



High Country News

75¢

Friday, August 7, 1981

Lander, Wyoming

Vol. 13 No. 16

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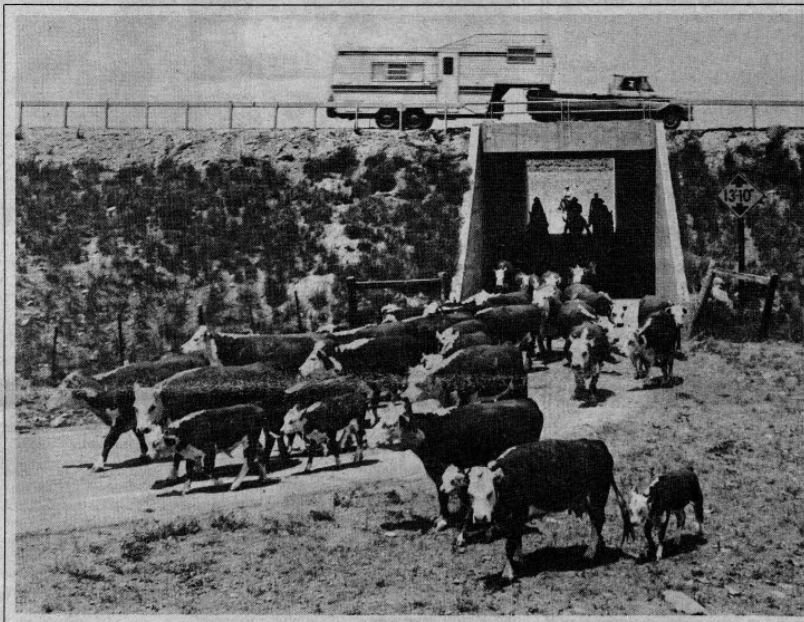
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GOIN' FISHIN'

It's time for HCN staffers to break their pencils and head for the hills for two weeks. We ask that there be no news until our return. Thank you.

Cattle, cussing and cowboys



by Dan Whipple

Photos by Mike McClure

Driving cattle taxes your cussing. No one has ever gone on a cattle drive without enriching his vocabulary in this way. You call those cows names you didn't even know you knew.

The cowboy is one of America's great mythic heroes, but his cussing ability has gone largely unrecognized. When you are looking for cussing, you turn to longshoremen.

But it appears to be impossible to move cattle from one place to another without cussing at them.

A man named Charlie Goodnight is generally credited with establishing the Rocky Mountain cattle industry when he brought a herd of longhorns from Texas to southern Colorado in 1867. Recorded history is silent on the subject, but there can be little doubt that he cussed them all the way.

Keith Fraughton is 60 years old and has been cussing cattle all his life. His grandfather homesteaded his ranch near Piedmont, Wyo., in 1880. The now-extinct town was once the center of Wyoming's charcoal industry. The beehive-shaped charcoal ovens are still there. The Fraughton and Sweat ranch, usually called the Mountain Ranch, is a 14,000-acre spread 22 miles southeast of Evanston, Wyoming. The current owners are full-time ranchers and the place is large enough to support them. It hasn't made them rich.

The ranch lies at 8,000 feet in the foothills of the Uinta Mountains. The main part of the range is 12 miles to the

south in Utah. The Uintas are craggy peaks, with eternal snow at the top. Currently, they are also a prime target of oil and gas exploration.

The ranch has been in the family for 101 years. There is pride and history in the place. One winter many years ago, Keith and his uncle — the previous owner — took the original homestead cabin apart, marked the logs, moved it piece by piece several miles and rebuilt it at the site of the present ranch house. It now serves as a private family museum. Keith points to the grain shed: "That shed is one of the original buildings. My grandmother used to trade with the Indians from that building. The Shoshone used to move through here."

The ranch is now owned by three people — Keith, his son Wendell and their partner Bernard Sweat. They run about 750 cows. They also have a permit for 150 cows and calves on Bureau of Land Management land 30 miles north — just above Interstate 80 near the Bingo gas station. The permit allows them to run there from early spring through the end of June. Then, the cows must be gathered up and moved back to the ranch.

Keith used to have a permit to run 600 cows on the same land. A few years ago, BLM lowered it to the current 150. Keith said, "They had to reduce it. There's so many fences out here anymore that you just can't run that many properly."

The land where they gather the cows doesn't seem to have any fences at all. The cows have several hundred

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Dear Friends,

One of the folks who graces our masthead is going to take a leave of absence after this issue without ever having been properly introduced to our readers. On the theory that it is better late than never, we would like to introduce Cyndy Simer, who joined HCN last March as a production assistant, a job for which she is spectacularly over-qualified. Her background has prompted at least one editor to ask her, "What are you doing here?" She said she finds the cutting, pasting and straightening "therapeutic."

Cyndy graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., in 1971 and got a graduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Maryland in 1975. She taught chemistry and physics at the National Cathedral School and worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., for three years doing medical research in idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, among other things.

From 1977 until recently, she was an instructor at the National Outdoor Leadership School here in Lander. An accomplished athlete, Cyndy played left halfback for the U.S. women's field hockey team in 1970 and 1971. She also coached the women's lacrosse team at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Last fall, Cyndy was one of nine climbers who participated in the women's expedition to Dhaulagiri, the 26,000-foot peak in the Himalayas. The group made it to the 23,500 foot level before being turned back. Cyndy was caught in an avalanche and barely escaped with her life. The body of one woman climber was never recovered.

Cyndy is married to Peter Simer, director of NOLS. Peter is a wargames buff and one HCN editor similarly afflicted claims he is the best Diplomacy player in town.

Cyndy and Peter are expecting their first child in late August. Hence, the leave of absence, which we hope will be brief. It is difficult to find good production assistance, which requires a sharp eye, a steady hand and the patience of Job. It doesn't require climbing ropes, chemistry or a field hockey stick, but we'll welcome her back.

— the staff

Western Roundup



Treating sheep carcass with 1080

1080 revival renews old wrangle

Federal officials said they were looking for new facts. But emotion dominated the public debate last week in Denver on the use of Compound 1080 for killing coyotes, and some observers predicted that political persuasion will ultimately settle the issue.

The hearings were held by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which earlier this year accepted a request by the National Cattlemen and Woolgrowers associations to reconsider its policies restricting predator controls. Compound 1080 and other predator pesticides were banned in 1972.

Sheep producers have vigorously lobbied the agency to lift the ban. They blame the coyote for up to 10 percent of annual stock losses, especially painful for an industry beset by other economic problems. They argue that the low cost and effectiveness of 1080 outweigh the environmental and health hazards its use presents.

The EPA asked for "significant new information" on six related issues, including livestock losses from predation, before and after the 1972 ban; the effectiveness of alternative controls now being used, as well as 1080; new control methods being developed, such as toxic collars and single-dose baits; environmental hazards, particularly secondary poisonings of non-targeted animals; and human safety.

"I'd hoped to see more hard data,"

said Lou Johnson, head of the toxic chemicals branch of the EPA's Denver regional office.

Industry representatives predictably focussed on predation losses, citing case after case of coyote kills. Montana rancher Chase Hibbard said he was run out of the sheep business by coyotes.

But environmentalists questioned the stockgrowers' claims. The EPA's attempt to weigh the costs and benefits of using 1080 are mistaken, said Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife. "How can you put a price on a red-tail hawk?" he asked, referring to the non-targeted wildlife kills he associates with the use of 1080.

Randall charged that "political evidence," rather than scientific data will lead the EPA to holding formal hearings to review its 1080 policy.

Wyoming Farm Bureau public relations officer Herb Manig agreed that federal officials, including EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch, would be more receptive to lifting the ban, convinced by the industry group that careful monitoring can make 1080 safe.

The EPA's Johnson, however, said his own opinion "will depend a lot on whether (1080 proponents), whom we asked to submit data to back up their testimony, do so."

Capitol gives synfuels boost

Synthetic fuel producers eyeing oil shale deposits in northwestern Colorado received good news last week from the nation's capital. The House approved legislation to ease federal leasing rules and spur development, and the Reagan administration approved a \$400 million price guarantee for the Union Oil shale project.

With only five representatives voting against the measure, the House sent to the Senate a bill allowing off-site disposal, with environmental protection restrictions; a tripling in lease limitations from the present 5,120 acres to 15,460 acres; multiple leases within one state by a single operator; multiple mineral development on oil shale leases; and some state and local government consultation provisions.

Several of the new liberal rules are grounded by potentially restrictive language. To override objections by a state governor, for instance, the Interior secretary would have to find development necessary to the "national interest."

From the administration, meanwhile, came the news that Energy Secretary James Edwards had negotiated a contract with Union Oil. The deal provides purchase commitments and price guarantees for synthetic fuel produced by the firm's proposed 50,000 barrel-a-day operation in northwestern Colorado.

Budget Director David Stockman had opposed such aid to the industry. The contract was also skeptically received by Rep. Toby Moffett (D-Conn.), whose House Government Operations Subcommittee on environment, energy and natural resources is reviewing it.

"We can't tell what the effect will be," said the panel's staff counsel Edith Holleman. "The Department of Energy maintains there will be no cost. But I think they'll end up paying out every cent they agreed to."

The contract could stick taxpayers for up to \$400 million, should Union Oil need full assistance to market its shale oil fuel. Moffett's oversight powers, said Holleman, are restricted to "letting the public know about this."

Waiting in line behind Union Oil is another western Colorado oil shale project jointly sponsored by Tosco Corp. and Exxon Corp., which is asking for more than \$1 billion in loan guarantees (rather than the price guarantees also obtained by Union), and a coal gasification project in North Dakota sponsored by American Natural Resources Co., which is asking the federal government for \$2 billion in loan guarantees.

A decision on these two requests is expected this week.

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No coal swap, so UP & L buys

Utah Power and Light has finally obtained a tract of federal coal land in Central Utah it has been seeking for some time. However, the company had to bid for the property rather than get it in a land swap with the Interior Department. UP & L bid \$3,150 per acre for a 3,347-acre parcel near Castle Dale, Utah, or a total of \$10,544,000.

For the past several months, the company has been trying to trade preference right lease applications it holds on federal land in southern Utah for this tract. The Interior Department, however, said that the Castle Dale tract was "highly competitive" and that the government would get a better deal by auctioning it off. Apparently, the government was right. Nine companies bid for the tract and the auction took over two hours.

In all, five Utah coal tracts were auctioned off for a total of over \$14 million.

Interior lifts 160-acre cap

Continuing to rebuff the controversial 160-acre limitation on owning federally watered land, the Department of Interior has stopped enforcing one key rule until its lawyers can review the 1902 Reclamation Act.

The act restricts ownership of lands irrigated by federally-subsidized water projects to 160 acres. Lands exceeding that limitation must be sold if the owner wishes to stay in the program.

At least, that's how previous administrators interpreted the law, said Assistant Secretary of Interior Garrey Carruthers. Those opinions may be wrong, and he has ordered a new review by the agency's solicitor. Meanwhile, excess land sales will be suspended and the federal tap will stay on.

The rule was partially thrown out in 1978 when former Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus exempted landowners in California's Westlands District, where most of the two million excess acres are located. Sales continued elsewhere in the West where there are excess lands, including Idaho (with 21,000 acres), Wyoming (20,400 acres), Montana (16,500 acres) and Utah (3,400 acres).

Those owners wishing to sell excess lands for estate planning or other reasons will still be permitted to do so, said Vern Cooper of the Bureau of Reclamation's budget office, adding that the solicitor review may extend "until Congress can take a look at the act."

The agency is also reviewing parts of the law requiring on-land residency for purchasers of excess lands, as well as the criteria for appraising value.

Pipeline march: Does it mash marsh?

A marsh is a marsh, and it's a rare marsh if it's found near Rock Springs, Wyo. But the southern end of Tenmile marsh is no marsh at all, say officials with the Colorado Interstate Gas Co., because it's dry eleven months every year. And thus they're resisting any special treatment for their proposed new pipeline.

Named Trailblazer, the natural gas line is to run 800 miles from Evanston, Wyo., to Beatrice, Neb. The \$533 million project, sponsored by CIG and four other natural gas firms, is awaiting final approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Until now, Trailblazer's route through administrative channels has been uncontested. A final environmental impact statement by FERC, supplemented by a Bureau of Land Management review, shared CIG's view that the 100-acre Tenmile marsh was not marsh at all. Recent public hearings drew no opposition to the project from environmentalists.

