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The Paper for People who Care about the West

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Missile may not be safe in port

Foes launch first-strike attack on MX

by Betsy Marston

Always controversial, the MX missile deployment in Nebraska and Wyoming is meeting with stepped-up opposition.

Within the next two weeks, Colorado's Gov. Richard Lamm will decide if the state has sufficient grounds to sue the Air Force. Five state agencies and the Attorney General's office have spent days combing the 17-volume Final Environmental Impact Statement (issued January 31, 1984) to see if it addresses Colorado's concerns, says Lamm advisor Tim Atkeson.

Deciphering the EIS, adds Atkeson, is like finding your way through a labyrinth without a guide: "There's an index but impacts aren't under the same headings."

He says, "Our strategy is to delay, to give Congress time to think about this offensive first-strike weapon." What elected officials need time to ask, he says, is what safeguards have been sacrificed to get the MX deployed in two years, and what dangers there are to the western states from an accidental detonation.

"An EIS in an information-gathering document. Congress now doesn't have all the information."

Because no missiles are to be based in silos in Colorado, the Air Force scheduled its seven scoping hearings from November 1-4, 1983, only in Wyoming and Nebraska towns. Impacts on Colorado are minimized in the EIS, even though the missile squadron at Wyoming's Warren Air Force Base comes within a few miles of Colorado's northeastern border.

Supported by the entire state delegation, Lamm has written to the Air Force at least three times asking for a new EIS process that takes into account the MX's regional impact; not merely impacts defined by state boundaries. The Air Force has consistently refused Lamm's requests (see story in this issue).

Another lawsuit seems certain from Western Solidarity, an eight-state "coalition of coalitions."

An attorney who has represented the coalition says it's a matter of when, not whether to sue. A major defect in the Air Force EIS, says attorney Nicholas Yost, is that neither the environmental effects of nuclear war nor a "worst case" accident are addressed.

Yost says worst cases must be presented and analyzed by the Air Force because of federal law under the National Environmental Policy Act. In fact, he adds, he wrote the regulation in 1979 when he worked as general counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality.

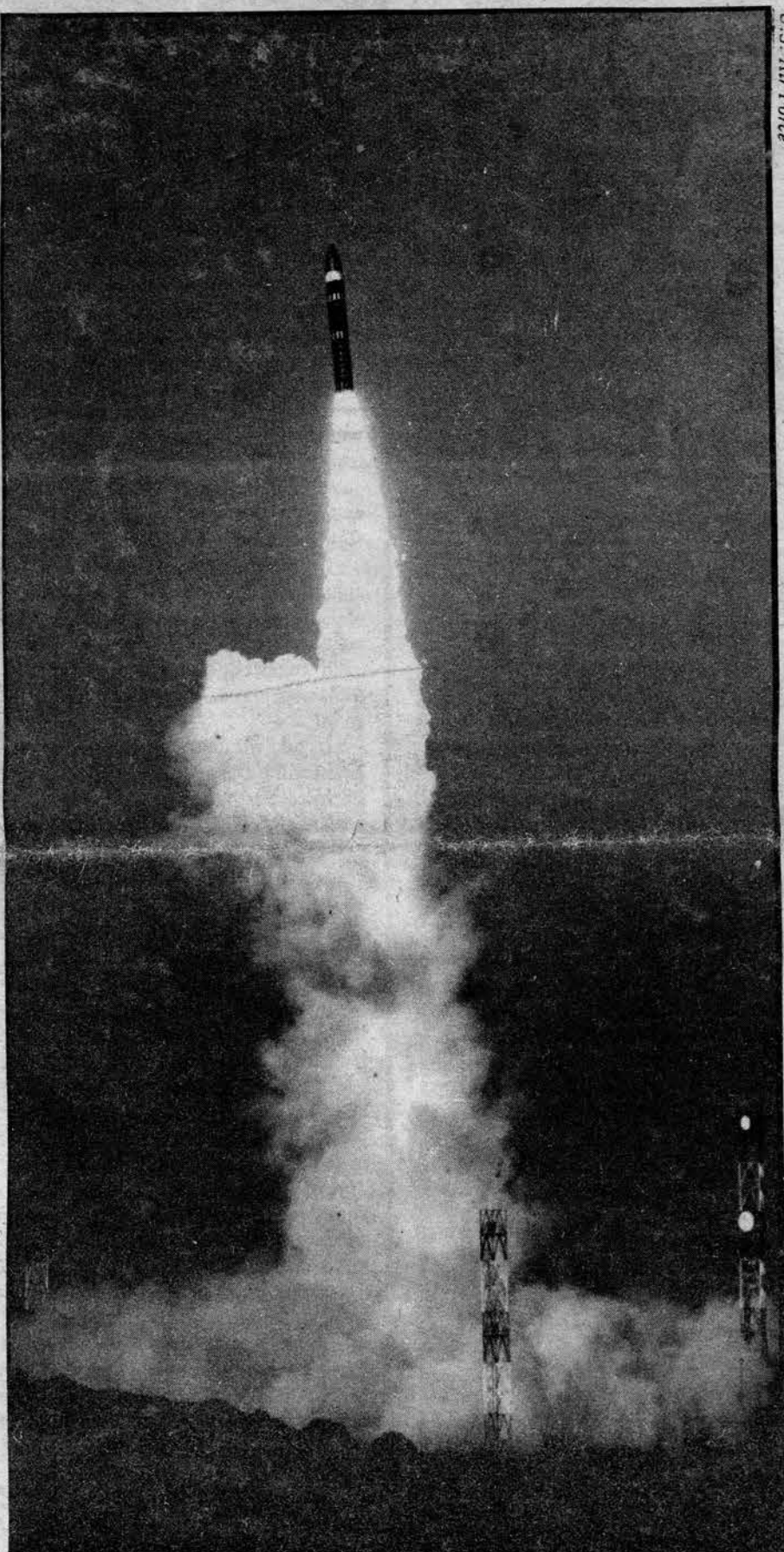
Yost, who works for the Center for Law in the Public Interest in Washington, D.C., sued the Air Force once before on November 13, 1983. Representing Western Solidarity, Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club and nine other groups, Yost's original case was based on the "Dense Pack" basing mode. The Justice Department won the first round when the Court of Appeals dismissed the suit on Feb. 3, 1984. Western Solidarity decided not to appeal that case to the Supreme Court.

Yost says a new challenge would focus on the Air Force Final EIS and that it would probably be entered in a District Court in the West.

Western Solidarity said last week it will hold press conferences on March 29 in the cities of Cheyenne, Lincoln and Denver, perhaps to announce that the Air Force will again be challenged in court.

As early as April or May, Congressional opponents of the MX plan to introduce one or two amendments designed to cripple the missile program, says April Moore, coordinator for the National Campaign to Stop the MX, which is based in Washington, D.C.

"We're going to win this year," she says. "New groups have begun to join us." They include the American



Test firing of an MX missile

U.S. Air Force

Association of University Women, the American Association of School Administrators, and the American Ambulatory Pediatrics Association. The Campaign, formed three years ago, has more than 150 member groups, she says.

One measure co-sponsored by MX opponents will ask the Congress to rescind the unspent portion of \$2.1 billion appropriated last year for development of the first 21 MX missiles. The other amendment will ask Congress to delete the \$3.2 billion which President Reagan requested for 40 additional MX missiles. The first deployment of ten out of a total of 100 MX missiles is scheduled for 1986.

Because the vote to appropriate \$2.1 billion for the MX in 1983 was a squeaker at 217-208, Moore says she has high hopes for a reversal of last year's support.

On Feb. 10, Gov. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska and Gov. Ed Herschler of Wyoming wrote President Reagan to ask for a one-year delay in deploying the MX missiles in their states. That Kerrey, who has consistently opposed the MX, would ask for a moratorium wasn't as surprising as Herschler's participation in the request. In 1981, Herschler wrote Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger promising Wyoming's cooperation on MX deployment in the state. He has also said the MX was "palatable" for Wyoming. But Herschler has since announced that he is not a candidate for re-election in 1986.

In their letter which a White House spokesman said was never received, Herschler and Kerrey agreed that,

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WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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The Utah Legislature has a very wet session

Like everyone else in the Beehive state, the Utah legislature was concerned with water this winter. The now departed lawmakers appropriated \$3.7 million to put a bandaid on the state's most spectacular problem -- the ever-rising Great Salt Lake.

The money will be used to breach a railroad causeway that acts as a barrier between the north and south sections of the lake, making the south about 3 feet higher than the north. Companies and counties in the south demanded and finally got the breaching to lower their water levels. Work is to start in the spring.

Utah's flood problems go beyond the lake. Scores of rivers and streams threaten communities this heavy snowpack year. So the legislature also passed a flood relief bill, making control of flooding a government function. It both protects local government against damage lawsuits and gives emergency powers to the state engineer.

On the money side, the legislators appropriated \$28 million to take care of last year's flood damage and this year's expected damage. It will be used to dredge streams, repair or replace bridges, enlarge culverts, and so on.

In addition, an \$8 million federal grant will be used to raise seven miles of Interstate-80 above the intruding Great Salt Lake. The Utah Transportation Department tried to get by cheap

-- it built dirt barriers on both sides of the highway. But water seeped through, covering the road and at times turning it into an iceskating rink. So the barriers are being pushed onto the road, to raise it. Drivers will travel on dirt until it settles, at which time it will be paved.

One observer of the Great Salt Lake scene said the name of the game for waterfront industries and property owners is to hang on through this season in the hope that lake levels will start dropping. So millions of dollars are being spent to build up dikes to protect threatened structures. That will be money down the drain if the lake keeps rising.

The situation is so complex that solving one problem can create another. Even though the breaching is meant to help the south industries, one southern firm, AMAX, has objected. The breaching is to take place just where AMAX has a right-of-way for a pipeline it may build into the north side.

AMAX is interested in pumping water from the north because northern water is much saltier than water in the southern arm. The saltier the water, the more minerals can be extracted per acre of solar drying ponds.

The billions of dollars of minerals in the lake are owned by the State of Utah, which leases rights to the shore-side firms. The opening of the causeway will cause hundreds of

millions of dollars in water-borne minerals to change location, as water rushes from the south through the breach to the north. Even though the north will gain minerals, in a sense it will be poorer -- the extra water will dilute the north and make it harder to extract minerals.

Although the legislature appropriated money for the breaching, it refused to pass a more expensive comprehensive bill. The defeated bill would have studied pumping as a control measure.

Pumping water into the desert west of the lake has been proposed as one way to control the lake level. It is expected to rise to 4,208 feet this April. Flood level is 4,202 feet, but that was passed a year ago. Symbols of its passing can be seen on the lake's south end, where beach-front recreation facilities such as roads are underwater and restaurants have been engulfed by the spreading waters.

In other matters, the 20-day budget session passed the so-called Kennecott bill, exempting the firm from certain taxes it would have incurred in a planned \$7 billion modernization of the famous Bingham copper pit; kept an extra half-penny on the state sales tax; increased the state gasoline tax by three cents, to 14 cents; and increased the severance tax on oil and gas from two percent to four percent.

--the staff

Dear friends,

"To be granted another spring is the greatest of gifts," concludes Howard E. Evans in his *Afield* on page 16.

And despite everything we believed in December and January, it looks as if we will be granted another spring. Staffer Mary Moran, who just returned from New Mexico where she climbed the Ladrone Mountains, says it is already spring there. And here in Colorado, at the southern extremis of HCN's five-state region, we had a day of spring on March 10, followed promptly by three inches of snow on March 11. We mention it only to give hope to the more northern reaches of our territory -- Montana, Idaho, Wyoming. Keep up your spirits. Spring is skirmishing its way north, and will arrive in its own good time.

We've had the feeling these past few weeks that even the man-made part of the nation may be thawing. This issue focuses on the MX -- on signs that the weapons system is not a fait accompli. We were most surprised that Governor Ed Herschler of Wyoming has reversed himself and joined Nebraska Governor Bob Kerrey in asking to delay the MX. To delay, we believe, is to kill.

But the most surprising thawing has been in the Democratic party, where a once-orderly, once-preordained march to San Francisco by Walter Mondale has been turned into a free-for-all by Gary Hart. He followed up that achievement by topping President Reagan in the good-for-ten-minutes polls.

We're not sure what it means ultimately. But at this moment it means large numbers of us Americans have close to zero faith in the instructions and direction coming

down from the top. The ease with which huge numbers switch allegiances is flaky, but with spring coming on we are determined to take hope from that flakiness.

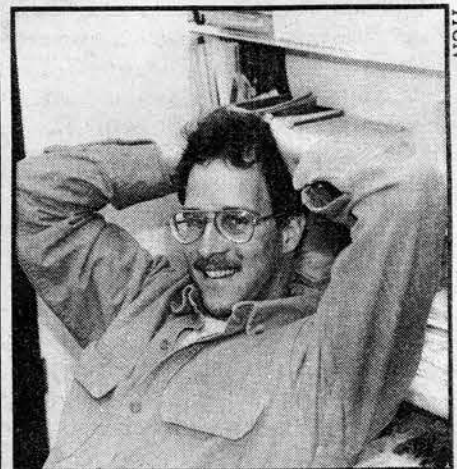
Political analysts are embarrassed that they missed the Hart phenomenon, and can't explain it even retrospectively. We think they're being too harsh on themselves. We can recall reading several think pieces explaining how influential the West was going to be in this election. The analysts were thinking electoral votes rather than Western candidates and ideas. But they were in the right part of the nation.

Those who save their *High Country News* may want to read about the Colorado Senator in quieter times. Former editor Dan Whipple caught Hart at the Sierra Club annual meeting last summer. The lengthy front page story was in the July 8, 1983 issue.

On a subject closer to home, HCN has a new intern -- Paul Larmer, a graduate of Principia College who will be going on to study natural resource management at the University of Michigan after his three months in Paonia.

Larmer joined us straight from Washington, D.C., and he still seems surprised to find that America has towns with one main street where mountains grow out of everyone's backyard, and that he is to spend the next three months in such a town. But he conquered his surprise well enough to call around the nation to see the effect Watt's departure had on environmental groups. His story is opposite.

Speaking of Paonia, just when you think a small town has become predictable -- pot holes filled with



Paul Larmer

snow and mud, and deer on the highways -- it surprises you. One such surprise was a sidewalk sign in front of the Paonia Peddler, a store that recycles older goods and sells new gift items and bicycles. The sign was handwritten on a blackboard next to a mannequin whose costume changes regularly. On this day she was wearing orange shorts and fishing boots. The sign read:

"LOST: yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with 60 diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever." -- Horace Mann.

Peddler owner Bill Mann, who is distantly related to the author-educator, but not to the mannequin, says he gets a kick out of watching people glance at the quotation, and then stop to really read it. "Sometimes they look for a long time kind of wistfully."

We're better at making resolutions than at keeping them. But we are determined not to let this spring slip by unappreciated and unenjoyed.

--the staff

Oil shale's future rides on a balky scraper

The Union Oil Company ended a six-month-long news blackout March 8 when its chairman and president, Fred Hartley, came to Western Colorado to talk about its \$650 million oil shale project.

The project was to have begun producing 10,000 barrels a day of shale oil out of 15,000 tons per day of rock this fall. Instead, the pioneer operation has failed to work. When the firm imposed a gag order on its Parachute, Colorado-based staff of 550, the region's reporters turned to rumor. The oil shale towns are in desperate economic shape, and interest in the project is very high.

Hartley condemned the rumor-writing, but said he understood the curiosity. "We're the biggest news west of the Mississippi." He confirmed some reports and refused to comment on others.

He said the problem centered in a scraper -- a rotating device which sits atop the retort to push spent shale over the side. Instead, he said, the shale is piling up on the scraper, and not falling over the side. The scraper is being redesigned for a third time, and the retort will be tested again at the end of March.

