High Country News

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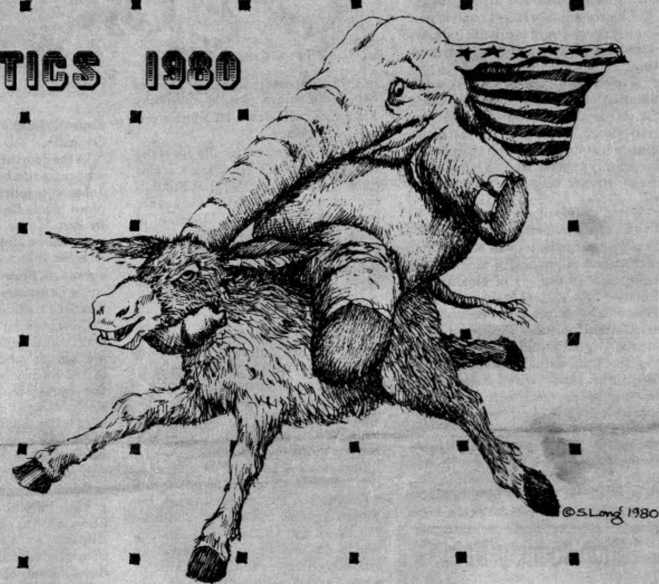
In the News

POLITICS 1980



If ever there were a year when elections in Western states should hinge on natural resource issues, it's 1980. Over the last decade, the Rocky Mountain region has become the commissary to which the rest of the country turns for its most critical resource shopping. Threatened by foreign oil blackmail, the nation looks to the West's oil shale, coal and uranium for salvation. Doubtful about the nation's ability to defend itself against nuclear attack, the Defense Department plots enormous missile systems in the Nevada and Utah deserts. Worried about the housing slump, the government expands timbering in Western forests. Hungry for rural living, people move here in unprecedented numbers.

These pressures, and many more, will force us in the next few years to resolve the question, rephrased in one project or policy after another: How will we exploit, protect, develop, enhance, and disburse the resources of the West?

And yet in most of the races **HCN** looked into in our election year survey, natural resource issues are not at the forefront. Instead, many Western politicians are talking about the morality of abortions, the importance of balancing the books, and the desirability of a strong national defense.

These issues are not unimportant. But is it more meaningful, say, for a Colorado candidate to talk vaguely about balancing the federal budget — or to take a stand on the Rocky Flats nuclear facility? Do we care whether a Montana gubernatorial hopeful makes a nebulous pledge to "get government out of our lives," or would we rather know precisely what he thinks about mandatory energy audits on homes up for sale? In many cases, it seems the oversimplified liberal-conservative dialogues have taken precedence over substantial, specific issues particular to the region.

Politically, the region has never been easy to pigeonhole — Western states will vote overwhelmingly Republican in presidential elections...then elect Democrats such as Montana's Sen. Max Baucus, or Wyoming's former Rep. Teno Roncalio. Richard Nixon will win 70 percent of the votes in Idaho, and two years later Democrat Cecil Andrus will get 73 percent of the votes in his run for governor.

But in 1980, a trend towards more conservative representation in national offices prevails. Candidates such as Sens. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Frank Church (D-Idaho) are on the defensive. Conservatives such as Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah) and Rep. Richard Cheney (R-Wyo.) are shoo-ins.

The conservative-liberal or Democrat-Republican tags do not necessarily indicate where a candidate will stand on natural resource issues. But the enormous popularity of Ronald Reagan, who has indicated he wants to lift inhibiting federal restrictions from energy development in the West, and the high poll standings of wilderness opponents like Steve Symms (R-Idaho) may be significant signals of where we are headed.

The theme that resonates in almost every race is: Get the federal government off our backs. That may explain why Westerners often vote Republican in presidential races — the GOP has made the reduction of federal power a theme for years.

It may also explain why Westerners can vote one way for national office candidates and another way for state officeholders. The same year Wyoming sent Sen. Al Simpson (R) to Washington, vowing to fight federal regulations and federal restrictions on the state's development, it also re-elected Gov. Ed Herschler (D), who has campaigned against coal slurry pipelines and for higher severance taxes. Montanans may pass a beverage container recycling initiative this year, and, along with South Dakota, may re-establish state control over uranium mining.

In 1980, that could mean we sent to Washington politicians who promise to stop the feds from "saving" us; but at home, for state offices, the winners may be quite different. If we read it correctly, many voters in the region want state officials who can help us save ourselves.

State-by-state wrap-ups begin on page 2.

POLITICS. . .

COLORADO

Rep. Tim Wirth (D) and Sen. Gary Hart (D) are facing two of the toughest races in Colorado politics this year.

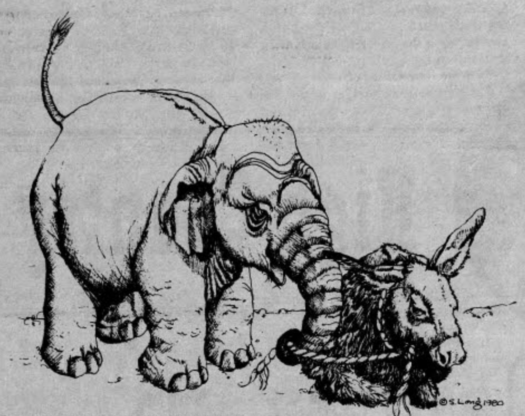
Wirth is locked in a three-way race with Republican John McElderry and Citizens Party candidate John McFarland.

McElderry, a conservative state legislator, is running against Wirth primarily on a platform of fiscal restraint. On energy issues, says McElderry press secretary June Weiss, "Wirth's theme is conservation, John's theme is research and development." McElderry wants to leave the choices of energy development to private industry with a minimum of government regulation.

Wirth, more than any other single member of the House, deserves credit for the demise of the Energy Mobilization Board, a Carter Administration proposal aimed at speeding up approval for energy projects. He also helped preserve stricter emission standards for cars driven at high altitudes.

Wirth's campaign is complicated by two factors. First is the entrance of Citizens Party candidate John McFarland. McFarland is running a single-issue campaign in support of closing the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. Anti-nuclear forces in the Second District, which includes Boulder and the University of Colorado, feel that Wirth has not done enough toward shutting down the plant. Wirth believes his low-profile approach will accomplish more toward the goal than a frontal assault.

Secondly, an additional 8,000 Republicans have registered in the Second District for this election. Wirth has never won the election by more than 11,000 votes — six percent of the votes in 1978. Supporters fear that the extra Republican voters, plus the anti-Rocky Flats vote, will drain off Wirth's precarious majority.



Sen. Gary Hart, nationally one of the Democratic party's young stars, is also running a tough race against Republican upstart Mary Estill Buchanan. Buchanan, the Colorado Secretary of State, ran hard in the primary against the conservative Republican establishment and won an upset victory over three opponents, including former Army Secretary Howard "Bo" Callaway.

While Buchanan's positions are moderate, they are untested. One activist says, "She appears to be very similar to Hart on environmental matters and that's one reason the conservative Republicans don't like her." However, he adds, "She accepts the Republican rhetoric much too readily."

Hart gets a lukewarm "he's been decent" assessment on his Senate record on energy and environment issues. He worked against the Energy Mobilization Board and has taken a leadership role in the promotion of conservation and solar energy in the Senate. "On the whole," says Friends of the Earth representative Kevin Markey, "He recognizes the importance of regulation in environmental matters."

Hart, however, quickly climbed on the synthetic fuels bandwagon and has sponsored legislation that would allow off-site disposal of spent waste from oil shale facilities. He was instrumental in urging the Interior Department to expand oil shale leasing. Hart has promoted large Colorado water projects, particularly Narrows and Fruitland-Mesa.

Pat Schroeder (D), Colorado's popular First District congressional incumbent, is facing Republican challenger Naomi Bradford, a conservative who was elected to the school board on an anti-busing platform.

In the Third Congressional District, freshman incumbent Ray Kogovsek (D) is opposed by Republican Harold McCormick, the same man Kogovsek narrowly defeated in 1978. Kogovsek's two years in the House have not fixed him firmly in any camp on environmental and energy affairs. According to one wilderness lobbyist, "He was helpful on the Colorado wilderness bill, but it was like pulling teeth. He is completely unthinking in terms of energy policy. He has signed onto every piece of synfuels legislation, no matter how bad." Kogovsek voted against the Energy Mobilization Board.

McCormick, who was well ahead in an early **Denver Post** poll, has been serving in the Colorado state legislature. He has a 75 percent favorable voting record on energy and environment issues from the Colorado Open Space Council.

In the Fourth Congressional District, where incumbent Republican Jim Johnson is retiring, the favorite to replace him is Republican Hank Brown. In Rep. Wayne Aspinall's former district, known for favoring development, whether it be a ski resort or oil shale operation, Brown is given the edge because he appears to fall in line with the district's traditional voting patterns.

Colorado's Fifth Congressional District, which includes Denver's southern and eastern suburbs and continues east to the Kansas border, presents one of the sharpest philosophical contrasts in Rocky Mountain politics. The incumbent is Republican Ken Kramer, who is even more conservative than the man he replaced, current Colorado Senator Bill Armstrong.

Running against Kramer is Democrat Ed Schreiber, a computer scientist and electrical engineer who describes himself as an environmentalist. Schreiber says he is opposed to oil shale development, but if it must occur, "It should be very slow and cautious." He says, "There is no point in destroying the earth or going to war over the last few drops of oil." He favors nuclear power as a necessary evil, provided safety standards are dramatically improved. Kramer is favored to win another term.

Environmentalists in Colorado are looking at the 1980 election as a year of building toward a "more progressive" state legislature in the future. Dickie Lee, a board member of Political Action for Conservation, a newly-created political action committee supporting conservation candidates, says, "The attitude in general is that the Colorado state legislature is not sensitive to either conservation or 'people' issues. When they get anything done it is forced by the federal government. We do hope that the new members will be more progressive.

NORTH DAKOTA

Ford carried North Dakota by a narrow margin in 1976, but this year Ronald Reagan has taken a runaway lead. Another Republican, Congressman-at-Large Mark Andrews, is considered a shoo-in for the seat of retiring Sen. Milton Young (R). His opponent is Kent Johanneson (D), an oil broker and developer. So far the race has been heavier on personal attacks than on substance.

Andrews' well-financed campaign does not appear to have suffered setbacks from Johanneson's ads attempting to show that Andrews would be giving up 18 years worth of seniority in the House to run for Senate, or from charges that he misrepresented his position on the windfall profits tax, which he first tried to weaken and then voted for.

According to the League of Conservation Voters' 1979 environmental scores, Andrews ranked even with the retiring Young, both voting LCV's way less than 15 percent of the time. And like Young, Andrews is above all devoted to agricultural issues, especially those that affect the cultivation of wheat, the state's number one crop.

In the fight over Andrew's former House seat, Tax Commissioner Byron Dorgan (D) has taken a slim lead over state Sen. James Smykowski (R). Mike Jacobs, a journalist for the **Grand Forks Herald** says of Dorgan, "He ain't no Barry Commoner, but if any candidate is an environmentalist, it's him." Dorgan supports a high coal severance tax to alleviate mining impacts, and has questioned the wisdom behind the Garrison Diversion Project.

In a similarly close contest, Gov. Arthur Link (D) has a slight edge over Attorney General Allen Olsen (R) in his bid for a third term. Democrats have held the governorship of this once-Republican state for twenty straight years, and now Olson says it is time for political crop rotation.

Another issue is the development of the great veins of strippable coal that lie under the state. Although a number of environmentalists in the state are unhappy with Link's weak-kneed support of stringent reclamation regulations, they will probably back the incumbent governor on Election Day.

MONTANA

"Is a 40-pound robin fat?" That's the way Republican Jack Ramirez's political advisor responds when asked if his candidate has a chance to win the Montana governorship. He failed to add that a 40-pound robin is also probably doomed.

Ramirez, say Democrats and environmentalists, is Montana's best Republican statehouse hopeful in years, but he is not likely to fly into the governor's mansion in 1980. His opponent, Democratic Lieutenant Gov. Ted Schwinden, has failed to show any strong differences between himself and Ramirez, but Schwinden is favored to win on the state's Democratic tradition, his running mate, former Missoula Mayor George Turman, and Ramirez's assocation with big resource development companies through his Billings law firm.

In a series of debates, the candidates did something of a Tweedledum, Tweedledee routine, struggling to find issues on which they disagreed. Both favor some form of tax indexing, both support the state's coal severance tax, and both claim they want government "by the people" and protection of the state's environment.

But both were equally quick to offer to tear apart the state's tough new air quality regulations if that would prevent the Anaconda Co. from shutting down its operations in Anaconda and Great Falls and putting hundreds of workers on unemployment.

Environmentalists in the state generally favor Schwinden, but he, like candidates in most Montana races this year, prefers to portray himself as the candidate of workers and ranchers. He first supported, then withdrew his sup-

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port, for a beverage container recycling initiative (see sidebar) that is the target of a negative big money campaign this November. Ramirez has strongly supported the recycling initiative.