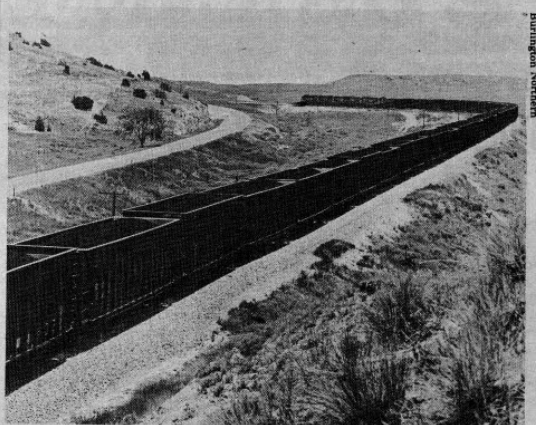
But BLM Rock Springs area wildlife

biologist Jim Dunder claimed the route crossing is indeed a marsh — a rare marsh. Ducks, marsh hawks, migratory birds, muskrats and other wetland species frequent the area for nesting and cover, he said, making the entire Tenmile area one of only two natural marshes in all of southwestern Wyoming.

Dunder said the Trailblazer project is particularly distressing because CIG, in building another pipeline through the area last year, failed to restore damaged wetlands. That damage, charged Dunder, has caused erosion that is contributing to Tenmile marsh's inability to hold water throughout the year.

CIG's public relations director Jack Chandler said his employee in charge of rehabilitation was "totally unaware" of the erosion and had not received any notice from BLM officials to correct the problem.

Chandler said he expects FERC approval this fall, with construction scheduled to begin next April.



Wyo. council could tie new tracks

Wyoming's Industrial Siting Council is considering intervening in the proposed new 56-mile railroad line intended to move coal from the state's Powder River Basin east to Nebraska.

The rail line is planned by Chicago & North Western, which feels the new line could compete with existing rails into the basin owned by Burlington Northern.

The line received approval from the federal Interstate Commerce Commission last week, which concluded that "any environmental disturbances would be outweighed by the (economic) benefits," referring to the increased competition the line would bring to the area.

The ICC had rejected an appeal by the Wyobaska Landowners Association, which has taken the opposite view that development impacts on area landowners would be intolerable.

The Industrial Siting Council, created in 1974 to require industry to help mitigate impacts from development, was given jurisdiction over railroads earlier this year by the state Legislature — an expansion lobbied for by Wyobaska.

Wyobaska spokesman Ed Middlesworth, a Torrington, Wyo. cattle rancher, said he was confident the siting council would review the new line. But that review, said Council director Richard Moore, is contingent on the construction costs of the Wyoming portion of the line exceeding \$85 million. Moore said Chicago & North Western was now determining its costs.

If the council does review the line, said Middlesworth, "it may not stop the thing, but it certainly will hold it up more and may bring in more money to help deal with the impacts."

Comments say no to Washakie oil

The period for public comment on proposed oil and gas drilling in Wyoming's Washakie Wilderness closed this week with a rough tally showing strong opposition to leasing the area to energy developers.

The numbers were not large, however: only 392 comments were received by Shoshone National Forest. The 687,000-acre wilderness area, which borders Yellowstone National Park, is the first wilderness area to test provisions in the 1964 Wilderness Act that leave the door open for oil and gas development in wilderness areas.

At least one of the written comments may receive special attention. Yellowstone National Park Supervisor John Townsley wrote that energy development in the Washakie "would be devastating to the critical wildlife habitat and would destroy the wilderness values in this wild, remote and incredibly scenic area."

The latest count showed 130 applications for oil and gas leasing in the Washakie, but Forest Service officials said more applications were sitting on their desks.

The comments, as well as reports on the area's oil and gas potential, will be considered between now and October, when a draft decision on the leases is expected. "I've looked at about 250 of (the comments)," said Shoshone official Bud Riggs, "and I'd say not more than five or six were for leasing."

Legal limbo for Indian tax

The nation's highest courts have delayed decisions on two cases testing the validity of severance taxes on Indian reservations.

The U.S. Supreme Court on July 3 ordered a rehearing next fall on a case brought by oil companies objecting to a severance tax levied by the Jicarilla Apache Tribe of New Mexico.

Meanwhile the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco returned to the lower court a case in which the Crow Tribe challenged the right of the state of Montana to collect a state severance tax on Indian coal.

The judges indicated they favored the tribe, saying they suspected the state severance tax conflicted with the 1938 Mineral Leasing Act. The Crows will have another opportunity to argue their case in the U.S. District Court in Billings, Mont.

Indian tribes throughout the Northern Plains and Rockies are watching the cases carefully, and several said they plan to enact their own mineral severance taxes if the Crow or Jicarilla Apache are successful.

A tribal severance tax can be critical to tribal control over energy development. Many tribes argue they are locked into low royalty rates, distributed in per capita payments to tribal members. The tribal governments, responsible for cushioning the impacts of the development, often get only a small percentage of the income from the minerals.

In the Crow case, though, the state of Montana contends that it is taxing the non-Indian lessees, and the state must provide for the off-reservation impacts.

— Marjane Ambler

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Western Roundup

Aliens program worries region

The immigration reforms announced by President Reagan last week have drawn a mixed, if not puzzled, reaction from agricultural producers in the Rocky Mountain region.

Caught between declining labor supplies and fears of the constricting government involvement Reagan's program may bring, growers are weighing the pros and cons of changes that could significantly alter their operations.

The administration proposals, which require congressional approval, include a guest-worker program that would allow U.S. employers to import up to 50,000 foreign workers, mostly from Mexico, for temporary labor. Employers continuing to hire illegal aliens would be subject to \$1,000 fines.

Growers throughout the region complain of labor shortages. "It's awful tough to get the American people back on the farms," said National Farmers Union President George Stone in Denver, noting most ranchers and farmers rely on Hispanics to supplement family farm labor.

Recent surveys in Colorado cite labor shortages as a major reason for today's farm economy troubles. In Wyoming, hired ranch hands have declined from 6,000 to 4,000 in the last five years. Growers in energy producing areas face stiff competition for labor from high-paying energy firms.

But Reagan's worker program, known as "bracero," may be far too little, charged Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), who said as many as 2 million workers were needed each year to take agricultural jobs Americans refused.

It may also be too expensive, said Allan Jones, a western Colorado fruit grower. Jones said worker housing and health standards required by the program did not exceed what he already provided for his hired illegal aliens, but that the paperwork involved in participating in the bracero program could send costs too high.

And most agricultural observers, including Herb Manig of the Wyoming Farm Bureau, found the fines for hiring illegals "unwarranted," requiring farmers to be law enforcement officers for the government.

The Farmers Union's Stone and others said they would withhold final judgement until Congress could develop more specific provisions.

Taking an immediate hard line against the proposal, however, is the Idaho Migrant Council, speaking for both American and alien Hispanic farm workers.

"There's a high unemployment among farmworkers now," said Humberto Fuentes, executive director of the group in Boise. "Agri-business just wants an abundant supply of cheap labor," he added, discounting much of the grower outcry for more labor.

"What's missing in the Reagan program is a concern for abuses of human rights," said Fuentes. "There's no talk about guarantees — for housing, health, wages — and until there is, no, we don't need any more workers."

The Reagan administration has apparently joined the long line of those questioning the usefulness of the "racetrack" basing system for the MX missile. Reports from Washington indicate the administration is going to scrap the "shell game" concept and mount the missiles on airplanes. An official White House spokesman said, however, that President Reagan has yet to make a final decision on the project.

The Washington Post reported that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger would recommend placing the MX missile aboard transport planes as part of a

defense package that would also include development of a new bomber. The air system would replace the currently proposed 4,600 shelters scattered through Utah and Nevada, connected by highways. In the racetrack system, the missiles would be shuttled from silo to silo to keep enemies in the dark about their exact location.

The MX received an additional blow when the New York-based Council on Economic Priorities sent a report to Congress charging that the Air Force had biased its information on the MX, understating costs and overemphasizing benefits. The report concluded that

the MX would cost each taxpayer \$2,500 "while adding nothing to our national security."

The CEP report urged that the money planned for the MX would make the country more secure if it were spent on "a long-term program of fuel oil conservation." The report said, "The 1980 balance-of-trade deficit (\$2.4 billion) could be completely eliminated and converted into a substantial surplus" with a conservation program.

The Air Force has estimated the total cost of the MX system at \$52 billion. CEP said it would be more like \$232 billion.

Critics' paper, Reagan doubts hurt MX



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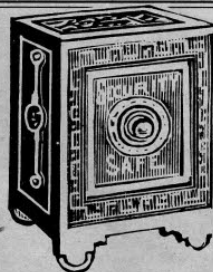
With protests in an adjacent county still pending, the Public Service Co. of Colorado has begun placing new 60-to-120-foot towers in Lake and Eagle counties for its planned 345,000 volt transmission line. The utility will spend \$16.5 million to put up 324 towers along a 51-mile corridor, from Basalt to Malta, by October, 1982, unless a suit by Pitkin County to halt the project is successful.

NEW BLM FOCUS

With the appointment of Denver attorney Sandra Blackstone to head the Bureau of Land Management's energy and minerals department, the agency has announced a new drive to "increase the availability of Federal lands for energy and mineral exploration and development." Blackstone brings experience to the job. She formerly handled synthetic fuels business for Rocky Mountain Energy Co. in Denver, and has been a consultant to Colorado Coal Co.

CREDITING OIL SHALE

Equipment used in creating oil shale through hydrogenation will be eligible for a 10 percent investment tax credit, under new legislation introduced by Sen. Bill Armstrong (R-Colo.). The change, he said, would put that process on par with coal gasification, liquification, and the other synthetic fuel processes that now receive tax breaks.



SORRY, NO MONEY

The Reagan administration and key members of Congress are continuing to hold firm against dishing out federal dollars for new water projects. Gov. Dick Lamm (D) and other Colorado officials journeyed to the nation's capital last week, seeking start up funds for the state's proposed Animas La Plata and Narrows projects. But failing to get even promises of hope from Interior Secretary James Watt or Rep. Tom Bevill (D-Ala.), chairman of the House Appropriations public works panel, Lamm lamented to the Denver Post that "the good old days" of cooperative federal funding appear to be over.

URANIUM SPENDING SLIDES

U.S. uranium producers are projecting steadily declining expenditures on uranium mining and milling facility construction, with planned spending dropping from \$515 million last year to \$195 million in 1982. The market is so uncertain, some firms say, that they can't project any continued spending.

SYNFUEL PASSES TESTS

Successful test results from the year-long Exxon pilot project in Baytown, Texas, should encourage private industry to take the lead in further research, said Secretary of Energy James Edwards. The plant has been processing some 250 tons of Illinois coal a day through the Exxon Donor Solvent process — producing 625 barrels of oil. A full size plant would handle as much as 30,000 tons a day. Further testing will involve western coal from Wyoming. DOE's contribution to the \$350 million project is now projected at \$166.6 million, down to a 48 percent share of the previous 50-50 cost sharing arrangement with Exxon and six other firms.

WETLANDS NOT SO WET

Backing away from a heated local outcry, the Army Corps of Engineers has drafted a map of Gunnison County, Colo., wetlands that excludes virtually all irrigated land. Area landowners were concerned the agency would exercise tight regulatory controls over all lands defined as wetlands. Irrigated lands, they successfully argued, should not be included because the wetness is man made.

MINING THE MILITARY

Over six million acres of federal military lands are now open to oil and gas leasing, ending an 18-month moratorium imposed by the Carter administration, announced the Department of Interior. The agency is also backing a bill by Rep. John Hamerschmidt (R-Ark.) to give states one-half of the revenues generated from developing any discovered resources on those lands.

David Shear

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SLOW TO MINE FARMLAND

Dick Harris, nominated to head the Office of Surface Mining, has promised to move cautiously in opening prime farmlands and alluvial valley floors to coal mining. In confirmation hearings before the Senate Energy Committee, Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) said he was concerned about Harris' support for an Indiana legislative resolution challenging the federal rules protecting farmlands (rules the Supreme Court subsequently upheld). Said Harris: "If it can be shown on an experimental basis that prime farmlands can be returned to a high percentage of productivity, we will have access to these vast coal resources. If not, there will be a lot of unmineable coal."

HOMESTEAD 1981

Not to be outdone by the Sagebrush Rebels of the West, Rep. Philip Crane (R-Ill.) has introduced a bill to give away lands currently managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Crane's bill makes the old Homestead Act sound positively stingy. Crane's homesteaders would not be required to farm the land they take, according to the *Outdoor News Bulletin*, published by the Wildlife Management Institute. Rather, they'd only have to put a residence on the land, live in it for two and a half years, and put the land to "productive purposes."

COAL BOARD HELP?