The problem was a surprise to Union. The radical part of the machine is a "rock pump," but Hartley said it is working perfectly. The pump

pushes fresh shale up from the bottom of the retort. As it rises, it is supposed to be heated to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit by hot gases flowing down from above.

By the time shale has risen to the top, and is ready to be pushed overboard by the scraper, the solid kerogen in the shale should have flowed off as gas and oil. Because of the scraper, the retort can only be run a short while, and the entire process hasn't been tested.

Hartley said once the scraper works properly, the retort will turn out oil. He said pioneer plants often have start-up problems, and he committed Union to both the project and the current staff.

An environmental group, Friends of the Earth, in a widely circulated letter by staffer Kevin Markey, says problems may go deeper. He speculates that the hot gases may not be flowing evenly down through the shale. As a result, the kerogen is turning gummy rather than to liquid and gas. The scraper can't "scrape" stuff off the top because the entire batch is stuck together.

Hartley was asked about the FOE letter. He responded with contempt, saying "it is hard to be creative and constructive," as Union has been in undertaking the ground-breaking



Fred Hartley

project, and it is easy to harp and criticize. He refused to otherwise comment on the letter, saying it was unfounded.

The entire oil shale industry is riding on the Union project. Other companies have bought rights to the retort. But all projects, including Union's second phase, depend on Synthetic Fuels Corporation guarantees. The corporation is unlikely to commit itself to several billion dollars tentatively committed until the retort is shown to be, as Hartley says, a 10,000 barrel a day oil well.

--the staff

HOTLINE

Pickling the Colorado

The State of Utah fears a nuclear waste repository in the Canyonlands area will increase salinity levels in the Colorado River. According to *Utah Waterline*, up to 10 million tons of salt would be mined to accommodate the waste. Unless that salt were suitably contained, it could enter the river, adding to salinity levels that already cost water users several hundred million dollars a year in stunted crops and other damages. An expensive, federally-funded salinity control program is underway.

Governor Scott Matheson (D) has been resisting the high-level dump. But there is strong local support, including San Juan County Commissioner Calvin Black.

Nuclear cave-in victim dies

The ground cave-in at the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons testing ground in Nevada (HCN, 3/5/84) has resulted in the death of one of the workers. Charles Miesch, Jr., who suffered possible internal injuries and a broken hip and leg, died March 4. On Feb. 15, Miesch and 13 other contractor-employees had been removing above-ground equipment three hours after the DOE exploded a nuclear weapon in a tunnel 1,168 feet below. The test was done at Rainier Mesa 93 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The DOE said that the other men injured in the subsidence are no longer in hospitals.

A last resort



Bull bison

Government officials recently killed five trouble-making bison in the National Elk Refuge outside of Jackson. The bison had killed two elk and a horse used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and also injured three other government-owned horses. The incidents reportedly took place behind an alfalfa feed truck where the bison regularly joined the horses and elk to eat. The killings were a "last resort," according to Tom Toman of the Wyoming Fish and Game Department. He said that for over thirty days the bulls had been causing trouble and that attempts to move them out of public areas had failed. The five carcasses of the dead bison were given to local Indians for processing.

The National Elk Refuge supports a herd of 70 bison, 17 of which are mature bulls. The animals have been wintering in the area since 1977. Refuge manager Reese Madsen said the burgeoning bison population may cause more conflict in the future. A management plan to be released late this spring by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will address the subject of desirable herd size.

Environmental groups survive Watt

In the six months that have passed since Interior Secretary James Watt resigned, how have environmental organizations fared -- particularly those that boomed during his tenure?

Grass roots groups, such as the Powder River Basin Resource Council in Sheridan, the Idaho Conservation League in Boise and Colorado Open Space Council in Denver, haven't seemed to have suffered much. As March Welsh of COSC puts it, "Our members have been aware of important western issues for a long time before Reagan and Watt came to office."

Mary Kelly, assistant director of the 1500-member Idaho Conservation League, says that her group never was on the Watt bandwagon, so it never fell off. The month of February, she says, was particularly good as far as membership, with renewal rates jumping from 70 percent to over 80 percent.

But the Sierra Club, whose membership doubled during the Reagan Administration, has not been able to sustain its growth. Membership, now at 340,000, leveled off when Anne Burford resigned last year, says Audrey Berkovitz, Sierra Club development staffer.

The Sierra Club, as much as any environmental group, used the image of James Watt to generate new members. The "dump Watt" petition campaign, which gathered about a million signatures, was a particularly effective medium through which the group swelled its ranks. Huge quantities of direct mail calling for action against Watt's policies also added new members at a remarkable rate.

Yet Berkovitz doesn't see a direct link between declining membership and the Watt regime. "We grew more than any other group, therefore we were the most susceptible to a level-off," she says.

Berkovitz points out other reasons for the Sierra Club's sagging



membership: Many of the easily obtainable members were aboard by the time Watt resigned; even with Watt still in office, new growth in membership could not have maintained its pace. She adds that many of the Sierra Club's members are 1st and 2nd year members. Because these are historically the toughest people to retain, any slowdown in new member acquisition leads to some shrinkage.

The reasons for the slight decline in Sierra Club membership seem logical and clear now, but they were not as clear some months back when the projected \$23 million budget overestimated income by some 10 percent. The group has now had to tighten its belt. Recent austerity measures including the elimination of all non-essential travel by employees have been instituted.

A similar scenario can be seen at San Francisco-based Friends of the Earth -- tremendous membership growth in the first two years of the Reagan administration followed by a period of slight decline starting before the departure of James Watt.

Executive director Jeffrey Knight sees membership more as a function

of direct mail volume than as a reflection on Watt. He, too, cites the difficulty of renewing new members as a major reason for the slack in FOE membership, which currently stands at about 30,000 after peaking at 33,000 in 1982. "We thought the new members might go against the historical trend of lower renewal rates. We were wrong," he says.

Knight emphasizes that FOE's membership has known all along that environmental ills were not caused by James Watt alone. "Ronald Reagan is the real James Watt. We've been hammering away at that for two years."

A national group that successfully vaulted the chasm created by Watt's departure is the Wilderness Society, which also swelled its membership during the Watt years from 45,000 in 1980 to more than 100,000 today. Development director Edward M. Norton attributes growth and higher renewals to an aggressive policy of recruitment. And when Watt left, Norton says, the Wilderness Society acted fast to develop new "membership packages" focused on issues rather than the controversial figure of James Watt.

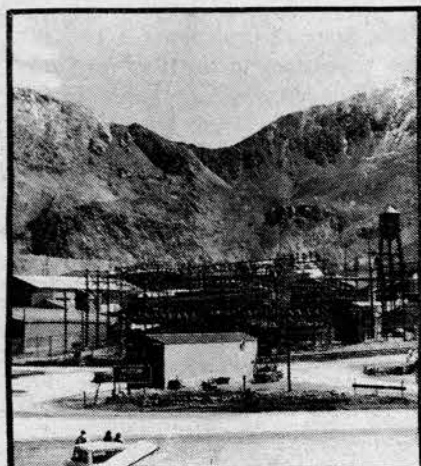
--Paul Larmer

BARBS

Patriotism with a vengeance. The Selective Service System reports that Wyoming's young men have registered at a rate "slightly above 100%." Spiro J. Contos, Wyoming State Director, stated, "This increase in registration shows me that young men today love their country and are willing to accept the responsibilities that living here entails." A preponderance of those who don't demonstrate their love of country by registering live in California. That state has the lowest compliance rate in the nation -- 89%. The normal rate is 98.6%.

Four states gang up on the Dept. of Energy

Leadville stirs again



Climax Mine

Citing a decline in molybdenum inventories and a more hopeful economic climate, AMAX will hire back 586 workers beginning April 18 at its Climax Molybdenum Mine 12 miles north of Leadville, Colorado. The mine had been shut down since September 1982 because of the depressed steel market. The result for Leadville was a drastically-reduced tax base as the population also shrank from some 10,000 people to 7,000. AMAX's other moly mine in Colorado, the Henderson near Empire, closed in October 1982 and reopened this January with 600 workers. At peak employment during 1980, there were 3,051 workers at Climax and 2,000 at the Henderson mine.

Waxman moves ahead with acid rain bill

President Ronald Reagan may still favor research on acid rain rather than new, restrictive laws, but Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Cal.) is moving ahead with his acid rain legislation. Waxman's bill now has 125 co-sponsors who favor his proposal to reduce sulfur emissions by 10 million tons while also requiring the 50 largest polluters to install scrubbers. Waxman recently held field hearings on the bill in Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota and New York.

Grand Junction citizens get involved

Determined to have a say in the management of local public lands, a group of Grand Junction citizens submitted a 50-page "Citizens Alternative" to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Feb. 15. The Grand Junction BLM office is in the midst of preparing its Resource Management Plan (RMP) for at least the next decade's management of 1.2 million acres of public lands under its jurisdiction.

The Citizens Alternative offers specific management prescriptions for resources and handling issues such as public land access, wildlife, grazing, wilderness, mineral exploration, archaeology, and recreation.

Mark Pearson, a staffer for the Colorado Open Space Council who lives in Grand Junction, said that citizens have already influenced the BLM. The Resource Protection Alternative of the RMP now recommends all seven Wilderness Study Areas as Wilderness, instead of the five areas recommended in the original.

As far as Pearson is aware, this is the first time a citizens' group has submitted an entire alternative to a BLM office during their RMP process.

--Sharyl Kinnear

Frustrated by Department of Energy delays in cleaning up abandoned uranium mill tailings, four Western states demanded a meeting recently with the head of DOE's Albuquerque office, R.G. Romatowski.

Representatives of the four states said they were "very pleased" with the results of the meeting. Romatowski, in fact, has indicated he would consider a proposal by Colorado to take over part of the clean-up effort within that state.

The states called the meeting because they were upset by DOE's slowness, uncooperativeness, and desire to stabilize radioactive wastes in place rather than consider moving them.

Romatowski, however, denied that DOE prefers stabilization. He said the agency considers each of the 24 sites nationwide case by case. The sites were listed in the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978, which directed the federal government to pay 90 percent of the costs and the states 10 percent.

Leonard Slosky of Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm's office said Colorado officials did not believe DOE showed enough consideration for the state's expertise in the field. Colorado has already moved one small tailings pile itself and has surveyed 30,000 vicinity properties where tailings may have been used in construction or blown off the mill sites. The state has cleaned up 500 of those vicinity properties.

Nancy Freudenthal of Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler's office has been upset by the many delays in starting work on the tailings near Riverton, Wyo. An environmental assessment expected last December is now delayed until spring 1985. Without it, she said, state officials cannot begin assessing whether the tailings should be moved out of the wet site where they now lie in a floodplain. The delay may exacerbate political problems for the state's environmental officials since they succeeded in convincing a reluctant legislature to appropriate money on the assumption that work

would begin soon, she said (HCN, 12/26/83).

Freudenthal said she supported Colorado's and Utah's efforts to manage cleanup in their states because it might mean DOE will have more time to spend in Wyoming.

New Mexico's representative at the meeting, Tom Buhl, said he also supported the other states' complaints. The Ambrosia Lake site in that state is only medium priority so work will not begin on it until after the higher priority sites.

Work on a contract formalizing Utah as manager of the cleanup of the Vitro tailings in Salt Lake City is nearly completed, according to Larry Anderson of the Utah Health Department. Anderson said DOE has been "fairly reasonable" since a Utah delegation convinced Energy Secretary Don Hodel to propose moving the tailings out of Salt Lake City (HCN, 11/28/83).

The decision to allow Utah to manage the cleanup in that state paved the way for Colorado's request. Colorado does not want to take over all the work for the nine sites in the state.

However, it is expected to take an active role in the five sites that state officials think should be moved. Slosky said the data seem to indicate that Durango, Rifle 1 and 2, and Grand Junction should be moved because of their proximity to surface water and population. The fifth, Gunnison, should be moved for economic reasons -- it would be cheaper to move than to stabilize, he said.

Lynda Taylor of the Southwest Research and Information Center said she supports the states' efforts to control more of the remedial action program. The center, which has been active in uranium issues for more than a decade, has said that the public should be represented in meetings between DOE and the states. "The states have the responsibility to see that problems (caused by the tailings) don't come back to haunt them 10 or 15 years later, after the DOE has completed its work ... If groundwater is contaminated because tailings are not moved that should be moved, it is virtually impossible to clean it up," she said.

--Marjane Ambler

Brown-bagging reporters

A former press officer for the Environmental Protection Agency blasts Capitol Hill reporters in the March *Washington Monthly* for not digging deeply enough. The author, Jim Sibbison, says few noticed how press releases were watered down during Anne Burford's tenure as EPA chief. Sibbison says censorship by EPA officials shortened one release about a pesticide known to cause sterility -- and possibly cancer -- by noting there were "adverse health effects." Another announcement of a chemical known to be hazardous was changed to "there is a degree of hazard."

Frustrated, Sibbison and other EPA staffers finally began to leak

stories to the press. He says one senior scientist, Adrian Gross, risked his job in 1981 (and was later demoted) to tell the *Washington Post* that an EPA scientist appointed by President Reagan was allowing use of one of the nation's most toxic pesticides, ethylene dibromide (EDB). When Reagan's appointee, John Todhunter, dismissed the issue by calling the whistle blower "a complainer," the *Post* ran the story as just another internal agency fight.

In conclusion, the writer warns that the press is being too kind to EPA Chief William Ruckelshaus, who holds brown bag lunches with reporters, but few press conferences.

--the staff

BOOK NOTES

She cooks what's wild

The Kim Williams Cookbook and Commentary

Kim Williams. Illustrations by Janet Bush. Missoula, Montana: Bitterroot Educational Resources, 1983. 173 pages. \$10.95, paper.

Review by Betsy Marston

Reading Kim Williams' recipes and commentaries, some of which she has read on National Public Radio's *Wednesday Morning Chat*, is probably like being in the same room with this warm and opinionated woman of 59 from Missoula, Montana.

You soon feel you know her, the Depression hard-rock farm where she and six siblings grew up, and her now 93-year-old mother who stubbornly eats chocolates and white bread.

Williams says she used to send her mother helpful hints about whole wheat bread until she finally confessed, "What can I say? That we should live so long!"

This is not a health food cookbook, though it comes close with recipes for

dandelion petals in rhubarb pie and lamb's quarter quiche. But there are also recipes for meats, such as chicken laden with garlic and even earthworm chili, which she assures us tastes just fine. (Feed the worms cornmeal for two days, then boil, dry and bake until crisp. "Crumble into small bits.")

What Kim Williams has really given us is the pattern of her days and approach to life. Rooted in the seasons, she anticipates spring by hunting for what grows wild.

"When the last of your canned food is gone, the root cellar is empty, and before the garden produces anything, that's when you go out in the meadows and fields and look for what's coming up." And when she forages, Williams begins and ends her trips on foot. She does not like to drive a car.

