is that this project be completed so it is functioning at the level agreed upon in our contract."

Duran said the methane digester cost about \$13,000 to build and "is not cost-effective. We were led to believe that the digester would have much more capability than it has."

Duran said the other major allegation involves the ventilation system of the greenhouse. "The fans and vents were too small to hold down the temperatures developing in there, especially in summer. We had to install much larger vents to get proper circulation."

Since that problem was corrected the greenhouse has been functioning well, according to Duran. "It is operating better than we thought it would," he said. "It's been successful, with the modifications but scientists hope someday to have a 'duck' device bobbing on the waves in which gyroscopes catch and send the kinetic energy to a floating generator, which then sends its payload ashore through underground cables. The drawback? Just to light 100 homes, the 'duck' would have to be 22 yards across — to take care of even a small portion of England, the wave power plant would form a surface sea wall miles across."

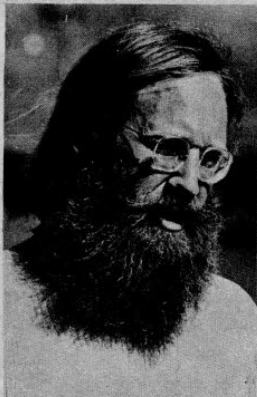
Lillywhite argued that the innovative nature of the project means it cannot be evaluated under general building standards.

"The project was all innovation and was truly complex. We've been treated very unfairly," Lillywhite said.

"That digester will work as predicted if they fired it up. It has never been turned on. They've never tried to make it work. Sure, if we had to do it again, we'd make some changes, but the whole concept wasn't to produce economic gas, it was to demonstrate how a community could use its organic wastes and manure to produce biogas, fertilizer and animal feed."

Lillywhite said his Domestic Technology Institute worked with CALC for "better than three years, arising out of our weatherization projects in Wyoming. We tried to do a good job on a good thing. I hope this can be settled before anyone is hurt more than they've already been." The Institute, a nonprofit educational organization based in Evergreen, teaches inexpensive, "domestic"-scale methods for applying solar technology.

Lillywhite said the suit is a threat to community-based renewable energy projects.



MALCOLM LILLYWHITE said the solar greenhouse suit is a threat to community-based renewable energy projects.



Across the nation and around the world

HELP FROM KELP. It's hardly your ordinary backyard garden: An experimental underwater trellis, four miles long, has been built to support climbing kelp vines off the coast of California near Newport. Funded by two industry research institutes and General Electric, the experimental kelp farm may be expanded to cover 1,000 acres in the 1980s. The kelp would be harvested and used in floating processing plants, which would then pipe the product to shore.

BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES.

England, not content with the oil riches now flowing from the English Channel, is looking for ways to harness another resource: the waves. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the sceptered isle is putting almost \$7 million a year into developing prototypes for devices that would use the force of waves to turn electric generators. It's a ways from practicality, but scientists hope someday to have a "duck" device bobbing on the waves in which gyroscopes catch and send the kinetic energy to a floating generator, which then sends its payload ashore through underground cables. The drawback? Just to light 100 homes, the "duck" would have to be 22 yards across — to take care of even a small portion of England, the wave power plant would form a surface sea wall miles across.

ENERGY

CATTILOHOL? University of Minnesota scientists have come up with yet another odd suggestion for solving the nation's energy problems: Use cattails. It may look like a commonplace marsh weed to most of us, but UM scientists claim the cattail is one of the world's best converters of solar energy, and it's abundant in the nation's wetlands. Researchers suggest that cattails could be compressed into fuel pellets or used to produce alcohol. No word yet on crabgrass...

DRIVERS SWITCHING TO LEADED.

Barbara Blum, deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said recently that an estimated 10 percent of car owners whose vehicles run on unleaded gas have altered their cars to take leaded gas. Such a switch is illegal if done by service station mechanics, and some states ban the practice by individuals. Blum says such switches add to air pollution and do not necessarily result in better mileage or lower driving costs.

TEXAS SHOPS FOR FOREIGN COAL.

Upset by continually rising prices for purchasing and transporting U.S. coal, the mayor of San Antonio, Tex., has begun a search for cheaper imported coal from Japan and Australia. Mayor Lila Cockrell, who has complained repeatedly to the Interstate Commerce Commission that Burlington Northern Railroad is gouging her city's electric utility with unfair coal-hauling rates, admits the irony of importing coal to the nation with the world's largest known reserves. She joins other Texas officials, though, in decrying severance taxes, hauling costs and lack of coal slurry pipelines.

Quit tailings pit, company told

Work to increase the capacity of Wyoming's oldest and largest uranium tailings ponds near Jeffrey City, Wyo., was ordered halted this week by the state Department of Environmental Quality, but at press time Western Nuclear Corp. officials had not suspended work.

The state issued a cease and desist order to block construction of a 10-foot "lift" designed to increase the capacity of the pond,

which would eventually increase to 200 acres of active tailings. The order also instructed the company to stop discharging any tailings into the pond from its mill. This, in effect, would close down the mill, which processes 17,000 tons of uranium per day.