The Reagan administration's budget cuts will hit Montana hard, according to a recent report by the Coal Board administrator Murdo Campbell. He said local governments will turn to the board for help, seeking for airports, sewers, and home loans, among other things. Board members expressed relief that the Supreme Court had upheld the state severance tax, which the coal board distributes. Of \$9.3 million available this year, \$2.9 million is already out, and requests stemming from the Reagan budget cuts are just starting to arrive.

SPLIT MILK

Canadians seemingly aren't too happy to see water from the Milk River flow across their border into Montana, where it is gobbled up by irrigators. So they are thinking of damming it. The federal Bureau of Reclamation also has a number of canal projects in mind. The river starts in the United States, goes north into Saskatchewan, and then loops back into Montana. In dry years, like this one, the Milk doesn't even have enough aqua to supply present users, and it runs dry.

NORTHERN TIER NEARS

Despite fears of some tribal members, voters on the Flathead Reservation in Montana approved a right-of-way agreement between the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Northern Tier Pipeline Co. Tribal council member Bearhead Swaney called the agreement a "rip off" and said he feared a pipeline break that would pour thousands of gallons of crude oil into the reservation's irrigation system. Now the company awaits only a siting permit from the state of Washington before it can proceed with construction of its 1,500 mile pipeline from Port Angeles, Wash., to Clearbrook, Minn.

FISHERY EXEMPTION

Land sold to non-profit, tax-exempt organizations or state and federal governments primarily for preservation of fish and wildlife or natural areas would be exempt from capital gains taxes under a bill introduced by Rep. Robert Lagomarsino (D-Calif.). The bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to grant exemptions after reviewing the management plans for an area.

CARING FOR ANIMALS

Although Agriculture Secretary John Block denies it's an important issue, Congress is considering establishing a panel to investigate animal rights — the treatment (or mistreatment) of farm animals raised for food. Rep. Ronald Mottl (D-Ohio) is pushing for a 16-member panel of agriculture and consumer activists to investigate livestock production techniques, animal welfare, and the economics of mass production, which Mottl believes may be less favorable than non-intensive farming methods. Block said he couldn't take animal rights "very seriously."

FIVE YEAR BREAK

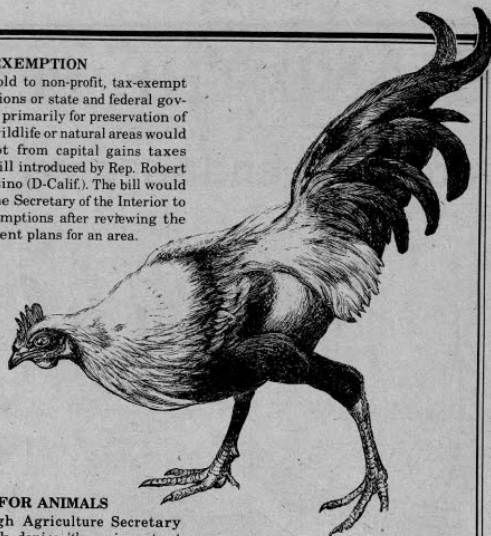
After five years of distributing coal tax revenues to encourage renewable energy development, Montana is calling a temporary halt in its grant program to get its bearings. The program has given out \$5.1 million, including \$220,000 for a massive wind farm near Livingston, solar heating systems, and a grant to tap hot springs energy, reported the *Associated Press*. A program spokesman said they had to reexamine the grants in light of today's commercial-scale renewable energy technology, and that grants would begin again in the fall.

WYO. COAL LEADERSHIP

Wyoming now ranks third as a coal-producing state, but federal officials say it may overtake Kentucky and West Virginia in the next decade if present trends continue. Barry Levy of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Coal Supply Development told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that projected new mining in the Powder River Basin would put the state ahead. Last year Wyoming produced 94 million tons, compared to Kentucky's 149 million tons.

BLOW ME DOWN

It was a case of too much of a good thing. Medicine Bow, Wyo., is considered one of the better sites in the country for large-scale wind energy projects. Work has begun there to erect several large wind turbines — the first phase of a planned "wind farm." But when winds clocked at over 90 miles per hour swept across Wyoming last week, reinforcement bars at the base of the wind generator site were blown over.

**POWER TO GROW**

Americans are anticipating "substantial" growths in the use of electricity by the turn of the century, reports a new survey conducted by Westinghouse for *Power Engineering* magazine. Expectations for solar energy's role were only slightly higher than predictions for contributions from coal and nuclear power, the pollsters found. Respondents with below-average expectations for electricity growth, the magazine reported, included women, blacks, and nuclear opponents.

**WINDBLOWN STATISTICS**

Wind erosion has again broken records in the Great Plains, according to the Department of Agriculture. Montana took the worst beating. More than 20 percent of the 12.5 million acres damaged nationwide were within its borders. The ag experts consider acreage damaged if soil has been removed or deposited that will impair the land's productive capacity. North Dakota had 2.1 million acres damaged; South Dakota, 1.3 million acres; Wyoming, 31,250 acres; Colorado, 2.3 million acres; and New Mexico, 570,800 acres.

barbed wire

U.S. dependence on foreign oil notwithstanding, Asamera Oil, Inc., one of Colorado's three major gasoline distributors, has bowed out of the market. The two to seven cents more per gallon it was charging for the grain fuel depressed sales and company profits. Said Asamera official Ellwood Amen, "The patriotism thing just didn't fly."



All in a name: Caterpillar Tractor Co. officials say they're expecting high earnings from their Solar Turbines International Division, acquired last week for \$505 million from International Harvester Co. Good times for solar energy? Not quite. This "Solar" firm's principle products are natural gas compressor sets, generator packages and pump drive units used in producing and transporting crude oil and natural gas.



The National Earthquake Information Service employs a geophysicist named Waverly Person.



The Great Outdoors. Security Rock Bits and Drill Tools has invented a combination charcoal and gas grill capable of cooking 400 pounds of meat at once.

WILDLIFE TRAIL

Wyoming State Sen. John Turner (R-Teton) has hit the campaign trail for legislation to create a \$250 million trust fund to enhance wildlife and recreation in the state. Turner is holding public hearings on the bill, which only passed the Senate this year. Turner will need a two-thirds vote to get the bill considered in Wyoming's 1982 budget session. The legislation has been opposed by agricultural interests, who fear it will raise the cost of ranchland and allow the state to buy agricultural land for wildlife habitat. Under Turner's bill the funds — which will come from oil and mineral severance taxes — could be used to improve winter range, assure minimum stream flows, as well as expand and improve state parks and historical sites.

6-High Country News — Aug. 7, 1981

THE PIT AND THE PENSTEMON

Wyoming's endangered plants

by Betsy Bernfeld

In 1979 *Penstemon acaulis*, a dainty blue desert flower, was listed as an endangered species in Wyoming. Its only known habitat was a few gravelly ridgetops in the Flaming Gorge area in the southwestern part of the state — directly in the path of an expanding gravel pit.

Last year Dr. Robert D. Dorn, plant ecologist for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Robert W. Lichvar, plant taxonomist for the Wyoming Natural Heritage Program of the Nature Conservancy, went down to investigate. The story has a happy ending. The two botanists found a nearby 20-by-5 mile strip of penstemon population which is out of reach of the gravel pit and where no other development is planned. The plant was removed from the endangered list.

That leaves three endangered species of plants in Wyoming. These are listed in the second edition of *Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants and Vasculars of Wyoming*, edited by Dorn and Dr. Tim W. Clark, just released July 2nd.

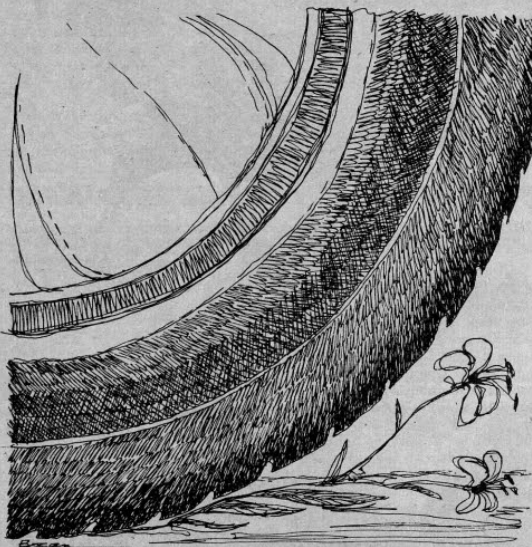
Laramie false sagebrush (*Sphaeromeria simplex*), which looks like a miniature sagebrush, is one of these endangered three. The species was first collected in 1899 by Aven Nelson, one of the first faculty members of the University of Wyoming and founder of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. It was collected until 1978, then went unseen until 1978, when Dorn stumbled on it during a mine inspection.

The plant is restricted to a limestone formation southeast of Laramie ("I don't want to give any directions," said Lichvar) and covers less than 1,000 acres. Twenty percent of this habitat has already been destroyed by a limestone quarry.

Although the Endangered Species Act of 1973 mandated that federal agencies protect endangered species, there are two obstacles with Laramie false sagebrush. It is growing on private property, not federal lands or projects. Also, although it is a "candidate" for the federal endangered register, it has not yet been approved. "Candidates" have no legal standing; their protection is purely a management decision.

Laramie false sagebrush has been a "candidate" for six years, so one Colorado and five Wyoming botanists submitted a petition in March to the Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Endangered Species requesting immediate listing. On May 1, Fish and Wildlife responded that they "intended to proceed with proposing" the species for listing. Dorn feels the plant's position is "really no different than it has been for the past seven years."

Ross bentgrass (*Agrostis rossiae*), an annual grass about 3 to 4 inches tall, is another endangered species for which Wyoming botanists have proposed immediate listing. Its habitat happens to be in Yellowstone National Park, which makes its future brighter. National Park Service regu-



lations prohibit "the destruction, removal or disturbance in any manner of any animal or plant matter."

At the turn of the century Ross bentgrass was found all along the Firehole River. Then it went uncollected from the early 1900's until the 1950s when Dr. Alan Beetle, then a professor at the University of Wyoming, collected it at two geysers.

In 1979 Dorn and Lichvar searched the entire Firehole Basin and found bentgrass to be restricted to one hot spring. The population was 50-250 individuals and encompassed a 30-by-30 foot area.

There is no proof as to why the bentgrass population is decreasing. One theory is that shifting during the 1959 Yellowstone earthquake may have changed the plant's geothermal environment.

Don G. Despain, research biologist at Yellowstone National Park, said, "There is no reason to panic. We aren't even absolutely sure the plant is going extinct."

It is difficult to identify the grass except for several days per year when it is in flower. Despain feels that more needs to be known about plant growth in geothermal areas before any recovery steps can be taken. Right now "the less we do to draw attention to where it is and what it is, the better," said Despain.

The third endangered Wyoming plant is Colorado butterfly-weed (*Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*), a tall plant with white, four-petaled flowers. This species once ranged from Fort Collins, Colorado to Pine Bluffs, Wyoming to Cheyenne. Presently it grows in just two locations. One is outside of Cheyenne; the other along a creek which crosses the border

between Wyoming and Colorado. On the Wyoming side there are about six plants and five miles away in Colorado a population of a few more plants.

Agriculture has been a large factor in the reduction of the butterfly-weed. The species grows in wet meadows and produces a seed head every two years. Unfortunately, the seed heads are never mature by August, when farmers cut them with their wild hay.

Other populations of butterfly-weed have been destroyed by urban growth. Housing developments and a shopping center now stand directly over the old collecting sites in Fort Collins.

Over the past six years Dorn and Lichvar have been largely responsible for making recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Wyoming's endangered and threatened species of plants. In 1975, when the Wyoming endangered and threatened list was first drawn up, it consisted of 39 plants. Dorn and Lichvar have whittled it down to five. Lichvar describes his methods as "lean and mean." "When I stand up and get excited about a plant, I'm not just trying to whitewash something."

Botanists working in the field keep the "list" very much alive. In fact, Lichvar says the book that just came out, by Dorn and Clark, is already out-dated. Two species listed as threatened should be deleted from it. *Lesquerella macrocarpa*, whose common name is large fruited bladderpod, further nicknamed by Dorn and Lichvar as Red Desert cabbage, is now off the threatened list and under consideration for the "sensitive" list, a new category proposed by the Bureau of Land Management. Several miles from the bladderpod's only known population, Dorn and Lichvar found about 30,000

more plants.

And although there is an increasing amount of energy development in the area, the botanists are not worried that roads or pipelines will endanger the plant. The species grows only on bentonite beds and says Lichvar, "Nobody in their right mind would put a road over bentonite. It would be totally impossible the first time it rained."