To her ten rules of eating wild plants safely, Williams adds an eleventh aimed at greedy folks. When someone calls to say, "I just picked a bushel basket of chokecherries. What'll I do with them?" Williams replies, "Go put them right back on



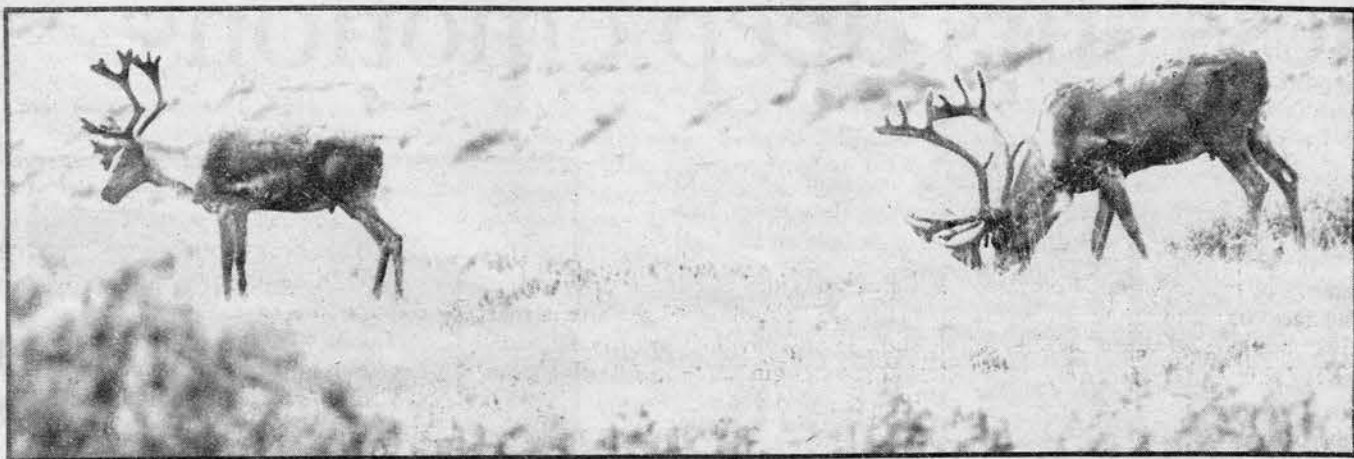
Kim Williams: "Sometimes I think I am the reincarnation of a horse. I dearly love seeds, grains, nuts. I eat huge salads of greens fresh from the fields. I forage for overripe fruit falling off the trees."

the bushes. We shouldn't go through the outdoors like Atilla the Hun. Take only a little. The birds and wild animals need their share."

In her no-nonsense style, Williams also offers brief advice on dieting: Toughen up through exercise, eat lots of whole grains, then eat less of everything. If she were perfect, Williams says elsewhere, she'd eat no meat. But, "I'm not perfect."

There are no glossy pictures and no promises of instant health in this book, just good common sense. The bread recipes look good, too.

Nation's last caribou get federal protection



John P. George

The last remaining herd of caribou in the lower 48 states has been listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An estimated 30 of the Selkirk caribou -- a race of woodland caribou once roaming as far south as the Salmon River in central Idaho -- inhabit far northern Idaho and southern British Columbia, occasionally traveling into Washington and perhaps Montana.

Designation means that federal projects with potential impacts on the caribou -- such as logging and road building -- must now be reviewed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal funds are now also available for research projects and other recovery efforts. And designation makes the killing of a Selkirk caribou a federal crime, punishable by up to a \$20,000 fine and one year in prison.

Research efforts are underway to determine more precisely what the caribou eat and where they go to eat it, but Idaho Fish and Game Wildlife Research Supervisor John Beecham said, "If anything is limiting caribou, it's lead -- people shooting them." Beecham said researchers regularly walk within feet of the docile animals. Poachers can do the same, and combined with accidental shootings by hunters mistaking the caribou for elk, the already tiny herd can easily be hunted to death.

Because of this, Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game biologists believe controlling access -- that is, roads -- into caribou habitat is a key to the herd's survival. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Team Leader Jay Gore said "wilderness designation would help" by precluding road construction. The caribou now use at least portions of two wilderness study areas in Idaho -- Salmon-Priest and Long Canyon.

But Beecham cautions against linking caribou with wilderness. "I don't think they'll be tied to a wilderness issue at all," he said. Beecham said studies by Fish and Game biologist Mike Scott indicate that some logging may benefit the caribou by providing clearings for new plant growth. But Beecham adds that "to support caribou [an area] has to be pretty roadless. Otherwise they'll be shot out."

Although British Columbia supports about 2,000 Selkirk caribou further north, that country has acted to curb poaching and accidental shootings by imposing a no-shooting zone north of the Idaho border to protect the herd of 30. Beecham said the Idaho Fish and Game Department is not contemplating similar action. "We wouldn't know where to put the protective area," he said, pointing out that research has yet to define critical caribou habitat. "Their closure is a pretty radical one too," he said. "It not only closes to hunting, it closes it to all shooting... That could have some

negative repercussions about having caribou at all."

In addition to shootings and habitat destruction, the Selkirk herd may be endangering itself by inbreeding. A cooperative agency management plan has targeted 100 caribou as the minimum necessary to maintain a genetically sound herd. With only two to three calves born to the Selkirk herd each year, and perhaps an equal or greater number shot, that goal may not be reached without help from man. The government of British Columbia, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Washington Department of Game, the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service have developed a caribou management plan. With the Selkirk caribou now a federally endangered species, the Fish and Wildlife Service will revise and adopt the plan, which includes: improved law enforcement to protect the caribou from poachers; a public information program to help hunters distinguish caribou from elk; monitoring of logging and roading; and evaluation of a plan to infuse the Selkirk herd with fresh blood from British Columbia.

While transplanting fresh caribou into the small Selkirk herd may be the only remedy to biologically dangerous

inbreeding, Beecham said, "I don't want to put too much emphasis on transplanting from B.C." He said the British Columbia government has not approved transplanting yet, and the plan would have to undergo public review in Idaho. Beecham said he would expect opposition from the logging industry.

The Selkirk caribou, unlike other members of the deer family, migrate to higher elevations in the winter. "They go very high, just to the ridges," said Mike Scott, who has been following the herd since May 1983 via telemetry equipment. "They're probably walking around now on six to eight feet of snow." At these high, snow-covered elevations the caribou feed on the only vegetation available -- lichens, especially the goats' beard, which hangs in grey-green clumps from the trees.

The Selkirk herd had been proposed for endangered species listing three years ago. However, few animals were listed during Watt's reign at the Department of the Interior. The caribou were emergency-listed twice. Their protection now is permanent -- at least until the herd recovers or becomes extinct.

--Glenn Oakley

Clark blocks BuRec

Interior Secretary William Clark has dealt another blow to the decades-old proposal for damming the Colorado River just below the Grand Canyon.

The Hualapai or Bridge Canyon Project would have led to the construction of a dam, powerplant and reservoir on 490,000 acres of land lying within Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the Hualapai Indian Reservation.

Conservation groups expressed relief when, on February 14, Interior Secretary Clark said that "After personally examining the area and listening to recommendations from the Bureaus of Reclamation, Land Management, and Indian Affairs, the National Park Service and the public concerning the water and land use situation there, I have decided that the Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals dating back more than half a century should be lifted."

Clark said full authority over the lands will be returned to the National Park Service and the Hualapai Indians. Land withdrawals may be reinstated at some time in the future, but for now the Bridge Canyon Project is dead.

Recent renewed interest in the project had resulted from two factors: The Bureau of Reclamation asked the Interior Department for an extension

of the project's 20-year land withdrawal, which expires this year; and residents of the Lower Colorado River Basin asked for more upstream storage after last summer's flooding of their lands. Arizona Representative Bob Stump, always an advocate of the project, had also stepped up his efforts to obtain congressional funding.

--Mary Moran

BARBS

Someone should tell him about WPPSS and its bond holders. A recent *Rocky Mountain News* story focused on the enormous number of unneeded power plants that exist in the Rocky Mountain states. Even when they sit idle, the need to pay interest on them forces up rates because, one utility executive said, "Ultimately the consumer has to pay for all of that (surplus). There is no other source of money."

Another great idea bites the dust. A plan to pipe saline water from hot springs at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, to a dozen evaporation ponds on the Utah border has been abandoned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The ten square miles of ponds would have taken 300,000 tons of salt a year out of the Colorado River.

HOTLINE

Coal sales delayed

Fallout from the Linowes Coal Commission report on federal coal leasing continues. Interior Department sales scheduled for the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming, and the San Juan Basin of New Mexico, Utah and Colorado have been delayed again. A Congressional moratorium was due to expire this May. Testifying before a House Appropriations Committee, Brooks Yeager of the Sierra Club said the delayed sales indicate that Secretary Clark understands the need for "alterations" in the coal leasing program. However, Secretary William Clark said that although up to 27 tracts in New Mexico's Bisti Badlands would not be up for sale, controversial preference right lease applications would proceed for approximately 2 billion tons of coal. Up in Casper, Wyoming, the Bureau of Land Management announced that the Powder River sale would be postponed until January 1985 because of "schedule readjustments." A draft Environmental Impact Statement calls for leasing 2.6 billion tons of coal and processing up to 6 billion tons of preference right applications.

57,000 fed a day



Division of Wildlife

The Division of Wildlife in Colorado has tapered off its feeding of wildlife to 57,000 animals a day, says DOW spokesman Bob Hernbrode. The effort, helped by more than a thousand volunteers, feeds 33,750 deer, 23,245 elk, 900 antelope and 100 bighorn sheep at a cost of \$27,400 a day. The DOW says emergency rations may not be needed after April 1.

Freeze vote pushed

Residents of Fort Collins, Colorado may get a chance to vote on a nuclear weapons freeze resolution in a May 1 city election. A group called Citizens for a Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze recently held a two-week petition drive and collected almost 3000 signatures, more than twice the required number to place an issue on the ballot.

The resolution calls upon the president of the U.S. to propose to the Soviet Union a bilateral, verifiable, nuclear weapons freeze and deep reductions in the nuclear arsenals of both countries; to work towards preventing the worldwide spread of nuclear weapons; and to propose a multilateral freeze to all nations producing nuclear weapons. If passed, the mayor of Fort Collins will inform the President and the Colorado congressional delegation of the adoption of the resolution.

6-High Country News--March 19, 1984

Utah's 'Heart of Darkness'

Wilderness stirs deep emotions

by C.L. Rawlins

When my grandparents were still alive and living on the farm in Lewiston, Utah that had given them and their family sustenance since the day of the Mormon pioneers, my visits often entailed a ritual which seemed to me curious.

We would drive the roads near their place and my grandmother would point with pride to the newest houses, which in her lexicon were "lovely-new-homes." Many of them, built in brick in shades of uncompromising glare-white or mortgage-yellow, seemed to me hideous: overlarge and at odds with the landscape of green fields and wetland. But I realize now that they were beautiful to her in what they represented: successive triumphs for an ideal, the settling of a wilderness.

I also recall her warnings, given when I recounted solo camping trips to the mountains east of Cache Valley or talked of plans for further solitary wanderings. "Be careful," she said many times, "it's so dangerous up there."

At some point early in my personal wilderness experience, I crossed an emotional divide. The mountains, it seemed to me, were the safe place. The weather and other hazards were devoid of malice, deviousness or cunning. I was most likely to suffer from my own mistakes. By contrast, the cities and highways, with human creatures driven by ambition and greed, driving home drunk at high speeds, were truly dangerous. I could make no mistakes and still fall victim.

My grandparents were the children of a generation still struggling with what Pilgrim William Bradford called in 1620 "a hideous and desolate wilderness." Their parents and grandparents had been successively driven, with violence and death, from Indiana, Illinois and Missouri into an ill-prepared exodus across what was then called the Great American Desert.

When Brigham Young called his famous halt, they faced a large, arid valley ringed with ragged peaks and containing a dead lake, salty enough "to float an anvil, if anyone is such a damned fool as to lug one over there and heave it in."

Theirs was a sort of wilderness experience unavailable today. That the Indians they encountered seemed at home and even intimate with this wilderness was considered fit proof of their innate savagery. Unable to live in this landscape and retain their own cherished culture, the Mormon settlers struggled to transform it into a model, that of the midwestern agricultural village, which simmered in their dispossessed hearts.

The Indians, mostly nomads living in extended-family groups and traveling to seasonal food resources, were at first little competition for the Mormons. The primary demarcation of land was between what was "ours" (cabins, fields, irrigation ditches, roads) and what was "its." The Mormons were not alone in their ideal of "reclaiming" land from desolation and wildness, as if it had somehow been civilization's property from the beginning, but they were true believers in the manifestness of that particular destiny. And they were on the cutting edge.

To them, it was a matter of immediate survival, this process of changing wilderness, land that is "its," into ditches and plowed fields and fenced pastures, into land that is "ours." The width of the streets in Salt Lake City was not, to Brigham Young, a mere engineering decision. It was a psychological necessity, an assertion of character. The streets of Salt Lake are very, very wide.

When parties of scouts and settlers fanned out from the Salt Lake Valley to define the borders of the Mormon empire, they realized the awesome breadth and beauty of "its" domain, but had eyes mostly for strictly tangible prospects. The typical written accounts of the time deal less with the majesty of the land than with its prospects for farming or grazing. The tempered tone of Major Powell is absent.

It is hard to fault a practical people for exercising their will to survive, but times have changed with the presence of people on the land. Utah's population, according to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, is 84.4 percent urban, even though many of those urban centers are small towns. New York state's urbanization is only slightly higher at 84.6 percent, and Pennsylvania's is 69.3 percent. Still, some vestige of the pioneer instinct, the feeling of "ours" and "its," is still alive in the state.

As wilderness in its pure form was a threat to the pioneer, wilderness in its legislated form is frightening to many of his inheritors. Ads for four-wheel-drive vehicles hit hard on the note of an illusory freedom to be gained "beyond the end of the pavement." The idea that wilderness is a quantity and quality that "man can only mar" is anathema to the urban frontiersman, dispossessed of his frontier.

Much of the opposition to wilderness designations comes from those who actually use the land in question as grazing for livestock or from those who hope to, through timber sales, mines, or oil wells. Some of the truly fierce opposition, though, comes from people who have never seen the place or even want to see it.

As Thomas Lyon, professor at Utah State University and editor of the *Journal of Western American Literature*, said in a recent speech, "Opposition seems to go far beyond what the objective circumstances require. Apparently, there is something awfully threatening about wilderness. Wilderness advocates are accused of emotionalism with a fervor that approaches frenzy."

Attendance at public hearings shows that frenzy works both ways. Anti-wilderness speakers are often shouted down or rudely interrupted by the wilderness purist. At the fringe of the issue, each side has a ferocious constituency which regards any sort of negotiation as betrayal.

It is clear that some deep level of personal and cultural identity is involved in the wilderness issue; clear especially in Utah with its tenacious frontier-pioneer heritage.

To Professor Lyon, the dichotomy our culture imposes in which civilization and wilderness are opposing poles makes the issue a personal one, a matter of emotion. Too much energy is given to "human-centered arguments, rather than the facts of genetic diversity or watershed preservation."

"We tend to view these remnants as symbols and they gain the power of symbols. Wilderness as 'other' threatens merely by existing."

A recent acquaintance told me, "When I can't see lights in my rear-view mirror, I get scared." It is, just maybe, this sort of fear -- of darkness, of chaos, of aloneness-- which is projected into the landscape.

The Anglo-Saxon *wylde ness* means the den of a wild beast. There is, in the history of the word wilderness a sense of lurking danger, of claws and teeth. That the Christian pilgrim to this continent chose this word above all others to denote the mountains and forests was revelatory of his fear of the vast, unknown land and his personal feeling of separation.

In his book *Common Landscape of America 1580-1845*, John R. Stilgoe sums up the importance of this encounter: "It meant confronting the fragmented former oneness of man and nature, and it meant knowing the true fragility of civilized order. *Wilderness* identified those spaces beyond human control, the spaces of bewilderment, the spaces of heathen."

In a variety of ways, this interpretation has become locked in our tradition, and Utah is a traditional state. But there is an equally strong case for finding in wilderness a source of values and a sort of shrine:

We do therefore... dedicate and solemnly devote this tree to be a Tree of Liberty. May all our councils and deliberations under its branches be guided by wisdom and directed to the support and



Alexis Kellner

maintenance of that liberty which our renowned forefathers sought out and found under trees and in the wilderness.

From a dedication of a Tree of Liberty
Providence, Rhode Island, October, 1765

In 1797, George Washington wrote:

We ruin the lands that are already cleared and either cut down more wood, if we have it, or emigrate into the western country... A half, a third, or even a fourth of what land we mangle, well-wrought and properly dressed, would produce more than the whole under our system of management; yet such is the force of habit that we cannot depart from it.

