

High Country

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Fierce beauty devoid of economic advantage

*"... her changes change her changes endlessly,
and those whose turn has come press on her so,
she must be swift by hard necessity."*

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*
Canto VII, circle four

by C.L. Rawlins

It's a long way down, from the ponderosa pines and remnant snowbanks of the Bryce highcountry in Utah, especially in an aged pickup with marginal brakes and a deteriorating U-joint that sounds like a swarm of crazed bats. Another canyon trip, another ticket to glories and rude shocks. Me and the Princess of Poland and the Varmint. Excelsior!

The road bottoms out through Tropic, Cannonville and Henrieville, looping through dry hayfields which look as if they intend never to grow anything again. Ranches seem forlorn, unpainted sheds minus a board or two, barbed wire slack between grey juniper posts, a few faded trailers stranded on cinder block foundations.

As expected. In the upper valleys of the Paria there are few rude shocks such as one encounters in the latter-day boomtowns of St. George and Moab: roaring 4WD pickups decked out with everything but fangs, mobile arsenals with rifles racked behind the seat; franchise-fronted burger emporiums peddling Anasazi Mystery-Dogs (Stop & Get Gas!); real estate offices featuring free dinners, horseback rides, helicopter flights (Patcher Brand onna Hunk of Land! Virgins sacrificed daily at 7 p.m.). Zip, pow, ZANG.

Even in Zion, not all prosper equally. This is still remote country, on the way to nowhere except Escalante. To the west, the High Plateaus rise like a wall, breached by roads that are often closed by drifting snow. The boomtowns lie on the trade routes. The tour buses turn around at Bryce.