At press time Nov. 29, Western Nuclear officials said they had just received the order and had not shut down their operation. They will request a hearing Nov. 30 before the state Environmental Quality Council "in hopes of avoiding suspending operations," according to a company press release.

The company is concerned about what it calls "confusion" between the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state officials over jurisdiction. "We are currently operating in full compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements," the company said. Since Wyoming has no agreement with the NRC giving it jurisdiction, there is some question of what power the state has to regulate tailings.

The state is concerned about effects on water quality if the tailings pond is expanded. Tailings contain 90 percent of the radiation from the original ore; and arsenic, selenium, ammonium and molybdenum are usually found in association with the uranium.

Studies performed by the company show water pollution in the vicinity is already "significantly" beyond legal limits, according to Gary Beach of the Land Quality Division of the DEQ.

Photo by Gary Garber
BELOW, the solar greenhouse that is the object of the lawsuit brought by Community Action of Laramie County.

Nobel winner says: strike oil with a plow

by Ken Western

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Imagine huge plantations of green plants stretching as far as the eye can see, yielding enough petroleum to supply 10 percent of the nation's needs.

Fantastic? No more than massive solar-energy satellites orbiting around earth — and perhaps much more feasible in the near future — if Nobel prize winner Dr. Melvin Calvin is correct in his assessments.

Calvin, who recently met and talked with Montana State University researchers here, said that certain plants may someday yield up to 20 barrels of oil per acre annually in the United States. Calvin would utilize semi-arid and marginal land to grow the plants, some of them as common as the milkweed.

As director of the Laboratory of Chemical Biodynamics at the University of California at Berkeley, Calvin has been conducting experiments over the past several years to determine the economic feasibility of making oil from hydrocarbon-producing plants. The project is funded by grants from the federal

Department of Energy as well as by the university.

With Arab oil selling for from \$20-\$40 a barrel, the outlook is bright for growing plants that will yield oil, Calvin believes. He estimated the cost of producing a barrel of oil from some of these plants at \$40 and added that the price should drop with improvements in processing.

Unlike research in gasohol, which involves mixing alcohol from fermented grain with regular gasoline, Calvin's work involves the extraction of oil from plants. Some of this extracted oil is pure enough that it can power a diesel engine without any processing, according to Calvin.

Emphasizing that the best solar energy-converting machine available today is the green plant, Calvin is convinced that the world can better "harvest" the sun to help meet current and future energy needs. He has worked with plants of the *Euphorbiaceae* family, whose members include the hevea rubber tree. Much of his work has focused on *Euphorbia lathyris*, a common California plant belonging to the poinsettia family, also known as "gopher plant."

Highly optimistic about the potential of hydrocarbon-producing plants, Calvin noted that experimental plantings of several species are underway in Texas, Florida and Arizona.

In the Rocky Mountain states, Calvin suggested that milkweed could be grown and its latex processed into crude oil. Milkweed requires no more than 8 inches of water a year, he said.

In Montana, MSU researchers are evaluating the possibilities of using leafy spurge, a weed that farmers would like to eradicate, for oil production. Processing of these weeds, as well as all others, would require the construction of facilities to



chemically extract the latex and then mix it with other ingredients to produce fuel.

Calvin suggests that the energy required for processing could be supplied by the plants. He notes that large sugar plantations in Brazil are energy self-sufficient.

At least three companies, including an unnamed firm in Salt Lake City, are studying the possibilities of developing plants as alternate sources of energy, according to Calvin. The Chevron Research Laboratory of the Standard Oil Company

of California has made an economic analysis of the costs of hydrocarbon from *Euphorbia lathyris* plants, and its findings parallel Calvin's.

Two Japanese firms are among the foreign concerns that are studying the potential of hydrocarbon-producing plants. In Okinawa, Calvin noted, the Japanese expect to eventually extract five kilograms of oil per plant per growing year from a recently planted "green factory."

If petroleum plantations are to become an important part of the energy picture, they will require hundreds of millions of acres of land, according to Calvin. He suggests that roughly 30,000 acres would be required to supply 1,000 barrels of oil a day in the United States.

In terms of total land use, an area the size of Arizona would be required to meet 10 percent of the nation's projected needs for oil. But by using semi-arid and marginal land, Calvin doesn't foresee significant problems in competing for land that produces food and fiber.

Calvin predicts that within several years pilot projects may be undertaken in Arizona or elsewhere, with yields that could reach 1,000 barrels of oil per day. The methods of large-scale cultivation must still be determined.

Calvin, who won the 1961 Nobel chemistry prize for his work on photosynthesis, discounts any problems that might thwart his dream of petroleum plantations. At age 68, he is pressing for at least partial answers to the energy dilemma.

For Calvin, the only real question is deciding which plants are the most promising based on growth rates and habits, hydrocarbon productivity and ease of harvesting.

Research for this article was paid for in part by the HCN Research Fund. Ken Western is a free-lance writer based in Bozeman, Mont.