In 1976, Andrew V. Bailey, then Chief of Mining Operations for the Dept. of Interior, included the following in a letter:

When the Geological Survey has the lead in preparing environmental statements, inflammatory words such as disturbed, devastated, defiled, ravaged, gouged, scarred and destroyed should not be used. These are words used by the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, environmentalists, homosexuals, ecologists and other ideological eunuchs opposed to developing mineral resources.

What is evident in the contrast between the last quotes is how land-use issues, including wilderness, have become increasingly ideological and bitterly political. Wilderness has become an emblem, a symbol for what is loved and valued or for what is hated and feared.

In this context, the adversary is not merely a person or group with a differing opinion, but that whole part of existence which evokes echoes of the cry of Joseph Conrad's Mr. Kurtz: "The horror! The horror!"

On this level the wilderness itself -- the actual land -- is less important than the struggle with personal demons. The power of wilderness, or our image of it, in shaping the American character is supremely evident in the ferocity with which we contest the issue. That our fears and failings as humans will so largely influence the fate of these few roadless remnants is a sad paradox.

A part of the land that has given us as a nation so much deserves to be left to itself, to its own rhythms and purposes. We may hike it, graze it, photograph it, get lost in it, fry its trout, curse its mosquitoes or ascend its peaks. What is forbidden, to use George Washington's inflammatory word, is to mangle it. If we are unable to exercise this small and basic sort of self-control, then we have a large problem.

To paraphrase Walt Kelly's Pogo: We have met the Wilderness and it is Us.

BULLETIN BOARD

MONO LAKE, CALIFORNIA

The Sierra Range in California is the scene of a struggle which could affect water in the Rocky Mountains. In a lawsuit brought by a coalition of environmental groups, the California Supreme Court ruled that Los Angeles' water-gathering efforts must be tempered by regard for the public trust. In other words, the Western water doctrine of prior appropriation is not absolute in the state which created it. At issue is L.A.'s water diversion from Mono Lake, which is heavily used by wildlife and is described as an ecological wonder.

The decision could affect the Rockies in two ways: by forcing L.A. to seek more water out of the Colorado River, and by a spreading of the public trust doctrine to other prior appropriation states. For a copy of the literature, history-filled California decision, send \$3 to: The Mono Lake Committee, Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. An additional \$15 brings you membership in the very active group, plus four well-done and informative newsletters a year.

WILD HORSES

The Bureau of Land Management is still looking for homes for 2500 wild horses and burros removed from western public lands last summer and fall. Horses are currently available for adoption at corrals in Susanville, CA; Salmon, ID; Palomino Valley, NV; Burns, OR; Rock Springs, WY; Cross Plains, TN; Lewisberry, PA; and Collinsville, TX. Most of the available burros are corralled in Kingman, AZ and Collinsville, TX. Fees for the horses range from \$125 to \$215; burro fees are \$75 to \$110.

The Adopt-A-Horse program was initiated in 1973 as a means of removing from public lands those horses and burros regarded as excess. Since then, over 45,000 animals have been adopted. In an attempt to monitor treatment of the horses and burros, the federal government retains title to them for a year after adoption. For details on adopting, contact your nearest BLM office or write Adopt-A-Horse, BLM (130), U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202/343-5717).



WESTERN COURSES IN CODY

Four one-week classes on the history, art and culture of the West will be offered this June in a most appropriate setting -- the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. Van Deren Coke, director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's photography department, will teach a course on Western art and the narrative tradition. The Plains Indians will be the subject of a course taught by Dr. Herman Viola, director of the National Anthropological Archives in Washington, D.C. Dr. William Goetzmann and Dr. Peter Iverson, professors of history at the University of Texas and the University of Wyoming, will each teach a course on Western history.

The tuition fee is \$100 per course and college credit is available. For details write to the Education Office, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Box 1000, Cody, WY 82414.

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

If you are a wildlife biologist, manager, or administrator, the 49th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be of interest. This year's conference will take place March 23-28 in Boston; the theme is "society's responsibilities in fish and wildlife management." For more information or to order transcripts, contact the Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street, N.W., Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202/371-1808).

THE FUTURE OF WATER

An interdisciplinary conference on water will be held at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas April 3-5. The title is *Water for the 21st Century: Will it be there?* and panelists include Eloy Soderberg, general manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority, and Wesley Steiner, Arizona's director of water resources. The get-together costs \$152; write Michael Collins at the School of Engineering and Applied Science, SMU, Dallas, TX 75275 for more information.

NUCLEAR REACTOR WASTES

A new Department of Energy report describes plans for federal storage of nuclear reactor wastes created by private utilities unable to provide their own at-reactor storage capacity.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 gives utilities the primary responsibility for temporary storage of spent fuel until the DOE can develop permanent geologic waste repositories. But DOE is authorized to provide federal interim storage for utilities unable to provide their own adequate storage. So far, no utility has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for federal interim storage.

The report is called the *Initial Implementation Plan for Deployment of Federal Interim Storage Facilities for Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel*. It's the first in a series of annual plans dictated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and is available from the DOE Publication Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-206, Washington, D.C. 20585 (202/252-5575).

OIL SHALE PLAN

Plans for oil shale development in northwestern Colorado are not yet dead. The BLM recently released a Draft Detailed Development Plan for Cathedral Bluffs Shale Oil Company's Tract C-b, a 5100 acre federal oil shale tract 20 miles southwest of Meeker. The plan calls for a modified in-situ shale-oil recovery process combined with above-ground retorting. Production is scheduled to begin in 1987, with 14,100 barrels of shale oil per day to be produced during the beginning phase of the operation. The project is expected to last 34 years. The development plan can be reviewed at BLM offices in Craig, Meeker, Grand Junction, and Denver, Colorado.

REVENUE FROM PUBLIC LANDS

A conference on oil and gas royalties and other income from public lands will be held in Missoula, Montana May 7 and 8, 1984. "Fiscal Federalism and the Patchwork Quilt of Natural Resource Revenues" is sponsored by the *Public Land Law Review* at the University of Montana and by the Western Office of the Council of State Governments. Possible speakers include U.S. Senator John Melcher (MT), Montana Governor Ted Schwinden, BLM Director Bob Burford, and Environmental Defense Attorney Tom Graff. A major focus will be the millions in lost income from federal oil and gas leases. Registration and three meals are \$75. Contact: Harley Harris, University of Montana, Law School, Missoula, MT 59812; or 406/243-6568 for information.

JORDAN RIVER FLOODING

The swollen Jordan River near Salt Lake City has been deemed unsafe for canoeists by the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. By the end of February, the high waters and strong currents had created hazards where diversion dams and barbed wire fences were submerged and at bridges where clearance was low or debris had collected. Call the Jordan River State Park office (801/533-4496) for the latest canoeing conditions.

WATER, WATER '84

A conference on Western Colorado water issues will be held Saturday, May 12, at the Inn at Glenwood, in Glenwood Springs. Western Colorado produces most of the Colorado River's water -- water which supplies Denver, L.A., and soon, Phoenix. Water '84 will focus on the future of that water. For information on the conference contact: Connie Albrecht, Friends of the Earth, Box 728, Palisade, CO 81526, or call: 303/464-5329.

BENEFIT FOR WESTERN SOLIDARITY

There will be a benefit April 4 for Western Solidarity, the coalition of coalitions which opposes deployment of the MX missile in Nebraska and Wyoming. Cris Williamson and her band will entertain folks at the University of Wyoming's Arts and Sciences Auditorium starting at 8 P.M. Co-sponsors include the Albany County Nuclear Freeze Campaign and Laramie Women's Center; tickets are \$7.



COLORADO WSA TRIPS

The Audubon Society of Western Colorado and the Colorado Open Space Council are sponsoring trips to several of the state's BLM Wilderness Study Areas. The one to three-day trips to generally remote and little-known lands will explore the volcanic buttress of the Castle Peak WSA near Glenwood Springs; the cottonwood-lined canyon bottoms, pictographs and ruins of the Cross Canyon WSA northwest of Cortez; the falls and pools of the Dominguez Canyon WSA west of Delta; and the plants, wildlife, geology, and beauty of seven other WSAs. One hiking trip in the Black Ridge Canyon WSA west of Grand Junction originates with a raft trip through two other canyons.

The trips are free and open to anyone. Contact the Colorado Open Space Council at 2239 East Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206 (303/399-WILD) or at P.O. Box 204, Grand Junction, CO 81502 (303/245-1191).



SPRING BIRDATHON

The Audubon Society has come up with an interesting alternative to walk-, bike-, and jog-a-thons -- the Birdathon. Local Audubon chapters sponsor the spring event in which participants seek pledges for money for each bird species they can count in a single day. Earnings are split equally among Audubon's participating chapters, regional offices and the national office. Last year's Birdathon raised \$110,000.

The national office puts out a how-to Birdathon manual for chapter leaders. They also provide national publicity and prizes, such as last year's grand prize of a birding trip on the Texas coast. Chapters can set their own date for the Birdathon, but national attention is on the weekend of April 28-29. If you're ready for a test of your ornithological skills and perseverance, contact your Audubon chapter or regional office, or write to Sonia Szereg, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 (212/546-9209).

A CHANGE IN PLANS

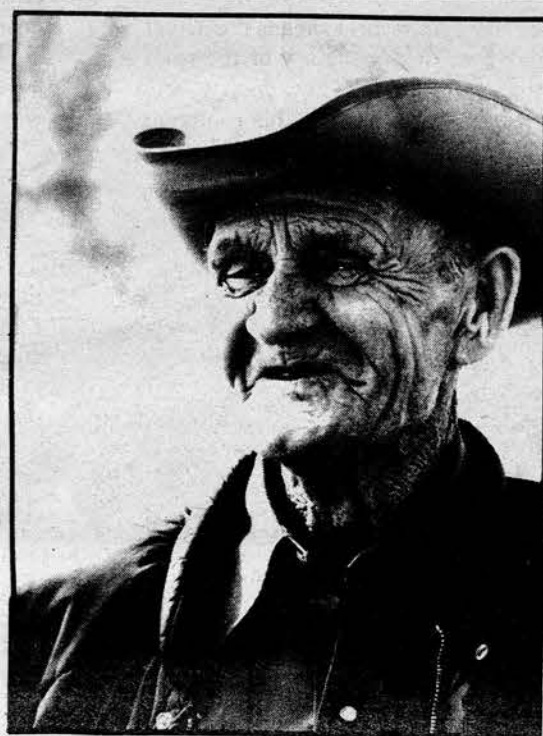
An amendment to the Williams Fork Management Framework Plan would allow the management area near Steamboat Springs, Colorado to be considered for coal leasing. An Environmental Assessment was prepared to accompany the amendment. If approved, the entire 604-acre management area would be included in the Fish Creek coal-leasing tract being assessed in the Green River/Hams Fork Round II Environmental Impact Statement.

The BLM state director plans to approve the amendment on March 26 unless public protests are received before that date. The planning amendment and EA can be reviewed at BLM offices in Craig, Meeker, Grand Junction, and Denver, Colorado as well as Rawlins and Rock Springs, Wyoming. Send comments to the BLM, Craig District Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625.

MONTANA SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Scientists and science educators take note of a conference in Missoula, Montana, jointly sponsored by the Northwest Scientific Association and Montana Academy of Sciences. Papers will be presented on March 21-23 at the University of Montana and optional field trips on March 24 will visit the University's biological Field Station and freshwater research laboratory at Flathead Lake and the Lubrecht Experimental Forest near Greenough, Montana.

Other sponsors of the conference include the Forest Service's Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; the Montana Section of the Society of American Foresters, and the Montana Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. For more information, contact the University of Montana's Office of Continuing Education at 406/243-2900.



High Country News

The paper that cares about the future of the West.

The West we know has many faces. Cattle moving to summer pasture through the streets of small towns. Clear spring water from the kitchen tap. Elk bugling in the high mountain meadows.

Will we recognize tomorrow's West? Energy development subdivided rangeland and pressure on wildlife are increasing. The rest of the nation wants in: to our minerals, our land, our culture. In a time of great change, *High Country News* captures the many faces of the West.