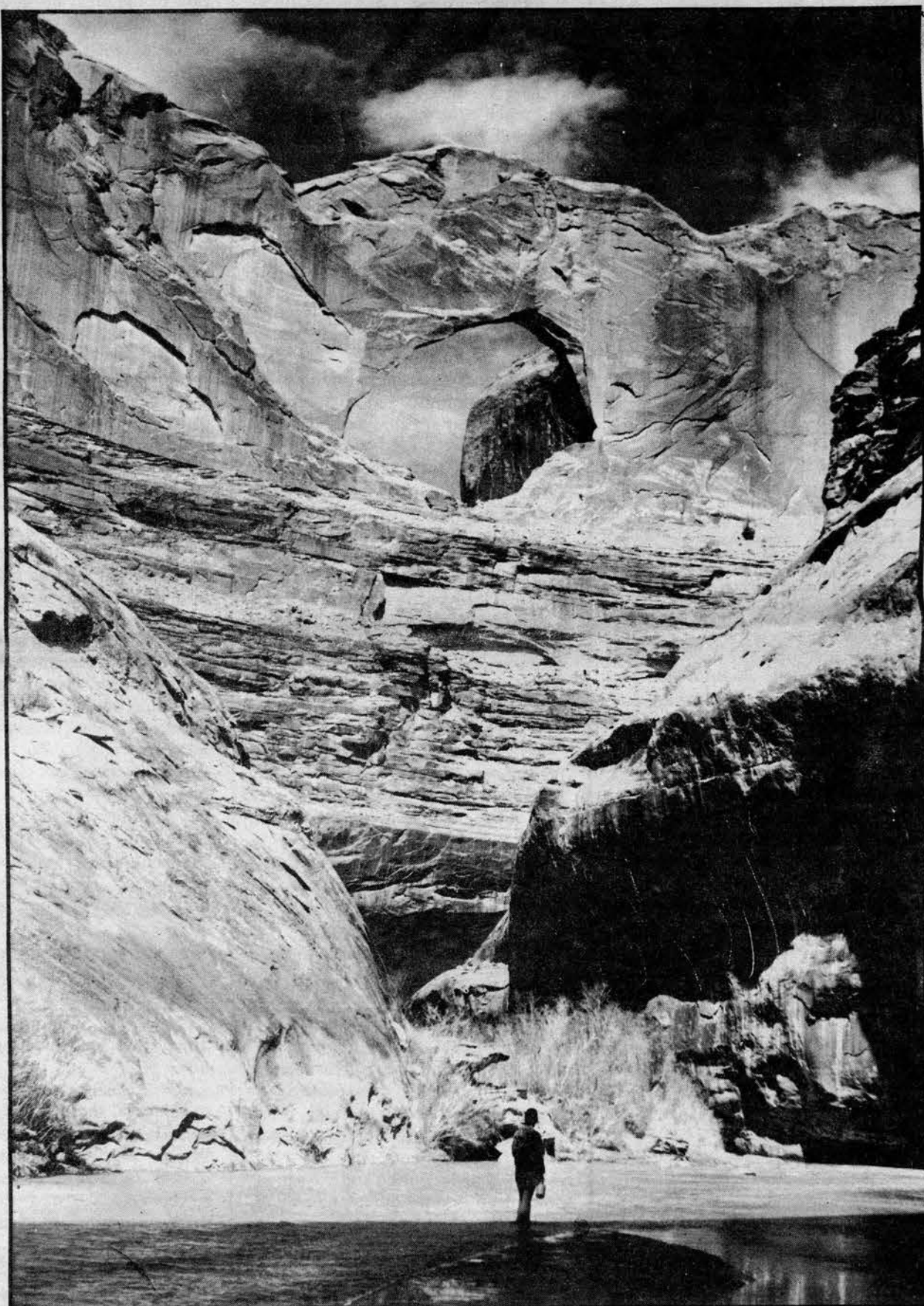
POTATO VALLEY DAYS

The road climbs into timber, skirting the sheer height of the Table Cliffs, and snakes through the heaps of sediment locally known as "The Blues." It's the sort of terrain only a miner could love, with colors either extremely subtle or merely drab. Crumbling and melting with each rain or snow. Even the road seems uncomfortable, full of odd curves and hastily-patched washouts. Super-badlands.

Onward. Canyons matted with sage, stream courses marked by sharp cutbanks bordering broad washes that are the legacy of cycles of overgrazing and flood, the upper reaches of the Escalante, which the first settlers called Potato Valley for a certain indigenous plant rather than to commemorate a bumper crop.

In the latter 1800s, farmers in the more fertile valleys of central and northern Utah received "mission calls" from church leaders to firm up the Mormon frontier against the incursions of Colorado miners and Texas cattle. The settlement of villages such as Hanksville, Bluff and Escalante was strategic, a territorial claim. For those called to this mission, it was a bitter struggle first to reach the sites, which were terra incognita even to the Saints, and then to achieve some sort of living from a region whose fierce beauty was almost devoid of economic advantage.

In 1866, Adjutant F. B. Woolley of the St. George Militia, on the trail of the Paiute Resistance fighters, reached the rim of the Aquarius Plateau, gazing over "...a naked, barren plain of red and white sandstone, crossed in all directions by innumerable gorges... The sun shining down on this vast red plain almost dazzled



Stevens Arch, Escalante Canyon, Utah

our eyes by the reflection as it was thrown back from the fiery furnace."

Surrounding the basin the settlers called Potato Valley is an intricate barrier system of subalpine plateaus, vertical cliffs, badlands, waterless terraces and bald sandstone. Captain Clarence Dutton of the Powell Survey described it thus:

"It is a maze of cliffs and terraces lined off with stratification, of rambling buttes, red and white domes, rock platforms gashed with profound canons, burning plains barren even of sage -- all glowing with bright colors and flooded with sunlight."

Picture yourself as Brigham Young: you have a bushy beard and a plenitude of wifely company. The State of Deseret, which you intend as an essentially independent nation, includes vast

tracts of land, which may or may not be valuable, and which are untenanted except by wandering bands of Lamanites. Your borders are fluid. You need outposts, allies and an outlet to the sea. There is no time for surveys and detailed exploration. You send the brethren (and sistern, as they say in those wards where the glory of God is not good grammar) forth, to manifest Zion's presence in the lands of the heathen, to found villages in the image of The Plat of the City of Zion (a basically midwestern design) and (trust in the Lord) to grow enough to eat. Barely. It's tough country, tougher than you know.

Escalante, both literally and figuratively, is a long way from Nauvoo, Illinois.

Coming into the town of Escalante, one is not too far from getting out of it. Past the trailer compound of the BLM and the squat, brick

[Continued on page 12]

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Agriculture seeks to return to its roots



High Country News

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"Mimic nature, don't try to dominate her" was the theme of the Montana Sustainable Agriculture Conference in mid-October, attended by 230 people on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman.

Miguel Altieri, in his opening speech, articulated that approach succinctly. Dr. Altieri, who teaches at the University of California (Berkeley), said that the energy-intensive, chemical-intensive, resource-exploiting, monocultural farming now widely practiced in the United States has little to teach us about "long-term sustainability" in agriculture.