Precocious milkvetch (*Astragalus proimanthus*) is also off the threatened list. About 20,000 of these plants inhabit a six-mile long, 240-acre strip in the Flaming Gorge area. It is extremely restricted geologically. It will grow only on a whitish shale formation under certain conditions. In spite of its small numbers and restricted habitat, it does not qualify for threatened classification. There are no threats.

Botanists have determined that other endangered and threatened plants have simply been misnamed and are actually members of more common species. Yellowstone rockcress (*Arabis fruticosa*) was collected by Nelson in 1899 along a buggy road in Yellowstone. It has never been found since. Dorn and Lichvar have concluded that it was simply a robust variant of *Arabis microphylla*. During one generation its chromosomes could have doubled producing bigger fruits for that one year.

While field work has cut some names from the registers, it has also added new names for consideration. Several plants collected in the past, but never properly identified because of poor specimens, have been "rediscovered" and classified. Two plant species completely "new to science" have been found in the last three years, and three or four more species suspected of being new are now being examined. "Botanically, Wyoming is reasonably well-known, but there is still a lot of work to be done," said Dorn.

In recommending candidates for listing, Dorn and Lichvar tend to stick to plants which are found only in the Wyoming region. Plants rare in Wyoming but common in other states don't qualify. Often plants that qualify are found on dry, windswept, unusual geologic formations. They have learned to adapt to the most severe conditions and therefore hold much knowledge that people need.

The large-fruited bladderpod is a member of the cabbage family which has adapted to life on clay soil in the desert. It should offer clues to arid land farmers. A plant in the same genus as Laramie false sagebrush contains certain cell-growth inhibitors which may be useful in the treatment of cancer.

The intermountain basin region, with its arid climate and geologic formations which expose strata not seen elsewhere, has been the site of much stress-caused differentiation among plants. South and west of Wyoming endemics become even more common. Utah has approximately 55 endemic plant species on their endangered and threatened lists. Nevada has 180. California has 700.

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Grand Teton National Park



THE GREAT 'WOLF' ROUNDUP

by Myra Connell

The United States had been in the "war to end all wars" only a few months when people of Fremont County, Wyo., got up a little war of their own. Local newspapers of July and August 1917 gave it equal space with news from the German front.

E.J. Farlow and J.A. Delfelder organized the operation. They called for 600 riders for seventeen companies of 45 men each with four lieutenants and a captain. The list of captains was a "Who's Who" of prominent ranching and businessmen.

The objective was to rid the sheep range of coyotes that had developed a taste for lamb. Then, as now, sheep ranchers suffered serious losses to predators.

The scheme to eradicate them from a 1600-square-mile expanse of range in eastern Fremont County was grandly conceived and forcefully carried out.

A circle approximately 12 miles in circumference was established, its center at Delfelder Buck Camp, headquarters for the Delfelder Sheep Company, where there was a large wool warehouse.

To make the affair exciting and romantic, the organizers capitalized on time-worn folklore related to wolves, calling the drive a "wolf round-up." However, there were no wolves left on the open plains.

A month before the fatal day (fatal for coyotes, that is) Farlow and Delfelder journeyed around the territory locating camps for the riders and establishing lines. Three concentric circles were marked: one mile, ten miles and twenty miles from Buck Camp. Starting positions were assigned for each company, place names that ring with echoes of the Old West: Double Dives, Edmore's Cabin, Crum's Ditch, Indian Field, Old 71 Horse Ranch, Iron Springs, Coyote Springs, Buffalo Springs, West Long Creek, Lone Tree Springs and "The Red Hill on Beaver."

Half-page advertisements in local newspapers raised "Old Wild West"

fever as high as Fremont Peak. Ranch boys were tempted to leave the hay uncut to join in the excitement. Experienced riders and greenhorns alike were urged to sign up. If a man was horseless, the association would furnish one.

Payment was offered in the form of stock certificates in the Farlow Wolf Roundup Association. The Selznick Moving Picture Company had been contracted to film the action; leaders claimed that a movie of the event would earn fabulous dividends. The cameramen were to be on hand for the last mile only and "everything of interest...photographed and later on reproduced in every theatre in the land."

The entertainment planned to follow the corraling included bronc-busting, roping and riding a bullock, Indian wolf dances, slaughtering of "guilty" predators, and, for the evening, a dance in the warehouse. "Wild horses that have never felt the hand of man, steers both wild and vicious, bobcats, deer, antelope, will be trapped for spectators to gaze upon."

Chief Lone Bear, a Shoshone, was to be there: "A famous warrior of his tribe whose earliest history is marked by many fierce battles between U.S. soldiers and Indians; now a peaceful farmer."

Farm and ranch men had in many cases been exempted from military service, so as early as August 3rd all but two companies were "running over with volunteer wolfhunters." A ten-acre corral had been built at Buck Camp, four cameramen were on the way, and the roads from Shoshoni, Moneta and Riverton had been made passable for the autos that would bring the spectators.

From the time of the first announcement wagging had heightened the excitement. Some gamblers bet that 500 coyotes, plus wolves, bobcats, elk, deer, bear and antelope would be captured.

Each company had a chuck wagon and a wagon for bed rolls and camp equipment. Captains furnished food

and a barrel of water. Riders provided themselves with eating utensils, canteens, bed rolls and hobbles for the horses.

A giant balloon was ordered from Denver to be floated above Buck Camp as a landmark. Apparently the balloon never arrived, or perhaps it burst. Riders say they never saw it.

Riders were assured that wood, water and grass in abundance were to be found at a large reservoir half a mile south of "finish."

At precisely half-past five on August 13th, the approximately 600 riders were in their appointed places, all the way around the circle. Stationed about a quarter of a mile apart, their eyes were upon their leaders, watching for the signal to ride.

The captains waved their Stetsons, the lieutenants passed the signal on down the line, and the assault on the wildlife of central Wyoming had begun. Most living creatures were generally thought of in three categories: enemy, food and fur. (Riders and spectators were asked not to kill sagechickens as they were scarce that year.)

Most of the men took the job seriously and tried to follow instructions, keeping their positions at a uniform distance from their fellows, to right and left. However, the rough terrain made it virtually impossible to carry out this order, and the line was constantly broken as riders avoided gulches, outcroppings of rock, inclines and the like. Other riders, unaccustomed to discipline, refused to obey orders. They galloped after any animals that were seen, shooting or roping them, thus breaking the line, and throwing the well-planned drive into confusion.

Coyotes, antelope and wild horses, startled from their haunts, fled away over the broken plains ahead of the riders. Frightened animals dodged through the sagebrush and rocks, along dry gullies, and over ridges in their frantic efforts to escape. Many did escape, but some were shot in the attempt.

Some riders couldn't resist the tempta-

tion to race the antelope, none ever winning. Other "sportsmen" shot into the antelope herds, thus lessening the chance of getting many into the corral.

As the temperature climbed with the ascending sun, the coyotes began hiding out; however it was reported that about 600 of them ran ahead of the riders at one stage of the chase. An estimated 1000 antelope broke through the disordered line and "sifted back" behind the riders.

Many a horse became exhausted or lame.

The riders drew closer together as the size of the circle decreased and the frantic coyotes dodged through the line between the horsemen, loath to be driven away from their customary territory. Finally the riders formed a solid line, saddle-to-saddle. A number of coyotes rushed the line, weaving a desperate pattern among the horses' legs. One impudent young daredevil leaned from his saddle and grabbed a coyote by the tail. The coyote fought back, bit the man's arm, and a serious infection resulted.

Apparently it was at the crucial point where the riders closed into a tight circle that most of the coyotes got away. Accounts differ as to the number of coyotes actually corralled. Some say it was two, others declare only one. No wolves were rounded up nor were any seen.

Some antelope were driven into the enclosure but there is no record of the number.

The wild horses cooperated much better than the other creatures. Several hundred head were trapped, some of which were strays from domestic herds. Ranchers seized the opportunity to recapture their runaways. During the bronc-busting show, any buster who could ride a wild horse could claim ownership.

This article is adapted from one originally published in the **Wyoming State Journal**, Lander, Wyo.

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Just when you have them convinced of the rightness of a thing, cows will decide to vote Republican.



Cattle drive...

(continued from page 1)

square miles in which to run and hide. They go to Scoop Shovel Creek, Cottonwood Canyon, Rock Hollow Canyon and other places without names. Sometimes they go to Muddy Creek. Bernard said, "I hope they aren't down on the Muddy. The mosquitoes and horseflies are terrible down there. There are only two places to get out of the canyon and the bugs will eat you alive."

The first place they check for cows is near a roofless, abandoned homesteader's cabin that shows the strain of sitting in the weather for a hundred years or more. The horses are unloaded from the trailer and the cowboys, some of them ersatz, begin a hot day.

There isn't much to know about moving cattle, said Wendell, "just keep them moving in the direction you want them to go in." This isn't hard most of the time, unless a particularly independent cow decides that the direction is not to her liking. They do this every so often. "Last year, I had a cow that just wouldn't go up to the gathering point," Bernard said. "I turned her twice but she just didn't want to go. The third time I turned her, she just backed off, turned her head and rammed my horse right in the guts. I lost her after that...the sonofabitch got away."

Today — a Friday — as Wendell was pushing a bunch up Rock Hollow, six of them decided they didn't like the easy terrain they were travelling and headed straight up the side of the canyon. Two of the ersatz cowboys took after them, exhausting their horses in the process. After a chase, the cows turned and ran straight down the side of the canyon again, joining the others. A great deal of cussing followed them.

In order to get the cows across the interstate, they had to move through a narrow concrete underpass. Cows have a curious sort of intelligence. In years past, the Fraughtons sent the cattle under the highway via a metal culvert about

two miles further up the road, which was only large enough to walk a horse through. The underpass is an improvement but cattle are creatures of habit. A number of them remembered the culvert and continued toward it. Wendell headed them off and turned them back toward the underpass.

A few of the cows, now remembering the underpass, went through. Most of the rest followed, as did a herd of sheep that no one wanted except a Peruvian sheepherder who suddenly appeared, astride his horse, wearing white socks and sandals.

Some cows still didn't want to go through, however. This is the way with cows. Just when you think you have them convinced of the rightness of a thing, they decide to vote Republican. Three or four cows, in the face of all that is proper, decided they would rather stay on the prairie. Wendell and Bernard, ropes whirling over their heads, pursued the recalcitrants, first with haste and efficiency and eventually with undisguised fury. Horses spurred to a full gallop, they roped the cows and calves, cussing each time the lasso missed its mark and cussing each time it hit. The captured animals were dragged by the neck through the underpass, feet firmly planted in front, like a puppy the first time on a leash.

The sheep had to be cut from the herd and sent back. This was not exceptionally difficult, as sheep are readily distinguishable from cows to the practiced eye. Then came the somewhat harder task of cutting out the 20 or so cows not scheduled to make the trip to the Mountain Ranch. These were the property of other ranchers with grazing permits for the same range. It is impolite, not to mention illegal, to take them from their owners. This done, the cows were moved along the road and left to rest for the night along the right-of-way of a natural gas pipeline. The cowboys had gathered 81 of 150 cows.