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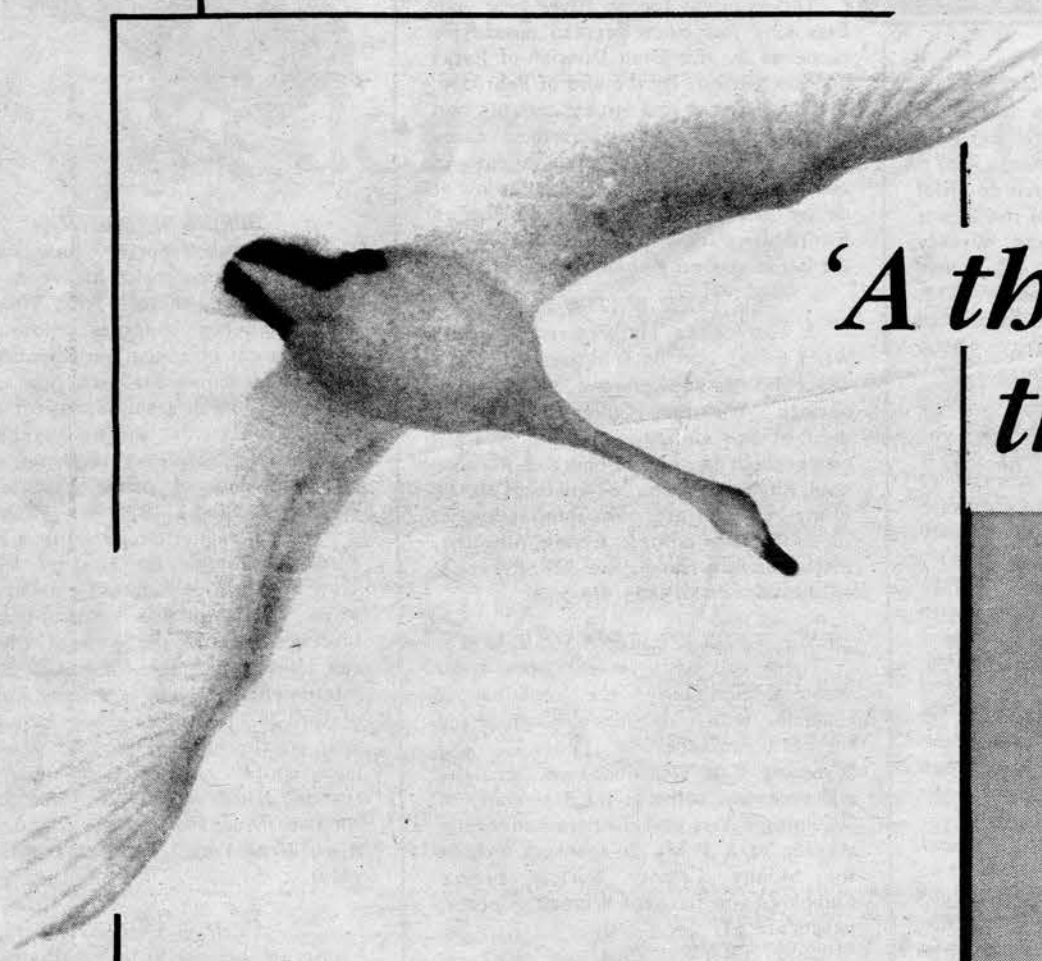
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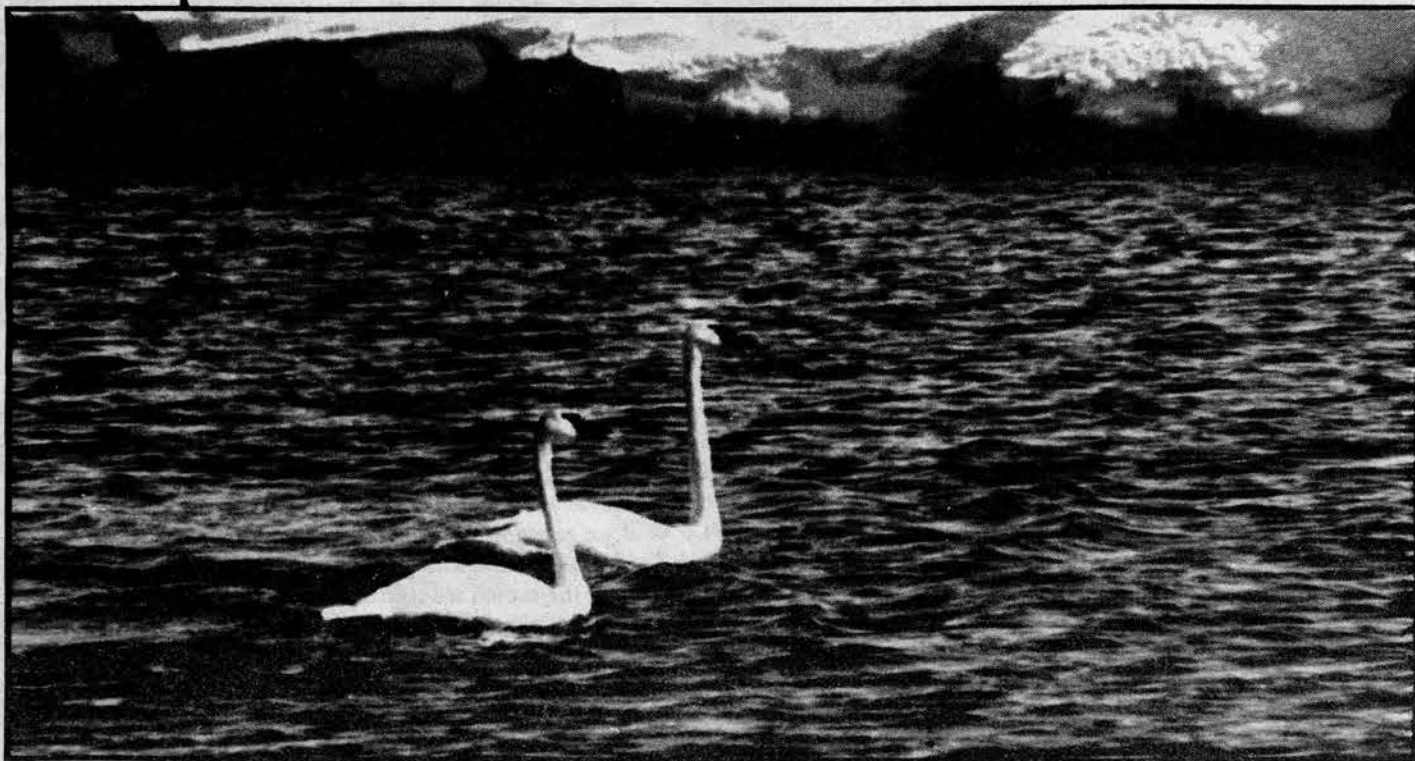
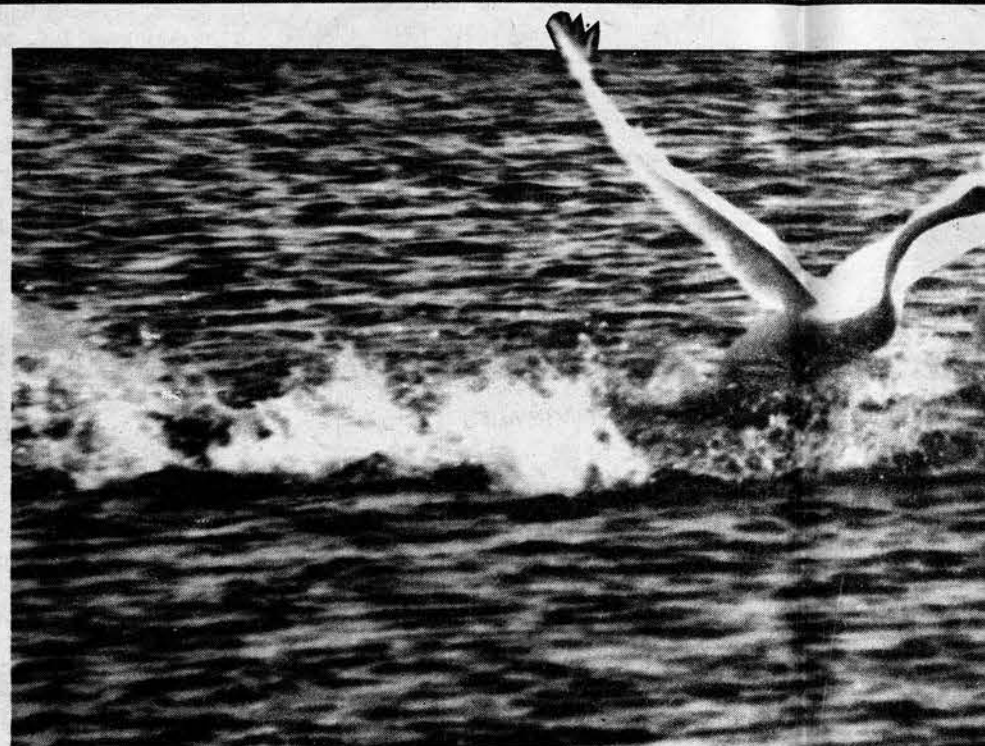
8-High Country News--March 19, 1984

*The Trumpet of the The Swan*

E. B. White

*'A thrilling noise in the sky
the trumpeting of swans'*

*story and photos by
Glenn Oakley*



At Red Rock I
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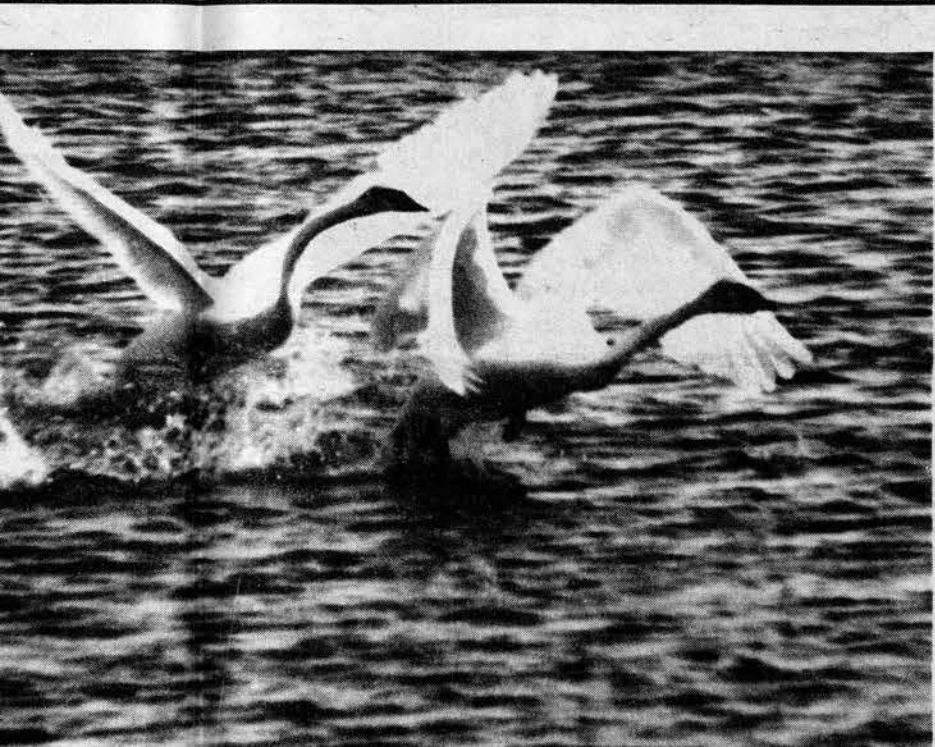
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At Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in the far southwestern tip of Montana, warm water comes forth at two ponds. In this high and remote valley, bounded on the north by the Gravelly Range and on the south by the Centennial Mountains (which also define the Continental Divide and Idaho-Montana border here), the warm springs are enough to keep the ponds from freezing over even when the temperatures drop to 40 below zero.

This is crucial to the wintering trumpeter swans, for they feed almost exclusively in the water, dipping their long white necks to smash the leaves and roots of aquatic plants.

From among the thickets which line tiny frozen creeks and sloughs the trumpeters lift into the sky, black legs tucked and broad wings beating steadily. Their white bodies blend against the brilliant sheen of snow and ice which covers all. The swans come in low, circle once or twice, and then set down in the open water of the pond. There, they join dozens of goldeneye ducks, tiny next to the 20 to 27 pound swans.

Such a large target, so slow to take to air, fell easily to the market guns in the 19th century. The hunting, coupled with the swans' need for solitude, extirpated the trumpeter from the Midwest and reduced the population to some 69 birds in the Red Rock Lakes - Yellowstone Park area by 1932. Extinction seemed imminent.

In 1935, three years after the grim population count, Red Rock Lakes was designated a National Wildlife Refuge. This protection, combined with

the continued breeding of then unknown populations in northern Canada and Alaska, worked to stabilize and even increase the number of trumpeter swans.

Today there are some 10,000 trumpeter swans living in North America. Biologists have divided them into four groups: the Pacific Coast or Alaska group, largest by far with 7,696 birds counted in 1980; the Mid-continental group comprised of largely transplanted swan populations in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska; the Grand Prairie subgroup -- some 800-plus swans which breed in the Canadian prairies and tundra; and the Tri-state subgroup, some 450 swans inhabiting the region where Montana, Wyoming and Idaho abut.

While the comeback of the trumpeter swan is one of the happier episodes in American conservation, it cannot be taken for granted. The "primary concern is wintering habitat," said Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Rich Howard. The number of wetlands available to the birds, he continued, is a "limiting factor which has put the swans in a potentially jeopardizing situation."

The danger is that overcrowding in winter may lead to an epidemic, or to overgrazing of the aquatic plants on which they feed. In addition, the already limited winter habitat is increasingly eyed for small hydro, recreation home, cropland and geothermal development. In Idaho, Teton County's draft land use plan does not even mention development impacts on the swans even

though 140 to 150 winter on the Teton River within that county.

Biologists are puzzled by the declining population of the Tri-state subgroup. Idaho Fish and Game biologist Ruth Shea said the Grand Prairie subgroup, which winters alongside the Tri-state swans, is doing well. But the local swans are "gradually declining." Shea said studies haven't pinpointed any one reason for the decline.

But she noted that "this is a harsh environment and the balance is easily tipped." A cold spring, for example, could take a heavy toll. While the two groups winter together, the Grand Prairie birds leave the high snowy country in spring and migrate north to breed in Canada.

The Canadian birds go further north, Shea noted, but they go lower in elevation. In addition, the Canadian swans feed along their migration route. "Our birds are just sitting on the ice," waiting for the thaw before beginning to breed. If the thaw is late, the birds enter this critical time in a weakened state.

Nevertheless, biologists give the Tri-state trumpeter a good prognosis. The swan has long been off the federal endangered species list and is now a 'species of special emphasis,' meaning it warrants observation but is not in danger of extinction.

At Red Rock Lakes, the swans, as white as the snow that surrounds them, wing past the massive cliffs of the Centennial Mountains, their necks held forward, their voices clear in the crystalline cold.

Dear Mr. President...



Gov. Richard Lamm



Gov. Ed Herschler

Dear Mr. President:

On February 10, 1984 Governors Ed Herschler and Bob Kerrey wrote you and asked for consideration of a one year delay in the deployment of the MX missile. On February 25th you rejected that request.

We Governors support the request for a one-year delay so that the Governors of Nebraska and Wyoming have more time to (1) assess the impact of the project on their two states; (2) develop an adequate mitigation plan to deal with the impact; and (3) secure sufficient federal assistance or other financial assistance, to fund the different elements of the mitigation plan. This delay would also provide additional opportunity to assess the impact of MX deployment in adjoining states.

Furthermore, a one-year delay of the MX deployment may be read by the Soviet Union as a positive step toward world peace through arms reduction. Given the current climate in U.S.-Soviet relations, such a move would unequivocally demonstrate to the world the sincerity of the U.S. interest in meaningful arms control negotiations. Should the Soviet Union

not respond with an equivalent gesture during the one-year delay, deployment of the MX could be resumed without adverse effect on U.S. security. At the very least, this delay would have postponed \$5 billion in defense expenditures, thereby reducing the staggering deficit which will be generated this year.

Ted Schwinden, *Montana*
Richard Lamm, *Colorado*
Scott Matheson, *Utah*
Richard Bryan, *Nevada*
John Evans, *Idaho*
Ed Herschler, *Wyoming*
Toney Anaya, *New Mexico*
Robert Kerrey, *Nebraska*
Bill Sheffield, *Alaska*
Richard W. Riley, *South Carolina*
John D. Rockefeller IV, *West Virginia*
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Richard Celeste, *Ohio*
Bill Clinton, *Arkansas*
Anthony S. Earl, *Wisconsin*
Michael E. Dukakis, *Massachusetts*
George Ariyoshi, *Hawaii*

Ten Peacekeeper missiles equal 1,000 warheads

The Air Force describes the MX (renamed Peacekeeper) as an extremely accurate, 4-stage missile which carries ten independently-targeted nuclear warheads. One hundred missiles could destroy 1000 targets in the Soviet Union.

Each of the ten warheads contains the force of 335,000 tons of TNT, the equivalent of 200 Hiroshima bombs.

Targets are classified by the Air Force, but the .05 mile accuracy of the MX gives it the capability to destroy "hardened" missile silos. The Air Force rates the MX as twice as accurate as the Minuteman, which was designed in the 1950s when Soviet silos were not hardened sufficiently to withstand nuclear attack.

For all its accuracy and lethal destructiveness, the MX is vulnerable in this latest basing mode, says the Air Force, because the Minuteman silos in which the MX will be placed are not hardened. That is why critics charge that the MX will increase the risk of nuclear war by making necessary a "use them or lose them" decision.

The MX (Missile Experimental) was initiated ten years after the Air Force spent seven years of study on its design. Full scale development began in 1979, and a total of four Presidents have considered it. Five billion dollars has been spent on its development and thirty basing systems have been rejected, including the mobile "race track" deployment, DUMB, which stands for Deep Underground Missile Basing, and most recently, the clustered missile assortment, called "Dense Pack."

Congress voted against production funding for the MX based in Dense Pack in 1982, citing cost and lack of protection from attack. President Reagan then appointed a special commission on strategic forces chaired by Brent Scowcroft, which recommended in April 1983 that 100 MX missiles be placed in unhardened Minuteman III silos. To fail to do so, the Commission concluded, "does not communicate to the Soviets that we have the will essential to effective deterrence."

The Scowcroft Commission report also recommended research on a small single warhead Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System to be deployed in the 1990s. The estimated cost of these Midgetman missiles was some \$15.3 billion.

Both the Scowcroft Commission and Air Force portrayed the MX as an intermediate move designed to strengthen this country's land-based nuclear forces -- but not as the defense of the future. The MX was also seen as a potential "bargaining chip" in arms control talks.

In April, 1983 the Air Force said catching up to the Soviets in ICBM forces by "deployment of Peacekeeper enhances the likelihood of a stabilizing agreement."

The arms control angle swung weight with a reluctant Congress last year. But with arms control talks broken off by the Soviets in Geneva, elected officials seem to be wondering whether the MX makes sense financially or militarily. --B.M.

MX attacked by foes...

"Because of its vulnerability, the MX could turn out to be a sitting duck in a sea of deficits." Use the year to renew arms negotiations with the Soviet Union, the governors urged, and save \$15 billion if the Soviet leadership responds positively.

"Even if they do not respond, the \$5 billion of postponed costs will be helpful toward balancing the budget," they concluded. The governors also noted Colorado's criticisms and the fears of local communities about having to foot the bill for impacts.

Fifteen days after the White House was notified about the letter, a Reagan spokesman turned the governors down.