Roughly 30,000 acres, mostly semi-arid and marginal land, would be needed to supply 1,000 barrels of oil a day from plants, according to Calvin.



From the Source



The Rockies and Great Plains

YELLOWSTONE BACTERIUM. Two Georgia scientists say the hot springs in Yellowstone National Park may hold a secret to simple gasohol production. The chemists say a bacterium in the springs thrives in hot water without oxygen and could produce alcohol more efficiently than the oxygen-eating yeast now used. The Department of Energy, which sponsored the Yellowstone research, is seeking a patent on the process.

CANADIAN POWER PLANNED. Despite protests from northeast Montana ranchers and farmers, a Canadian group is going ahead with plans to build a coal-fired power plant just north of the U.S. border on the Poplar River. The river runs into Montana, where it is used for irrigation, and farmers fear pollution problems from the plant. Though the International Joint Commission is still studying U.S. objections, backers of the plant, which will join another 300-watt generator already on the Poplar, say they plan to go ahead with it.

COLSTRIP TRIPPED. Three months ago, Colstrip 3 & 4, twin 700-megawatt power plant units planned for southeastern Montana, seemed a sure thing. After years of delay, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had given the project the final go-ahead. But now the Northern Plains Resource Council is challenging the validity of Colstrip's EPA air quality permits in federal court. The NPRC decided to go to court after Montana Power Co., one of the five utilities involved, refused to agree not to build any more power plants in the area. Also, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is considering a suit against the power consortium for not amending its state construction permit application to include new pollution controls. Dave Weber, a former EPA expert, told the *Billings Gazette* that the coal-burning plants will probably violate Class I air quality standards at the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, despite EPA's ruling to the contrary. Weber claims EPA's "model" for determining air pollution does not jibe with field evidence brought in by scientists in the Colstrip area.

URANIUM PLANS APPEALED. Several environmental organizations and individuals are appealing Gunnison National Forest officials' decision to approve the final environmental impact statement on the Homestake Mining Company's Pitch Uranium Project. The appeal was filed by the Colorado Mountain Club, the Colorado Open Space Council, the Com-

mittee on Mining and Environment, High Country Citizens Alliance, FUTURE (Folks United to Thwart Unsafe Radiation Emissions), The Uranium Information Network and five individuals. The groups say that the final environmental statement on Homestake's tailing disposal fails to fully identify and evaluate important environmental, social and health impacts. **SYNFUELS' WATER NEEDS.** Water's no problem in the Northern Great Plains, the likeliest location for most of the synthetic fuels plants proposed in President Carter's latest hurry-up energy program, officials from the U.S. Department of Interior and the Missouri River Basin Commission say. Testifying at congressional hearings, they assured listeners there was enough water to supply anticipated industrial development in the region. However, John McCormack of the Environmental Policy Center told members of Congress that demand for water in the region may drive water prices out of the reach of farmers and ranchers.

ANG GAS PLANT CLEARED. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has okayed the ANG Coal Gasification plant in Beulah, N.D., making it possible that the nation's first commercial-size coal gasification plant will be under construction by spring. The FERC ruling on the proposed \$1.5 billion plant reversed an administrative law judge who had held up the project with his decision that taxpayers, not utility users who would receive the gas, should foot the costs of the plant.

The five companies involved in the ANG project have not yet settled all financing questions on the plant. However, the approval by Congress of a federal corporation to assist development of synthetic fuels is expected to give added impetus to the project.

OIL SHALE REACHES SUPREME COURT. The Department of Interior wants to invalidate claims on valuable oil shale deposits in the Green River shale formation of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The claims were made before 1927 under the 1872 mining act, and many of them were never patented. But the Shell Oil Co. and D. A. Shale Inc., owners of old claims accounting for 960 acres of potentially lucrative oil shale lands, insist that the claims are valid. Though a lower court upheld Shell, the Interior Department has appealed. Interior hopes to free up to 5 million acres of land subject to pre-1927 claims, so it can lease the land at its present values. If Shell is upheld by the Supreme Court, it will get the land at \$2.50 an acre under the pre-1927 system.

THE GREAT SOLAR LAKE? A professor at the University of Utah and his engineering students are studying ways to use Utah's Great Salt Lake to set up solar energy ponds. First tried by Israelis at the Dead Sea, the technique involves stratified ponds, with a dense salt layer at the bottom to retain heat and an upper layer of insulating fresh water. A heat exchanger would transform the heated water to electricity.

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Lake DeSmet coal-to-gas plant in the works again...

(continued from page 1)

siting and mining requirements. Company officials are confident they will clear those hurdles, despite setbacks in the past.

"We tried in 1971 to get this started without government help, but the price just went up and up."

— Texas Eastern Corp. official

A member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, which has generally favored energy conservation over synthetic fuels development, wondered whether a planned feasibility study, with little fine detail revealed, warranted Texaco's showy announcement, when several other energy companies are quietly undertaking similar investigations throughout the region.