Back at the ranch came the nightly ritual of sitting on the porch, discussing the events of the day and watching the far side of the valley for deer. Keith, Wendell and Bernard run something of a game preserve, allowing very

limited hunting with certain money. So we lived on game and kill a deer for food. We eve for dinner one day and served known what we were doing, but he didn't say anything. Any care of us, so now we can take

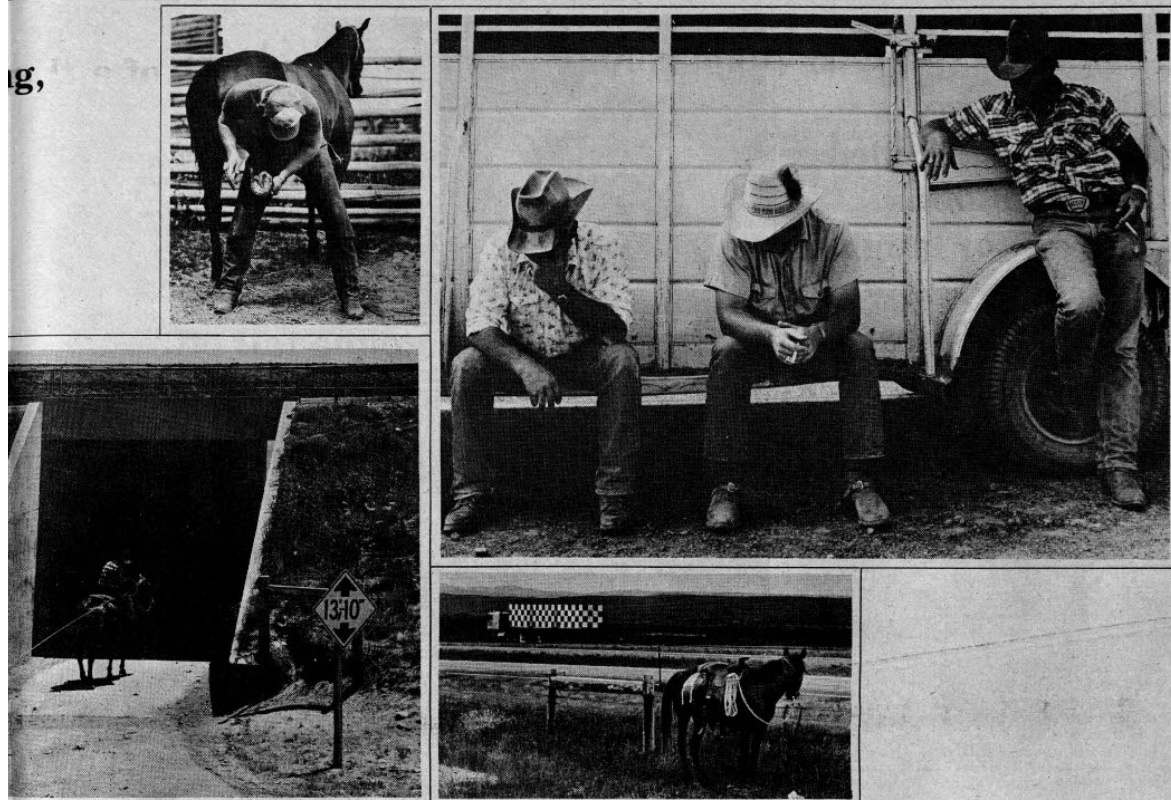
As you approach the ranch there is a large oil drilling rig yards off the property line, but oil is hit, the Fraughtons and S. There is a saying in the W. rancher has an oil well. Evans achieving national notoriety (growing faster than cattle are people are following the boom.

"They drilled up here a few of the crew came down here office. He was trying to be quiet that they'd hit oil. We were re was it. We rode up to the rig around a week for more word well. We were pretty disappointed seismograph crews have criss

A friend from Evanston can Dave Paul runs the Gambles what's new in town.

"Nothing. Just more people. pauses a moment. "Oh yeah, th Center one-way streets in opp Keith said, "There's a lot of those streets for years who are ticket."

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sited hunting with certain areas off limits. Keith said, "Then Betty and I first got married, we didn't have much money. So we lived on game meat. I'd just go down the road and kill a deer for food. We even had the game warden over for dinner one day and served him venison. He must have known what we were doing, but he knew our situation and didn't say anything. Anyway, I figured the deer took care of us, so now we can take care of them."

As you approach the ranch on the road, in the distance there is a large oil drilling rig. As it turns out, it is 100 yards off the property line, but it is close enough so that if it is hit, the Fraughtons and Sweats will get some income. There is a saying in the West that, "Every successful rancher has an oil well." Evanston and the area around it is achieving national notoriety for its oil boom. Oil rigs are moving faster than cattle and paying better. Plenty of people are following the boom.

"They drilled up here a few years ago," Keith said. "One day the crew came down here to use the phone to call the office. He was trying to be quiet, but we overheard him say that they'd hit oil. We were real excited — we thought this was it. We rode up to the rig and looked and then waited a week for more word. But then they capped the well. We were pretty disappointed." With the recent boom, smoggraph crews have criss-crossed the ranch.

A friend from Evanston came out to visit after dinner, and Paul runs the Gambles store in town. He is asked about the new in town.

Nothing. Just more people. More people every day." He takes a moment. "Oh yeah, they're going to make Main and after one-way streets in opposite directions."

Keith said, "There's a lot of old-timers who've been using these streets for years who are just gonna get ticketed after that."

"Hell," said Dave, "most of the people haven't figured out the four-way stop signs yet."

The boom in Evanston has been fairly typical of the others in the West, except perhaps it has hit a little faster and a little harder. Oilfield workers have a reputation as bad neighbors. There isn't enough housing for everyone, so Evanston has a rash of "squatters" — people who set up a tent on federal or private land. One rancher predicted the squatter problem would cause the next range war. There haven't been any squatters on the Mountain Ranch yet.

Keith joked about going to town. Betty said, "There wouldn't be anywhere to go with all those oil workers. It used to be you'd go in a place and see folks you knew. Now we wouldn't know anybody."

The next day — Saturday — they gathered the rest of the cows. Wendell went back up Cottonwood and Rock Hollow Canyons to collect any they might have missed the day before. Bernard and the temporary help moved a large bunch up a broad sage-covered plain and through a small, lovely cedar grove. They pushed the cows along a barbed wire fence, which the cows understood, and then turned them upcountry, which the cows didn't. They milled around and made a fuss, but eventually accepted the new directions.

Keith doesn't ride anymore. "I was gathering out here a few years ago and a calf split out of the herd. I took off after it. The horse got going good and then stepped in a badger hole. There are badger holes all over this country. Anyway, the horse fell on my leg and then rolled over me. I thought I was dead for a minute, but I was just knocked out. I guess Wendell must have thought I was dead, too. There was blood coming out of my nose and everything. I came to and got up and blacked out again right away. I didn't break any bones, but I don't have any feeling in my right leg below the

knee. Haven't been able to ride a horse since." Then he added, smiling, "I'd much rather get thrown from a horse than have one roll over me."

The task of gathering cattle is made a little easier by two animal instincts — the herd instinct and the maternal. Cattle, given their druthers, would rather be with other cattle. There are exceptions to this rule, usually referred to as a "wild sonofabitch" or a "wild bastard." But, by and large, when you introduce one cow to another one, they will get pretty chummy and stay that way. This makes them easier to move.

The profitability of the business is dependent on the strength of a cow's maternal instinct. A calf will stay with its mother. Since there is no way to tell whom a calf belongs to if it is born on the open range, this is very handy. Obviously, it belongs to the person who owns the mother. If a cow and a calf are separated, both will usually return to the place they last saw each other. An unmarked calf without a mother is known as a maverick. The question of ownership of mavericks led to bloodshed in the old days. The practice of "mavericking," or rounding up these unmarked calves and adding them to one's herd, contributed to the famous Johnson County Cattle War of 1891. It was equated with rustling by the big ranchers and, truth be told, sometimes it was. To this day in Johnson County it is said there are ranchers who have never eaten their own beef.

The Fraughtons have three brands — the running M, the KF quarter, and the D, which Bernard says they refer to as the shithouse quarter. For quick identification purposes, they cut a wattle — a piece of loose skin — on the left side of the cow's jaw. The wattle makes for easier identification at a distance, though it is not proof of ownership. Some ranchers now use plastic ear tags for the same purpose.

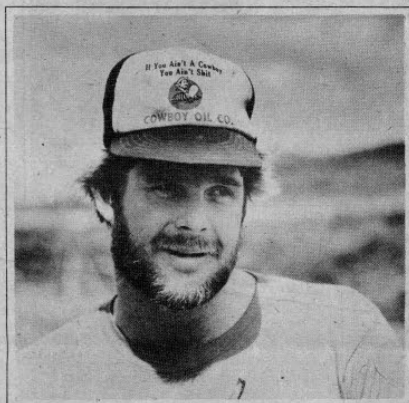
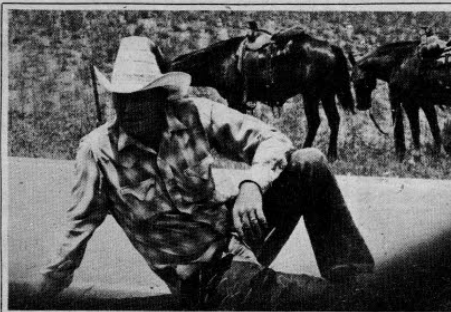
That evening on the porch, Wendell remarked that the cows looked very healthy after their three month sojourn north of the highway, surprising because the land seemed

(continued on next page)

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Bernard Sweat

"My ears were so frozen — swelled up like balloons — the doctor laughed and said he knew a good plastic surgeon because they were gonna fall off."



Wendell Fraughton



Keith Fraughton sitting in the private family museum

Cattle drive...

(continued from page 9)

too dry. Nevertheless, it is teeming with wildlife, particularly antelope.

Sunday was a rest day for cows, horses and people. Monday was the first day that the cows began to make some progress toward home. One hundred and fifty cows, plus calves, may not sound like much, but they can put up quite a racket, not to mention dust.

In the old days, one cowboy had to ride "point," ahead and to one side of the herd to keep them moving in the proper direction. Now, however, fences usually keep the cows moving in the right direction and the cowboys mostly trail along behind, keeping them moving, and eating a lot of dust.

The Fraughtons move their herd down the road to Piedmont, then off along a fence line through a narrow valley. In November, before the Mountain Ranch becomes soaked in by winter, they move to their individual places near Fort Bridger and Mountain View, taking cattle, chickens and everything with them. Keith said, "One winter several years ago, we got caught in an early snow storm, so we had to move them out pretty quick. We got down the valley about half way and the temperature dropped to about 40 below. I got frozen pretty bad in my ears, neck and the left side of my face. My ears were so frozen, you could have broken them off. I went to a doctor and he laughed and said he knew a good plastic surgeon because they were gonna fall off. They were swelled up like balloons. But I spent about a week in the hospital and I was fine. No aftereffects. I'd stopped at this rancher's house and his wife kept my ears and neck packed in snow. She was an old ranch wife and she

knew these things."

That afternoon, when the drive stopped midway to the ranch, there was a party at the ranch for the volunteer hands. There was much food and drink and although it didn't rain, everybody got wet because most of them got thrown in the kids' swimming pool. Hooty and Tooty, two great horned owls that inhabit the barn, came out to watch the proceedings.

John Stevens was one of the folks from town who came out to help with the cattle drive. He now sells insurance for the Farm Bureau group, but he used to be a bull rider in professional rodeo.

"I got hurt in Laramie a few years ago," he said. "The bull threw me and ran over me three times. It severed a bunch of muscles to my backbone. I just laid there in the ring — I couldn't walk for three days.

"What really bothered me though was that I couldn't hold a glass of beer. I didn't go to the hospital. The guys just lifted me in the truck and we went out drinking. We got some beer in pitchers and I lifted my glass, got it about halfway up and dropped it. They said, 'What's the matter with you?' John is all right now and a good cowboy.

The final day was uneventful. A few panicky calves jumped through a barbed wire fence. Bernard and Wendell had a horse race to celebrate the end of the drive. Everyone — cows, horses and men — was tired and pleased for the end of it.

In Evanston, on the way out of town, there was a mechanical bull set up at the Outpost Inn. Anyone could ride it for 15 seconds for a fee of \$2.00. Many people took advantage of the opportunity. It could be set for varying degrees of difficulty, from novice to expert. John Stevens said he used one to train for the rodeo. After four days in the saddle, however, he declined to ride this one.

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High rollers take a tumble on dicey oil and gas lottery

by Dale Roberts

The odds are good, price is low, winnings offer quick-get-rich potential. The players range from geologists to gamblers. The game? Oil lease lotteries.

Each month approximately 150,000 people take a chance at winning oil and gas leases on federal and state lands in Wyoming alone. For an entrance fee of \$10 for federal lands or \$15 for state, people from all over the country are filing on Wyoming land. Many have never seen the state, and never will.

Lists are published monthly of U.S. Bureau of Land Management and state-owned lands, describing available tracts, their locations and sizes, which range from 40 to 10,240 acres. The lists can be reviewed at state offices, purchased for \$2 to \$5 each or, for a subscription fee of \$15 a year, sent to individual homes.

From the lists of approximately 40 to 60 parcels per lottery the potential lessee can take a stab in the dark, employ their own geological know-how, or hire a filing service for a substantial fee.

Filing services, run by real estate brokers, oil attorneys, stockbrokers and just about anyone with selling experience, are making a killing. They turn public information into profit by offering a service for people with money but without the time or know-how to check out the tracts.

These services operate in one of three ways. Some evaluate parcels on the basis of geological and marketing data; others offer maps and information about activities of oil companies operating in the area where the parcels are located; and others select an economically promising tract from the list posted and assist the applicant in filing.

Their ads appear in newspapers, magazines, telephone directories or come through the mail, painting an optimistic picture of sudden wealth. "Get rich overnight," they claim. "Compete with the big oil companies." But the filing firms file for hundreds and sometimes thousands of clients a month on a limited number of parcels of state and federal lands, most of which offer little or no market value. Much of the information they charge up to \$20 for is free at BLM or state offices.

For \$1 an acre rental fee annually and 12 percent royalties, the lessee buys exclusive rights to drill for and remove oil and gas deposits. The lease is good for 10 years or as long as oil and gas are produced in paying quantities.