Altieri researches so-called "primitive" farming practices in countries such as Java, Nepal, Peru, Mexico, and his native Chile. He said he found these practices based on centuries of experience to be sophisticated and successful.

Crops often are mingled together or closely adjoined, with wide genetic varieties in the same field. That helps the crops resist drought and disease, he pointed out. Borders or interplanting of grasses, shrubs, trees and even what often are called weeds provide habitat for natural enemies of crop-threatening pests, and livestock are used in a variety of ways, not only to provide food, but also to fertilize, pull plows and perform selective grazing at strategic times.

This "polycultural diversity" is a human imitation of the natural system. "Without becoming corn-beans-squash subsistence farmers," Altieri suggested there are ways for U.S. operators to apply ecological principles.

In 24 other workshops and presentations during the two-day conference, researchers and farmers and ranchers from Saskatchewan, Washington, Indiana and Norway -- as well as from Montana and neighboring states -- discussed how to apply the "mimic nature" approach.

Some of the highlights:

•Jeanne Charter told how her family ranch north of Billings, Montana, fared after one year of using the Holistic Resource Management methods developed by Allan Savory of New Mexico (HCN, 7/23/84). To "mimic nature" in this case means using cattle to simulate the natural flow of the great bison and elk herds that once roamed this dryland grass and sagebrush country. Investing in low-cost electric fences enabled the Charters to concentrate their cattle and use them as "a sort of universal farming tool," keeping soil cultivated and fertilized. By carefully controlling grazing and rest periods, based on close observation of plant growth and recovery rates, the Charters were able to double the size of their herd. They did this during an extremely dry year in central Montana without damaging -- and in most cases visibly improving -- their range.

•Soil scientist Jim Sims told of the advantages of rotating or interplanting wheat and other grains with nitrogen-fixing legumes such as clover or black medic. The latter is a weed, usually considered undesirable, but it came out tops in Sim's test plots. The advantages were that commercial fertilizer can be reduced or eliminated, wind and water erosion can be checked, soil organic matter increased, and saline seep sometimes contained, he said.

•Paul Kresge, an agronomist from Belgrade, Montana, advocated applying manure or, as some Montana cities are doing, sewage sludge to the soil to increase fertility. Kresge focused on how to apply this "unexploited resource" in proper amounts at the proper rate.

•Jim Story of the Ag Experiment Station in Corvallis, Montana, told of "biocontrol" techniques he's been working on. They included gathering and releasing certain flies, moths,

caterpillars and other natural enemies of noxious weeds now running rampant in Montana, he said. The problem with such weeds -- spotted knapweed and leafy spurge are two of the seven prime culprits -- is that they're not native to North America and encounter no insect or fungal enemies here. Trying to spray or till or graze them out of existence often is impractical, environmentally hazardous or too costly. Biological control is promising, Story said, because once started, it is safe, cheap and self-perpetuating. But Story cautioned against too great a reliance on biocontrol. It works slowly, he said, and "no prey species ever completely eliminates its host."

Story's caution was echoed by others. The dean of Montana State University's agriculture department, James Welsh, said, "No single approach will solve every problem." He added that the wise use of appropriate chemicals would continue for the foreseeable future.

None of the participants cherished illusions that the bulk of ag research money would suddenly shift from chemicals to what were variously termed organic or sustainable approaches.

But as Dr. I. Garth Youngberg, the former head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's short-lived (1980-82) organic farm research project, pointed out, the conference was one of many signs that "the rift between the alternative and conventional agricultural communities is narrowing."

The conference was organized by the Helena-based Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO). Founded in 1974, AERO is a non-profit citizens group that promotes alternatives to energy and agricultural resource depletion in the Northern Plains and Rockies.

--Wilbur Wood

Dear friends,

We usually enjoy writing this column, but this one is frustrating. Because this paper was printed on election day, there is nothing in it about the results. And by the time we get our next issue to you, the 1984 results will be forgotten and the nation will be deep into planning and polling for the 1988 election.

The staff has strong feelings about the election, but in deference to our non-profit, tax-exempt status, we are better off talking about the weather. It is as unpredictable as ever, but this pre-election week the unpredictability has been to our advantage. In honor of what may be a brief Indian Summer, we hiked down into the Black Canyon of the Gunnison (HCN, 10/15/84). It was a beautiful hike, marred only by a feeling toward the end that we were starring in a reenactment of the "Charge of the Light Brigade." As we topped the last rise coming out of the canyon, we found ourselves peering at five blaze orange-clad hunters perched on the Scenic Overlook, peering down at us through high-powered, tripod-mounted telescopes.