Generally, Ramirez has the respect of environmentalists — but no endorsements. A legislator who served on his committee in the state House (where Ramirez was minority leader last year) accused Ramirez of changing his tune on the severance tax, which he now supports at its present level, and on right-to-work laws, which he now opposes. Ramirez's changed positions, said the legislator, appear opportunistic to voters.

In addition, Ramirez was caught in an embarrassing situation when he announced that "inside" sources had assured him that Anaconda would not pull out of Montana. When the Anaconda and Great Falls closures came last month, Ramirez had egg on his face. His subsequent call for a special session of the legislature to deal with the problem does not appear to have popular support.

In other races, conservative eastern district Rep. Ron Marlenee (R) is considered certain to win, and Rep. Pat Williams, his Democratic western district opposite , is also considered a shoo-in.

The legislature was split during its last session — Republicans controlled the Senate by two votes, and Democrats controlled the House. Both parties claim they will pick up some seats, but the Republicans are not likely to get the six they need to take over the House. Democrats hope to take control of the Senate, Republicans hope to get some coattail help from Ronald Reagan, who is expected to win big in the state. One Democrat said he expected voters to go for Reagan, then change columns for Schwinden, and "that brings them back to the right column for the rest of the ballot."

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Democratic tide that has been running since McGovern revived the party in the 60s, and nearly won the state for Carter in 1976, is ebbing. Ronald Reagan is looking forward to an easy win, and McGovern is fighting his toughest battle for reelection ever against Rep. James Abdnor. With support of right wing groups, the 57-year old rancher-congressman has led in the polls all year. McGovern, however, is a veteran of come-from-behind races.

In a farm-oriented state which still places great weight on person-to-person campaigning, McGovern has spent the last few months tracking thousands of miles across the South Dakota plains, scrambling to catch up. The latest polls show that Abdnor's lead has slipped from 26 percentage points to 12. McGovern backers say that their polls show the race is now dead even.

McGovern is focusing on the seniority earned from his 18 years in the Senate, and the fact that he stands next in line for the chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a pivotal position never held by a South Dakotan. For McGovern, dubbed "Congress' Mr. Farmer" by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, support in South Dakota has always been based on agricultural issues, such as high price supports for farm commodities.

Although McGovern's main contributions have been in the area of nutrition and family planning, he has been instrumental in passing key environmental legislation, such as the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, and has been awarded a score of 83% from the League of Conservation Voters. Recently he has been touting the need for conservation and soft energy technologies to wean the nation from OPEC oil.

But for the most part, it is not environmental issues, but his positions on government spending, inflation, and the Panama Canal treaty that are drawing the attention of South Dakotans.

Four-term congressman Abdnor, considered by many to be one of the more conservative men in the House, has received a 9% rating by the League of Conservation Voters. He is fond of citing his score of 100% awarded him by the conservative National Security Council, and of comparing the score to McGovern's 0% rating. In a state where conservative Republican sentiment runs deep, perhaps deeper in the current economic climate than does its traditional tolerance for mavericks like McGovern, Abdnor has found no dearth of friendly ears. Right-to-lifers opposed to McGovern's position on abortion, enemies of the Panama Canal treaty, advocates of balanced budgets and higher defense spending, have joined forces behind Abdnor.

In turn, the McGovern campaign, which will have spent close to $2 million by Election Day, has pointed to Abdnor's lack of political clout, and has portrayed him as a "do nothing congressman." McGovern has gotten political mileage out of Abdnor's refusal to debate, and failure to report about $36,000 of campaign contributions, from 20 oil companies among others. "There's an oil spill in Abdnor's office," gibes one McGovern campaign flyer.

Until recently, McGovern has labored against opposition that he believes is more formidable than Abdnor: the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), an umbrella organization of ultra-conservative groups, has targeted the liberal senator for defeat. Although the committee has supported Abdnor's campaign to the tune of $250,000 — making him one of the leading recipients of NCPAC contributions — Abdnor now says that the group has hurt his campaign.

In the race for the Abdnor House seat, Clint Roberts (R) a conservative former state agriculture secretary, is expected to win easily over the Public Utility Commissioner, Ken Stofferahn, a liberal democrat and opponent of nuclear power plants in the state.

Roberts, considered an "environmental disaster" by conservationists, appears to have hardly suffered by discoveries of deliquent tax payments.

In the 1st district, Rep. Thomas Daschle (D) should have no trouble holding

(continued on page 12)

INITIATIVES

California's Proposition 13 of four years ago put the initiative process in the spotlight, and this year voters in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains region will have similar opportunities to set policy at the ballot box.

MONTANA

Initiatives are on the ballot in 1980 to force disclosure of lobbyists' expenditures in the state, ban the disposal of uranium tailings in Montana, initiate tax indexing, and impose mandatory recycling of beverage containers.

Polls indicate that the lobbyist disclosure measure is favored by a large majority of Montanans. Tax indexing, favored in some form by both candidates for governor, is also expected by most to pass.

But Initiative 84, the uranium tailings measure, is going to be close, and Initiative 87, the recycling law, is the target of an unprecedented media effort that may defeat it.

Polls in September indicated a sizable majority of Montanans favored the recycling initiative, which would set a deposit of five cents or more on all beverage containers by 1983. It would also require that no parts of a metal containers be detachable and that a deposit refund label be prominently displayed. Similar recycling laws are in effect in states such as Oregon and Vermont, where they have effectively reduced litter and saved energy that would otherwise be used to make new containers.

But the "Committee Against Forced Deposits" has raised and is spending more money than either of the candidates in the gubernatorial race to defeat the initiative. The money comes primarily from in-state bottlers and out of state companies like Adolph Coors Co. ($6,644), the Coca Cola Co. ($27,500), and Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corp. of Los Angeles ($8,030).

One Helena resident said that the bag from his grocery shopping was emblazoned with "Vote against 87." Don Snow, director of the Environmental Center, said that despite its initial popularity, there was now "a very good chance of (the initiative) going down the tubes."

Ed Dobson of Billings is not so pessimistic about his initiative to block the dumping of uranium tailings in the state. It would correct the flaw in a state law which bans the dumping of out-of-state tailings in Montana, which Dobson says could be challenged in court as discriminatory.

"Montanans for Jobs and Mining," actually funded by the Montana Mining Association, says it is impractical to haul ore or tailings out of the state, and therefore the initiative would make it "economically unfeasible" to mine uranium in Montana. MJM also claims that the measure could cause shortages of radioactive materials used to treat cancer patients, that its restrictions might later be applied to other minerals, and that Dobson's campaign is financed by "well-heeled" out-of-state interests.

In fact, Dobson, a former employee of Friends of the Earth, has far less funding than the initiative's opponents, who had about $45,000, most of it from out-of-state corporations, to spend in late September.

Dobson says the only uranium mining now likely in Montana would be in the eastern part of the state, near Alzada, where Amoco Minerals and two other companies are operating, and the mining there is likely to be "in situ," which creates no tailings. If tailings were a problem, he said, they could be shipped to nearby Wyoming.

If disposal in the state appears to be necessary, said Dobson, operators could approach the legislature for a variance — this, he said, would put control over any milling and tailings disposal under state control.

SOUTH DAKOTA

"The Uranium Initiative: if it wins, you lose" reads a full page in the **Black Hills Press**. All South Dakota dailies are running similar ads, part of a well-financed campaign run by "Citizens Against the Ban" to kill a South Dakota ballot initiative that would require voter approval of proposals for uranium mines, mills, radioactive waste dumps and nuclear power plants.

Efforts to put the uranium issue on the November ballot were initiated by the Black Hills Energy Coalition, a group that includes ranchers and environmentalists concerned about the impacts of mining in the uranium-rich area. In June 1979, the group kicked off its campaign for the initiative with the collection of 20,000 petition signatures supporting the measure. According to Lawrence Perry, secretary of the group, "We feel that landowners who don't have uranium ore on their property should have the right to know how mining will affect them, and a voice in whether or not it should be done."

On the other side, the chairman of Citizens Against the Ban, Angus Anson, argues that "the initiative measure will ban safe uranium development in South Dakota." He says that "few companies would be willing to invest when faced with the uncertainty of a political campaign...."

With financial backing from Union Carbide and Anaconda Copper Co., which has recently received permission to explore for uranium in eastern South Dakota, Citizens Against the Ban has been running a highly visible and expensive campaign.

So far the Black Hills Energy Coalition has spent only $6,000 on a campaign that has relied primarily on grassroots efforts. While the uranium initiative has received numerous endorsements from such organizations as the state's Education Association, Christian groups, farm coalitions such as the National Farm Organization, the United Family Farmers and Sen. George McGovern (D), the measure's chances are uncertain. Between Oct. 9 and the election, the South Dakota Humanities Association is sponsoring 11 meetings around the state to debate the initiative. These meetings will include speakers from the Black Hills Energy Coalition, the state Conservation Commission, the Black Hills Alliance, and possibly some concerned energy companies.

NORTH DAKOTA

In North Dakota, an active grassroots campaign is underway for Initiated Measure No. 6, which would raise the current five percent oil and natural gas production tax to 11½% for oil extracted in the state. The tax would raise an estimated $241 million in the next two years, providing $108.5 million for education, $108.5 million for property and income tax relief, and $24 million for an energy conservation trust fund. The interest from this trust would fund the development of alternative sources of energy in the state.

Campaigning for the measure is the Committee for Quality Education and Tax Relief, a coalition comprised of the North Dakota Education Association, the state's Farmers Union, the Statewide Rural Electric Cooperative, and the School Administrators Association. While the measure has not become a focal campaign issue, it has been endorsed by Gov. Arthur Link (D) and opposed by gubernatorial challenger Allen Olson (R).

The Committee for Fair Taxation is currently mobilizing opposition to the measure. Under the chairmanship of Richard Crockett, head of the state's Chamber of Commerce, the group is running a high-powered media campaign, which proponents of the measure believe is benefiting from oil company money. The committee has not disclosed its finances.

"Lee Metcalf" wilderness may shrink to BN, Melcher's size

by Jim Robbins and Ken Western

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Fifteen miles south of Bozeman the Spanish Peaks rise up to form the beginning of the Madison crest, a range of mountains that winds 50 miles south to Hebgen Lake near Yellowstone Park.

Five clusters of peaks, some reaching over 11,000 feet, are scattered throughout the area. Formed by glaciation, these peaks are the source of 57 tributaries of the Madison and Gallatin rivers, two of Montana's finest trout streams. Timber in this region has remained, for the most part, untouched, even though logging has been moderately heavy in some areas of the state for the last 20 years.

A group of conservationists in southwestern Montana have formed the Madison-Gallatin Alliance, hoping to have 560,000 acres set aside as the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area, named after the late Montana senator.

Metcalf, in 17 years in the U.S. Senate, left a legacy of wilderness preservation and environmental laws that included the Montana Wilderness Study Act, protection for the three forks of the Flathead River, and wilderness designation for the Absaroka-Beartooth and Great Bear wilderness areas.

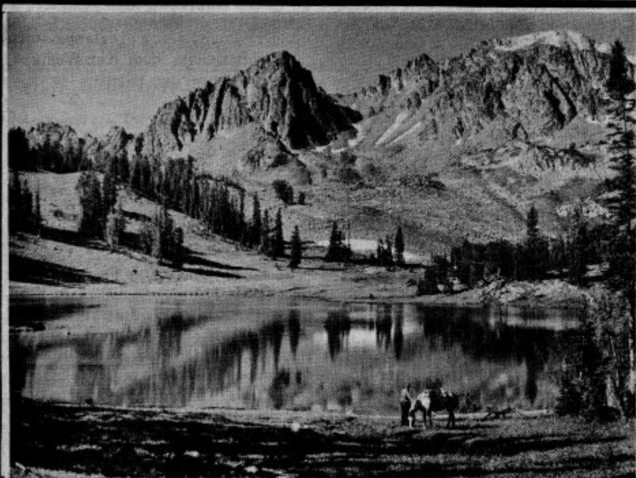

Photo by USDA Forest Service

HA-NANA LAKE in the Taylor-Hilgard Wilderness Study Area, which would be included in the proposed Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

MELCHER'S MARK

But a recent U.S. Forest Service recommendation for the Madison-Gallatin area did not do justice to Metcalf's memory, according to the Madison-Gallatin Alliance. Rather, it bore the mark of a traditional foe of large wilderness areas in southwestern Montana, the state's current senior senator, John Melcher (D). According to the group, the Forest Service's proposed boundaries follow those suggested by Melcher and one of the landowners in the area, Burlington Northern, Inc.

"We didn't get anything," commented Richard Tenney, a Bozeman cardiologist and one of the originators of the Metcalf proposal. The Forest Service recommended 157,826 acres of wilderness in a draft environmental impact statement. That included less than half of the Taylor-Hilgard Unit, a 389,000-acre area of the Beaverhead and Gallatin national forests that conservationists hoped to protect in its entirety as wilderness.

Burlington Northern, Inc., plans to build a logging road across federal land to its checkerboard-ownership timberlands in the Buck Creek and Yellow Mules drainage; the inclusion of these areas was viewed as crucial by wilderness proponents, but the Forest Service left them out. Attempts to block the roadbuilding in court were dealt a blow recently, when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals refused to overturn a lower court decision in BN's favor.