Two days later, on Feb. 27, twenty more governors joined Herschler and Kerrey in asking for a delay of MX deployment. Circulated by Gov. Lamm at a

national governors conference, that letter (see above) has not yet been answered. All 22 governors who signed are Democrats.

The Herschler-Kerrey call for delay picked up more support on March 9. That was the day 27 Wyoming legislators signed a resolution asking for a year's grace before MX missiles are deployed. Two Democratic legislators said they would continue to seek signatures from the 64-member body.

To Evelyn Lifsey, the Denver-based staffer for Western Solidarity, it is clear the momentum is building to defeat a defense system the coalition views as a first-strike weapon and an escalation of an expensive arms race.

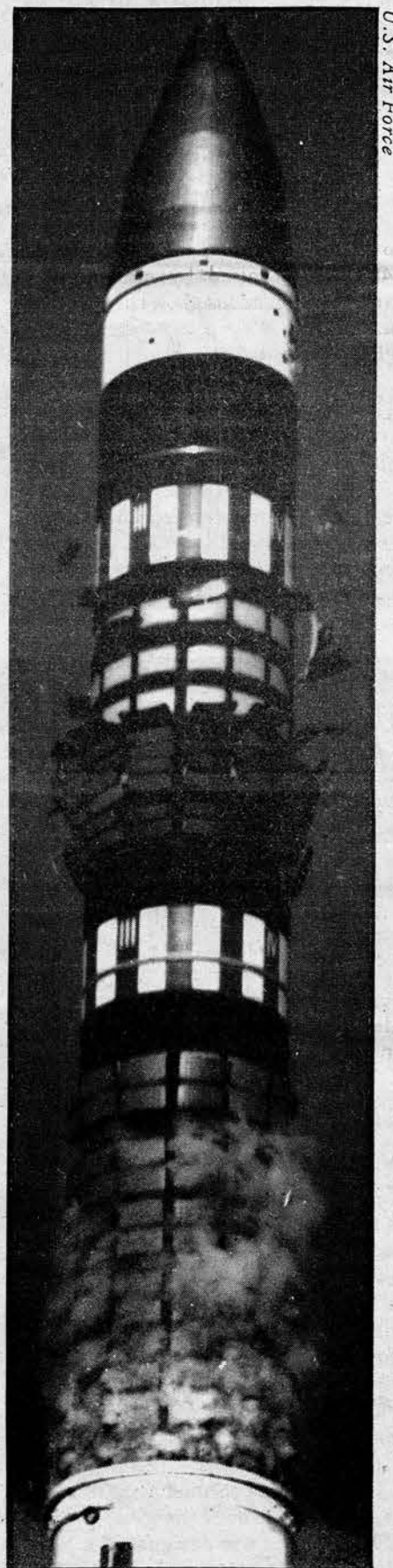
She also sees the political groundswell as a victory for the grassroots -- the thousands of people who have worked for years to defeat the MX in its more than a score of basing plans.

Asked how much influence anti-MX groups had on Kerrey and Herschler, Lifsey says, "More and more elected officials are becoming sensitive to the grassroots opposition as well as to the callous treatment by the Air Force."

MX opponents are also pointing to the surprising string of primary victories for Colorado Senator Gary Hart as an indicator of the missile's vulnerability. If Hart were to be nominated and go on to defeat President Reagan, they speculate, the MX program would lose its chief backer in the White House.

Hart has said he would cancel the MX because it would act as a "nuclear sponge" in the West, increasing the risk of nuclear attack.

Articles in this issue on the MX missile were made possible by the High Country News Research Fund.



U.S. Air Force

MX missile

She thinks the MX can be beat

A month ago, before events combined to indicate that the MX missile was becoming increasingly vulnerable politically, Sister Frances Russell of Cheyenne predicted: "There will be continued opposition to that gold-plated weapon as more and more people will come out against it."

A contained woman of 53 who chooses her words carefully, Sister Frances was not a public person four years ago. A nun with the Leavenworth, Kansas Sisters of Mercy, she had been a teacher and social worker in Kansas and Montana for 30 years, earning master's degrees in both education and social work.

Then she made a decision. "It came to the point that I saw the country going the wrong way, that we had so many nuclear weapons there was an overkill capacity of thirty times." She also experienced "some sort of mid-life crisis where you realize you only have so much time left to make a difference."

The result was a decision to move to Cheyenne. With the blessing of her fellow nuns "who support the freedom to act but not necessarily my political position," she co-founded a refuge in

Wyoming's capitol for homeless women called Sienna House. It was named for a fourteenth century nun who confronted the Pope on behalf of the poor, and it was modeled, she said, on the works of peace and mercy of Dorothy Day. In one year it housed 100 transient women and families.

In 1981, Sister Frances also joined fifteen others in the group Wyoming Against the MX, which would burgeon a year later into a three-state coalition of citizens from Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. The new organization was formed at a conference on the MX after Montana passed a referendum banning the missiles from their state.

It had become clear, recalled Sister Frances, "that Wyoming would be the sacrifice state. Governor Herschler supported it and Cheyenne welcomed it."

To their ranks, the Tri-State Coalition began to enlist dozens of supporting groups with members numbering in the thousands, including the Wyoming Catholic Diocese, Ranchers for Peace and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. At a two-room office in Cheyenne, Sister Frances served as the coalition's

unpaid coordinator, the job she holds today.

"My role has always been to educate and be a public voice," she said. "I didn't design my position; it came to me in phases. You can't help but make the connection between a \$30 billion boondoggle for missiles and people in this country whose needs are ignored."

A frequent speaker to any group who will invite her to talk about why the MX should be eliminated, Sister Frances was honored last fall as "Social Worker of the Year" by the 90,000 member National Association of Social Workers.

After Sister Frances received that award, Louis A. Mankus, a Cheyenne attorney who heads a group called All-American Solidarity, publicly blasted the association for "honoring a political activist who engages in a campaign against a basic part of our defense program..."

The attack was mild, said Sister Frances, who has experienced four threats on her life. One was a telephone warning: "Close your mouth or I'll have your head."

"I feel the community is very threatened," she said. "This is a



Sister Frances Russell

company town of Warren Air Force Base and state government. The attitude is very unquestioning."

When missiles were first placed in the West in the 1950s, she added, "No one got a chance to say anything about it. It was a *fait accompli*. Now we have a voice -- if we care to use it."

"I feel gratified by how the coalition has grown. I know we have a chance to stop the MX."

--Betsy Marston

The Air Force position

In Volume 2 of the Air Force Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1,488 issues raised by citizens are printed in condensed form in one column, and a "response text" to the right answers every one.

To Colorado's objections that it was excluded from scoping meetings, the Air Force replies that "regional influences" have been taken into account. No meetings were needed in the state, however, because only missile deployment areas required concentrated study -- only they would receive "measurable direct project effects."

But, the Air Force adds, "While the report does not cover Colorado communities specifically, that is not to say that workers residing in the Region of Influence would not come from Colorado, especially since the main gate to the Air Force base is only slightly more than 10 miles north of the state line and accessible by a major interstate highway."

Questions of nuclear weapons safety are answered in eight pages that refer to Air Force regulations, reviews, studies and statistics. Safeguards are designed to place the "inadvertent release of nuclear yield at... less than one in one billion per service life of the system."

"Only five transportation accidents involving an assembled Minuteman missile have occurred over the past 19 years. None of them resulted in motor ignition, burning, or detonation," says the Air Force.

To the numerous criticisms that the Air Force failed to address the impacts of "worst-case" accidents or nuclear war, the Air Force says only the issues of "deployment and peacetime operation" were mandated by Congress.

"The Peacekeeper system is being deployed to deter war. The possibility of nuclear war is remote and speculative, and the impact dependent on the military actions of a foreign power."

The Air Force counters charges that moral, psychological and arms control implications were ignored by concluding, "It is not the purpose of this EIS to discuss morality, military tactics, or general societal issues. To these comments, the Air Force answers: "noted."

The Air Force counters repeated criticisms about its narrow scope and rapid strides toward turning the \$5 million Draft EIS into a decision document by citing a mandate from Congress.

That mandate began taking shape in 1983, says the Air Force, when President Reagan established a strategic-forces commission headed by Brent Scowcroft. The commission concluded that the nation's defense required upgraded land-based weapons as an intermediate measure. The Commission recommended deployment of 100 Peacekeeper missiles.

The President then "decided on deployment of 100 Peacekeeper missiles in specific existing silos supported by F.E. Warren AFB and provided this decision in his report to Congress," says the Air Force.

"The Jackson Amendment to the 1983 Defense Appropriations Act (Public Law 97-377) exempted the President's report and proposals from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The 1984 Defense Authorization Act authorized the Air Force to procure Peacekeeper missiles and directed that they be deployed in existing Minuteman silos in the 319th and 400th Strategic Missile Squadrons at F.E. Warren AFB."

The Air Force claims, then, that the Jackson Amendment exempted both the "basing mode and location of the action" from NEPA.

The 45-day comment period could not have been extended, adds the Air Force, because Congress also imposed deadlines: an EIS by January, 1984 and ten Peacekeeper missiles operational by December 31, 1986.

--B.M.



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12-High Country News-March 19, 1984

They live with silos that don't

by Linda Putnam

Press attention has centered on what spokesmen on each side of the MX issue are saying. What about the people who literally live next door to the silos where the MX would be placed? What do they think about the effect the missiles will have on their lands?

There will be ten "flights" of ten Minuteman III silos spread west to east from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Kimball, Nebraska, and north to south from Wheatland and Torrington, Wyoming to the Colorado border. The greatest disturbance to landowners in the silo areas will be stringing new underground communications cables between silos and their launch controls which, in turn, are connected to central control at the base.

The missiles themselves will be transported to the base in four separate stages, and assembled later at each silo. Stage I, the heaviest, and its 10½-foot-wide transporter, will weigh 218,000 pounds, necessitating the upgrading of roads, culverts and bridges, and some rerouting around overpasses.

While they were either unable or didn't see fit to attend yet another of the Air Force scoping hearings, farmers and ranchers in the deployment area say they care about what's going to happen to their land. For almost a generation now, they've lived with hundreds of Minuteman, Titan and Atlas missiles, but only recently have some begun to question the wisdom of their tolerance. The new MX puts a different slant on things, and many of them resent the fact that no one has asked their opinions on the matter. It's hard to gauge the intensity of their feelings, though, unless you take the time to drive out to their spreads and talk to them one on one.

I first met Theron Anderson last year at a scoping meeting in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. Locals and "outsiders" were few, outnumbered this time by the Air Force and their consultants. One of several burly, t-shirted young men in their late 20s stood out in high relief. The message on his chest read: "Cut your fertilizer bill. Adopt a politician."

Anderson farms wheat with his parents outside Albin, north of Pine Bluffs. Albin was the preferred site for "densepack." Last September, the Andersons became angry about the MX missiles. The Laramie County Commissioners had routinely granted permission for a California company to drill observation wells in the area to obtain geological data pertinent to closely spaced basing, for which the availability of water was crucial.

"They were plumb out of line," Warren Anderson, Theron's father, said, his voice cracking and his eyes sparking at the memory. "No one else around here is allowed to poke a hole in the ground for water!" Earth Technology of Long Beach had already drilled most of the 18 observation

wells when the county commissioners belatedly amended their motion to require adjacent landowners' permission. A moratorium is in effect on any well-drilling -- even for observation purposes.

"The commissioners got pretty nervous when about 40 of us went in to protest," Theron recalls. He said he complained to Sen. Malcolm Wallop's office, whose representative told him, "We assumed that nobody cared."

Theron Anderson said nothing makes him more angry than the way politicians treat the people who stand to be most affected by MX deployment. But it's a surprise to others that so few public officials have ever bothered to address the issue.

"I suppose when you think of our national defense, we shouldn't be challenging their plans," Artice Anderson, Theron's mother, comments. "But, on the other hand, we live here and we have a right to know."

Their neighbor, State Sen. Richard Larson, doesn't see it that way. "I feel the MX missiles are needed to defend and deter against attack, to prevent blackmail, and to negotiate arms reductions," he says. "I don't have the slightest idea what's going on in our foreign policy and our arms negotiations talks with the Russians, but I have complete faith in our President and Secretary of Defense. Our freedom was purchased at a great price and maintained through 200 years with the loss of lives, arms and legs. I don't think any cost is too great to pay to maintain that freedom."

Larson announced to the press last May that anti-MX forces in the tri-state area of Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado were "deceiving the public." A potato and wheat farmer, Larson also sits on the Civilian Advisory Board of Warren Air Force Base. The board has lobbied for the MX to come to Wyoming for several years. Larson claimed in a press release that at least 50 ranchers and farmers in his area support deployment of the MX, contrary to the statements made by Theron Anderson and "a few others who don't speak for all of us."

Responses and counter-charges flew back and forth between Larson, Anderson and their supporters over the viability of Larson's poll -- and who was a "real patriot." The Wyoming *State Tribune*, whose editor and publisher, too, are on the Civilian Advisory Board, called the MX opponents "rabble-rousers" and communists. "I'd like to deck the sucker that says that!" Theron glowers. "The fact is, I'd love to deck him!"

Theron views himself as much a patriot as anyone. "I'm for a strong national defense, but I don't see the need to waste money on a system because it is 'politically acceptable' or expedient to deploy it."

Seated at his kitchen table in Liberty-brand overalls, Warren Anderson heats up again in support of his son. "We have been patriotic! They

(the Air Force) just plain told us to be patriotic. We had no choice the first go-around. If you don't sign, they just take your land. Now I guess that's patriotic! How much further can you go? We don't have a choice anyway."

Brands of patriotism vary, but Richard Larson acknowledges his support of the MX has another rationale besides patriotism -- water. As a member of the Select Water Development Committee in the Wyoming Legislature, he's encouraging federal involvement to bring water to southeast Wyoming and his rural constituency, "as a reward to the people of this area for cooperating." Water politics and a depressed economy are the real reasons why there has been so little resistance in Wyoming to the MX, according to people who oppose its deployment.

Twenty miles across the border from Pine Bluffs around Kimball, the debate among western Nebraska landowners has been minimal. Publicly, the "city folks" support the MX, primarily for economic reasons. You don't hear from the rural people whose land is in question. The afternoon before a scoping hearing, I asked around town for the names of ranchers and farmers who would be willing to talk. The Soil Conservation Service office sent me to the Corner Bar for Glenn Barrett. "That's his office," they laughed. Glenn Barrett wasn't there, but he'd be in by three several oldtimers told me.

"Here he comes!" By the time I reached up to shake his hand, Glenn Barrett had been told, five times already, that I was looking for him. He peered down through thick pink-tinted lenses shaded by a straw hat.

He is retired from farming, and glad to be. "All my life I been killin' weeds so's I could grow wheat," he says. On his land the Air Force has parked the launch control facility for Flight D and another missile in Flight E. Glenn figured he wouldn't be going to the scoping hearing that night. "I hate meetings," he says. He was president of the Kimball town council for ten years, and has been "on all the boards in the county the past 40 years -- ain't on none of 'em now." His conscience must have needled him, because he added, "If I feel all right, I'll go. I don't want to get too excited. I have heart trouble."

Glenn was surprised I wanted to know what he thought about MX missiles on his land. He assured me that his relationship those many years with the Air Force had been amicable, although there had been some trouble with an individual or two. He had some complaints about washouts around communication cables girding the land between missile sites. Three to four lines connect each site with the flight launch control. The redundancy is designed to assure that some lines will remain operable in case of attack. The Air Force plans to lay new cables for the new system. "If they redig

those cables, I'd personally prefer to be left alone. But it's not my job to protect the country." Glenn supposed that if the Air Force was going to deploy the MX, he'd cooperate. "I'm not pro, and I'm not anti."

We talked a while about deterrence and bargaining chips. "If I were Reagan," he says, "I'd want this sytem in my rear pocket. I don't want him to build it, just use it to make them Russians back down."