But the announcement coincided with a recent scramble in the energy industry to prepare for the expected largesse from President Carter's Energy Security Corp., which, when final legislation is approved by Congress, is expected to disburse billions in federal aid to synthetic fuels projects.

A spokesman for Texas Eastern, whose subsidiary, Transwestern Pipeline Co., would actually build and run the plant, said the company would take whatever the government was willing to give — loan guarantees, price supports or direct purchase agreements. "We tried in 1971 to get this started without government help," said Armando Deleon, "but the price just went up and up."

Texaco owns about 2.3 billion tons of coal in the vicinity as well as the Lake DeSmet area, which has been the site of repeated development speculation over the years. Reynolds Metals Co., a previous



LAKE DESMET is the site for Texaco's proposed gasification plant.

Photo by Tom Bell

owner, once planned an aluminum reduction plant and later a uranium enrichment facility at the site. Texaco tried in 1976 to get federal funding for a smaller, pilot coal gasification project.

If all goes according to plan, the mine and plant would be operating in six or seven years, according to company officials. Texaco's mine, which would produce 12 million tons of coal a year, would employ about 200 workers full time. The plant would employ about 600 full time workers when it became operational. Officials estimate that workers, families and support industries would add about 3,000 to 4,000 people, doubling Buffalo's present population.

Construction would have an even greater impact, with a peak force of about 5,000 workers — translating to as many as 30,000 additional people in the area — most of whom, according to company officials, would be housed in temporary camps. But a Texas Eastern official pointed out that peak construction employment would last only 60 days — over the three-year construction period the numbers would generally be smaller.

Transwestern Pipeline would use the synthetic gas to back up its natural gas supplies to utilities in California and Oklahoma. The company would either build a pipeline south to tie in with its existing Oklahoman pipelines or arrange ex-

changes with Wyoming utilities that presently have to ship natural gas up from Texas.

The plant would consume about 8,000 acre-feet of water a year, according to company officials.

A petition has been filed before the Wyoming Board of Control challenging Texaco's right to some of the Lake DeSmet water (see insert).

The companies have assured local leaders that they will cooperate with the requirements of the Wyoming Industrial Siting Act and work with officials in Johnson County and the adjoining Sheridan County, which is also expected to experience growth as a result of the plant.

Sara Gorin of the Powder River Basin Resource Council said her group has been slow to respond to the proposal because plans are still indefinite and the technology of gasification has evolved so quickly from one proposal to another.

But backers of the project must face several environmental questions in the course of their feasibility study, among them:

- the impact of a gasification plant on the inversion area around Sheridan and Buffalo, where the "bowl" effect of surrounding mountains tends to trap airborne pollutants and allow them to accumulate;

- the possible reclassification of the Cloud Peak Primitive Area, 20 miles from Lake DeSmet, from Class II to Class I clean air standards, which would require nearly pristine air quality. (A Texas Eastern official said that this would not affect the plant, because prevailing winds blow away from the Cloud Peak area.)

- the impact of plant pollution and increased population on fish and game in the area. A Wyoming wildlife official, discussing an earlier Lake DeSmet synthetic fuel proposal in 1975, said increased population would adversely affect the rainbow trout in the lake and game in the area. More devastating to wildlife could be the pollutants from the plant that would be brought to earth by rainfall and snow.

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Texaco's water — or is it?

The only serious challenge so far to Texaco's right to use the Lake Desmet area for a mining and gasification site has to do with a commodity more valuable in Wyoming than coal: water.

Morris Weinberg, a Leiter rancher, charged two years ago that Texaco had failed to put about 55,000 acre-feet of Lake DeSmet water to use for the 10 years between 1967 and 1977. Weinberg petitioned the state Board of Control to declare Texaco's water rights abandoned, and a decision by the Board is expected this month.

Texaco actually has claimed rights to almost 240,000 acre-feet of water in Lake DeSmet. But officials estimate that the watershed delivers only about 63,000 acre-feet a year, of which about 13,000 acre-feet is contracted to irrigators in the area. If Weinberg successfully voided Texaco's rights to 55,129 acre-feet of water, Texaco would have to file for additional water rights to cover the 8,000 acre-feet it needs for the gasification plant. (Some observers say the plant will require even more.)

Texaco argues that it and Reynolds Metals, Inc., the previous owner, put \$25 million into increasing the capacity of Lake DeSmet during the 10 years. "We wouldn't be investing this kind of money if we didn't think we had rights," said a Texaco official in Denver.

Nor did Weinberg seem too sanguine about his case. Noting that shortly after his petition was filed in 1977 the legislature had amended state water law to make it more difficult to challenge water rights such as Texaco's, Weinberg told the *Sheridan Press*, "There are fewer people to influence (on the Board of Control), and more pressure applied."

Nov. 30, 1979 — High Country News-13

Western Roundup

Wool Growers want Andrus fired for predator control policy

Some Western sheep producers have expressed their displeasure about the Interior Department's new predator control policy by asking President Carter to fire Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus. The new policy is the result of a 21-month study initiated after livestock interests asked for more effective federal help to cut predator losses.