Tenney is one of the originators of the proposal, which came about, he said, because of the recently approved River of No Return Wilderness Area in the rugged mountain country of central Idaho. The River of No Return Wilderness is the largest in the lower 48 states, with 2.2 million protected acres.

"Everywhere I went — Boston, Haiti, wherever — I heard of the River of No Return Wilderness," Tenney said. "I figured, if they can do it, why can't we?"

"This is one of the most critical areas in Montana," Tenney said. "You've got nearly 600,000 acres of roadless area — de facto wilderness — and a chance to preserve the entire Madison-Gallatin ecosystem. There isn't a good reason **not** to preserve this area as wilderness."

Alliance officials say their proposal, in part, would provide protection for the grizzly bear in an area threatened by development. Major logging roads such as BN's, a power line corridor and a ski resort are all possibilities in the area.

Complicating the issue is the checkerboard ownership of land by BN, west of Big Sky in the Jack Creek drainage.

As an incentive for construction of the transcontinental railway during the 1800s, the federal government granted large amounts of land that lay along the tracks to the railroad companies. Because people had settled on some lands that would have gone to the Northern Pacific Railroad, they received instead substitute land in the

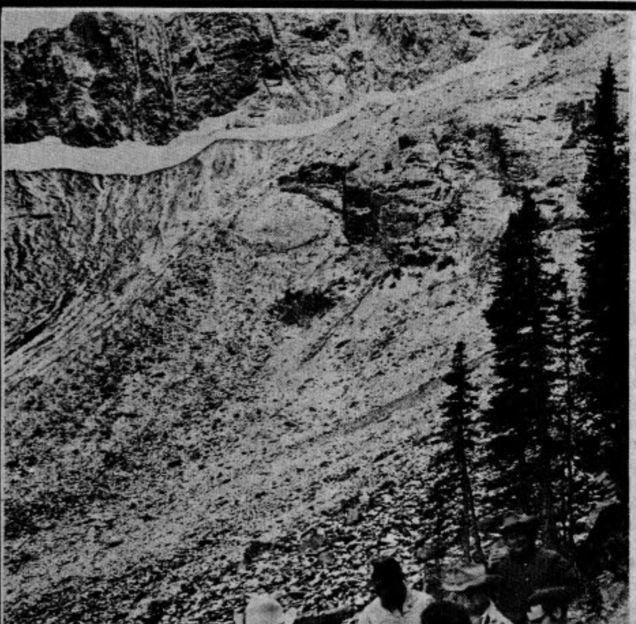

Photo by Dan Hollow

GOLD, SILVER AND PLATINUM have been found near the top of Big Timber Canyon in the Crazy Mountains. Forest Service officials and representatives of the Gold Cup Mining Co. scout the site of a proposed mine.

Rugged Montana range: a

by Dan Hollow

LIVINGSTON, Mont. — While wilderness advocates concentrate their efforts on the Taylor-Hilgard (Lee Metcalf) wilderness proposals in southwestern Montana, another mountain area to the northeast runs the risk of becoming what some observers call a "sacrifice area" to development interests.

The range is called the Crazy Mountains — old-timers say the name comes from a woman who wandered lost in the mountains after her family was killed by Indians.

A proposed open-pit gold and platinum mine is the biggest threat to the wild and rugged range, and, added to oil and gas exploration, other mineral claims and plans for summer homes development, it casts a bleak shadow over the mountains' future.

The range is unique, set apart from the continental spine of the Rocky Mountains, rising abruptly from the open grazing lands and grain fields that surround it on all sides. Several peaks over 11,000 feet stand out above a complex series of bare, rocky ridges. Some of its adherents say it has more scenic spectacle than the Taylor-Hilgard area.

Logging has taken place in the lower hills in the northern end, but the central core has remained untouched until recently, save for a network of trails that criss-crossed the mountains between a score of pristine, trout-filled lakes.

The Crazies were taken out of contention for wilderness partly because of a checkerboard pattern of ownership. Many say the decision was a green light for the Forest Service to make the range host to developers excluded elsewhere.

Amoco Production, Inc., has nearly completed testing on a 12,000-foot exploratory oil and gas well in the western foothills; Chevron drilled an apparently unsuccessful test hole in Big Timber Canyon last summer; and an Amoco subsidiary carried out a second season of extensive seismic testing on private lands this summer. As part of the Overthrust Belt, the Crazies are considered a potentially rich repository for oil and gas.

Amoco recently submitted an application to the Forest Service to follow up with a third round of seismic testing — this time with four helicopters ferrying 10 portable drills and 50 workers to drill shot holes on three lines running eight miles east to west in the northern part of the range.

The blasting is planned in known elk range frequented by hunters.

Amoco, Chevron and Arco have tied up the oil and gas leases both in the private and public sections, some of which the Forest Service opened for leases just last year.

The most advanced plans for mineral development, however, belong to the Gold Cup Mining Co., owned primarily by a group from Grassrange, Mont., which claims to have found rich gold-bearing quartz veins at the head of Big Timber Creek on the east side of the mountains.

Assays done for Gold Cup on 26 tons of ore taken out by helicopter in August

Gallatin Forest.

These lands, some 180,000 acres, are held today by Burlington Northern, a descendant of Northern Pacific. Since checkerboard ownership poses a problem for both BN and the Forest Service, they have entered into negotiations several times to trade BN land in the Gallatin Forest for Forest Service land elsewhere. These efforts, however, have been stymied.

Most recently, in 1978, during preparation of an environmental impact statement on a land swap for the whole 179,000 acres, Melcher attached an amendment to a national parks and recreation bill that mandated congressional approval for all federal land exchanges greater than 6,400 acres, resulting in abandonment of the trade.

Melcher recently also attached a rider to the Alaskan wilderness bill that would allow BN to cross federal land to log its property. That bill is stalled in House-Senate conference.

PRIVATE LANDS

Included in the Forest Service's preferred alternative is 27,245 acres of private land recommended for wilderness designation. Most of the land is owned by BN. The Forest Service reports that the firm has "indicated a willingness to exchange out of the proposed wilderness if suitable national forest lands are made available outside the area," in Jack Creek, for instance.

Those areas not proposed for wilderness would be available for timbering, motorized and non-motorized vehicle use, oil and gas exploration, and wildlife habitat management activities on suitable sites, according to the Forest Service.

Most of the Overthrust Belt within the area would be available for oil and gas exploration and development, with about 40,000 acres of current lease applications located within the proposed nonwilderness section, the Forest Service said.

The Forest Service also estimates that about 11.7 million board-feet of timber could be harvested annually during the first decade of use. Of considerable interest to loggers is the opportunity to "salvage" insect-killed timber and timber stands highly susceptible to the insects.

Advocates of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness proposal argue that the timber value of the area is marginal, and that BN is simply using it as a test case for access rights.

BN spokesman Don Nettleton denies it. "Averaged out for the whole area that acreage is marginal," he said. "But absolutely, there is valuable timber...Those folks (in the Madison-Gallatin Alliance) are anti's — anti-land use."

Snowmobilers, adamantly opposed to the alliance proposal, have been assured by the Forest Service that the Big Sky Snowmobile Trail stretching roughly 50 miles from the mouth of Gallatin Canyon to West Yellowstone would be maintained under the preferred alternative, along with the "play areas" used by participants.

Montana's other senator, Max Baucus (D), has not committed himself, but said that he considers the Lee Metcalf Wilderness possibility "a serious proposal." "However," he said, "there are a lot of unanswered questions, such as the checkerboard ownership pattern."

In addition, the Forest Service recommendation leaves the way open for consideration of a 161-kilovolt powerline corridor fron Ennis to Big Sky through Jack Creek. Environmental groups have opposed the corridor in court and questioned the backers' motives, suggesting that Montana Power Company and BN may be interested in opening Jack Creek to residential and second-home development.

The Forest Service is well-aware of the wilderness advocates' interest, noting that classification of a portion of the Madison Range "would be responsive to a long-standing local demand for some wilderness in the Madison Range." But the Forest Service also states another consideration in its draft EIS: that establishment of more wilderness "would not be necessary to provide for a better geographical distribution of wilderness to the National Wilderness Preservation System."

Public hearings on Taylor-Hilgard as well as two other proposed Montana wilderness areas (Mount Henry and West Pioneer) will be held in Libby on Oct. 28; Bozeman, Oct. 30; Dillon, Nov. 5; and Helena, Nov. 6.

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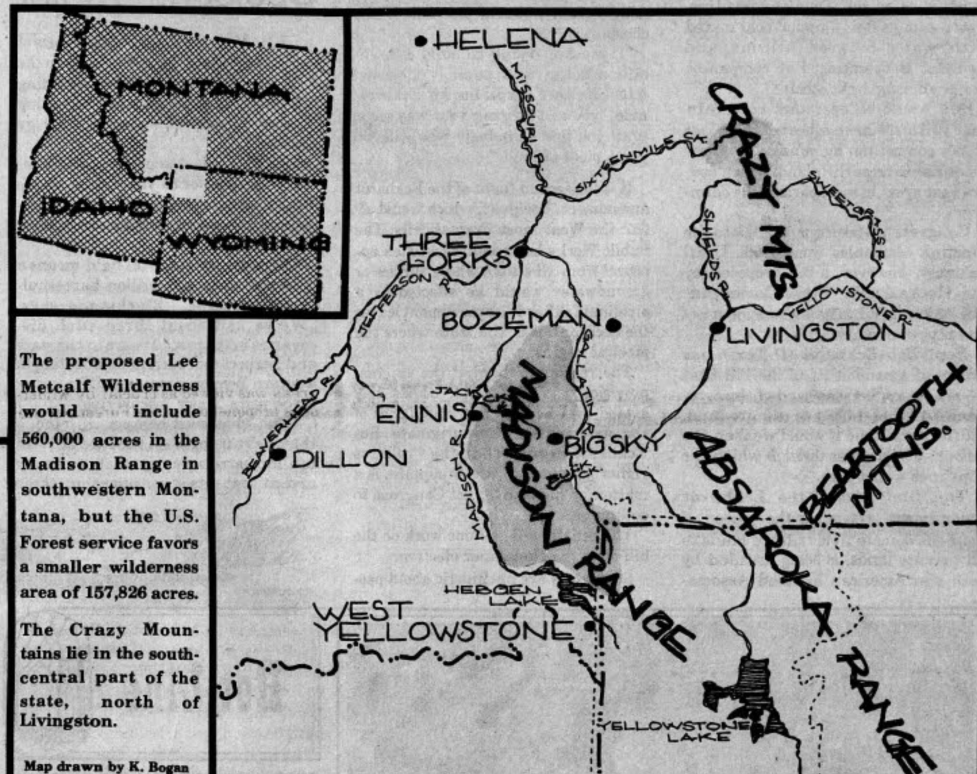
Jim Robbins is a freelance writer based in Helena, Mont. Ken Western is a freelance writer based in Bozeman, Mont.



The proposed Lee Metcalf Wilderness would include 560,000 acres in the Madison Range in southwestern Montana, but the U.S. Forest service favors a smaller wilderness area of 157,826 acres.

The Crazy Mountains lie in the south-central part of the state, north of Livingston.

Map drawn by K. Bogan

'sacrifice area'?

showed 19.2 ounces of gold, 2.5 ounces of platinum and 17 to 58 ounces of silver per ton. But the Forest Service's first "grab samples" showed drastically lower results. The Forest Service is waiting to hear the results of representative samples taken from the 26 tons.

The Grassrange miners found financial backing for their plans last year from a Las Vegas, Nev., outfit known as Monitor Investment Services. Ray Reese, representing Monitor, said the investors are willing to spend whatever is necessary to satisfy the environmentalists and state and federal officials. Reese declined to reveal who the investors are.

Two Colorado firms, Viking Exploration and Mile High Lode and Placer, have also staked out claims in the canyon.

Gold Cup's proposed open pit mine site is just over the top of the Crazies from a recently approved road across about three miles of national forest land into a privately owned section on Cottonwood Creek, where a rancher plans to build summer cabins. The two-sided thrust would sever the roadless core of the range.

Big Timber Creek flows down an impressive canyon with walls that rise sheer to the double summits of Big Timber and Crazy Peak. Situated in a high basin that empties down cascades from the south, Granite Lake, Blue Lake, Pear Lake and Thunder Lake are a popular destination for hikers and horseback travelers. The shallower Twin Lakes are tucked in the top of the north side of the canyon, below the glacial cirque where the claims are staked.

The company was told at first by the Department of State Lands that it could develop the claims without being subject to the state hardrock mining law because of a "Small Miner's Exclusion," which allows an exemption for operations that do not disturb more than five acres of land or produce more than 36,500 tons of ore a year.

Gold Cup proceeded to clear and bulldoze a mile and a half road, using a "special-use permit" that the Big Timber ranger issued after an unpublicized 15-day, in-house environmental assessment.