Glenn says he believes there is no way to know when the arms race will end. "It's like a baseball game -- it ain't over until it's over. We'll probably have a disaster. I don't know where, but then you're going to know what these missiles do. It'll be sorry knowledge." He sighs. "I just sit here and think, if they shoot off those things, all the things we hold dear are gone."

Near Torrington the next day, Lee Otto and his neighbors Wayne and Betty Hunter sat drinking morning coffee and stewing about "the government."

Lee says he is sure that at least 60 percent of the landowners in his area don't like the Air Force and "don't want any more of their damn missiles." But he complains it is impossible to get them all together to do anything about it. More than most, Lee talks about nuclear war and the first-strike capabilities of the MX. "For a while I tried to plan how to survive an attack, and I decided it was completely hopeless," he confides. "I had to find other ways to face the problem." He said mobilizing his neighbors is one way.

The Hunters also don't like the way they've been treated by the Air Force in the past, and they don't relish the increased tensions they foresee as inevitable. Wayne Hunter would like relations to be "a little more sociable," and finds the rifle-toting troops working around the missile sites a "mite trigger-happy."

"This is what perturbs me. With these MX missiles, we're asking for more of a military police government all the time. These kids are not a bit friendly."

Dick Preston, who lives a mile or two down the road, strongly agrees. For 12 years, he said, he has been fighting over the matter of a gate at silo S-9. He said the Air Force leaves the gate open about every six months and his cattle spread out for miles.

"The kids don't understand the problems ranchers have. Either that, or they don't give a damn. You can't clean their plov, because they've got a gun. You could get killed. You can't call the sheriff, because it's a government installation. There's not a thing an ordinary citizen can do about it."

Preston is particularly soured by past construction projects in the area, and the prospect of another is bitter gall. Easements from the highway department, county roads, oil pipelines, a local power line, and the massive, highly charged lines from the

hold corn

Laramie River Power Plant near Wheatland all crisscross his land.

But the Air Force is "the worst one of the lot." He claims, "Their people are ignorant and arrogant." If he gets a cattleguard to replace the gate at silo S-9, Preston says, he can live with the Air Force, but he doesn't overlook what bothers Lee Otto so much. He said he'd just rather not think about it. "I don't think there's any way to escape it. The people who live through those blasts will die a slow, miserable death."

At Cheyenne's Memorial Hospital, Kenneth Kirkbride lay in a hospital bed with his left leg suspended in a cast, gazing out the sixth floor window. His horse fell on him six days earlier while he was moving cattle to summer pasture. He had just stepped down as president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and was full of plans for improvements on his ranch when he got laid up.

The Harding-Kirkbride Livestock Company runs a few more than 2,000 cattle on 100 sections (64,000 acres), 30 miles northeast of Cheyenne. As one of the larger operations in the county, Kirkbride says he's doing "all right" at a time when smaller operations find the going difficult. "We make it, but when you see 30, 40, 50 empty storefronts, you get the message that somebody downtown is having a tough time, too."

Four Minuteman III missiles are buried on Kirkbride property, including "Papa One," launch control for Flight P, just off the road to their ranch. He sums up the recent opposition to MX deployment in one word: "Overblown." You can tell the subject is a sore one with him. "All of a sudden, everybody gets excited about them! You know, we've had them for 20 years. Ten years ago, we had them modernized and changed to three warhead units. Nobody even knew it was happening then except a few people directly involved -- those of us who had them on our property."

The interview was just minutes old when in blustered a large man, obviously a friend, asking Kirkbride where he "hid the whiskey." Kirkbride smiled and pointed to a cabinet in the corner. His visitor was a retired army general, who preferred not to disclose his name, but willingly answered questions.

"What do you mean, the MX makes us target number one?" he responded. "We are target number one already, with those Minuteman missiles. What's the difference between being a Minuteman target and an MX target?" Kirkbride seconded the general. "It isn't going to change the picture very much. If we're going to get excited, we should have been excited when they first put them in, back in 1958 or 1959."

Kirkbride and his friend see the organized resistance to MX deployment as "unjustified" now. "It all goes back to that little goofy train,"

Kirkbride theorized, "when they were going to run the missiles around underground in Nevada. That train was ridiculous -- and then that densepack! Concentration never works. You go back and think about the Maginot Line, Pearl Harbor, the guns at Singapore -- densepack. In every case, it was a dismal flop. But densepack wasn't as ridiculous as that little stupid train!"

I asked if silo-basing, considering its inherent vulnerability, was a viable option. "Well, we've had them that way. I don't know how effective the new ones will be. But the controversy started over those other basing modes. Now that we're doing the same thing we've been doing for 20 years, everybody's gotten all excited."

Kirkbride admits the Air Force hasn't helped allay the confusion many people might feel about the MX, but says "we need it" all the same.

"It's like a poker game. What I ask is, will this MX be a deterrent and make Old Ivan sit up and respect this power we have? You wonder what's up his sleeve, and he wonders what's up yours."

In Kenneth Kirkbride's mind, the only solution to preventing nuclear war is deterrence. But what really bothers him, he says, are the "so-called good citizens" who can "foul it up" by opposing the MX. "You'd be surprised at their backgrounds," he confides. "There are Russian 'plants' out there, even right around here."

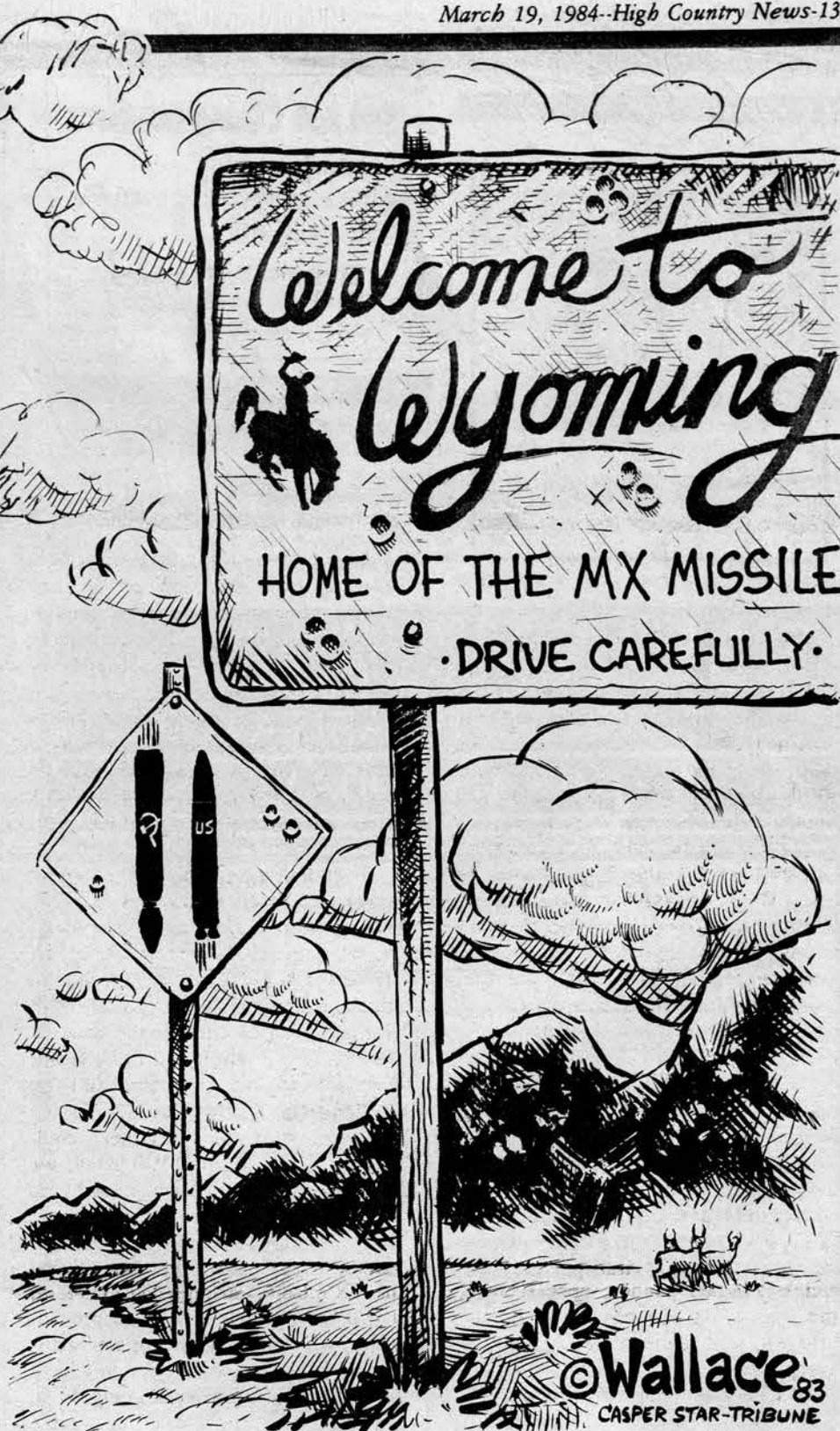
He speculated that at the rowdy, first scoping hearing in Cheyenne, those "outsiders" from Laramie, Fort Collins and elsewhere could be implicated. "How better than to get some atomic-fearing person to come and disrupt those meetings -- someone that looks so holy? These people tell you to lay down your arms in front of the Soviets. That's all well and good, but I'd like to know their backgrounds!"

One person who happens to disagree with Kenneth Kirkbride is his daughter-in-law. Linda Kirkbride is a pioneer opponent of MX deployment. She has worked with Sister Frances Russell of the Tri-State MX Coalition in Cheyenne, and with the eight-state anti-nuclear group, Western Solidarity. She toured the Soviet Union last November as one of five "Ranchers for Peace."

The two Kirkbrides admit their conflicts, but Kenneth says, "We get along OK. Each of us pretty well knows what the other thinks, accepts it, and goes on from there. It's ridiculous to get involved in a hassle over something like this. We need to keep our business running."

Like her father-in-law, Linda Kirkbride has her own theory to support her response to the MX. She said she opposes its "deadly technology and potential for disaster" and she claims her friends and neighbors find it too easy to forget.

"Our roots are in the land. We all



relate to the land. These people are blind to the real difference between the MX and a Minuteman III."

She divides landowners into two categories -- nurturers or exploiters. She says the land is the bottom line -- what counts, what feeds the world, "what you pass on to your children." But, she maintains, throughout history, there have always been exploiters who intend to "squeeze the land" for all it's worth.

"They manipulate our attitudes, and tell us that the MX is just not that significant. They tell us to compromise our way of life, and to bow and scrape before the Defense Department. It's the land that feeds those guys back in the Pentagon," she says. "We've just got to figure out how we can last. We so easily become exploited, and then we turn around and become exploiters ourselves. We sell out so quickly and so cheaply!"

When she was first married, she asked her father-in-law if he ever worried about nuclear attack. "He told me, 'If my cows go, I might as well go, too.' Well, I thought that was pretty cute. I drove by those missiles for 10 years with blinders on, but once I really thought about what those things do, I had to go out and do something."

A nuclear freeze, she said, is the only hope she sees for the future.

Despite her convictions, she said she finds that what she is doing is not comfortable. "None of us is used to making waves."

She said the price she has had to pay for her activism has caused her the most pain. "It's having to let go of what people around here think of me. I

can't please them now. But I try to keep talking, especially at home."

When she arrived home after her whirlwind tour of Moscow and other Russian cities, her father-in-law was silent, and asked no questions. She said she was hurt, but she philosophizes, "We can't talk peace with the Soviets if I can't work out peace with my father-in-law. Someday we'll talk about this together without hurting each other."

She said she is optimistic -- "certain" -- that those around her favoring the MX "don't know diddly-dunk" about it. "As long as people have brains and try to read up on it, they just can't stay in the same place."

A Kirkbride neighbor, Dave Hanson, looks at what is happening to people around his community and shakes his head. His 10-year-old nephew asked him for a beer one day, he says. "Because by the time I'm 19, I'll be gone." Dave asked, "What do you mean?" The nephew answered, "We're going to be blown up by then."

Hanson winces in the telling. "You know, a 10-year-old kid thinking that." But he said he knows the lethal connection sits inside most people who farm around Cheyenne.

"They say, 'We'll be the first ones to go, so what the heck?' Most of them see it as a possibility. It's growing every day. I don't know why, but it is."

Linda Putnam is a freelance writer and photographer who has lived in Laramie, Wyoming for 15 years.

14-High Country News--March 19, 1984

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OPINION

Can the Forest Service be reformed?

You have heard about the election in Orange County, California, where vote counters came across a ballot for a Democrat. Puzzled, they put it aside. A while later, they came across a second Democratic vote.

"That solves it," said the precinct head. "Some darn crook voted twice. Throw both out."

That's the way we felt when we received first one and then a second letter taking us to task for a recent editorial about the U.S. Forest Service. The writers used the same calm tone on us. And both asked that we in turn be reasonable, rather than destructive, strident, and irrational. Wrote one:

"Casting stones at a major forest steward is surely less productive than working to find an avenue of conciliation and dialogue for mutual education and understanding... You will understand my unease at seeing these war flames fanned by what I consider a much better than average publication..."

The writer, a forester, enclosed a list of authorities on aspen trees and suggested, "Please dig deeper than Randal O'Toole. And best wishes to objective, constructive public participation by the press."

In the next issue, with the help of George Sibley, we dig deeper into aspen trees. But we don't want Sibley's reasoned prose to deflect attention from our diatribe of six weeks ago. Although that editorial was provoked by a meeting on aspen trees, we didn't write as experts on aspens -- we wrote as citizen experts on the Forest Service.

We have followed the agency for a decade. The sum total of the positive, constructive things we can say is that there are good people out in the field. And some of them have the courage and ingenuity to do good work despite their superiors.

Outweighing that is the agency's collective doings. For during the same ten years we have seen the Forest Service suck people out of the field -- where they were working with the public or permittees or maintaining trails and fences -- and put them into ever more bloated Forest Supervisor and Regional Forester offices to shuffle paper.

Out of the shuffling has come a series of hapless, hopeless reports. We are most familiar with the horrors produced in Colorado. But judging by controversies and lawsuits from around the region, we gather that the AMAX Mt. Emmons EIS and the many Fifty Year Plans in Colorado are typical of those produced elsewhere in the Rockies. The rule is that district offices may do good things. But once a report gets massaged up and down the hierarchy, you are guaranteed a dismal piece of work.

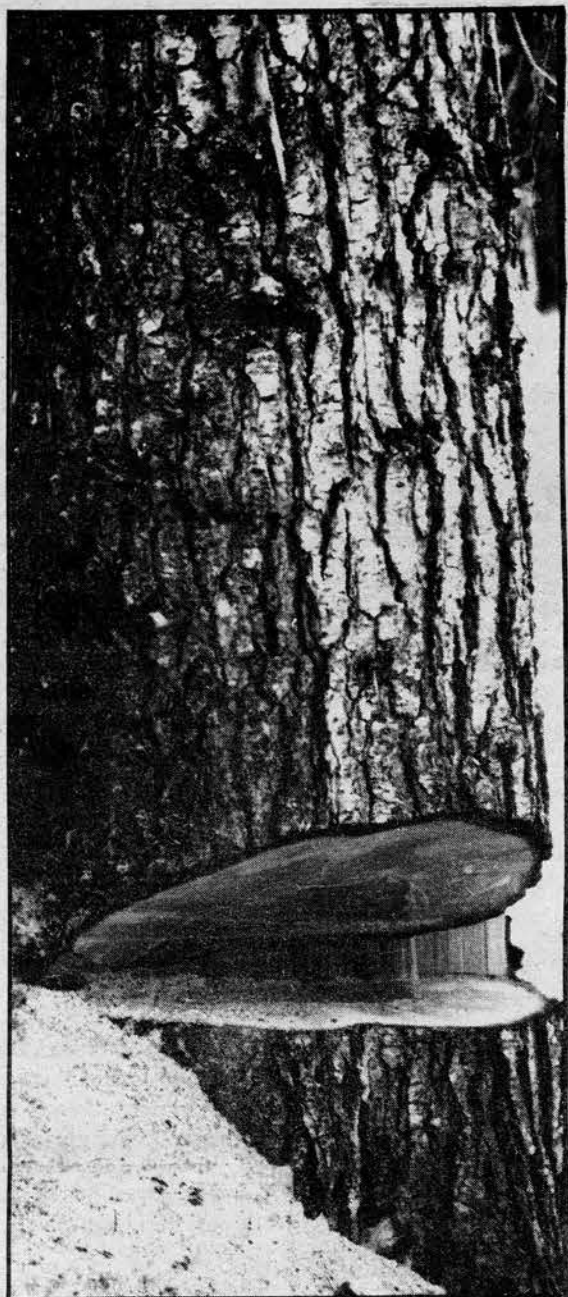
The letter writer quoted above admonished us for depending on Randal O'Toole -- a forester who has made a career of bird-dogging the Forest Service. Although we printed an interview with O'Toole in our February 6 issue, we disagree with him. O'Toole, whatever his rhetoric, is a reformer. But increasingly over the years, we've come to question whether the Forest Service can reform.