The federal program focuses on the coyote, considered by sheepmen to be their biggest enemy. The government will continue to support aerial gunning, particularly to combat proven sheep killers. It will also back trapping and the use of the M-44, a baited device that ejects poison into the mouth of an animal that pulls on it. However, denning (killing pups while still in the den) is prohibited.

Federal research into the use of the poison 1080, banned from federal lands since 1972, will be stopped. The poison causes secondary effects, meaning the animal that eats the target animal also is poisoned. But research on some other poisons will be allowed. Preventive control, or attempting to reduce the coyote population without any consideration of which coyotes are killing sheep, will be allowed only in specific situations where other methods have failed.

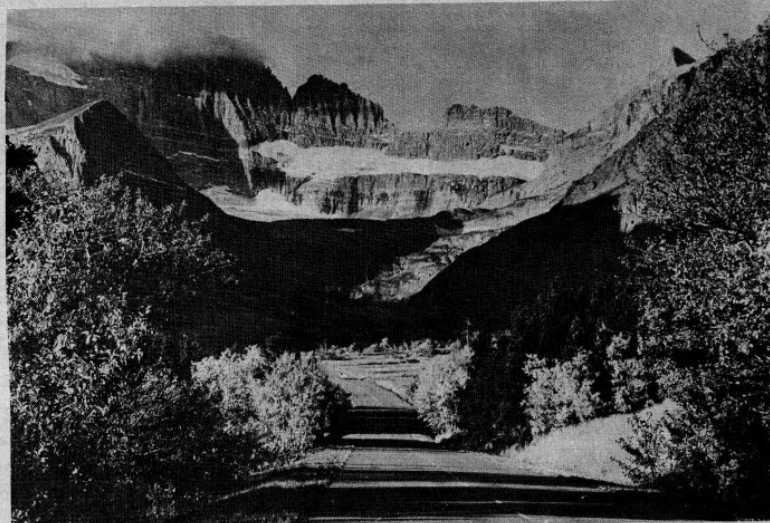
Andrus' policy calls for further study of non-lethal methods of coyote control, such as sheep collars soaked with an aversive agent, scare techniques and fencing. His plan also establishes educational extension programs for livestock owners and a Research Advisory Committee composed of livestock growers, environmentalists and government officials.

"Predators play an essential role in the natural environment," Andrus said. "But to some Western livestock raisers, the problem can be a source of major economic hardship....We believe these policy changes...will reduce both livestock losses and harmful effects of the predator control program on wildlife."

Livestock interests see the policy differently. It will raise their expenses and losses until wool cannot compete with petroleum-based synthetic fabrics, thus increasing the country's dependence on overseas oil, according to Joe Helle of the National Wool Growers Association. The Public Lands Council, a group of cattle and sheep producers, estimates that predators will cost the public \$600 million a year in increased meat prices under Andrus' policy. It will "inflame the Sagebrush Rebellion," a movement to transfer federal lands to state ownership, said PLC's Rob Flournoy.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) blasted the policy as "a major step backward," flying in the face of the Animal Control Damage Act of 1931, which directs the administration to use the best available methods for predator control.

In a Nov. 16 editorial the *Idaho Statesman* urged stockgrowers to give the policy a chance, saying "its proof will be in its administration." As comfort to the sheepmen, it pointed to the dramatic upswing in coyote trapping. Trappers killed 7,616 coyotes in Idaho last year, in contrast to 2,095 six years ago, when pelts were worth only about a sixth of what they are today. The numbers of coyotes shot for their pelts is also increasing, according to the editorial.



Montana Department of Highways photo
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK officials say Anaconda Copper Co. should not be allowed another air pollution variance because of the damage the company's emissions cause to trees in the park.

Air pollution variance sought near Glacier Park

The Anaconda Aluminum Co. has applied to Montana's Board of Health and Environmental Sciences for its seventh year-long air pollution variance. Two federal agencies, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, have asked the board to deny the request, claiming that excessive pollution from Anaconda's aluminum plant at Columbia Falls and its copper smelter at Anaconda are damaging trees in Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest.

The state allows 864 pounds a day of fluoride emissions from the aluminum plant; the average emission from Anaconda is 1,425 pounds a day, according to *The Missoulian*. The agencies say fluoride at such levels has dwarfed or killed vegetation in nearby forests, and wild

animals eating affected plants have suffered bone and tooth damage. Richard Steffel, a University of Montana student and a representative of a conservation organization called the Canyon Coalition, says that all conifers within about a mile of the aluminum plant have died. He estimates 10.7 million board feet of lumber have been lost due to the fluoride pollution.

The plant also emits about 7,000 pounds of particulates a day, even though its legal

limit is 4,700 pounds a day, according to the state.

Company officials said they are committed to getting the proper pollution control equipment on line by July 1, 1980, according to *The Missoulian*. If the variance is denied and the aluminum plant forced to shut down in the meantime, Flathead County's economy would suffer, plant spokesmen said. The plant is Montana's largest single industrial facility, employing 1,044 persons.