In this advanced form of roadside hunting, the sportsmen scan opposing hillsides until they find something to shoot at. Having bagged their quarry, we assume they then call in the choppers since it is hard to imagine

any of them actually setting foot onto dirt.

On a cheerier note, we would like to thank all those who have thus far contributed to the Research Fund. We're especially grateful to the contributor who accidentally bounced a check on us, and then sent yet another contribution to make amends.

BARBED WIRE

Is the Reagan Administration against free enterprise?

Paiute Indians living on a reservation near Las Vegas, Nevada, have come up with an unusual solution for their poverty-stricken area, which suffers from 83 percent unemployment. Tribal leaders there want to establish a brothel to provide money and jobs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs isn't buying it, however. The agency said the proposal is "not the kind of economic development envisioned by federal policy."

Don't forget it's area code 202.

A magazine called National Journal recently asked for our subscription (at just \$247 a year) and sweetened the offer with a list of "Washington's 79 most useful telephone numbers." Dial Ronald Reagan at 456-1414.

The staff now spends much of its time hoping more checks will bounce.

When the beautiful fall weather ends, the cross country skiing will begin. To maximize your time out of doors, and to minimize the time you spend in unhealthy malls, we suggest that you solve your holiday gift-giving challenges with a subscription to HCN. We send the card, and then we send 24 issues of news from and about the West.

-- the staff

What's the compensation for crudeness?

Montana incumbent U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D) has now been labelled the following by his opponent's campaign: One-man, one-bill Baucus, wimp, and egotist. A Republican spokesman explained there is no contradiction between calling a man both a wimp and an egotist: "Egotism is nature's compensation for mediocrity."

That land could be put to good use, eroding away, adding silt to streams, providing places for people to trailbike, causing mudslides...

Jerry Harmon of the Wyoming Timber Industry Association said of the just-passed Wyoming Wilderness Act: "...I think it's crazy. I don't think we should waste that much land."

Can gentle mind twisting clean the air?

Bedecked with a budget of some \$700,000, top advertising firms, in-kind support from businesses, and lots of hoopla, Denver metro's "Better Air Campaign" is trying to convince people to leave their cars at home one day a week during the high pollution season.

If motorist response comes even close to the enthusiasm of its public relations effort, Colorado's latest attempt to reduce carbon monoxide (CO) pollution is assured of success. Although invisible, CO is one of the most serious of Denver's air pollution problems.

Before the end of the eight-week effort, Denver residents will have been persuaded by 817 radio and 49 television spots, 39 billboards, and a slew of newspaper advertisements. Reminders will appear in their utility bills and vehicle registration notices and on grocery bags and cash register receipts. Employees of over 700 companies can expect orientation programs and to be offered incentives in the form of free lunches, bus passes and subsidized parking for carpools. Potential bus users will be offered fares reduced from 70 cents to 25 cents during commuter hours. Each day, the Department of Highways will issue a "report card" on auto occupancy and vehicle miles travelled. One veteran of the Colorado environmental wars calls it the best media effort he has seen "since the anti-bottle bill campaign."

The use of professional media techniques and private sector involvement are central to Denver's hopes of achieving federal standards for CO pollution by the statutory deadline of 1987. Motor vehicles account for 94 percent of all CO emitted in the region. There were 1.4 million vehicles in the Denver metro in 1983, and that number grows by 100,000 per year. By 1987, area motorists are projected to be driving 32 million miles each day. To be effective, the program needs to reduce that figure by 15 percent -- nearly five million miles per day. The first-year goal is a five percent reduction.

Denver's experiment in voluntarism is being watched closely by officials in virtually every major urban area in the U.S. since they too must find new ways of combatting the CO and ozone pollution emitted by vehicles. Denver Mayor Federico Pena calls the no-drive days a chance for metro residents to "demonstrate to the entire country that we care enough to do something about our air."

The Better Air Campaign divides the motoring population into two groups: Commuters and Day Trippers. Surprisingly, Day Trippers (those who use their cars for errands, shopping and keeping appointments) rather than Commuters, account for a whopping 75 percent of all miles travelled in the Denver metro. All motorists in the six-county metro area will be asked to voluntarily leave their cars at home one weekday each week from November 15 through January 15. They will also be asked to voluntarily postpone or cancel non-essential driving on days when high CO levels are predicted.