Most winners do not keep their leases. According to a Denver filing firm, Deal & Associates, LTD., the objective in winning a valuable parcel is to turn

around and sell the lease to a major oil company that has the capability to explore, drill and produce. The lessee may keep royalty rights of 4 to 6 percent on the gross profit.

According to a Wyoming BLM staff geologist it's a game for people with money to burn. "I would never play the lottery. It's such a gamble. So many acres have no potential."

"People from all over the U.S. are filing," said another Wyoming BLM geologist. "Unless they know the legal descriptions or have legal help they are just picking out of the clear blue sky."

And pick they do. One BLM employee estimated that two years ago BLM made about \$1 million a month from entry fees alone. In 1979, roughly 4 million people filed for 7,000 tracts.

According to the firm, which files for 800 to 1,000 clients each month, the \$15

filing fee is cheap for the amount the service has invested in maps and geologists.

"Most people don't have the time and interest to spend the extra money on maps," explained a spokeswoman for Deal & Associates. The short gap between the date the parcels are posted and the drawing often allows only enough time to choose the desired acreage and file with the service, which chooses the area and particular tract for the client.

If a client should win, the filing firm may refer them to people more knowledgeable about the area. Deal & Associates claims not to be in direct contact with any oil companies concerning the names of clients who may have won desirable parcels, but this information is made public.

According to the BLM none of the tracts offered has known potential for oil and gas production. Those areas with known reserves are offered competitively, by auction.

"In certain cases noncompetitive leases have brought substantial profit to winners. These are leases in hot areas—that is, they were near known oil and gas development," explained the BLM.

So when Deal & Associates claims that "government experts believe that millions of barrels of oil may lie undiscovered as yet under parcels of land which are subject to the Wyoming state oil and gas lease lottery," they are, according to Allen Verploeg of the Wyoming Geological Survey, stretching the truth just a bit to sell their services.

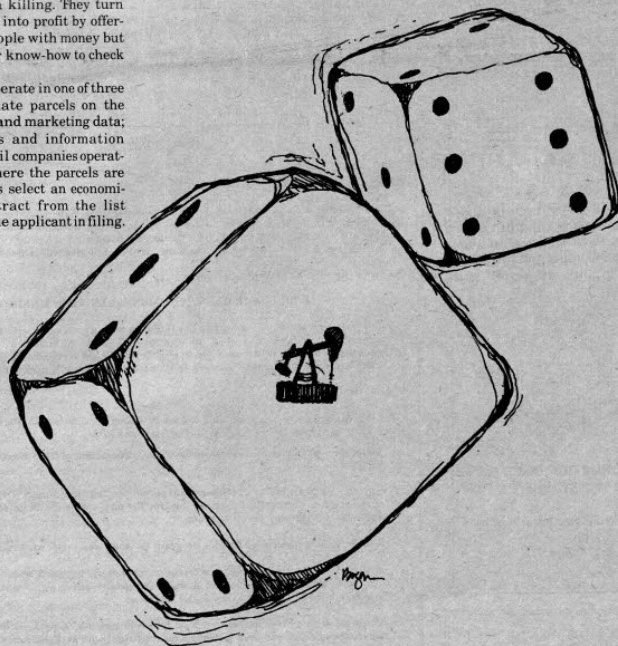
B. Christian Armington Company, which files for Wyoming land from California, offers to advance the \$1 per acre rental fee upon issuance of a winning lease. Their assistance is interest free and repaid only when the client sells the lease at a profit.

"No other money making opportunity that we know offers so much promise to folks with limited capital," says the firm.

The BLM began an investigation over a year ago into filing abuses. Companies would have several employees file on one tract, only to sign over their cards prior to the drawing. As a result of the scrutiny, Koch industries, an oil company in Wichita, Kansas was fined and the lottery procedures were changed. The BLM is now offering lotteries bi-monthly instead of monthly. In addition, entrants cannot sign over a ticket before a drawing is held.

If you're 19 or older, with a little extra money—but not enough to get you to Las Vegas—the oil and gas lease lottery may be just what you're looking for. But in the words of B. Christian Armington: "It is a gamble, not an investment."

None of the tracts offered has known potential for oil and gas production, according to the BLM, but the agency makes \$1 million a month from lottery entry fees.



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classifieds

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

POSITION OPEN: Executive Director of new citizens' futures center for the Northern Rockies region. Requirements: Administrative and fundraising experience; commitment to citizen action and to the Northern Rockies. \$25,000-\$35,000 per year beginning November 1. Deadline for applications is Sept. 1, 1981. For more information write: Arnold Silverman, Dept. of Geology, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59802.

ORGANIZER wanted to work with western Colorado citizen groups concerned with energy and other natural resource issues. Must be willing to travel, have experience organizing, have worked with and as a volunteer and enjoy diverse types of people. Some writing and speaking skills will be helpful. Send resume to Western Colorado Congress, P.O. Box 472, Montrose, Colorado 81401 or call (303) 249-1978 after August 1.

12-High Country News — Aug. 7, 1981

Bulletin Board

FAITHFUL TALK

The National Park Service wants your advice on what to do with the Old Faithful housing area in Yellowstone National Park. A 1974 master plan calls for converting the development into a day-use area, but the fine details are still being worked out. Public meetings on the issue will be held throughout August. Contact the park officials at P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. 82190.

POWDER RIVER COAL

Two meetings have already been held on the Bureau of Land Management's draft environmental study on leasing coal in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. But two more are scheduled — Aug. 19 in Gillette, Wyo., and Aug. 20 in Broadus, Mont. — and written comments will be accepted until Sept. 17. For more information: Chuck Wilkie, Casper District Office, 951 Rancho Road, Casper, Wyo. 82601; (307) 265-5550.

SHROOMERS IN SAUTE

You bring the butter and a \$30 course fee, and John Gapter of the University of Northern Colorado will meet you in Rocky Mountain National Park, Sept. 11-13, to tell you which of the park's mushrooms to sauté. Contact: Seminar Coordinator, Rocky Mtn. Nature Assoc., Rocky Mtn. National Park, Estes Park, Colo. 80517.

ORGANIZING THE ROCKIES

Membership recruiting and media skills for grassroots groups and political campaigns in the Rocky Mountain region are the themes at a series of training workshops offered by the Northern Rockies Action Group, a Helena, Mont.-based training center. The dates: Sept. 11-12, Helena, "membership recruitment;" Oct. 11-12, Jackson Hole, Wyo., "membership education;" and Nov. 20-22, Denver, "media skills." Contact: Kathy Brainer, NRAG, 9 Placer St., Helena, Mont. 59601; (406) 442-6615.

WHITE RIVER DAM

The Army Corps of Engineers, using its authority to issue 404 dredge-and-fill permits, wants comments on the proposed Taylor Dam on the White River in Rio Blanco County, Colo. The agency is preparing an environmental impact statement and is required to solicit ideas on what issues the EIS should consider. For more information, or to contribute ideas: Jim Gibson, Regulatory Section, Corps of Engineers, 550 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.

GAS, NATURALLY

A new natural gas pipeline, to run 583 miles from Wyoming to California, has been scrutinized by the Bureau of Land Management in a draft environmental impact statement. The line, to be built by Rocky Mountain Pipeline Co., will cross Utah and the southeastern corner of Nevada. For copies of the study contact RMP Project Leader, BLM, Third Floor East, 55 Zang St., Denver 82008. Public hearings are being held this week, and written comments are due Aug. 24.

COAL UPDATE

The latest scoop on the coal industry, reclamation technologies and compliance with federal rules will be discussed at two seminars in New York City, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29. The program is sponsored by INFORM, a New York-based research group, and will feature Dan Wiener, author of the group's study, Reclaiming the West. For more information: INFORM, 25 Broad St., New York City 10004.

ALL ABOUT OIL...

...and gas is the title and theme for a series of seminars sponsored by Anderson Petroleum Services, Inc., which says its \$345 workshops will give participants a comprehensive overview of the industry, from how oil is formed to how it's used, and every step in between. In Denver, the seminars will be held Aug. 26, Oct. 12 and Nov. 18. Contact the firm at P.O. Box 1146, Stillwater, Okla. 74074.

CLASSY WATER

Rules for classifying surface water in Wyoming as Class I will be open for public discussion at an Aug. 19 hearing in Casper, by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. For more information contact John Wagner, DEQ, Water Quality Division, 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002; (307) 777-7781.

OIL SHOW

A three day show to educate the public about oil and gas exploration will be held Sept. 25-27 in Cody, Wyo. The show will include equipment displays, literature, and tours of nearby oil fields and refineries. Sponsors are the Big Horn Basin Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and the Cody County Chamber of Commerce. Contact the C of C at P.O. Box 1221, Cody, Wyo. 82414, or call 307-587-2297.

WESTERN LAND USE

"Thirteen Colonies or a New Confederacy?" is the theme for a three-day conference in Oakland, Calif., scheduled for Nov. 11-13. The gathering will cover a variety of land use and environmental issues. It is sponsored by the University of California Extension, Berkeley, in cooperation with the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy. Debates, lectures and panel discussions will take place. If you think it might be worth your \$330, contact Public Policy and Planning, Dept. WJ-4, U. of Calif. Extension, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, Calif. 94720 or call (415) 642-1061.

GEOLOGICAL DATA MINE

There's an avalanche of maps, reports and other information rolling off the U.S. Geological Survey presses every year, and now, free and handy, there's "A Guide to Obtaining Information from the USGS, 1981," Circular 777. Contact: USGS, Text Products Section, Eastern Distribution Branch, 604 Pickett St., Alexandria, Va. 22304.



BLACK AMERICA

"Keeping America in the Black" will be the theme at a conference Oct. 27-29 in Louisville, Ky., sponsored by Coal Age, a McGraw-Hill publication. Cost-cutting strategies, including new technologies, will be the focus as conferees grapple with ways to keep the coal industry active. For more information write McGraw-Hill Conference, 1221 Ave. of the Americas, Room 3677, New York City 10020.

WASTED TALK

The Colorado chapter of the National Solid Wastes Management Association will meet Sept. 18-20 in Colorado Springs, and if you promise not to call the stuff garbage, you're invited to attend. Contact Jeanne Hayes, NSWMA, 1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 930, Washington, D.C. 22036.

BLACK HILLS SPEAKERS

Want to liven up your next party or meeting? The Black Hills Alliance has a list of guest speakers who, usually for only the cost of expenses, will be glad to come and talk about a variety of subjects, including energy development in the Black Hills, uranium worker health hazards, forced sterilization, Indian land issues and treaty rights. Contact the group at P.O. Box 2508, Rapid City, S.D. 57709; (605) 342-5127.

TIMBER!

The number of trees cut from northern Idaho and Montana forests has declined by 15 percent since 1969, new U.S. Forest Service data shows. The drop, from 2.6 billion to 2.2 billion board feet, was accompanied by a relative shift in proportions harvested from national forests, state lands and private lands, with the latter now accounting for 54 percent of the total harvest. For more details, contact the USFS, Northern Region, Federal Bldg., Missoula, Mont. 59807.

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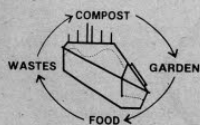
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NEWS RELEASE

The State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, September 8, 1981 to discuss and review the annual State-EPA Agreement. The meeting will be held in the third floor DEQ Conference Room which is located in the Equality State Bank Building, 401 West 19th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Review will commence at 10:00 a.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION MAKING"

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop the annual State-EPA Agreement. The Agreement is a mechanism developed for better management of Federally funded environmental programs. It is part of an effort to reduce government paperwork and red tape — consequently saving the taxpayer money.

What is the DEQ Plan

For this Agreement to be a worthwhile tool for Wyoming's environmental programs, the following issues have been identified as priorities by the State and EPA:

Maintain and improve the effectiveness of the management of the construction grants program.

Implementation of all State environmental permit programs to include NPDES, Construction Permits, Underground Injection Control Permits, pursue the State of Wyoming's assumption of the 404 permit program.

Develop and implement a statewide program for small wastewater systems.

Jointly develop and implement a strategy to provide for increased responsibility and activity by State environmental and agricultural agencies, and for significantly decreased direct Federal involvement in day-to-day activities.

Complete Bitter Creek and Fifteen Mile Creek projects and complete prioritization of agriculture related non-point problems and implement with available funds.

Who is Affected by this Plan

All citizens within the State of Wyoming where environmental issues are of concern.

How to Provide your Information

If you have other environmental problems in mind, or alternatives to the approaches taken in the State-EPA Agreement, contact your Water Quality Advisory Board representative before the September 8, 1981 meeting. All written and oral comments will be heard through your Advisory Board representative and will be considered in the development of the final Agreement.