Utahns pass their boots for wilderness

Wilderness supporters in Utah, passing around hiking boots instead of a hat at a recent University of Utah gathering, came away with more than \$5,000 to start a statewide group.

Over 2,500 people attended the Oct. 29 fundraising event featuring writers Edward Abbey and Barry Lopez. Abbey, author of *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and *Desert Solitaire*, and Lopez, author of *Of Wolves and Men*, entertained the standing-room-only crowd with readings from their works.

"I really think that state organizations are going to be the way to go for wilderness in the West," said Dick Carter of Salt Lake City, who will head the Utah Wilderness Association. "Montana has done it successfully for years."

At a November meeting in Bighorn, Wyo., environmentalists formed a similar group for Wyoming. Carter expects to see parallel organizations emerging in Idaho, New Mexico and possibly Nevada. The American Wilderness Alliance, a new national wilderness preservation organiza-

tion based in Denver, has promised to support the Utah and Wyoming groups with money and staff time.

The new groups have appeared in the wake of the Washington, D.C.,-based Wilderness Society's removal of several members of its field staff from the region, closing offices in Denver, Cheyenne and Salt Lake City.

The Society's executive director, William Turnage, said that despite these closures he is trying to strengthen the group's field program in the West.

"We still plan to have the best field rep program in the business," Turnage said. "Right now the reps are operating on budgets of \$25,000. That's totally inadequate. I'm hoping to give each rep a budget of over \$75,000, even if that means fewer jobs in the field."

Carter, who formerly ran the Society's office in Salt Lake City, was fired by Turnage after refusing to come to Washington to lobby for Alaska wilderness legislation. Carter claims he was needed at the time for wilderness business in Utah. (See HCN 7-27-79.)

Tribes form Mission Mtn. Wilderness

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council has set aside 95,000 acres in the Mission Mountains on its reservation in Montana as wilderness. The action establishes a line on the west face of the Mission Mountains above which no logging or economic development will be allowed. Much of the rest of the west side of the mountains is already administered as wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service.

The tribes made the move partly to protect grizzly bear habitat. The wilderness will eliminate about 3 million board feet of lumber a year from the timber market.

The new wilderness boundary follows closely that proposed last year by the Wilderness Institute, based in Missoula.

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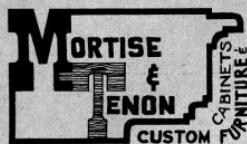
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Bulletin Board



Nov. 30, 1979

— High Country News-15

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Of backpackers, there are a bunch.
Of sheep, they amount to munch.
Sure the issue is damned —
Wilderness sham versus lamb.
Of an answer, we've nary a hunch.

UTAH AIR REGULATIONS

The Utah Board of Health and the Utah Air Conservation Committee have given preliminary approval to an October draft of proposed changes in state air quality regulations and implementation plans. The changes modify suspended particulate and lead air standards and would create some variances in present emission standards. Hearings are scheduled Dec. 6 at the Salt Lake City Library auditorium; and Dec. 7, at the Orem Senior High School Auditorium. Hearings will begin at 1 p.m., and evening sessions will be held at 6:30 p.m. Copies of the proposals can be obtained from the Utah State Division of Environmental Health, Bureau of Air Quality, Rm. 420, 150 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

JOBS AT BLM

Summer jobs with the Bureau of Land Management in Montana are available. Applicants should send Federal Personal Qualification Statements (Standard Form 171) to the BLM (951), P.O. Box 30157, Billings, Mont. 59107, between Dec. 1, 1979, and Jan. 15, 1980. Positions in forestry, biology, engineering, range, realty, recreation, archeology, hydrology and surveying are among those available. Applicants must be over 18, physically fit, and must furnish their own work clothing. Most available jobs coincide with school summer vacations, though some begin in April and others run as long as November.

DOUBLE THE FORAGE

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management hopes to grow twice as much forage on its Western rangelands as it's growing now, according to a draft report entitled "Managing the Public Rangelands." Among the agency's other goals are: improving rangeland now in poor or fair condition, reducing erosion in problem areas and protecting and enhancing streamside habitat. Comments on the report are being accepted until Jan. 15, 1980. For more information, write to: director, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240.

BLM LAND SALES PLANNED

The Department of Interior has released proposed regulations for the selling of some tracts of public land by the Bureau of Land Management. If it is "difficult or uneconomical" for federal management, doesn't meet BLM objectives, or would serve the public interest, land may be sold. Most land would be sold at public auction, though there would be some noncompetitive sales. No lands in wilderness areas, or Wild and Scenic Rivers or Trails Systems could be sold. To comment or for a copy of the proposed regulations, write to Director (650), BLM, 18th and C St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20240. Deadline for comment is Dec. 26.

JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT

Public hearings on a proposed noise abatement plan for the Jackson Hole Airport are scheduled for Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Snow King Ramada Inn in Jackson, Wyo., and Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn West, 14707 West Colfax, Denver, Colo. The plan was prepared by the National Park Service and the Jackson Hole Airport Board to limit noise at the airport in Grand Teton National Park, and appeared in the Federal Register Nov. 9, 1979. Those wishing to make oral presentations should make their request in writing to the Hearings Officer, Grand Teton National Park, Moose, Wyo. 83012. Written comments will be accepted at the above address until Jan. 15, 1980. For copies of the proposed plan, write the Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colo. 80225.

SOUTHWEST ENERGY SHOW

A slide-tape show titled "People and Energy in the Southwest" is available for \$25 plus shipping from the People and Energy Research Project, 810 Vassar NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106.

FOOTHILLS ALLIANCE

Several anti-nuclear groups in Colorado have founded the Foothills Alliance, an organization "dedicated to education and action for a nuclear-free future." A major focus of the group will be to attract new people into the anti-nuclear movement and to promote safe energy alternatives. The Alliance meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the United Campus Ministry, 629 S. Howes St., Fort Collins, Colo. For further information, contact the Alliance at Box 1013, Fort Collins, Colo. 80521.

ENERGY COALITION

A group of environmental organizations, spearheaded by the Sierra Club, has formed a coalition to lobby against President Carter's proposed energy program. The group, which stresses conservation and renewable resource development, has affiliations with 160 local and national organizations, many of which do not work strictly in the environmental field. Information is available from the Emergency Energy Campaign, Sierra Club, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, Calif. 94108.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

The League of Women Voters of the United States offers booklets on subjects ranging from how to litigate on a small budget to jobs and pollution control. For a free catalog, write LWVUS, 1730 M St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 and ask for publication number 126. Prices range from 15 cents for individual booklets to several dollars for kits. Other subjects include guidelines for approaching media, how to plan an environmental conference, federal environmental laws and you, and a toxic substances primer.

CAMPAIGN 1980

The Citizens' Energy Project has launched "Campaign 1980." Offering help with political strategy and information on such topics as food, housing, energy, economic development and civil liberties, the group is encouraging community organizers and other activists to run for office in 1980. The program's emphasis appears to be on running — not winning. "Participation in an election will compel many traditional candidates to address issues and take positions they might otherwise avoid," the group said in a press release. For more information contact the Citizens' Energy Project, 1110 6th St. N.W., No. 300, Washington, D.C. 20001.

ARAVAIPA CANYON EIS

A final environmental statement on the proposed wilderness area of Aravaipa Canyon in Arizona is available from the Department of Interior. The statement will be the basis for the secretary of interior's recommendation to the president on wilderness designation for the area. The 4,044-acre Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area contains lush vegetation in the canyon and steep, multicolored cliffs. Copies of the environmental statement are available from the BLM state office, 2400 Valley Bank Center, Phoenix, Ariz. 85073.

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16-High Country News — Nov. 30, 1979

Books



by Galen Rowell, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1979. \$29.95, cloth, 160 pages. Photographs by the author.

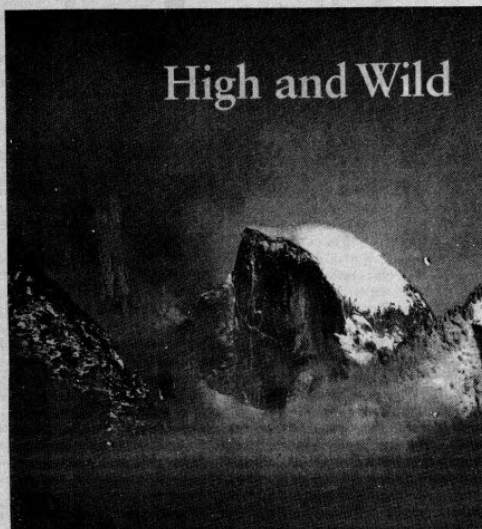
Review by Peter Wild

"My mechanical ascenders wouldn't work on the icy rope. My hands became immobile clubs, and I constantly fought blacking out as I neared the top. I yelled up to Warren to tie all our nylon loops together and lower them, but they reached only 20 feet. Dizziness overwhelmed me, and I didn't think I could make it."

This is how mountaineer and author Galen Rowell remembers a scary moment on the south face of Yosemite's Half Dome. From the quote, one might suppose that *High and Wild* takes the reader on a travelogue of death-defying climbs. And certainly there will be many readers who — palms sweating, teeth clenched vicariously — will have to put the book down and rest their arm sockets from the torture of free-climbing Keeler Needle in the Sierras, or their strained minds from the unsuccessful assault on Alaska's Moose's Tooth.

Experienced climbers will find Rowell's accounts, presented in a lavishly-illustrated, oversized format, ring true. People whose legs start trembling at the thought of being spread-eagled in a chimney will get more than their share of shakes as Rowell has them clinging to a vertical world of rock.

Still, there's no scarcity of books filled



High and Wild

with true-grit, macho adventures. What sets *High and Wild* apart and, I think, wins it a special place in the considerable body of climbing literature, are entirely different features.