The Better Air Campaign's slickness belies the complexity of the message it must deliver. Officials must explain that CO pollution is caused primarily by driving and that it does have serious health effects. But CO is invisible and thus contributes very little to the infamous Brown

Cloud. Some 40 percent of the metro population have yet to make that last distinction and could quickly abandon an otherwise promising program when they do not see the haze clearing. Accordingly, one newspaper ad begins: "You can't see our most urgent pollution problem. But you can solve it." The campaign also imposes a judicious amount of guilt in its messages. One series of ads, for example, is called "Confessions of a Day Tripper."

Finally, and probably necessarily, there is humor. In a television spot that enjoyed rave reviews from the grizzled reporters attending an October 11 news conference, Governor Richard Lamm and Mayor Pena are shown in ties and suit jackets describing the program. As they talk, the camera moves back to reveal Pena in jogging trunks, while Lamm, in sweat pants, sits on a bicycle. The film ends with an apparent ad lib by Lamm who looks over and says: "Nice knees, mayor."

Despite the humor and the flash, program officials are deadly serious about the need for "Better Air" to be successful. Should the plan fail, some form of mandatory driving restrictions will have to be considered since, according to state air pollution control chief Jim Lents, "We've done all the technical fixes we can." A survey of metro residents conducted last June reported that 21 percent said they were "certain" to participate, while another 71 percent were "very likely" to do so. But no one really knows, when the time comes, whether the public will go along with a program that not only invades the sanctity of the private car, but also lacks penalties for individual noncompliance.

The success or failure of the Better Air Campaign depends on "public education," something air pollution control officials are talking a lot about these days. While that phrase used to refer to garnering political support for new laws, it now means convincing people to alter their lifestyles for the cause of clean air. If the program works with cars, it may find other applications: personal pollution sources like fireplaces and wood stoves; disposal of toxic substances contained in household products; or water conservation.

Can environmental protection officials and advocates become good educators? Does the public care enough about pollution to take individual and voluntary action? The Better Air Campaign is one of the most ambitious efforts yet to test the power of this kind of public involvement as a control strategy.

--Hal Winslow



Confessions of a Day Tripper

Yes, I'm one of "those." A Day Tripper—one of those people who drives during the day. You know, shopping, errands, to and from school, keeping business, medical and other appointments.

And, like all Day Trippers, I was blind to the damage I was doing to Metro Denver's atmosphere. Just merrily pumping out mile after mile of carbon monoxide. Sure, my conscience told me I should get behind the Better Air campaign. Did I listen?

Here's my story.

My afternoons became nothing more than a blur. One trip after another until it was time to pick up the kids.

I couldn't stop.

Until now. Now I know that it's people like me who drive during the day, people who make business calls, run errands during and after work, go shopping, run the kids to school and so on, who are the real problem. We are responsible for 75% of the automobile trips.



The political atmosphere changes

The Better Air Campaign is certainly enjoying greater popularity than when it was first proposed as a strategy in Colorado's State Implementation Plan for achieving federal carbon monoxide standards by 1987.

Less than two years ago, the plan, which was then called Episodic Ride Sharing, was disapproved by former EPA Regional Administrator Steve Durham. Durham, who was accused of trying to generate backlash support for

weakening the Clean Air Act, said the strategy was either illegal or would not work.

Those early skirmishes now seem far in the distance. Colorado's program was subsequently approved by Durham's successor, John Welles, and William Ruckelshaus, who replaced former EPA Administrator Anne Burford of Denver. EPA's turnaround was made clear by the agency's contribution of \$150,000 to the Better Air Campaign's budget.

--H.W.

HOTLINE

Agency seeks to nail perpetrators

The Forest Service is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of people responsible for driving about 1000 large nails into trees on federal land in Oregon. The nails were apparently meant to damage chain saws and prevent tree harvesting. Twenty Forest Service employees equipped with metal detectors are pulling the spikes from trees on 132 acres of Hardesty Mountain.