Where to Obtain Additional Information

The draft agreement is now being completed and will be available for public review at all county seats and libraries by mid-August.

Opinion

Reagan's Western wisdom is really a celluloid chimera

They say that a lie, if repeated often enough, eventually gains currency over the truth. One that is being repeated quite often these days is that "Ronald Reagan understands the West." This foolishness ought to be nipped in the bud.

This "understanding the West" stuff is spoken solemnly in the halls of Congress and reprinted in the great Eastern newspapers without so much as a dissenting whisper. *Sotto voce*, then, let us ask: exactly whose West is it that Reagan and cohorts understand? Not the one we live in.

Perhaps the current administration is getting away with this because the West is so little understood by the great unwashed masses infesting both coasts. If they think about the Rocky Mountain West at all, it is probably of a trip to Yellowstone, snow-covered peaks and vague images of cowboys who look like Gene Autry or Steve McQueen. Ronald Reagan, a B-movie cowboy if there ever was one, stands up and says, "I understand the West" and the folks at home say, "Oh yeah, didn't I see him in 'Cattle Queen of Montana' with Barbara Stanwyck?"

Reagan's appointment of the likes of James Watt, Anne Gorsuch, et. al., does not indicate an understanding of the West. While there is no question that these people represent a certain constituency from the Rockies, they are not in the mainstream of Westerners. This will no doubt come as a surprise to Reagan and Watt, whose idea of an extremist is Congresswoman Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), and who are fond of labelling all opposition as environmental obstructionism.

While Westerners are probably more conservative than your average Rhode Islander, it is not the big money, big business kind of conservatism that Californian Reagan is used to dealing with. A Montana Congressman blocked successfully (so far) attempts to drill for oil and gas in Montana's Bob Marshall wilderness; the Jackson Hole (Wyo.) Chamber of Commerce has gone on record as opposing oil and gas drilling in the area around Jackson.

Wyoming, the same state that elected staunchly pro-development Stan Hathaway as governor, also elected and re-elected staunchly pro-wilderness congressman Teno Roncalio. Colorado, the same state that elected arch conservative Bill Armstrong to the Senate, elected and re-elected Richard Lamm as governor, a man whose initial platform consisted of stopping the summer Olympics in Colorado because of the environmental damage the games might cause.

If Ronald Reagan understands all these contradictions, he is doing a lot better than a number of people who have lived out here all their lives. If he thinks that appointing corporate exploiters to sensitive positions as guardians of public lands demonstrates an understanding of the West and the problems facing it, he is sadly mistaken. What it demonstrates is a callous disregard for the unique qualities that make the West what it is. If Ronald Reagan understands the West, Cattle Kate was Queen of England.

— DSW

reporter's notebook

by Michael Moss

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. — Several springs ago, there was a knock on Eleanor Bliss's door. The now 80-year-old woman opened it to two students from the local high school.

Awkward and nervous, they carried in camera, tape recorder and a list of questions. Seated in her living room, for hours they simply listened and absorbed.

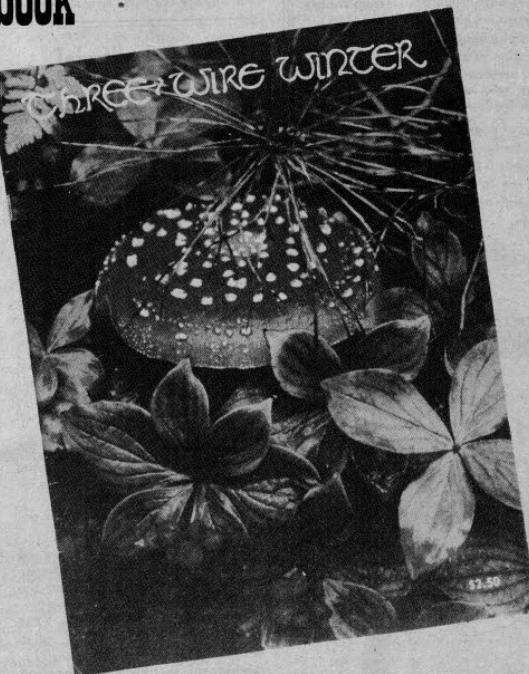
Blank tapes now filled, the pair returned to Room 16, where, amidst much classroom frolicking, the tapes were transcribed, edited, cut and pasted into a smoother narrative. A few names and dates were transposed. Some of Eleanor's words were misinterpreted. The photos weren't smashing.

But there it was, weeks later, the story of a woman who emigrated here in the 1920s — her travels, her skills, her life, all in her words — gracing a section of the latest issue of the students' magazine, *Three Wire Winter*. Eleanor was delighted. The students were proud.

Collecting oral history is an adventure. The rewards are extraordinary in the Rocky Mountain region, where change has occurred so quickly that even the next oldest generation holds fascinating tales. It's even more special when young people are involved.

"How to talk to people. That's the lesson they learn. And to be interested enough to want to know," says Eleanor's friend Dorothy Whither, a native Steamboater who was once also featured in the magazine.

The program here in Steamboat Springs began six years ago, inspired by the successful Foxfire project in the Appalachians, which this year will gross over a million dollars from a variety of publications and products, wholly



produced and managed by people under 19 years of age.

Steamboat Springs High School teacher Bill McKelvie added his own twist by gearing his program to underachievers — students who for various reasons are uninspired by traditional classwork. That, he admits, has accounted for some screwups, such as left-out paragraphs or reversed pages.

But perfection is held to be relative; the students hold the helm.

The latest, and 14th, issue was researched, written, edited, illustrated, designed, assembled, promoted, marketed, and accounted for by 29 student staffers. A print run of 1500 was distributed this spring to 450 subscribers and a host of local shop distributors. The cost, again managed by the students

through their own checking account, was \$3,000, funded by the school district.

From tatting doilies to making stained glass, "my life as a cowboy" to memories of war-torn Europe, the people and skills which capture the students' interest vary as history itself. There's Shorty Hamidy, owner of the Oak Creek Hamidy Hardware; Wayne and Helen Light, community pillars who also raise foxes; J.C. Trujillo, rodeo circuit rider; McGregor, a now defunct cal mining town. In each there's a story that the students, after the style of author Studs Terkel, strive to let tell itself.

McKelvie insists his role is limited to that of driver, running errands and shuttling students to and from interviews. He is also dabbling in promotion, however, and has helped start similar programs in Basalt, Greeley and Pueblo, Colo., as well as Lander, Wyo., and Anchorage, Alaska. "Out of the classroom and into the community," he explains in a sentence. And he's proud of the three or four students who he feels were inspired by the class to go on to college.

The students? Alternately nonchalant and excited, their verdicts are thumbs up. "I've learned how to put out a magazine," says Katherine Knight, 16, matter-of-factly. "It's a fun class, easy (grade) if you work hard," says Jerry Hollingworth, 16. "I was nervous," says Richard Gilbert, also 16, "but you ask pretty basic questions, on their philosophy of life and stuff. It's more like a conversation."

On the wall of Room 16, for inspiration, is a mosaic of class-related photos and old magazine covers, and for the professional discipline, there's a news clipping about the *Washington Post's* Janet Cooke.

And when it's done? "That's my article," says Gilbert, pointing. "My magazine," again pointing. "I'm proud."

14-High Country News — Aug. 7, 1981

Opinion

NWF takes a careful look at James Watt's Interior

It led TV news broadcasts and made front page headlines all over the country: "Nation's largest conservation organization calls for resignation of James Watt."

For both obvious and subtle reasons, the recent call for Watt's resignation by the National Wildlife Federation has put the first real dent in the Interior Secretary's pro-development armor.

For one thing, the NWF is big: it boasts 4.5 million members and supporters, far more than any other conservation group.

For another, it is conservative. Over twice as many of its members voted for Ronald Reagan as voted for Jimmy Carter in 1980. While it espouses conservation, its members are in many cases avid hunters, supporters of the National Rifle Association and Republican. This is Reagan's backyard.

Last, the NWF took its time and did a careful job, instead of shooting from the hip. Its report on Watt's first six months is a detailed, footnoted dissection of Watt's policies on parks, strip mining, wildlife, wetlands, water resources, endangered species and more.

Patrick Parenteau, director of the NWF's Resources Defense Division, said a dozen people contributed to the report, which was six weeks in the making. It includes a detailed analysis of Watt's budget cuts (reductions at the Office of Surface Mining of 26 percent; planning, permit review and biological services cuts at the Fish and Wildlife Service of 20 percent; and a drop in the Bureau of Land Management's wilderness review budget of \$7.1 million, to name a few), and everything from offroad vehicle policy (Watt shifted the burden of proof that ORV's do or don't cause harm to public lands from vehicle operators to the agencies) to his moratorium on parkland acquisition.

The Interior Secretary tried to laugh it off, lumping the NWF with the other "environmentalist" groups that he ridicules as arrogant and elitist. But Watt's own arrogance and lack of humility are what have him in trouble, and even old friends like Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) are talking with furrowed brow about his "image" problem.

The problem is much greater than image. Congratulations to the NWF for doing their homework before they flexed their political muscle. Anyone who is still taking a "wait-and-see" attitude towards Watt should write the NWF for a copy of the study: what they will see in these pages is an Interior Secretary taking radical and irrevocable steps against natural areas and the environment.

— GOG



Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

Fee snarls mustang plan

by Marjane Ambler

Few questions split the East and the West as much as wild horses. The issue polarizes otherwise rational people. On one side are the horse lovers. They per-

After 10 years of battling, the different factions had gone to their corners to watch how the new program would work when fully implemented.

Then the Interior Department announced that it would increase fees and indicated that any horses that can't be placed will be killed. BLM offices were immediately flooded with phone calls, and newspapers filled with letters protesting the slaughter of the all-American animal.

Few seemed to remember that Congress sanctioned killing excess horses in 1971 when it passed the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act. The Public Range Improvement Act of 1978 reiterates this policy. The horses must be rounded up. Not only has Congress mandated it, but at least one court has set a deadline. Any further slowdown in the roundups would undoubtedly prompt more lawsuits.

But if anything interferes with placing the remaining 44,000 excess horses that still roam on public lands, horses will be killed, and the corresponding uproar will be deafening.

While it is too soon to be sure, the fee increase is expected to reduce the demand for wild horses. With holding facilities filled to capacity at the present rate of adoption, the BLM will not be able to hold the unwanted horses indefinitely. And by law they cannot be sold or given away, except for adoption.

The backlash if large numbers of wild horses are killed could be devastating to the current delicate political equilibrium. Groups that have backed away from the fray would be back in the media, Congress and the Courts.

Subsidizing the Adopt-a-Horse program is expensive. But losing the tenuous public support for wild horse management of some kind would be more expensive. The war that Watt is, in the name of budget balancing, instigating could very well hurt some of his favored constituents, the ranchers, by damaging the rangeland resource he is supposed to be protecting.

Marjane Ambler is a former managing editor of HCN. She is presently a freelance writer living in Lander.

guest editorial

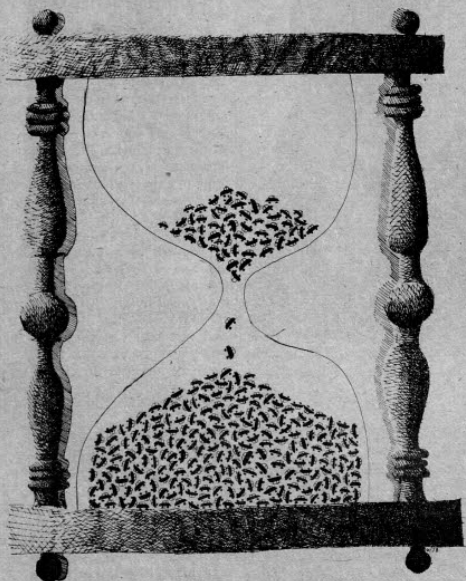
ceive their opponents as grass-stingy ranchers who see a wild horse as just so many cans of Alpo.

On the other are the ranchers and wildlife groups concerned about overgrazing. They say the sentimental city folk see wild horses as Fury- or Flicka-like pets. Even within the ranks of wildlife groups, field representatives differ with their own Washington, D.C., staffs on how wild horses should be managed.

Only someone who considers cock fights great sport would choose to throw the two groups at each other's throats unnecessarily. But that is exactly what Interior Secretary James Watt did this summer when he announced a fee increase for adopting wild horses and burros. Starting October 1 the Bureau of Land Management will charge \$200 for a horse — up from about \$25 — and \$75 for a burro that is adopted. This fee will partially cover the costs to the government of rounding up and holding the animals.