Rowell is no madman freebooter on the high rock. He takes the thrills almost for granted, in stiff-upper-lip style, though considering the void in one tight spot he confesses, "Chiefly, I wanted to stay alive at all costs." Despite — perhaps because of — such moments of terror, the book is

about the esthetics of climbing, about what happens in a climber's mind when he matches himself to a cliff face. Spurred by a heightened sense of awareness in the midst of natural beauty, he becomes "like King Midas lusting for gold." No wonder climbers also make avid environmentalists.

Hence, for all the talk of bathooks and expansion bolts, this ultimately is a sensuous, poetic volume. Rowell is also the author of *The Vertical World* of

Yosemite and of articles in *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Backpacker*. He brings a confident skill with language to bear not only on climbing itself but on the entire milieu of the experience. Rowell reminisces about walking out from a Sierra climb: "From the summit we dropped down a gully into the mountain's afternoon shadow. Most shadows move as slowly as the hands of a clock, but Whitney's shadow chased us through the timberline paradise faster than we could scramble. It skimmed down cliff bands and boulders, slowing only for

Through this book we get as close to the heart of a climber as perhaps is possible.

level sections of meadow and forest, until, like us, it traveled across the hot desert floor toward town."

He enriches the accounts of the climbs with the sometimes heart-rending stories of previous expeditions and the personalities associated with the peaks. In the White Mountains to the east of the Sierras, fey scientist Edmund Schulman, for instance, discovered that bristlecone pines are the oldest living plants in the world, only to turn his find into a vain search for the Fountain of Youth.

The author also is a professional photographer. Adjectives can't do his 112 full-color plates justice. Rowell has arranged his plates to match the text precisely. They complement his prose with moods that shift from the mystical to the violent. Through this book we get as close to the heart of a climber as perhaps is possible.



by Hannah Hinchman

Out in the Lander valley cable-stitch cattle paths mark the pasture snow. Towards Hudson, along the Popo Agie River, there are frozen pastures full of thick-coated black angus cattle brought down from the mountains to spend the winter eating hay. We watched a great blue heron dodging trees along the river flying on its stiff arched wings, perhaps looking for a shallow spot without ice. Nearer, a kingfisher on a fence post along a boggy borrow pit, with a squirming silver fish in its beak.

Our one measurable snowstorm this year sent the resident creatures seeking shelter, drove the migrants out of town and, as usual, inspired in the magpies more odd behavior. Bruce Hamilton tells me he watched magpies hovering around the suspension bridge that spans the Little Popo Agie River beside their cabin. When he went out to look he found masses of shed larval skins from water insects clinging there. Spartan fare after a summer of indulging in fat grasshoppers.

Since the recent snow juncos and

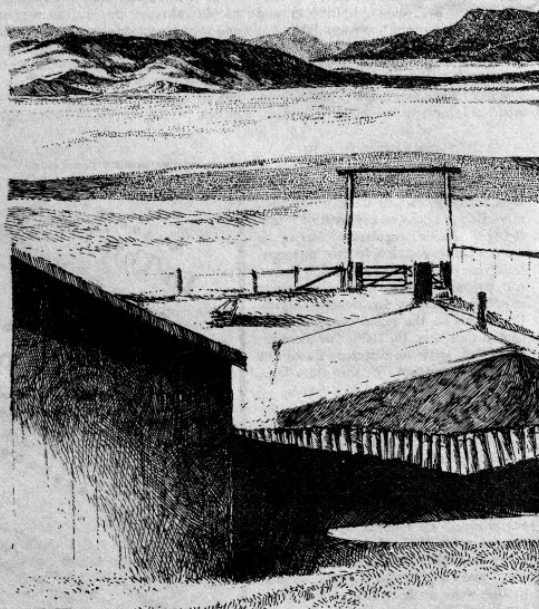
Bohemian waxwings again fill town hedgerows and cottonwoods. Junco's twitters sum up for me the good solitariness of winter. You hear them on brushy hillsides as you're climbing, warm from exertion, expecting to see deer.

Mary Back says that Barrow's Goldeneye, the most common wintering duck in this area, is back on the river and that black rosy finches have come down from their nesting range over 10,000 feet to valley bird feeders for winter. Black rosy finches are a unique resident of this part of the Rockies. Very little is known about their nesting habits. Mary goes into the mountains each spring to try to find a rosy finch nest but has so far been unsuccessful.

Last week Bruce Hamilton stopped to examine a flock of 24 dark shapes in formation traveling across a snowy sky. He watched as they came over, finding something strange in the way they moved. Finally he was able to distinguish the outlines of bodies — twelve bodies: twelve white snow geese with 24 black wing tips, leaving in a storm.

Walking through a high meadow in the falling snow — pine grosbeaks come to rest in the top of a fir above a dump of willows. The pine grosbeak's deep red is repeated in the vivid willow twigs. Their loud friendly call note bounces off the wood's edge and is softened by snow in the air.

"And glow more intense than blaze of branch, or brazier / Stirs the dumb spirit; no wind, but pentecostal fire / In the dark time of the year." — T.S. Eliot, "Four Quartets"



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