Fishing Bridge request

Wyoming's three-man Congressional delegation has officially requested a reevaluation of the decision to remove visitor facilities at Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. In a letter, Congressman Dick Cheney and Senators Alan Simpson and Malcolm Wallop asked National Park Service Director Russ Dickenson in Washington, D.C. to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action. Such a statement would include a study of alternatives to the removal of the park's largest campground, a gas station, museum, and stores, as well as examining the costs, legal implications, local economic effects, and effects on visitor usage patterns. The park service and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team maintain the closure is necessary to restore grizzly habitat. The Cody Chamber of Commerce especially is against the plan because Fishing Bridge is the only campground on the road to the east entrance to the park, about 50 miles west of Cody.

The feds give ground

New Interior Department regulations will allow states to become involved in auditing of oil and gas operations on Indian lands. Under the regulations, the formerly all-federal domain could be taken over entirely by approved states; other states could work cooperatively with the federal government. In both cases the federal government would reimburse the state for its share of auditing costs. Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota and Alaska have already requested audit authority and state-by-state approval may be possible as early as January 1, 1985.

Privitization

San Juan County (Utah) Commissioner Cal Black argues that Utah could stabilize its economy by selling state-owned land. Booms and busts, he argues, don't happen in diversified economies. And diversified economies are found, he says, in counties with a high percentage of privately owned land. Counties in which the state or federal government owns large amounts of land "have had the least economic growth and the greatest boom-bust cycles."

Black made his comments to the Utah Land Review Commission, a group considering the future of Utah's 3.7 million acres of school trust land. Income from this public land pays about three percent of Utah's school budget. The *Utah Waterline* also reported that Utah's proposed Project Bold, which would block up the now checkerboard state land through exchanges with the federal government, had died in the 98th Congress. The Utah delegation plans to reintroduce it in the 99th.

HOTLINE

Watt enters the consumer protection field

Former Secretary of the Interior James Watt has recently become chairman of Environmental Diagnostics, Inc., a California-based biotechnology company whose first product would enable marijuana users to test for traces of Paraquat. Paraquat is a herbicide sprayed over marijuana fields in Mexico and the federal lands over which Watt used to preside. According to a story from the Washington Post Service, Watt said the Paraquat tester was "not developed for the market" but to prove the effectiveness of the company's biotechnology.

Megawatts for sale

Montana Power Company may sell its 210-megawatt share of Colstrip 4 power plant, which is now under construction. It is another development in the wake of the Public Service Commission's decision (HCN, 10/1/84) to deny the utility permission to charge consumers for the cost of Colstrip 3. The PSC said the power that plant is producing is not necessary to Montana consumers, and that cheaper alternatives are available.

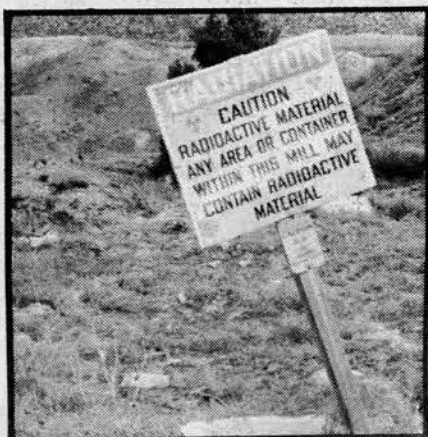
Dam is damned

An application for a proposed dam on the Snake River below Idaho's American Falls has been dropped by two utilities. The withdrawal came just after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission released its final environmental analysis which said the project should not be built. FERC found that the proposed dam would destroy a high-quality river fishery and white-water rafting area, and harm waterfowl and bald eagle habitat. The hydropower project was proposed by the Northwest Generating Company and the Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative.

It kills people

A medical researcher has discovered another reason why the West's boom-bust economy is undesirable: because it kills people. According to Mo Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins, higher illness and death rates show up starting three years after a national recession. Suicide, cirrhosis of the liver and heart attacks are associated with increased unemployment and business failures.

Indian victims



Navajo Indians working as uranium miners are 14 times more likely to contract lung cancer than non-miner Navajos. Moreover, they will contract the disease at an average age of 44, instead of the average age of 63 that non-miners contract the disease. The study, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is especially striking because American Indians do not generally smoke and normally are unlikely to contract lung cancer.

Radiation plagues New Mexico homes

Although uranium milling activities have stopped temporarily at Homestake Mining Company's site near Grants, New Mexico, health-threatening radiation problems continue and debates between environmental officials and the company are getting hotter.