No one could say the horse lovers and the wildlife advocates have become great buddies or that up until now the Adopt-a-Horse program is working perfectly. There are problems. The BLM isn't getting the horses off the range fast enough to suit ranchers, nor is it checking up on the adopted horses and burros to be sure they are cared for properly. A few of the new owners have become disenchanted and either abandoned their horses or returned them. Red tape has delayed filling requests by as much as two years.

However, there are hopeful signs. The cowboys hired by the BLM are rounding up the horses in record numbers. With the addition of five distribution facilities, all collected animals are being adopted, and requests have been received for 35,000 more horses.



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SEMASIOLOGY LESSON

Dear HCN,

I am a devoted fan of **High Country News** and always expect the best from your paper. I have been disappointed twice in the past month. The following is taken directly from the **American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language**:

replete adj. 1. Plentifully supplied; abounding. Used with **with**...2. Filled to satiation; gorged. **Usage:** **Replete** stresses great abundance. It is not the equivalent of **complete** or **equipped** (**with**), for which **replete** is often used loosely.

Please consider this in relation to the enclosed excerpts from the June 12, 1981, and June 26, 1981, editions of **High Country News**.

...That's what's printed on our new T-shirts, replete with our mountain goat...

...But by 1984, the new town will sport 7,200 housing units, including houses with passive solar heating, a shopping center replete with supermarket, a school...

A minor mistake, but it grates. There are those who would consider this evidence of the diminished capabilities of environmentalists in general.

Otherwise, completely satisfied,

Marie Aro

MEDIA IN THE SADDLE

Dear HCN,

Your appeal for the integrity of the Washakie Wilderness was very impressive; so was the photograph of the buttes, and I was glad to find out that letters even from people who had never set foot there, much less heard of it before, could help, considering what is at stake for the entire Wilderness system.

Writing letters in defense of natural areas that I have known has always felt very artificial against the memory of the actual experience, but since the threatening technological heavy-handedness always seemed to me an extension of the importance of writing and symbols, the rationale for me was writing about experiences in the outside world that would destroy that obsessive importance — which is why I found that J. Sisson's article has to be taken with a rather large grain of salt.

He was very perceptive on the dangers of the environmental movement's embrace of media; but every form of expression, mechanized or not, had come under the same attack: photography by Susan Sontag, *On Photography*, among others, and scores of linguists and critics have dissected the ambiguities of writing and language itself, and Melville's *Moby Dick* also explores the problems of knowing through language. All of which would leave the movement very little with which to decently express not so much the secret wellsprings of emotion set off by our singular and collective contents, good or bad, with the

natural "real" world, but to translate the distance between a remote Western valley and a river and the electricity that lights up the TV in such a way that it is plain to understand that it is much closer than the mileage.

Media, especially its more mechanized forms, plays with familiarity and distance either through exoticism — the far away — or (swift and usually painful) transgression of this familiarity, and the potential through doses of realism to close or bridge this gap.

I think that any effort in the past by the movement to use media to bring into focus the natural world or alternative technologies has been very useful to us and to it. One of my secret pet dreams is the return of the cowboy movie — like Autry's "Back In the Saddle Again." Forget the technology — as kids what did we know? I have a hunch that their influence took turns that nobody at the time would have anticipated.

(As a reminder, "Back In The Saddle Again" put Gene Autry and the ranchers against the owners of a copper mine which was polluting a river and killing all the cattle, at least in the beginning of the story.)

Jacqueline Wolff
Hollywood, Calif.

A VOTE FOR VIDEO

Dear HCN,

Over the years I've read a great many things in HCN with which I disagreed, but until John Soisson's guest editorial (HCN, 7-10-81) I had never read anything which made me feel embarrassed. The editorial made me realize why some people, while environmentalists to the core, will have nothing to do with environmental organizations and resent being tagged as an environmentalist.

The people whom Soisson sees as the "technocratic aristocracy" are not "the enemy." The simplistic generalization of the former phrase and the attitude implied in the second are not what the environmental movement needs.

The environmental message is, as Soisson points out, "one of values." However, it is simply wrong to imply that all of our values and technologies are diametrically opposed, and to say that television, in particular, can't do ethics any good at all "because it deals only with slick packaging and simplistic phraseology." Television **can** do a world of good if we use it correctly. Indeed, the subtle, subjective nature of the soft format of the television message. Television can't and shouldn't be a substitute for a direct experience of the natural environment, but it can be a medium for getting people interested in that experience or for reminding them of its pleasures and importance.

I fail to understand Soisson's seeming objection to the medium itself. What, after all, is the real difference between a television ad or program which tries to point out the beauty and spirituality of the natural environment and a magazine ad, an outdoor film, or the Sierra Club Calendar?

The nature of video technology is emphatically not to "move toward centralization." Anyone with any knowledge of the medium can tell you that

just the opposite is true: cable, the decreasing cost and increasing availability of video equipment, emerging community video networks, etc. are leading us in the direction of a very **decentralized** technology.

The choice is not a simplistic one between technology and nature, as Soisson would have us believe. The choice is not between "druids" on one side and "the iron glacier" on the other. Rather, the challenge is to reconcile love of the natural environment with the humane use of technology, and those at the lead-



ing edge of the environmental movement — not those stuck in the clichés of the past — realize this.

Let me just urge HCN to avoid simple polemics in the future (or at least restrict them, like this one, to the letters column.)

Bruce Webendorfer
Madison, Wisc.

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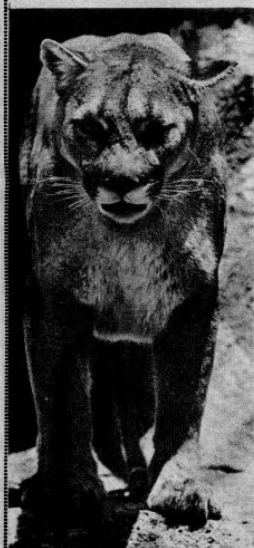
A LAND ALONE: COLORADO'S WESTERN SLOPE

Duane Vandebusch and Duane Smith, 1981; \$16.95, hardcover; 337 pages, extensive bibliography, illustrated. Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, Colo.

Review by Michael Moss

There'd been a pounding spring rain and I was nearing the Wyoming border on rutty Highway 789 when a young couple flagged me down for a ride into Baggs. Their car had rolled several times; their lives had been spared. By the time I dropped them off in Baggs, though, the shock of the accident had worn off and they had already made

HCN READERS CONSIDER WILDLIFE



Jack McLellan

Does your organization or company have an interest in wildlife? If you want to put your message or service in the hands of thousands of HCN readers, look ahead to HCN's September 18 "wildlife special". The issue will include articles on big game poaching, the reintroduction of wolves in Glacier and the use of 1080 to control coyotes.

The issue will be widely distributed to groups and locations where interest in wildlife is high. For rates and more information, contact Kathy Bogan, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520; (307) 332-6970 before September 4.

plans to resume, what seemed to me, a life in pieces.

The pair had recently arrived from Cincinnati ("No jobs in Cincinnati") to get oil field work. Within several weeks they'd run the gamut of boom-town problems — uncertain employment, scarce housing, a knife fight — that makes observers wonder what such troubles are worth, and why people endure them.

Those answers are not readily forthcoming in Vandebusch and Smith's historical *A Land Alone: Colorado's Western Slope*. But the text conveys another phenomenon clearly: People have been lured to, and endured, the Western Slope's boom atmosphere for a long, long time. And their stories are fascinating.

There was Frederick Pitkin, a member of the "one-lunged" emigrants that came West seeking health and found wealth. He was twice elected Colorado's governor, capturing for a time a rare Western Slope political clout. There was editor Caroline Romney, who practiced the late 1800s' combative style of journalism in her *Durango Record*, fighting no less than two other weeklies and four dailies competing in a town of only 3,500.

There was John Cleveland Osgood, a corporate titan who cared for his Redstone coal miners by designing a costly model mining community, replete with cottages with hot and cold running water, a clubhouse, library, school, medical facilities, and the famous Red-

stone Inn — once a bachelor's dormitory and now a restaurant.

And there was, and still is, Wayne Aspinall, whose decades in the state legislature and Congress fighting for development of the Western Slope lends him fame as "the only man who can reminisce about the future."

There were also Anasazi basketmakers, Spanish explorers, white traders, and Ute Indians. But the booms, heaped on and after one another like so many battles in a war, are what are so startling. There were furs. There were silver, gold and coal. There were farmland and scenery. And now there are oil, natural gas, uranium and oil shale.

Vandebusch and Smith, professors of history at Western State College and Fort Lewis College, respectively, have written seven other Western Slope history books. Vandebusch is now directing a graduate student research project studying the cattle industry in the Gunnison area.

Reading this Western Slope history — made enjoyable by Vandebusch's and Smith's fine style and reliable by their established credentials as authorities — is a classic lesson that the events of today are not unique. Immigrants to the region a hundred years ago were struggling with many of the problems facing the young couple from Cincinnati.

To some extent, past boomers cared enough about the Western Slope to think of its future. That concern over environmental quality is reaching a new crescendo today. Past and present

COLORADO PLACE NAMES

Geo R. Eichler; 1977; \$4.50, paperback; 108 pages. Johnson Publishing Co., 839 Pearl Street, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

WYOMING PLACE NAMES

Mae Urbanek; 1974; \$5.00, paperback; 236 pages; Johnson Publishing Co.

Review by Michael Moss

I don't have the statistics to prove it, but I'd bet that more than one driver in the Rocky Mountain region has run afoul of a straying antelope because of distraction. Not just any distraction, mind you, but one in black and white. And herein lies one of the better kept secrets of the road: Some of us read while we drive.

The reasons are several — disinterest in redundant scenery, a broken car stereo, a busy life that leaves little time for reading. Victims of the latter cause you will often find rummaging through a briefcase perched on the passenger seat, overflowing with briefing papers, reports, journal abstracts.

Others not so pressed by business prefer the novel. It's light, easy to hold up near the windshield, where one's eyes must venture regularly, and absorbing. The miles will click by; so fast, in fact, that interest is a novel's main drawback. Who can remember to keep glancing at the yellow line when Herbie Goldfarb is enduring a barnyard Armageddon in John Nichols' *The Milagro Beanfield War*?

Newspapers offer a fine, less engrossing distraction, except for their awkwardness, which requires a finesse learned only by riding a New York

WYOMING PLACE NAMES



MAE URBANEK

commuter bus. I have managed to devour an entire *Denver Post* Sunday edition on a highway, although the freeway makes for calmer perusals.

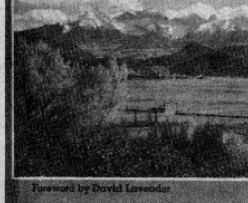
On the interstate or off, one of the more enjoyable reads is a guide to place names, such as the two listed here. They're particularly good for beginning readers-while-you-drive, as the entries are short, to the point, and usually can be mulled over at length (while your eyes are safely on the road) until the next town, historical site, or mountain pass comes along.

The guides are dissimilar. Eichler's *Colorado* is particularly concise and well-defined into neat sections on communities, counties, peaks and mountain passes. Rivers and other things are strangely left out.

Urbanek's *Wyoming* is more chaotic, lumping all categories, everything into an alphabetical listing. She's also more fun, enamored enough with her home

A Land Alone: Colorado's Western Slope

Duane Vandebusch
Duane A. Smith



Foreword by David Lavender

residents also share conflicting judgments about resource use — crudely put as exploitation versus preservation — that has resulted in the text's introduction notes, "a deep ambivalence about which way to jump next."

Vandebusch's and Smith's advice pulls no punches. Although their intention, they say, is simply to encourage more reasoned thought, their concluding chapter, "Where do we go from here?" nearly answers itself.

"One can only hope," they write, "that big money, growth, and an insatiable craving for energy will not destroy that idyllic land for, sad to say, there simply are not a hundred more years of plunder remaining in Western Colorado."

state to throw in lots of corny poetry and moralizing. The listing for Fremont County's Popo Agie Primitive Area, for instance, has this line: "Wilderness once invaded with roads, lumbering and mining can never be restored."

There are flaws and errors in both, but it doesn't matter. As Urbanek rhymes in her introduction, "If we waited until we were sure, Not anything would exist to endure." (Which, although she denies it, seems to translate into, "When in doubt, make it up.")

One word of caution. Unless you're exceptionally disinterested in your geography, using these guides in conjunction with a road map while driving is not recommended. The interest is absorbing and, ah, inevitably deadly.

In fact, the best literary companion of all to your Rocky Mountain road trips is a stray hitchhiker, who can read aloud while you watch the wandering yellow line. The antelopes, and your mother, will breathe easier too.