At times -- times when we've just read a Forest Service EIS or returned from a Forest Service public meeting -- we tend to believe it is beyond reform and constructive criticism.

The suggestion will seem extreme to those who believe that any agency put in charge of the nation's forests would behave like the Forest Service. They say the agency's attitude results from the conflicting, irreconcilable demands on it. There are loggers and miners tugging from one direction, livestock people from a second, four-wheel-drive clubs from a third, and environmentalists from a fourth.

They argue that it is so hemmed in, so traumatized, that its behavior is understandable. They say that those of us who wish to see progress must approach the agency with an understanding of its difficult situation. When *High Country News* attacks the agency, it is said, we push it deeper into its shell.

Defenders tend not to talk about the nature of the Forest Service's shell, but it is worth discussing. Although the agency is civilian, its corporate culture is military. Because its people are usually posted to isolated towns, because of frequent transfers, and because of past pride in and dedication to its mission, the Forest Service



Idaho Dept. Commerce and Development

behaves as a military unit. Its style is that of a conforming, well-disciplined family which gives and gets loyalty up and down the ranks.

A tight military-family organization doesn't have to be bad. If there is a strong sense of mission, and enemies without, it can be effective.

But so far as we can tell, the Forest Service no longer has an identifiable mission. All it has is a shell which protects it against those who would change it. The agency doesn't let outsiders influence it. Whether they approach in friendship or hostility, it turns a deaf ear. Strong men -- soldiers -- don't ask for or accept help.

Unfortunately for all of us, the Forest Service does need help. Sadly, it is most like a military outfit in that it resembles a defeated army. It is clear from the embarrassing reports, the doubletalk at public meetings, the eternal zigging and zagging, and the lost lawsuits that at some time in the past it suffered a crushing defeat; it was conquered by the Congress, by the special interests, by anyone who wanted a piece of the forests.

All it was left with was the appearance of independence: a Chief Forester who comes up through the ranks instead of being the political appointee the BLM and other land management agencies have. The up-from-the-ranks symbol may mean something in-service, but it means nothing to those who look to the Forest Service to manage the land with direction and dedication.

The Forest Service is like the Army of the Potomac under General George McClellan: it is commanded by clerks. And the American people are like President Lincoln, waiting futilely for something to happen.

If that is inaccurate, we invite rebuttal. Not rebuttal which tells us to be constructive. But rebuttal which describes battles the Forest Service has undertaken to advance its mission as steward of the public land. We would like to see where it took stands -- where it fought the good fight. We're not looking for environmentalist 'good fights.' We're looking for places where the agency took chances and fought for its own concept of the public good.

Related to this, we would like someone to express the agency's mission. We would like to know what it believes in -- what it is after beyond money to turn out more reports and do less work on the ground. We hope that the mission, when it is explained, will turn out to be more than the creation of even-aged stands of trees or the preservation of Color Sunday.

Those who say the Forest Service's hands are tied by conflicting demands may want to provide instances of where it reached out of its military cocoon to try to build constituencies. Are there examples where the Forest Service encouraged us civilians to be constructive; where they held out a hand and said: if you work with us, we'll work with you? And where the outstretched hand went beyond empty rhetoric?

We also have the feeling, and we'd especially like to be wrong here, that most of the Forest Service marches in lockstep, rarely breaking ranks. If there are recent examples of people within the agency who fought for reform, successfully or unsuccessfully, we'd like to hear about them too.

We'll reserve space for all this in the next couple of issues, but we don't expect to have much to put in it. The Forest Service fights its wars in private, swivel chair to swivel chair, bureaucratic memo up against bureaucratic memo, assuming it fights at all.

The Forest Service wouldn't dream of enlisting civilians in its struggles. It wouldn't dream of building constituencies, of working to mobilize the nation, or even its own ranks, in behalf of a vision of what the National Forests could be.

These requests may seem to be asking too much. Certainly it is asking more than one would ask of other federal agencies. But the Forest Service has a far more sacred trust than other agencies. It is the steward of the nation's most highly regarded public lands. Despite that great trust, it appears determined to manage those lands from a narrow, inward-looking perspective. It does not understand that it is the steward; not the owner. It does not appear to understand that the only successful way to manage those lands is to break down the in-service/out-service barriers it has erected.

Although editorial writers are supposed to be omnipotent, we have no clear idea of what to do. We understand the Forest Service's game: the agency requires that we become experts in the economics of forestry, in the life cycle of aspens, in the real estate laws which govern land swaps, in the jargon in which they write their reports, before we can even begin to talk about forest management.

That's fundamentally wrong. The Forest Service's job is to present us with policy questions in a clear and understandable way. Instead, we are forced to wade through deliberately misleading, deliberately obscure documents to find out what is afoot. The Forest Service has handed Randal O'Toole fame of a sort because he is willing to plumb the agency's obscure procedures and then interpret them to the public. The public needs O'Toole because the Forest Service refuses to write straight documents and because it has failed to create trust with the public.

It could be, as its defenders argue, that any agency in charge of the national forests would behave in the same way. And that the best we can do is work with the Forest Service.

We are both more pessimistic and more optimistic. We are pessimistic because we have not seen much indication that the agency can be worked with. Its tight inward-looking culture prevents cooperation and communication.

We are more optimistic because we believe that a different agency, or a drastically reshaped Forest Service freed of its cultural handicaps, could do a better job.

Groups and individuals have spent an enormous amount of time and money fighting the Forest Service on a variety of issues. We think it should at least be considered that the situation is hopeless until the agency is fundamentally changed.

--E.M.

16-High Country News--March 19, 1984

OFF THE WALL

Nevada strikes back

Governor Richard Lamm, as part of a campaign against casino gambling in Colorado, enraged Nevada by saying one out of eight adult women under 45 in Las Vegas was a prostitute.

Nevada isn't taking the attack lying down. State officials first took the defensive: Lamm's number is too high; Las Vegas is filled with churches and good people. Now they're attacking.

A Nevada official says, "Colorado's ratio is worse when it comes to ski instructors. One out of seven adult males teaches skiing. How would you like to live in a state like that? Can you imagine the trivial conversations? The macho posturings? A state filled with Bill Johnsons would be worse than anything here. And when the snow melts -- welfare, unemployment, all the social ills." By comparison, "If we had prostitution -- which we don't -- it would be a year-round industry."

He also charges that Colorado's burgeoning white water raft industry is a peep show. "Why do you think those guys have their shirts off? It's for the lady tourists from Dubuque. You can bet we don't let that sort of thing go on here." Statistics,

he says, prove no one in Nevada teaches skiing or guides raft trips.

The official was also philosophical, charging that Lamm's attack isn't directed at casino gambling -- it is a clash over whose sin is better.

"We have God-fearing sin in Las Vegas. Good people come in their polyester leisure suits and bouffant hairdos and have an evil time of it -- they drink too much, they throw their kids' college money into the slots, they ogle the showgirls. And maybe they even consort with a prostitute, if they can find one.

"They go home feeling thoroughly ashamed of themselves. It's better than a revival meeting. In fact, it is sort of a revival meeting. Instead of hearing about sin from some preacher, they experience it. They leave here feeling like worms.

"When they get back to Topeka, they're better citizens. They're chastened. They've seen the devil, they've seen lust, they know the evil that lurks in the hearts of men.

"So for a few months they plunge into goodness. They attend PTA meetings; they tithe like the dickens; they're nice to their spouses; they read Great Books; they build more houses, or grow more corn, or sell more neckties. The economy grows like the blazes. America thrives. Recessions end.

"Then the goodness gets to them. Nothing lasts forever -- even Vegas. So they come back for

another shot of evil. We're America's balance wheel -- we keep things turning. Without us, the country would blow up -- the boredom would get to people. They'd never get through their lives. That's why Reagan and Senator Laxalt (R-NV) are friends. They're working opposite sides of the coin -- Laxalt with gambling and Reagan with school prayer. It's the same people at different times."

By comparison, Colorado's tourism is unAmerican. "It's no accident that Hart is running against Reagan. Skiing, rafting and hiking don't make people feel evil. They don't rush home from a raft trip and produce more widgets. Instead, they sell their businesses and move to some silly mountain town to start a restaurant or a cross country ski shop."

That, he charges, "is what caused the Midwest to collapse. If it doesn't stop, the whole country will collapse. America needs good and evil -- Calvin knew what he was talking about. This holier-than-thou schussing down ski slopes or riding river rapids is destroying us."

That explains why the Reagan administration isn't adverse to cutting down a few trees, or lopping the top off a mountain. "We've got to decide -- are we going to live indoors or out? The less nature, the more people will get into good-and-evil and make us productive again."

--Ed Marston

afield

A tribute to spring's resurgence of life

by Howard E. Evans

People have an infinite capacity for indifference and boredom, for taking even the most startling things for granted. Perhaps this is as it should be, for if we were truly caught up in the drama of the living world, we would remain in such a continual state of awe and wonderment that we would soon collapse exhausted.

Take, for example, our back yard. In winter it is a dreary place. The grass is brown, the sunflowers are bent and broken, the cottonwoods stark and somnolent. In March there is a bit of greening; in April and May there will be a resurgence of life that would be breathtaking if I were not preoccupied with more "important" things. Rightfully, I should be out there every minute, measuring each green blade, noting the progress of every bud. But I shall take it all casually, as if I will live to see a thousand springs, as if my back yard were not a place of miracles.



Still, these things do register. Even in winter, grass heads pierce the snow, causing small drifts which they embellish with swaying shadows. A rough herb stands boldly erect, defying the harsh wind. Was it a goldenrod? A fleabane?

Just a few weeks ago, as a result of a sudden drop in temperature, our local pond became a field of diamonds. The entire frozen surface was sprinkled with enormous ice crystals, many an inch or more across. Each consisted of several fernlike fronds, which, as the sun passed across the sky, caught the light at various angles, producing a glitter that lasted all day. Winter may be a period of dormancy

for much of the living world, but water molecules, it seems, try to fill the gap, growing meadows of crystals, jungles on windowpanes.

But these are cold and acerbic, and no bees fly among them. What a joy it was, last spring, to be studying ice crystals along a stream and suddenly to stumble upon the first pasque flowers pushing through the snow. Within a few days, the hills danced with these improbable "wild crocuses," and a few small insects were already at work on the blossoms. In shady spots, spring beauties sparkled like metamorphosed snow crystals, and in sunnier sites the sand lilies were drifted. I noted no ecstasy in the eyes of the cows that grazed there, but in their way they surely appreciated the greening of the countryside.

What a flower-filled summer it turned out to be! Tulip gentians flourished among the rank grasses in our back yard, and the foothills radiated wallflowers. When the snows began to melt in the high country, we were there to greet the avalanche lilies, knowing they would last but a week or two.

On a fine day in August we hiked to a favorite valley, where the continental divide makes a loop to the Never Summer Range. Mountain bluebells were waist-high, delphiniums even higher. Hillsides were splashed white with bistort and yellow with composites; the trails were lined with scarlet gilia. As we approached timberline the bluebells shrank to knee height, then to ankle height, finally giving way to mats of moss campion and other diminutive flowers. But even here there were insects about the business of pollination: bees, flies, and small blue butterflies. Our camp that night was close beside a snowbank that was melting back bit by bit. Primroses were pushing up through the edge of the snow; a few inches from the edge they were in bud, and just a few inches further in bloom. Still farther from the snow they had gone to seed. Were there still others under the snow waiting for release? Would they make it before the snows began again?

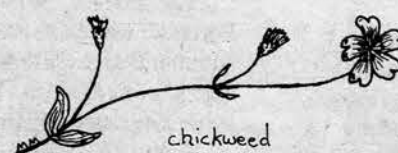
By the campfire, in this flower-filled world, we thought of other times: of fields of ox-eyed daisies and

black-eyed susans we roamed in as children; of deserts in bloom in Arizona, with gaillardias blanketing whole valleys between hazy blue hills; of trails through rainforests strung with orchids.

People have taken flowers to their hearts, though too often exotic, artificially induced blooms in preference to those that grow about us in abundance (have you examined a chickweed lately?). It is disconcerting to realize that flowers evolved not to please man, but as devices for attracting creatures we look upon with disdain (if at all): bees, flies, beetles, and the like. It is even more shattering to consider that flowers are, after all, the sex organs of plants. Meadows of waving genitals, alive with bugs!

Being sedentary, plants cannot copulate with their neighbors, so rely upon insects (or wind, or hummingbirds) to carry their sperm (pollen) to the ovaries of receptive members of their species. But there must be some inducement for the insects, and the flowers provide that inducement by providing sugars in solution (nectar) which fuel the insects. Shapes, colors, odors -- these serve as lures and guides; and all of the variety we see in a mountain meadow represents a striving for pollination, a search for sexual fulfillment, salvation from the blasts of the coming winter.

The adaptations of flowers for achieving pollination are incredibly diverse and give flowers their individuality. We take these adaptations for granted, as we do so many things. Why is a columbine? To fit the long tongues of hawk moths that are uniquely adapted to penetrate the long spurs for their bounty of nectar and to ensure the set of their seed.



Thomas Eisner and his colleagues at Cornell have been studying some of the "hidden" qualities of flowers, notably their reflectance of ultraviolet, a color invisible to us but visible to insects. By carrying portable television cameras equipped with ultraviolet transmitting lenses, Dr. Eisner is able to see, on the monitor screen, flowers



columbines
and
hawk moths

much as they must appear to their insect visitors. His photographs of marsh marigolds, as seen with the unaided eye and as seen in ultraviolet video, appeared on the cover of *Science* magazine, and remind us of the limitations of our own senses. How much more meaningful the natural world would be if we could now and then explore it with the eye of an insect, the nose of a ferret, or the ear of a bat! But even so, I suspect we would soon find the capacity to take all this for granted and still take our main gratifications in "thrills" of one kind or another.

I neglected to mention earlier that our discovery of the first pasque flowers of spring was marred by a squadron of trail bikes droning through the valley. Thus we greet the spring: with a roar of motors, crushing the flowers and frightening the birds and mammals. The sentiments evoked by a meadow of flowers are perhaps less titillating than those evoked by a trail bike bumping over stones and splashing through streams. But one's thoughts and feelings can at most pollute a piece of paper, if one is impelled to express them. To wrack a forest with noise, to rut the fields and flatten the flowers, to tint the mountain air with exhaust fumes, to reduce nature to a backdrop for vacuous thrills: if we grant that man was born of nature, it is no less than genocide.

But enough of this. To be granted another spring is the greatest of gifts, and I shall accept it with joy, and with senses honed to the keenest come what may.

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