At that point, Gallatin National Forest headquarters in Bozeman began to receive protest calls and letters, largely from hikers who had suddenly found a crude road in place of a popular forest trail. Early in August, shortly before the end of a 30-day deadline for review, the Forest Service announced that approval of the operating plan was going to be delayed.

The Wilderness Society and others are now asking that a full-scale environmental impact statement be done, not just on the Gold Cup plans, but on mineral development in general in the Crazies.

"The potential loss of one of Montana's wildest and more beautiful mountain ranges is simply too great to do otherwise," said Bill Cunningham of the Wilderness Society.

"This is a high, fragile area; if it becomes a major open pit mine, we're looking at major changes in the whole face of this country," he said.

Cunningham, Harrison Fagg (a state representative from Billings), Forest Service and state lands officials hiked to the claims last month. Bruce Hayden, administrator of the Reclamation Division of the State Lands Department, said afterwards that it was clear Gold Cup plans more than just a few prospectors packing out an occasional load of ore.

As a result, Gold Cup will not get the small miners' exclusion. The company will have to provide detailed maps and plans of the operation, and post a cash reclamation bond. Hayden said the state may require a full-scale environmental impact statement.

That may not halt development of the mine, however.

Cunningham blames the Forest Service for allowing "piecemeal decisions and haphazard development" in the Crazies. If the Cottonwood Creek road goes in on one side and the mine development on the other, he says, that will be "the bisection and the end of the Crazies as we know them." Worst of all, to Cunningham, there is no organized opposition or watchdogging. "The Crazies are spectacular and they really are ignored," he says, "and they are being clobbered."

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Dan Hollow is a reporter for the **Livingston Enterprise** in Livingston, Mont.

Energy

Capitol Currents

Congress could clear way for coal slurry

by Lonnie Rosenwald

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressional Democrats are maneuvering to clear the way for coal slurry pipelines, with important amendments to pending legislation.

Most coal is now carried from mines to utilities by rail. Only one pipeline, which pumps finely ground coal mixed with water between Arizona and Nevada, is operating. But companies are pondering eight others.

But would-be operators complain that railroads have squeezed them out of the competiton by refusing to allow pipelines to cross their land, which covers vast areas in some parts of the country.

Congress has been sympathetic to the pipeline companies' complaints. Until recently, however, a bill proposed by the House Public Works Committee, HR 4370, failed to gain the support of the pipeline industry.

Rep. Bob Eckhardt (D-Tex.) has proposed amendments to the bill that would strengthen the hand of the companies in their efforts to acquire land. At the same time it would weaken the powers of the states through which the pipelines would pass.

The first part of the Eckhardt amendment, extending the power of eminent domain from railroad lands to all private lands, is being assailed by both the American Railroad Association and the Environmental Policy Center.

"We are against eminent domain, which is a federal preference to a private entrepreneur," said Kay Martin, an AAR lobbyist. "Railroads as common carriers are obliged to carry everything," Martin said.

John McCormick of the Environmental Policy Center said eminent domain, the legal right to condemn private property, "gives it (a pipeline company) considerable power to roll over states."

But the pipeline companies have argued that they need the power of eminent domain to build pipelines in the cheapest way.

"If you are trying to build a multi-billion dollar and several thousand mile pipeline," explains an Eckhardt aide, "you can't zigzag your way along until you find somebody who will sell you a piece of land."

It is the second facet of the Eckhardt amendment, however, which would affect the West most dramatically. The Public Works bill requires written approval from all states whose surface or groundwater would be affected by a pipeline. Eckhardt's amendment leaves the decision up to the state where the pipeline begins.

The reasoning behind the original provision was that water bodies may extend well beyond the boundaries of the states where they originate. But Eckhardt argues that the "relative rights" of states to water supplies is a matter for the courts, not Congress, to determine.

The Senate will resume work on the bill after the November election.

Supporters are optimistic about passage, claiming the only significant opposition comes from the railroads, who are trying to protect their financial interests.

"There's only one national environmental group that's taken a position against it," says Eckhardt's aide. "It boils down to the railroads trying to preserve their monopolistic position." The Association levels similar charges against the motives of the pipeline lobby, claiming the issue has been misrepresented as a matter of boosting energy supplies.

"We have tried to dispell that impression. It does not create energy. It is not an energy issue. It is a transportation issue," the Association's Martin said.

She refused to predict the chance for passage of a pipeline bill this year.

Lonnie Rosenwald is working in the office of columnist Jack Anderson in Washington, D.C.

Geologist: 'Major' find, minor relief

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Recent reports of "major" or "giant" oil discoveries in the Overthrust Belt of western Wyoming must be kept in perspective, according to a University of Wyoming geology professor.

Dr. D. C. Blackstone, Jr., a UW faculty member for 34 years, says oil industry terminology tends to make petroleum discoveries sound more impressive than they are.

"A 'major' or 'giant' oil field means a field with over 100-million barrels ultimate reserve," Blackstone says. "We've had about three such discoveries in the past 10 years in the state and I expect that current exploration in western Wyoming may result in two or three more 'major' discoveries.

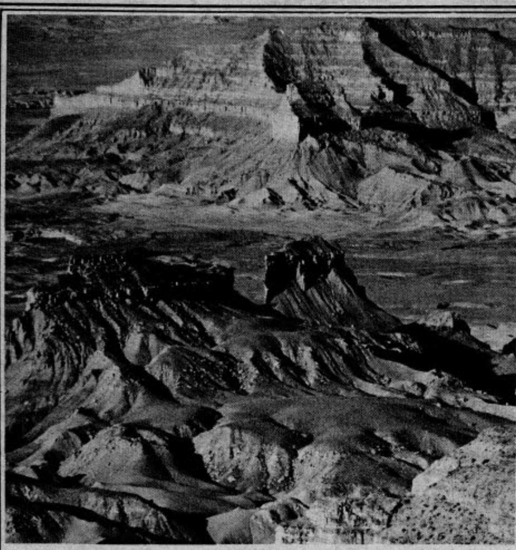
"But what must be kept in mind is that we're using oil at the rate of 17-18 million barrels per day in this country and at that rate of consumption, three 'major' oil discoveries in western Wyoming would only supply us for about 17 days."

And that isn't the only problem, Blackstone says.

"You can't simply take a 100-million-barrel discovery and turn it on for five days and have all that oil. It takes 20 years to get it all out. So a single 'major' discovery doesn't help us much in the short term."

As to the potential of Overthrust Belt production, Blackstone says that some significant natural gas finds have been made recently. But he adds, "You hear a lot of people saying that if we'd just take off government regulations and taxes and so forth, the industry will discover, in the continental U.S., all the oil we need. But we are very efficient at oil exploration in this country and our consumption has exceeded our discovery rate for many years."

Split Rock



SOUTHERN ESCARPMENT of the Kaiparowits Plateau in Utah, where California utilities want to dig five underground coal mines to feed a proposed slurry pipeline carrying coal to out-of-state power plants.

Hot Line

YET ANOTHER KAIPAROWITS PLAN. Companies owning coal and water rights on the Kaiparowits plateau want to study the feasibility of mining the coal underground and sending it by slurry pipeline to California. Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric are asking Utah Gov. Scott Matheson to endorse their proposal asking the U.S. Department of Energy for $8 million to study the idea. Plans call for five deep mines in the Kaiparowits area but no power plant. Upon reaching California, the coal would be gasified. Matheson has tentatively endorsed the plan, but expressed concern about the loss of 10,000 acre-feet of Utah water needed in the pipeline.

URANIUM AGREEMENT. The Wyoming Outdoor Council, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Western Nuclear, Inc. have reached agreement on pollution clean-up and monitoring at Western Nuclear's Split Rock uranium mill in Jeffrey City, Wyo. WOC has agreed to withdraw its intervention in the relicensing of the mill in exchange for several stipulations attached to the license. Western Nuclear has agreed to monitor groundwater hydrology and minimize impacts from seepage of contaminants from the mill into the Sweetwater River. Bradley Booke, attorney for WOC, says, "We got everything we were looking for in the agreement...and this is not a program that Western Nuclear can't live with."

OVERTHRUST DECISION. A federal judge in Cheyenne, Wyo., has ordered the U.S. Interior Department to report to Congress that certain wilderness study areas above the potentially petroleum-rich Overthrust Belt in Wyoming and Montana have been withdrawn from mineral leasing. The ruling came in a lawsuit brought by the Mountain States Legal Foundation, an industry-supported, non-profit legal corporation. Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Interior is required to report mineral withdrawals. The decision, by federal district judge Clarence Brimmer, says that "further study" areas under RARE II (the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) constitute withdrawals. Interior can report the withdrawals to Congress within 30 days or appeal the decision. The full impact of the decision is still being studied by parties to the suit. The areas affected are the Palisades further plan-

Energy

Navajos set up tribal authority for energy development

by Marjane Ambler

In an effort to take control of energy development on its reservation, the Navajo Tribe has created its own energy company, the Navajo Energy Development Authority.

NEDA will be operated for profit and directed by a board of seven, four members of which will have experience in energy development. The other three will be tribal council members. Peter MacDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribe, will serve as chairman of the board.

NEDA is the brain child of the tribe and Ahmed Kooros, Iran's former deputy minister for finance and oil, who now serves as chief economist for the Council of Energy Resource Tribes. Kooros hopes NEDA can serve as a model for other tribes. He sees it as a mechanism for increasing tribal control and for making it easier for corporations to do business with Indian tribes.

Since MacDonald was elected in 1970, the Navajo Tribe has signed only one new mineral contract. While it has renegotiated some old contracts and agreed on one joint venture for uranium exploration, the tribe has been reluctant to commit itself to other contracts until it determined how to assure tribal control and a larger financial return.

The tribe has been unhappy with the long terms and flat royalty rates on past leases, and tribal representatives say it is unlikely they will ever consider traditional leases in the future. Other options, such as service contracts and joint ventures, involve more risk and more capital from the tribes, but they assure the Navajos of more control and more financial return, according to tribal sources.

Photo by John Martin

AHMED KOOROS describing the Navajo Energy Development Authority at a recent meeting of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes.

Under service contracts, NEDA would hire a company to conduct the exploration and development work. For projects that require high initial capital outlay, such as synfuels plants, NEDA would be more interested in joint ventures.

So far, companies from outside the reservation have been reluctant to agree to service contracts. "It's a purely psychological barrier; they don't want to work for the tribes," Kooros says. NEDA was created to overcome such resistance. The companies would be working for NEDA — not the tribal council — and the NEDA board would include some of their corporate peers.

Kooros points out that the windfall profits tax legislation, from which tribes are exempted, will also be a big incentive to companies to consider alternative contracts so they can share in the exemption's benefits.

NEDA also gives the tribe more control over the rate and pattern of production on reservations. For example, social impacts can be reduced by not having two projects starting at the same time in the same area. NEDA could also coordinate the development of systems, such as roads, which normally would be left to the companies' discretion.

Possible problems arising from the board may include resentment of the role played by MacDonald, who is viewed by some Navajos as solidifying his dictatorial control over tribal government. A powerful man, he is either intensely disliked or respected. MacDonald's critics also say that because NEDA profits will be fed back into the tribal coffer, tribal officials responsible for environmental control may be urged to bend their regulations for NEDA projects.

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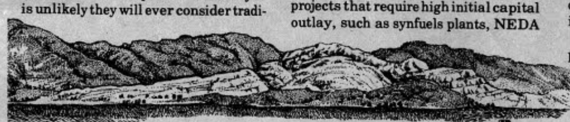
Marjane Ambler is a former managing editor for the **High Country News** who is studying Indian energy development under a grant from the Alicia Patterson Foundation.



ning area in the Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests and the RARE II areas adjacent to the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Lincoln-Scapegoat Wilderness Areas in Montana.

POTATO POWER. Some of Idaho's famous potatoes will be sacrificed to the gasoline god as the Spudcohol plant in Pingree, Idaho, goes on line as the first commercial producer of alcohol for gasohol in the state. The plant will produce 1,000 to 1,500 gallons of 190 proof alcohol daily. The company has a contract to sell the alcohol to Trimble Oil Co. of Boise.

FED ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. It may not impress Ronald Reagan, who claims the only thing standing between us and abundant domestic energy development is the federal government, but the Carter administration is tooting its horn on energy produced from public lands over the last three years. Under Secretary of Interior James A. Joseph and Assistant Secretary Guy Martin have been visiting such groups as the Gas Men's Roundtable to point out that 124 million acres of public land have been dropped from wilderness study and are open to energy exploration, oil shale leasing has expanded, and new leases have been sold on the Outer Continental Shelf. To this particular crowd, Interior officials are especially boastful of oil and gas drilling on federal lands in the Rocky Mountains: 900 wells in Colorado and 1,262 in Wyoming, according to Joseph.

UTILITY LOANS. The Idaho Public Utility Commission has approved plans by two Idaho power companies for interest-free conservation loans to homeowners to pay for insulation, caulking, storm doors and windows and other energy saving efforts. Customers would not have to begin repaying the loans for 10 years or until their homes are sold. The two utilities are Idaho Power Company and Utah Power and Light. The PUC estimates that the program could save IPC 71 million kilowatts of power annually by 1986 at a cost of $10.7 million and save UP &L 17 million KW.