The site was originally listed on the Superfund national priority list because of selenium and uranium in the well water of nearby homeowners. According to Joel Hubbell of New Mexico's Environmental Improvement Division, the EPA turned the matter of groundwater cleanup over to the state with the provision that Homestake would supply an immediate new source of water to the affected rural subdivisions.

In February 1984, Homestake reached a settlement with 36 landowners who had sued the company because of the contaminated groundwater. The company agreed to connect the subdivisions to the neighboring town of Milan's water system and to pay compensation to the approximately one-half of the area's landowners who filed the suit.

As a result, Homestake thought it had "made its peace with the Environmental Protection Agency," according to John Parker, general manager for Homestake at Milan. However, the state of New Mexico still hasn't accepted Homestake's plans for flushing the contaminated aquifer. In addition, the state is now exploring Homestake's liability and considering asking EPA to leave Homestake on the Superfund list because the residents



are still being exposed to radiation inside their homes.

Radon daughter levels are elevated within the houses, probably because uranium wastes were used in footings of the homes, according to Jere Millard of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division. Millard added that at least 30 percent of the indoor radon problem is caused by the tailings pile itself. "It's a real dusty pile."

Although Homestake has agreed to analyze cement under the homes to see if it is the source of radiation, Parker said he believes the radiation in the homes is naturally caused and no higher than in homes in Albuquerque or Pennsylvania. "The radon is coming from the ground... It has nothing to do with the fact that the homes are one-half mile from a uranium operation," he said.

Parker also disagrees with using

the Superfund to remedy the situation, which he believes could be taken care of by constructing barriers under the floors. "Unless God is going to finance the Superfund, there is no reason why you and I as taxpayers should pay for that sort of thing," he said.

On the other hand, Parker said he thinks the federal government or industry should assume responsibility for cleaning up the tailings piles themselves. One pile at the site was generated under an Atomic Energy Commission contract for the Department of Defense. Half of the other 100 foot-high pile was also left from DOD production. Homestake has proposed that the government impose a fee of two-tenths of a mill on each kilowatt hour of nuclear generated electricity to use for cleaning up such tailings piles.

Meanwhile, back in Murray Acres and Broadview Acres, close to the mill, the depressed local economy has caused a number of homes to be abandoned. No one can sell them because banks won't loan money on them and the buyers can't get title insurance, Millard said. Radiation levels are not "natural," he pointed out, and in five of the homes the level exceeds background by three times.

Millard said the state is concerned because residents have been exposed in so many ways, including drinking water and well water with which they irrigate gardens. "They have the potential for getting a substantial dose," Millard said.

--Marjane Ambler and staff

Montana taps a toxic waste mother lode

Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences officials got far more than they bargained for recently when they sponsored a free two-day collection of toxic wastes in Missoula through a \$68,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Workers clad in disposable white paper overalls, rubber gloves and protective glasses expected the usual crusty buckets of old paint, boxes of weed killer and perhaps a few bottles of battery acid on October 16 and 17 at the Missoula County Fairgrounds in the center of Missoula.

But they "got far more than anybody expected," said Vic Andersen of Montana's Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Trucks arrived from all over the state, including at least one from Glendive, over 500 miles to the east. Drums of chrome sludge and formaldehyde-based embalming fluid were unloaded. Sacks of outlawed herbicides and pesticides were stacked up. And boxes of bottles containing mysterious crystals, powders and liquids arrived from the University of Montana and the dark storerooms of high school chemistry classes. Andersen closed the free collection to "large generators" late the first day due to the inundation.

Montana companies are obligated to dispose of the dangerous wastes they generate by hiring a licensed carrier to haul them to a disposal site, Andersen explained. Because Montana does not have a single disposal site designed to handle toxics, shipping and dumping wastes is an expensive proposition, especially for small firms. Many businesses hoped to duck disposal costs by handing over their toxics free to International Technology Corp., the contractor hired to catalog wastes and ship them

to Nevada or California for disposal.

But before wastes could be packed in sealed 55-gallon drums for shipping, every single vial, can, bag, box and bottle had to be identified. International Technology's Dennis Robinson explained that bases and acids had to be separated for safety as did other incompatible compounds.

"We always get interesting things," he said, thumbing through a chemical dictionary and identifying one bottle as containing something made from the "crushed bodies of female insects."

The day before, Forest Service employees delivered drums labeled jellied gasoline and sent a napalm scare up the spines of workers. But the drums were tested and proved to contain only chemically tainted water.