RAIL DEREGULATION. The rail deregulation bill that cleared Congress early in October has some utilities worried about coal-hauling freight rates they'll have to pay, according to McGraw-Hill's newsletter **Electrical Week.** Because the legislation would lessen constraints on rail freight increases, electric consumers may be forced to pay "higher costs than necessary." However, the Interstate Commerce Commission, when reviewing rail rate increases, will be required to consider "national energy policy," i.e., plans for increased coal use to replace oil.

SLITHERING SALAMANDERS, TIMID TO

spadefoot toads

tiger salamander

SALAMANDERS AND SPADEFOOTS, like most other amphibians, spend their youth under water and their adulthood on land. Unlike reptiles, amphibians have moist, scaleless skin that is permeable to water. Exposure to dry air dehydrates them; moisture gives them life. In arid climes they must therefore confine their foraging to nights and rainy days.

To keep from drying out or freezing, the SPADEFOOT TOAD (top photo) can dig a burrow as deep as 15 feet. A chorus of spadefoots trilling, or "snoring," as it is called, can be heard for a mile or more. The photo shows a trio of Great Basin spadefoots, five days removed from the tadpole stage. They range from southern British Columbia through the Great Basin to northern Arizona and New Mexico. Because of the spadefoot's secretive habits, most people have never seen one.

The TIGER SALAMANDER (lower photo) is found throughout the United States, except in New England. It is active from late March through September. The young emerge from the water in the fall and slither off to find a place to hole up for the winter. Rodent burrows, cellars, window wells and manure heaps are favorite sites.

Just outside Laramie one rainy fall day, I noticed some glistening yellow and green blotches moving on the pavement. First there were only a few, then so many that I had to stop, stare and ponder how to proceed.

Ahead of me on the interstate, hundreds of small, tiger-striped creatures slithered in all directions. Some had been reduced to a greenish smear by earlier motorists.

I was dumbfounded. Swerving for big game, stock, rabbits and even rattlesnakes is routine in this state. But to be brought to a halt by a swarm of salamanders? On a high, windy sagebrush flat? This was Wyoming — not some steaming lowland jungle.

I found out later that this otherworldly scene is all part of the fall wildlife spectacle around Laramie. Each year in September young tiger salamanders leave their puddles and lakes to find a winter burrow. There's nothing unusual about it. But I, like many other wildlife lovers, was sorrowfully uninformed about the subject of

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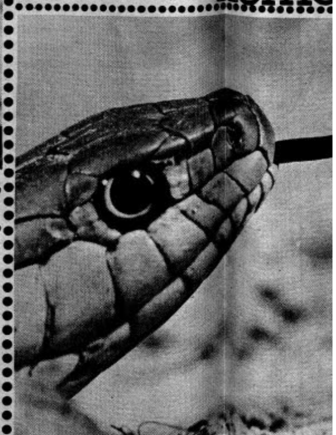

gophe

...MID TOADS

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... about the subject of herptiles.

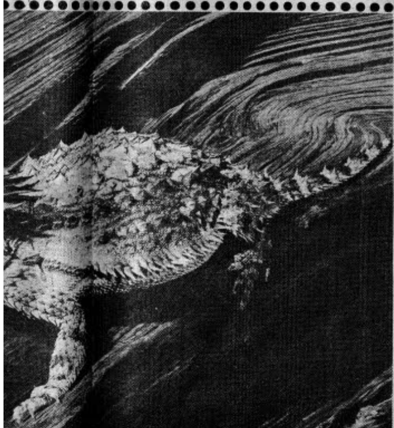
Herptiles are amphibians — frogs, toads and salamanders — and reptiles — turtles, lizards and snakes.

While I was right in thinking that warmer climes and lower elevations are more hospitable for these cold-blooded animals, the Rockies are hardly a herptile vacuum. Wyoming, for instance, has 42 species. Colorado has 77.

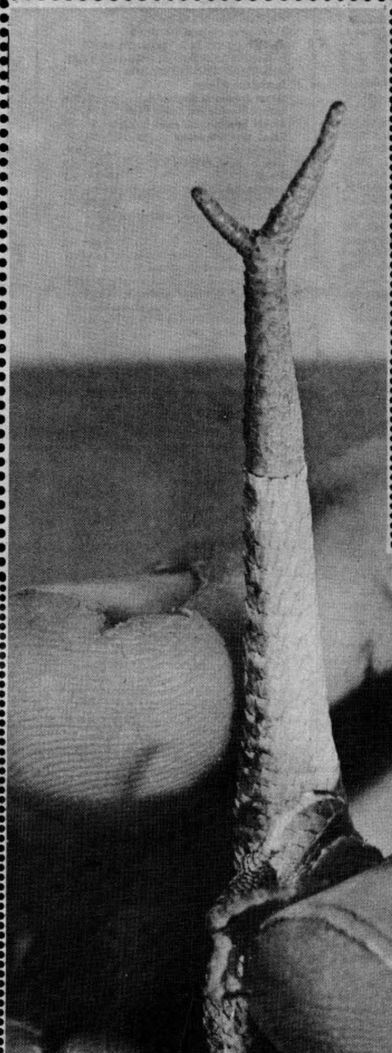
Most of the public would probably just as soon leave herptiles under their rocks. But an explosion of life such as I saw on the highway can spark an interest. First, a drive through Laramie, and the next thing you know you're exchanging significant looks with a sage lizard and hunting for gopher snakes. Suddenly, you feel you've got to know more about your cold-blooded cousins.

To that end, we offer here information from a useful book just published by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, **Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming,** and a selection of vivid photographic portraits by Dick Randall of the Defenders of Wildlife.

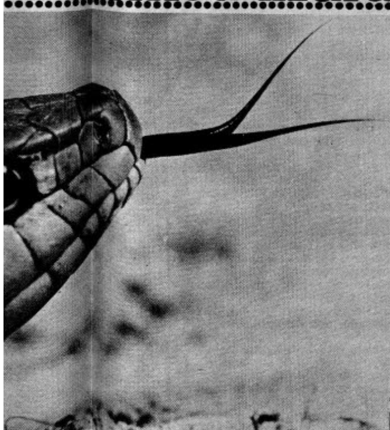
— JN



horned lizard



sagebrush lizard



gopher snake

REPTILES' SCALES protect them from dehydration and abrasion. Unlike amphibians, reptiles live and reproduce entirely on land. Their eggs are covered with a leathery shell and usually deposited in sand or soil.

At 2.2. inches snout-to-vent, the SAGEBRUSH LIZARD (above) is diminutive compared with its 10-foot-long foreign cousin, the Komodo Dragon. But most North American lizards are under eight inches.

Fond of rock outcrops in dry country, the northern sagebrush lizard lives in Wyoming, western Colorado, northern New Mexico and across the Great Basin to northern California's Pacific Coast. The lizard pictured here is regenerating a broken tail, which for some reason has developed a fork.

The HORNED LIZARD (above left) has the unusual habit of ejecting blood from its eyes. Some researchers think it is a way of repulsing predators; others think it somehow helps him shed his skin and regulate his temperature.

The GREAT BASIN GOPHER SNAKE's forked tongue (left) gathers tastes or smells to be analyzed by its "Jacobsen's organ" on the roof of its mouth, which allows snakes to follow scent trails. The Great I'asin gopher snake is a big, harmless reptile that lives in sagebrush deserts. Three specimens from Sweetwater County, Wyo., averaged over four feet long.

STATE OF WYOMING

Financial Statements of Insurance Companies which are Authorized to do business in Wyoming.

Published in High Country News Aug. 22; Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3, 17, 31, 1980

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Aviation Underwriters, Inc., Attorney-in-Fact for
National Insurance Underwriters
10534 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63134
Lambert Field, P.O. Box 10155, St. Louis, Missouri 63145
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

GROSS PREMIUMS RECEIVED	$288,656
Losses Paid Deducting Salvage	623,116
Losses Incurred	1,110,334
Total Admitted Assets	11,388,675
Liabilities	9,366,240
Capital Stock Paid Up	-
Surplus	2,022,435
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	3,170,092
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	3,402,796

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

THE NATIONAL INVESTORS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Home Office: Second and Broadway Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 3668, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$-0-
Gross Premiums Received	51,903
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	14,887
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	2,488
Total Admitted Assets	167,684,963
Liabilities	156,630,838
Capital Stock Paid Up	2,000,000
Surplus	9,054,124
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	57,133,721
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	53,761,707

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

NATIONAL OLD LINE INSURANCE COMPANY
(Mail) P.O. Box 2900; Little Rock, Arkansas
(Home) Capitol 9 Woodlane, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$7,111,000
Gross Premiums Received	236,542.65
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	109,130.56
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	114,926.90
Total Admitted Assets	232,945,629
Liabilities	205,075,151
Capital Stock Paid Up	5,691,449
Surplus	22,179,028
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	61,187,888
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	52,480,149

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Fidelity Life Insurance Company
1002 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64102
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$44,648,633
Gross Premiums Received	1,641,979
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	296,350
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	304,614
Total Admitted Assets	227,332,226
Liabilities	206,619,101
Capital Stock Paid Up	3,125,000
Surplus	17,588,125
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	82,209,959
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	76,961,560

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Guardian Life Insurance Company
2 East Gilman Street Madison, WI 53703
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$111,164
Gross Premiums Received	9,327
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	2,862
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	0
Total Admitted Assets	204,243,117
Liabilities	190,840,383
Capital Stock Paid Up	NONE
Surplus	13,402,734
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	42,150,146
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	40,554,145

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the state of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National General Insurance Company
P.O. Box 10155 Lambert Field; St. Louis, Missouri 63145
10534 Natural Bridge Road; St. Louis, Missouri 63134
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

GROSS PREMIUMS RECEIVED	$145,319
Losses Paid Deducting Salvage	158,343
Losses Incurred	160,962
Total Admitted Assets	21,375,313
Liabilities	15,513,070
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,512,000
Surplus	4,350,243
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	18,364,325
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	17,016,501

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of the State relating to insurance, and it is duly authroized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford
Mail — CNA Plaza — Chicago Illinois 60685
Home — 270 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, Connecticut 06032
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

GROSS PREMIUMS RECEIVED	$90,829
Losses Paid Deducting Salvage	4,305
Losses Incurred	24,323
Total Admitted Assets	614,756,945
Liabilities	493,569,556
Capital Stock Paid Up	5,000,000
Surplus	116,187,389
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	231,928,242
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	219,294,424

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of the State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorised to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Liberty Life Ins. Co.
MAIL: Valley Forge, PA 19493
HOME: Liberty Park, Fraser, PA 19355
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$-0-
Gross Premiums Received	29,198
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	15,076
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	14,528
Total Admitted Assets	71,952,290
Liabilities	53,791,636
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,500,000
Surplus	16,660,653
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	56,206,886
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	46,757,902

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY
3024 Harney Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Gross Premiums Received	$241,977.00
Losses Paid Deducting Salvage	140,922.00
Losses Incurred	108,298.00
Total Admitted Assets	409,798,815
Liabilities	192,035,504
Capital Stock Paid Up	5,500,000
Surplus	212,263,311
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	125,636,554
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	105,564,354

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Independence Life Insurance Co.
Room 810 Illinois Building Springfield, ILL 62701
Liberty Park, Frazer, PA
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$230
Gross Premiums Received	1,062
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	-0-
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	-0-
Total Admitted Assets	13,160,374
Liabilities	9,203,636
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,504,000
Surplus	2,452,737
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	8,994,046
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	10,345,298

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

The National Life Assurance Company of Canada
522 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1Y7
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$-
Gross Premiums Received	27,015
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	16,715
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	14,156
Total Admitted Assets	44,826,839
Liabilities	41,070,839
Statutory Deposit	600,000
Surplus	3,156,000
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	19,826,913
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	20,780,133

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Home Life Assurance Company
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19493
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$992,149
Gross Premiums Received	411,862
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	164,822
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	166,417
Total Admitted Assets	205,575,514
Liabilities	174,163,216
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,111,000
Surplus	30,301,297
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	238,994,505
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	234,946,473

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

NATIONAL PRODUCERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Mail: P.O. Box 16294 Phoenix, Arizona 85011
Home: 244 W. Osborn Phoenix, Arizona 85013
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$-0-
Gross Premiums Received	12,573
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	2,184
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	1,758
Total Admitted Assets	30,814,007
Liabilities	27,173,817
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,391,273
Surplus	2,248,916
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	3,687,479
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	3,471,737

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the Satate of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

National Liberty Life Ins. Co. of America
Liberty Park, Frazer, Pennsylvania 19355
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979
No Direct Business in 1979

Insurance Written	None
Gross Premiums Received	None
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	None
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	None
Total Admitted Assets	$3,000,583
Liabilities	136,412
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,500,000
Surplus	1,364,170
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	335,754
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	141,754

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont 05602
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Insurance Written	$838,722
Gross Premiums Received	102,084
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	7,234
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	2,787
Total Admitted Assets	2,330,369,946
Liabilities	2,179,975,873
Capital Stock Paid Up	None
Surplus	150,394,073
Income during year ending December 31, 1979	411,950,871
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1979	388,487,108

Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated Aug. 21, 1980
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

Western Roundup

Colorado

Denver toxic waste dump to expand

On November 19, Denver's Lowry Landfill will become the only federally licensed facility for receiving toxic liquids in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah or Montana. On that date, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations for the disposal of toxic liquids will take effect, empowering the agency to levy fines up to $25,000 a day from operators that dump wastes illegally.

Over the past 16 years, the 2,600-acre dump, situated on the old Lowry Air Force Bombing Range on the outskirts of Denver, has become host to all kinds of toxic wastes — without public comment or approval by the Colorado Health Department, because there are no state laws regulating hazardous waste dumping.

Initially, the dump operators expect to take in 10 million gallons of toxic liquids annually, including cyanide, arsenic, and other poisons, as well as wastes known to be corrosive, ignitive, and reactive. The company plans to solicit business from other states, and to step up its operation to handle double this amount in the next three years. Fifteen to 25 dollars will be charged per barrel (55 gallons), compared to a previous dumping fee of $1.

In July, Chemical Waste Management, Inc., of California, took over operation of the city-owned site. They made $2 million of improvements at the site, winning an automatic EPA permit as a toxic waste dump, and praise from state and city officials. Jim Martin, of the state health department's hazardous waste section, said, "The way the toxic wastes were being handled before amounted to an accident waiting to happen." Seepage of chemicals into the groundwater has plagued the Lowry Landfill.

Although public participation is not legally required on the dump issue, concerned citizens who "don't want the area to become another Love Canal", recently petitioned Gov. Dick Lamm, the county commissioners, and the state legislators to close the dump and hold public hearings immediately.

Idaho

Bunker Hill smelter embattled again

Six years after federal health investigators found the Bunker Hill smelter was responsible for damaging lead levels in the blood of Kellogg children that were "the highest levels recorded in the Western world," doctors and lawyers are still arguing over the impacts of lead exposure. A third series of tests will be launched soon to determine once and for all the extent of disabilities among children growing up in the shadow of one of the nation's largest lead smelters.

Meanwhile, parents of nine children in the area, convinced that their children have suffered brain damage due to lead poisoning, are suing Bunker Hill, a subsidiary of Gulf Resources and Chemical Corp. of Houston, for $20 million in damages.

The company has paid thousands of dollars over the years for violations of federal pollution and health requirements.

Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, who studied lead poisoning at Bunker Hill in 1974 with the federal Center for Disease Control, said that the smelter has done "a lot of damage," including reducing the average IQ of children there by at least five points. However, a subsequent state study — half financed by Bunker Hill itself — concluded that the lead had caused no "permanent clinical impairment or illness. Further, it is not likely to occur in the future due to this particular exposure."

The third battery of tests will be conducted by the state and financed in full by Bunker Hill.

Dr. Fritz R. Dixon of the Idaho Health department said that the dangers from lead particles that once dusted everything in the town, have subsided substantially. Bunker Hill has installed higher smoke stacks to spread the pollutants over a larger area.

But residents of the area are still fearful. "I know my children would be normal and healthy if we hadn't lived near the Bunker Hill smelter," says parent Janice Dennis.

State of Wyoming Public Notice

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCAA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL FACILITY, (1) ONE SCHOOL, AND (7) SEVEN OIL TREATER FACILITIES; TO MODIFY (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL PERMIT AND (1) ONE OIL TREATER PERMIT; AND TO RENEW (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL PERMIT AND (2) TWO STATE GOVERNMENT PERMITS.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: PROSPECT POINT COAL COMPANY

MAILING ADDRESS: 4704 HARLAN STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80212

FACILITY LOCATION: LEUCITE HILLS MINE
SWEETWATER COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028886

The Prospect Point Coal Company is a subsidiary of Rocky Mountain Energy Company and plans to construct an open pit coal mine which will be known as the Leucite Hills Mine. The mine will be located in Sweetwater County approximately three miles west of the Jim Bridger Power Plant.

It is expected that only a small amount of groundwater will enter the mine pit. If necessary, this pit water will be pumped to a sedimentation reservoir which will also receive runoff from disturbed areas. The outfall from this sedimentation reservoir constitutes discharge point 001 and is expected to discharge only as a result of heavy precipitation events. The discharge will flow approximately 3.5 miles in an unnamed drainage before entering Deadman Wash (Class IV Water).

Effluent limitations contained in the proposed permit are considered to represent "best available treatment" by the State of Wyoming, however, the proposed permit also contains a "reopener" clause which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent standards are developed at the federal level. The proposed permit contains wording exempting the company from effluent limitations when the discharge is the result of a precipitation exceeding the 10 year-24 hour event. In addition, the permit requires control of runoff from discharged areas and requires periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality with reporting of effluent quality with reporting of results quarterly.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: SAINT STEPHEN'S INDIAN SCHOOL

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1248
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

FACILITY LOCATION: FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028967

Currently, Saint Stephen's consists of a mission and a separate Indian school which is served by a single wastewater treatment plant (two cell stabilization pond with first cell aerated). However, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs now proposes to split the wastewater from the school into a separate treatment system which will be another aerated lagoon system. This proposed permit is for the new system which will discharge to the Little Wind River (Class II Water). The wastewater treatment system for the mission will remain in operation but will serve a smaller population.

Due to a high dilution factor in the receiving stream, there does not appear to be any need for ammonia limitations in this permit. Also, at this time it appears that violation of Wyoming's in-stream standard for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. However, this position will continue to be evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

The limitations on fecal coliform and total residual chlorine are more strict than necessary to meet in-stream standards, however, they are limitations which are technologically easy to meet.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire October 31, 1985.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: BASS ENTERPRIZES

MAILING ADDRESS: SUITE 1340, 950-17TH. STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

FACILITY LOCATION: COTTONWOOD CREEK FEDERAL NO. 35-3
SE¼, SECTION 35, T47N, R91W,
WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028959

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Washakie County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to a Class IV water, Sand Creek, via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: FENIX AND SCISSON

MAILING ADDRESS: 400 EAST FIRST STREET, SUITE 301
CASPER, WYOMING 82602

FACILITY LOCATION: B-1-3 TANK BATTERY,
SW¼, SECTION 3, T38N, R78W,
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028894

(5) FACILITY LOCATION: B-1-10 TANK BATTERY
NW¼, SECTION 10, T38N, R78N
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028908

(6) FACILITY LOCATION: B-1-28 TANK BATTERY
SE¼, SECTION 28, T39N, R78W
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028916

(7) FACILITY LOCATION: B-1-33 TANK BATTERY
NE¼, SECTION 33, T39N, R78W
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028924

(8) FACILITY LOCATION: B-2-10 TANK BATTERY
SE¼, SECTION 10, T38N, R78W
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028932

(9) FACILITY LOCATION: B-2-28 TANK BATTERY
SW¼, SECTION 28, T39N, R78W
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028941

Facilities are a typical oil treaters located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Teapot Creek and Little Teapot Creek (both Class IV streams) via an unnamed drainage.

All six discharge points exceed Wyoming Produced Water Criteria for Total Dissolved Solids and Chlorides. Due to this fact no chemical limitations have been imposed except for oil and grease (10 mg-1) and pH(6.5-8.5),

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POLITICS...

(continued from page 3)

onto his House seat against former TV newsman Bart Kull (R). Daschle, 33, whose ran an intensive door-to-door campaign in 1978, is considered one of the state's strongest environmental supporters. He has given solid backing to such wilderness measures as the Alaska Lands bill, and River of No Return wilderness bills. Daschle also supports strong toxic waste disposal superfund legislation, alcohol fuel projects, and substituting a water pipeline for the Oake Irrigation Project.

WYOMING

Wyoming's only race for national office this year, for the state's single seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, promises to be uninspiring. Incumbent Republican Richard Cheney is considered a virtual certainty for a second term. His Democratic opponent, Lyman motel owner Jim Rogers, is a political unknown who won the nomination over a field of equally unknown opponents.

Cheney's record in the energy and environmental field is "mixed." He has worked vigorously to defeat federal legislation limiting the level of state mineral severance taxes and he has supported attempts to require a programmatic environmental impact statement on synthetic fuels development. Cheney opposed the Energy Mobilization Board, aimed at speeding the licensing of energy projects, because it would have given the federal government too much authority.

Cheney served on the committee that investigated the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident and came away convinced that it was a "serious" accident. He has personally recommended several additional safety and administrative measures to prevent a recurrence. However, he believes that nuclear power is a necessity and must be included in short-term U.S. energy plans.

The main uncertainty about Cheney is what one Wyoming native calls "a question about his commitment to the state." Cheney was White House chief of staff in the Ford Administration and had not lived in Wyoming for many years before returning in 1978 to run for the seat vacated by popular Democrat Teno Roncalio. Despite charges that he was a "carpetbagger," he won handily.

The nomination of Democrat Rogers caused some consternation in that party's upper echelons. The day after the primary, the state Democratic chairwoman announced that the nominee would not receive any financial help from the party, a position she later reversed. State Sen. Dick Sadler (D) of Casper attributed Rogers' victory to orthography. "His name is easier to read," said Sadler.

Rogers' initial statements following his nomination did little to unify the party behind him. He appeared ill-informed and vague about his platform.

Upon closer examination, Rogers does indeed appear ill-informed. In an interview with HCN, Rogers said, "I'm having a heck of a time just keeping up on everything." He did not know the name of Wyoming's perenially-proposed federal water project — Savery-Pothook — and was vague on such issues as synthetic fuels, strip mine reclamation, water rights and other matters.

Environmentalists are hopeful that the composition of the incoming state legislature will be more moderate than it has been in the past. Wyoming Outdoor Council director Pete Kozicek says, "We've seen a lot of support among the populace for environmental issues and ethics."

The issues arousing the most passion in state legislative races are mineral severance tax increases and water for coal slurry pipelines. One observer says, "The severance tax is becoming a populist issue. It isn't even a partisan issue any more — it's now a people issue."

A consortium of water rights owners on the Little Bighorn River are gearing up for a lobbying assault to allow their water to be used in a Montana-to-Texas slurry line. Legislative approval is required for any transfer of water out of state.

The legislature may also consider some guarantee of instream flows for fisheries, wildlife and agriculture. This issue has "broad-based support across the state," according to Kozicek.

IDAHO

The betting odds are still even on the outcome of the Senate race between incumbent Frank Church (D) and Rep. Steve Symms (see HCN 6-13-80). With recent polls showing the contestants running neck and neck, the yet-undecided 18 percent of Idaho voters will determine whether or not Idaho's senior senator will endure for a fifth term. His conservative opponent is campaigning hard, planning to spend nearly $2 million by Election Day. He will outspend Church 2 to 1 in the most expensive race in Idaho history.

Nearly $200,000 and 21 months of continuous support for the four-term congressman have come from ABC (Anybody But Church), with support from the National Conservative Political Action Committee, a coalition of right wing groups aimed at toppling prominent liberal senators. Church, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a noted dove, and an ardent spokesman for wilderness, is a prime target — particularly in a state which has shown a more conservative streak in recent years, and will solidly back Reagan in November.

Church, in turn, has retaliated against the Virginia-based NCPAC, calling its members "radicals whose purpose is to change the political structure of America by propaganda saturation." Interviewed in Sun Valley, Church paraphrased NCPAC director Terry Dolan as saying that "with his techniques they can even elect Mickey Mouse in this state."

The thrust of Church's attack has centered on Symm's lack of political clout, failure to sponsor any significant legislation, support of the Sagebrush Rebellion, and the Caldwell Republican's hostility to preserving the state's wildlands. Church has spearheaded the Senate's preservation efforts, which include the recent designation of 2.2 million acres in Idaho's River of No Return wilderness.

Symms, in turn, argues that locking up timber and mining resources costs jobs and hurts the economy. The need for a balanced federal budget, a cap on federal spending, tax cuts, increased defense spending, as well as new blood in the Senate are the mainstays of the Symms campaign.

As election day nears, more mud is flying on the stump. An accusation by ABC that Church had a conflict of interest and was "voting his pocketbook" when he backed a bill to save New York City from bankruptcy, was found by the Senate Ethics Committee to be "without substance." Symms has encountered charges of womanizing, boozing, and speculating in silver and potato futures — attacks that could alienate

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POLITICS . . .

(continued from page 12)

some of the Mormon voters in the state.

A bumper sticker prepared by Bob Kinghorn, an AFL-CIO union official supporting Church, reads "Wine,Women, Silver, and Symms."

In the last weeks of the campaign, Symms has tried to put some distance between himself and ABC by denying any connection with the group and criticising their tactics.

Although polls show that Libertarian Senate hopeful Larry Fullmer has support from only one percent of Idaho voters, in such a close race, he could become a spoiler for either Church or Symms. Focusing on his committment to civil liberties, non-intervention in foreign policy and opposition to the draft, Fullmer criticises both Symms and Church for avoiding discussion of these issues. "Symms has spent a lot of money proving that he likes his wife," Fullmer said in a recent **Idaho Statesman** report. "Church has spent his money proving that he likes trees."

Church and Symms will meet face-to-face for their first and only debate on October 26 in Boise.

Other contests in the state strum many of the same political chords as the Church-Symms race. State Sen. Larry Craig (R), favored to defeat Glenn Nichols (D) in the race for Symms' former House seat, is using the Symms line of attack. He is calling for a balanced budget and reduced federal spending, and has made a major issue out of his support for the Sagebrush Rebellion. Environmentalist Jackie Johnson describes Craig as a "Junior Jim McClure — he's a nice guy, but environmentally he's deadly." Nichols, a rancher whose major campaign tactic has been a 928-mile trek on foot across the state, has tried to capitalize on a growing disenchantment among some Idahoans with the Sagebrush Rebellion. The movement, he says, will "end up looking more like a little crabgrass tantrum."

Conservative Rep. George Hansen (R), who upholds an "abysmal environmental record" according to conservationists, looks forward to an easy reelection in the 2nd district against challenger Diane Bilyeu (D).

For the first time in ten years, Democrats have a shot at winning a margin in the state Senate, traditionally dominated by conservative Republicans. If moderates such as John Peavey of Carey, William Onweiler of McCall, and Cyril Slanskey of Idaho Falls win their close races, environmentalists feel that they will gain receptive ears in the legislature.

UTAH

A mock classified ad in Utah Sen. Jake Garn's campaign literature describes almost everyone running for major office in Utah this year:

"Must be conservative, family-oriented, very outspoken. Should favor balancing the federal budget, controlling inflation, cutting taxes, and bolstering the nation's defense."

Whether Democrat or Republican, all the major candidates are "conservative." All promise to be tight-fisted with money and tough with the federal government. Almost all boast of devotion to big families. In one candidate's packet of campaign literature a reader is treated to his wife's recipe for zucchini bread.

While some parts of the country seem to be rallying behind the Right for the first time this year, homespun habits and conservatism are traditional in Utah. In the 1976 presidential election, for instance, Utahns gave Gerald Ford his biggest win anywhere — 65 percent of the vote.

This year Reagan is sure to win handily. Utah's congressional representatives, Gunn McKay (D) and Dan Marriott (R), and Sen. Jake Garn (R) are all almost sure to win re-election, as is the state's governor, Scott Matheson (D).

Those opposing the incumbents sound more like echoes than challengers. "The old Utah rallying cries of less government and lower taxes don't mean as much as they used to because all the candidates from both parties are saying the same thing," according to LaVarr G. Webb, the **Deseret News'** political editor.

In campaign debates, natural resources issues have been completely overshadowed by the candidates' economic, national defense, and "moral" (abortion, Equal Rights Amendment) stands.

"I can't see any difference between the candidates," says Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association. To environmentalists' chagrin, all of the major candidates support the Sagebrush Rebellion, a move to give federal lands to the states.

Only two, Dan Berman and Gov. Scott Matheson, have seriously questioned the Air Force's massive MX missile base, which may be built in Utah and Nevada. Berman, the Democratic antitrust lawyer opposing Jake Garn, hasn't emphasized the MX issue, however, and vociferously rejects an environmentalist label.

McKay is aided by strong Mormon ties: His late uncle was church president. McKay's opponent, state House Speaker Jim Hansen (R), has taken him to task for voting for such "environmental bills" as the Endangered Species Act, the Bureau of Land Management organic act and the 1977 Water Pollution Control Act amendments. But Utah voters seem unmoved by the accusations. According to one of his recent polls, he leads Hansen by a two-to-one margin.

Overall, the League of Conservation Voters gives McKay poor marks: a rating of 24 percent "correct" votes on energy and environmental issues from 1977 to 1979.

Gov. Scott Matheson, another Utah-style Democrat, is less doctrinaire on development issues than most of the other major politicians in the state, environmentalists say, but that only puts him slightly above a "poor" rating, according to Dick Carter.

On the one hand, Matheson has pleased environmentalists by questioning the MX and opposing the proposed storage of Weteye nerve gas in Utah. On the other, he has enraged them by pushing for projects such as the Allen-Warner Valley Energy System and the White River Dam.

As the new chairman of the Western Governors Policy Office, Matheson has said that the West stands ready to provide energy, military and economic security to the nation, but is not willing to have its air and water polluted. Matheson's opponent, former Republican State Chairman W. Robert Wright, accuses the governor of setting "a negative tone by being preoccupied with the negative side of growth and ignoring its opportunities."

Utahns appear to be standing firmly behind Matheson's leadership, however. A **Deseret News** poll this month showed him leading Wright 73 to 22 percent.

Dan Marriott (R), running for a third term in the Second District, also appears sure to beat his Democratic opponent, Salt Lake County Treasurer Arthur Monson. While Marriott hasn't made as big an impression in Congress as have his colleagues in the Senate, Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch (R), he is considered a reliable conservative. The League of Conservation Voters gives him a nine percent rating for votes from 1977 to 1979.

NEW MEXICO

There will be no momentous changes in New Mexico as a result of the 1980 elections. In fact, there seems little inspiration for voters to go to the polls. Ronald Reagan is heavily favored, neither of the state's Republican senators are up for reelection, and no significant changes are expected in the House delegation.

The seat of the late Rep. Harold Runnels (D), who died in August after coasting to a primary victory with no opposition, is up for grabs, but the candidates vying for it would not differ much from Runnels. The state Democratic Committee appointed the nephew of Gov. Bruce King (D), to fill the slot on the ticket, inspiring Runnels' angry widow, Dorothy Runnels, to challenge as a write-in candidate. In addition, Republican Joseph Skeen, who has twice come close to winning the governorship, is running as a write-in.

David King's candidacy is not a simple case of nepotism — he has served as the state's finance secretary. Runnels and Skeen tried unsuccessfully in court to get the ballot rewritten to include their names, and now the only question is whether their popularity (both lead King in the polls) will hold up as write-ins.

But in terms of issues, the differences among the three are not great. Skeen had a conservative, pro-energy development record as state senator, and both Runnels and King would follow Harold Runnels' moderate-conservative path and push for energy development.

Environmental activists in the state are hoping a conservative Democratic-Republican coalition that dominated the state's House of Representatives during the last legislature can be broken up in 1980. According to Don Hancock of the Southwest Research and Information Center, that will be "nip and tuck." Among the crucial issues that may be before the legislature this year are mine dewatering legislation, which would allow uranium companies to dewater even if they deplete the water of existing water-rights-holders, right-to-work legislation, and attempts to lower the state's uranium severance taxes and weaken environmental regulations affecting the depressed industry.

■ ■ ■

Politics 80 was prepared by Dan Whipple, Louisa Willcox, Joan Nice and Geoff O'Gara.

Opinion

Carter's better for the Rockies; for the country? You decide

Should **HCN** make an endorsement in a presidential race? Is it presumptuous? Ineffectual? Unnecessary?

It may be any of those things, but this is an election that stirs up the juices, and we're not ready to join those who sit grumbling on the sidelines. Sneer all you will at the low-grade candidates, the 'low road' campaigning or the low level of voter interest, this election ranks high on the scale of important and interesting choices. The intense arguments here in the office over this editorial are an indication of that.

For the Rocky Mountains region, the choice is difficult but clear. We disagree with many of the things Jimmy Carter has done — most notably the creation of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation. But if you want to see energy development under some sort of restraints and an effort made to preserve the land's enduring qualities, re-elect Carter. He fought for a strong strip mine reclamation bill and for protection of public lands in Alaska. His lieutenants at the Interior Department have improved management of public rangeland, and he has discouraged some wasteful federal water projects. Even considering his about-face embrace of synthetic fuels, we think he will allow less damage here than Ronald Reagan, whose energy jingoism and hostility towards wilderness are well-known.

But this is not an out-and-out endorsement of Carter.

HCN covers regional natural resource issues, and that's what we've considered in the above comments. That is not all that matters in this election.

Our world, if not **HCN**'s, extends beyond the Powder River Basin and Four Corners power plant to the Straits of Hormuz and the slums of the Bronx. It includes not just the price of grazing permits on public lands, but also the tab at the check-out counter of your grocery store.

If the next president were only going to run the Department of Interior, we'd want him to be Carter. But he'll have more than that to do. So we'll just say: We think Carter's been good for our region; as for the rest of the job, make up your own mind.

— GOG

Dear Friends,

During an October like this one, you never fail to see those sweeping surveys that tell you whether the 'Solid South' is softening, or the stolid Republican Midwest is finally ousting its populist liberals. Regional cliches are part of the electioneering game.

However perilous the prognosticating, our reporters seem to enjoy the political fray. But our art director does not. By the time Kathy gets to the voting booth, she will probably cast her ballot against every candidate who sent us a dull mug shot (and that includes every one). To liven up the story graphically, she recruited a local artist, Sylvia Long, who provided the elephants and donkeys you see cavorting on our pages. We knew Long's work — her watercolors have hung in galleries here and around the region. When she moved to Lander with her doctor-husband a few years back, a relative told her we'd be neighbors; but only recently did she come around suggesting that we use some of her drawings as "filler" for **HCN**. What we got was front page material, not filler.

— the staff

(continued from page 11)

but the discharges will be eliminated by September 30, 1981.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is September 30, 1981.

(10) APPLICANT NAME: KERR-MCGEE COAL CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: CALLER BOX 3013
GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716

FACILITY LOCATION: JACOBS RANCH MINE
CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023531

The Kerr McGee Coal Corporation operates a large open pit coal mine in Southern Campbell County, Wyoming which is known as the Jacobs Ranch Mine. The mine has four sedimentation ponds which are used to treat pit water and runoff from disturbed areas. The discharges drain these ponds flow to the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek or Burning Coal Draw (Class IV Waters).

Discharge point 002 is the outfall from an exceptionally large holding pond which receives runoff from discharged areas only. Because this point would be expected to discharge only rarely, the Corporation has requested that the continuous flow monitoring requirement at this location be changed to an instantaneous reading requirement which can be accomplished with a staff gage. The proposed modification grants this request.

The proposed permit contains effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming ~~the~~ represent "best available treatment technology," however, the permit also contains wording which requires the effluent limitations to be modified if more stringent effluent limits are adopted at the federal level. Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit also contains language requiring control of runoff from disturbed areas and exempts the corporation from effluent limits in the case of severe precipitation events. The permit is scheduled to expire September 30, 1985.

(11) APPLICANT NAME: PETRO-LEWIS CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 20919
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59104

FACILITY LOCATION: BADGER BASIN, NE¼, SE¼,
SECTION 7, T57N, R101W,
FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024040

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Fremont County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Badger Ditch, Class IV drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on this facility except for oil and grease (10 mg-1) and pH (6.5-8.5). This is due to the extreme aridness of the area which allows for beneficial use of the water for agricultural purposes. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1983.

(12) APPLICANT NAME: BLACK THUNDER COAL MINE
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1569
GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716

FACILITY LOCATION: BLACK THUNDER COAL MINE,
NEAR RENO JUNCTION,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024091

The Thunder Basin Coal Company which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ARCO Coal Company operates an open pit coal mine known as the Black Thunder Mine located near Reno Junction, Campbell County, Wyoming.

The mine has four separate discharge points which include mine it water, equipment wash water, dewatering well water, treated sewage, runoff drain disturbed areas and plant site runoff. Two of the discharge points (005 and 006) flow into an unnamed playa (Class IV Water) and two points (004 and 007) flow into the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek (Class IV Water).

Because the discharges to the unnamed playa are not to waters of the U.S. as defined by federal law, and because a discharge high in total suspended solids would not be detrimental, the proposed permit limits only pH and oil and grease from the combined equipment washwater-dewatering well discharge (005). The other discharge to this playa (006) consists of treated domestic sewage and must meet National Secondary Treatment Standards.

The discharges to the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek (004 and 007) must meet effluent limitations which are considered to represent best available treatment by the State of Wyoming, however, the point also contains language which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent limitations are developed at the federal level.

The proposed permit provides an exemption from effluent limitations in cases of severe precipitation, requires control of runoff from disturbed areas and requires self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire December 31, 1985.

(13) APPLICANT NAME: WYOMING HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1708
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82001

FACILITY LOCATION: APPROXIMATELY 38 MILES
EAST OF THE CITY OF
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING,
(WEST BOUND LANE)

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020958

(14) FACILITY LOCATION: APPROXIMATELY 38 MILES
EAST OF THE CITY OF
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING,
(WEST BOUND LANE)

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020966

The Wyoming Highway Department operates 2 rest stops on Interstate Highway 80, approximately 38 miles east of the City of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The facilities are known as the Bitter Creek Rest Areas (one serving the east bound lane the other serving the west bound lane). Both are served by small package wastewater treatment plants which discharge to Bitter Creek (Class IV Water) via unnamed drainages.

The Highway Department had planned to eliminate these discharges during the summer of 1980, however, problems in obtaining right-of-way have delayed construction to the summer of 1981.

The proposed permits require compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards effective immediately, and require self-monitoring on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permits are scheduled to expire November 30, 1981 which is the end of the 1981 construction season.

STATE-EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCAA will be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to November 17, 1980. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, 401 West 19th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to November 17, 1980 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

The complete applications, draft permits and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned addresses.

Public Notice No: Wy-80-010

Opinion

Guest editorial

Who are the real 'extremists' in fight over wilderness?

by Bill Schneider

I'm growing very weary of being called an extremist just because I favor designating more Wilderness, protecting rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat or keeping free-flowing rivers free.

South of Canada, the great American wilderness has been whittled down to a few slivers, mostly in the northern Rockies. That's about two percent of the continental United States (excluding Alaska) that still has enough of its natural character to be described as wilderness. Today, we scrap over these slivers. And every day that wilderness supporters compromise (We are expected to, you know.) America loses a few thousand acres here or a few miles of river there.

After we have shaved down a wilderness or wild river proposal to accommodate the resorts, mines, possible oil and gas reserves, timber sales, power lines, water developments or off-road vehicle trails, shaved it to one-half or less its rightful size, then we formally propose that this be protected. We expect widespread support in the spirit of fair compromise and balance. But we still face blind opposition and receive face-slapping accusations — "extreme environmentalists."

Witness a recent claim by Montana editorial writer Sam Reynolds that the timber industry wouldn't support Wilderness on Mars. In reply, industry rep Larry Blasing said they "might" as long as no Martians lost their jobs.

"We want to keep it like it is," I often hear, "but we don't want Wilderness; we don't want any government intervention."

Such thinking usually results in — perhaps intentionally — the gradual, incremental destruction of the last islands of remoteness. At times, Wilderness or wild river designation is the only, short-term way to "keep it like it is." Without Wilderness, we'll be looking over our shoulder wishing "it was like it used to be."

In recent years, the word, "wilderness," has been subjected to the most ridiculous slander. It has been projected into the public arena as the source of all that is evil. To such an extent has this campaign succeeded, now even conscientious politicians — who personally support Wilderness designation — shy from the word.

With limited budgets, conservationists continue David-and-Goliath efforts to keep the bulldozer at bay. Now, we must even fight to keep energy and mining companies out of existing Wilderness like the Bob Marshall and Flat Tops. Imagine defacing the Bob Marshall Wilderness, perhaps the most precious of them all. Or open-pit mining in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness? Are the champions of these plans labeled "extremists?"

The oil and gas possibly underlying designated Wilderness might, at best, keep America's lights on for two more months at current consumption rates. Our energy appetite is bringing America to its knees. "Undeveloped" countries can make us quiver with threats of embargoes. Every study, every utility, every energy company, every politician says we must conserve.

Yet, for urging conservation over wilderness destruction, we are unpatriotic, subversively trying to weaken America. Contrarily, it seems much more likely that people who knowingly waste energy and refuse to recognize conservation as a viable alternative to digging up every mountain are truly radical and blind to the earth's limitations.

Will the day ever come when somebody driving a 10-mile-per-gallon four-wheeler to work be viewed as unpatriotic — even if the window has an American flag decal? Right now, conservationists who commute on ten-speeds and support wilderness preservation are called unpatriotic extremists. Who are the real patriots?

In the shadow of a world crisis, mining companies haven't stalled in their enthusiasm to deface Mt. Emmons, the Red Lady, near Crested Butte, Colo. to extract molybednum for export to the Soviet Union to harden military steel. Rebuilding Teton Dam has supporters. The nuclear industry dumps its wastes in the West in containers that last 20-30 years when plutonium has a half-life of 24,400 years. Major polluters favor fouling the still-invisible air of the West by siting coal conversion facilities here instead of where the energy is wanted. Off-road vehicle clubs and manufacturers scream about being "locked out" of wilderness when they already have access to the vast majority — 90 percent or more — of the public lands. (The "locked out" argument always seems strange since Wilderness is public land accessible to everybody.)

In 1910, Flathead County officials in northwestern Montana opposed the designation of Glacier National Park because it would hurt the economy. I wonder what the local chamber of commerce thinks about it now. Wilderness will be — now and even more so in the future — one of the greatest economic benefits to the West. What is scarce is precious, and Wilderness will always be scarce.

Nonetheless, we continually hear claims of "too much Wilderness." Preserving two percent of the continental United States for the future enjoyment, scientific research, or maybe even resource extraction (when it's really necessary) seems like a reasonable investment in a now-uncertain future. It doesn't seem the least bit extreme.

Just think about it. Who are the real extremists? Are they the Wilderness advocates who give freely from their lives (usually without monetary compensation) to save the last remnants of American Wilderness? Or are they the protesters who flex every political muscle to prevent any more Wilderness and are now hoping to violate already-designated Wilderness?

— — —

Bill Schneider is a freelance writer in Helena, Mont., and author of **Where the Grizzly Walks**. This article first appeared in "Wild America," a quarterly publication of the American Wilderness Association.

'Citizen' saviors sound silly, seedy

We received our first letter from the Citizens Party just a few days ago. The Citizens are led by Barry Commoner, and they are touting something they call "economic democracy." Since Commoner, an ecologist at Washington University, has been a source of interesting ideas about energy and the environment in the past, we opened the letter eagerly.

Inside were listed some important problems that many candidates leave out of their campaigns, such as "nuclear power plant dangers" and "poisoning by pesticides and chemical wastes," but nowhere in the letter was there anything like a blueprint for the future.

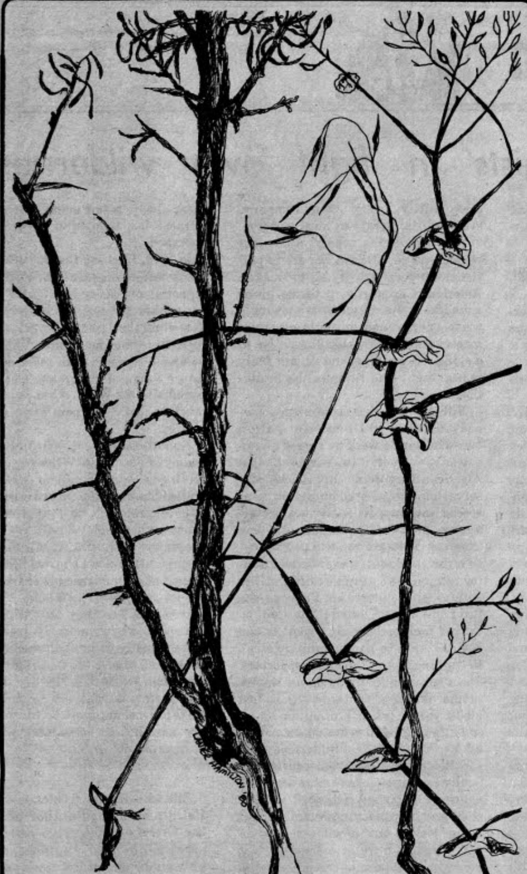
In lieu of solutions, Commoner tried to stir us with horror images such as: "The tenacles (sic) of corporate power are reaching more and more into our government and strangling its independence." That's an interesting reversal of some conservatives' view of things. But neither analysis is likely to capture our votes. How could candidates who see monsters behind our miseries ever cope with the complexities of running the country?

When at last one reaches the end of the letter, almost six gloomy, single-spaced pages later, one is asked to give money to the party, even though it can't win. Why? Because "Great oaks from little acorns grow."

It's hard to believe that an exciting vision lies beneath these tired phrases.

But we can agree with one thing the Citizens Party says. On a pink slip entitled "CARTEREAGANDERSON" they note that a vote for Commoner is a vote for "none of the above." True. And if the promotional letter is a fair sampling, it's also not a vote for a clear-headed strategy for living in harmony with the earth and its peoples.

— JN



by Joan Nice

"In October dung your field
And your land its wealth shall yield."

I throw chicken scat and sawdust on my garden, only half believing in the old saying. It seems dustier than in midsummer. The earth has broken open in jigsaw cracks. My once-verdant squash patch looks like shriveled spaghetti and my five-foot pea vines are half fallen, stiff and white. I feel as wistful as if I'd lost my goat or said goodbye to a friend.

Part of the problem is that no snow has fallen here yet. Its absence has become an obsession with those who know Lander weather, or presume to think they know.

It **always** snows in Lander in September, many locals will tell you. But this year we've floated, warm and lazy, right into October. Now there's a feeling of suspense. Just when is that first storm going to hit, and how long will it take us to dig out from under it?

Mary Back, our neighbor to the northwest in Dubois, Wyo., tells me that in 1937 a similar clear spell held until after Christmas. Rancher Bob Taft says that another year so little snow fell that he didn't have to feed his cattle until mid-February. But, of course, those were extraordinary years. This may be, too.

I walk up the hill behind the garden into a draw filled with greasewood. Backlit by the late afternoon sun it is all yellow fire and spines. Currants and squawbush are a rich burgundy. Roses are a paler red. The rest of the scene is a tan monochrome, not so much rich as overexposed.

Range grasses and most leafy plants stand stiffly in their summer poses — bleached skeletons, wizened and tan. Knocking them down with snow would seem an act of mercy. They've kept up appearances beyond their time.

Indian summer has hung on too long here, leaving plants standing but not growing, suspended uselessly between fall and winter.

Only someone who has lived in the West could understand why I am oppressed by these clear skies. The bright light ceases to stimulate, but instead it exposes, desiccates, takes the life out of things.

Pepper and cheat grasses play percussion on my pant legs as I stride downhill, eager to go inside. A promising cool evening after a scorching, cloudless day. But no snow in sight.

Books

by Smoke Elser and Bill Brown, Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, 1980. $9.95, paper, 157 pages. Photographs and drawings.

Review by Peter Wild

In the 1930s, the Decker brothers of Kooskia, Idaho, started making a new kind of pack saddle. It was invented by a man known as "Old Man McDaniel" and perfected by O.P. Robinett. The "Decker" evolved into a streamlined replacement for the ancient sawbuck arrangement, which lives on primarily in our mental picture of the prospector and his burro.

The historical tidbit illustrates the depth of background that Smoke Elser and Bill Brown bring to **Packin' in on Mules and Horses**. The book has one purpose: to teach readers how to get in and out of the wilderness with pack animals safely, efficiently and with the utmost care to protect the environment.

Smoke Elser, a professional Montana guide, and Bill Brown, a professional writer, unabashedly aim their book at beginners. Further, greenhorn Brown worked for Smoke. He "asked all the dumb questions," as Brown puts it — probably the same elemental questions we'd have.

Here, then, are the basics, from buying a pack horse to tying the last knot on the top of the load. Dozens of photographs and drawings run along with the text to back up the instruction in this oversized and reasonably priced manual. If you don't know the difference between a back splice and a bowline, a panyard and a manty, this book is for you. Even old hands should pick up some hard-won hints from Elser and Brown, such as how to keep bears away from camp with a handy can of black pepper.

At this point we should say a word to the humans who bear their own burdens through the mountains. Proud of their self-sufficiency, backpackers may snort at the idea of piling camp stoves and wall tents atop four-footed creatures and then leading them around the woods: a less-than-Spartan wilderness experience. Perhaps they have a point. Nevertheless, there's a need for this book. The more urbanized Americans become, the more they romanticize the Old West. As they seek out their vision, many of them will prefer beasts of burden to their own backs. Small children, old age, or partially disabling infirmity need not stand between you and the backcountry if you use pack animals. Then, too, even the most stalwart backpackers wouldn't want to load up their Keltys with bags of cement destined for wilderness work crews.

Whatever one's sentiments, we're going to have pack strings on the trails, and we'd better learn to use them right — and they're a much-preferable alternative to the Godless invasion by helicopters and jeeps.

Though they indulge our ignorance in other matters, the authors are adamant on wilderness protection. For stock feed, use pellets instead of oats. Pellets don't contain weed seeds, and they avoid the need for unsightly salt licks. As for humans, jump into that sparkling mountain stream if you wish, but don't take soap with you. Instead, follow directions for the authors' version of a wilderness bath.

The proscriptions, and many others listed here, bear constant repetition. If the horsepacker, like the backpacker, isn't willing to accept environmental responsibilities, Elser and Brown present the only alternative: stay at home. Beyond this stern and wholly justified attitude, **Packin' in** manages to combine the nitty-gritty with a casually moving, often witty, style.

Classifieds

Classified ads cost 10 cents a word. They must be prepaid.

JOB OPENING: Executive Director, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (a regional, non-profit coalition of conservation organizations throughout Southeast Alaska). Headquarters in Juneau; supervise 2 to 3 staff. Salary negotiable. Contact Connie Barlow, Chairman Staff Selection Committee, 811 Basin, Juneau, AK 99801. (907) 586-3930. Apply by November 17.

JOE BACK'S BOOKS: HORSES, HITCHES & ROCKY TRAILS, "the packer's bible" — how to pack anything possible on horse or mule. 52 illustrations. $8.75 postpaid. MOOCHING MOOSE & MUMBLING MEN, and THE SUCKER'S TEETH — two books of mountain fiction, with many pen-and-ink drawings. $4.25 each postpaid. Joe Back, Box 827, Dubois, WY 82513.