Slug and snail pellets, pigments, generic brush killer, jars of asbestos and hundreds of little brown bottles

were scrutinized for the dangerous compounds they contained. The roster was exhaustive.

"This stuff could have ended up in any one of a hundred places," Andersen said. "It possibly would have gone to the local landfill. Who knows? It may have ended up in the barrow pit."

Missoula was selected for a disposal center because an earlier survey showed substantial quantities of potentially dangerous wastes were stored by individuals and small businesses throughout western Montana. Andersen said no other collections are planned in Montana. Robertson said his company has been collecting toxic wastes in localities all over the West, including a recent collection in Oakland, California, sponsored by the local League of Women Voters.

--Chris Volk

Fence flap isn't over

Portions of the fence in Wyoming's Red Rim area that blocked antelope from critical winter range last year will come down this November. Rancher Taylor Lawrence agreed to take down about eight miles of the 28-mile-long fence after meeting with Governor Ed Herschler, but he will be allowed to put back those fence sections in the spring. Last year antelope were driven by a severe winter to the Red Rim area where 5,000 of the animals died. Wildlife officials don't know how much the fence contributed to the antelope deaths.

Although they applauded efforts to protect the antelope herd, Wyoming Wildlife Federation officials oppose restoring the fence sections this

spring. A permanent solution is needed, says executive director John Ernst. Ernst says the federation is also considering petitioning the state attorney general to declare the fence unlawful because it blocks antelope access to public land and therefore violates the Unlawful Inclosure Act.

In addition, the Bureau of Land Management says that three and a half miles of the wire mesh fence is actually on public land. Spokeswoman Pat Korp says any fence on BLM land must be built according to their specifications. The BLM has told Lawrence either to tear down his five-foot high fence on public land or replace it with a lower, three-foot-high barb wire fence.

--Jeff Marti

Nuclear waste firm seeks a S. Dakota home

Thanks to public television in South Dakota, residents had the opportunity to see a six-hour forum on a controversial nuclear waste issue before going to the polls last week.

On the ballot was a citizens' initiative which would make any plan to bring nuclear waste into South Dakota subject to voter approval. Voters would also have to approve a state plan for complying with the federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980. That law orders states to have plans in place by 1986 for managing all low-level radioactive waste generated inside their borders. At this point, South Dakota generates just seven cubic feet a year.

The organizer of the forum was Governor William Janklow, who moderated the meeting in the free wheeling, voluble and sometimes hectoring style South Dakotans have come to expect from their colorful governor.

On the panel were 14 "experts," including five community activists who favor voter control of any proposed nuclear waste dump. They were invited to participate after Nick Meinhard, director of the Nuclear Waste Vote Coalition, pressed Janklow to include more speakers who would not benefit from South Dakota becoming a host state for nuclear waste.

The coalition is an umbrella group for 26 farm, environmental, health and other grassroots organizations who worked to get the nuclear waste initiative on the ballot.

The pressure for South Dakota to 'host' radwaste comes from Chem-Nuclear Systems, which runs a large, national low-level nuclear waste facility in Barnwell, South Carolina.

In ads and through legislative lobbying efforts, Chem-Nuclear has pushed to open a low-level waste facility near Edgemont, South Dakota. The company has said the South Carolina facility will narrow its scope in two years and close completely in 1992.

What emerged during the forum were these major questions: How safe is the shallow land burial used for low-level radwastes? Is the Edgemont site suitable? Does South Dakota want to take in one million cubic feet of radwaste each year? Should South Dakota join a regional state compact?

Governor Janklow clarified his own position on some of the issues. He urged joining the Midwest Compact because "going it alone" wasn't feasible. He said he wasn't afraid of South Dakota becoming a host state, but said he'd never taken a stand on Chem-Nuclear's Edgemont proposal.

Janklow also taxed initiative supporters for delaying a low-level waste plan. If South Dakota delays any

longer in joining a compact, the governor threatened, the state might miss the 1986 deadline. Then the federal government could force a plan on South Dakota, making it accept waste from other states on terms not of South Dakota's choosing.

There were some surprises at the forum. One came from Dr. John Stucker, assistant to South Carolina's governor on nuclear waste issues. He warned the 300 people present not to make economics the deciding factor in waste dump decisions.

"I think it's (economics) overplayed," he said. "The private market place has not been able to handle the problem. Otherwise Congress wouldn't have had to intervene. The final deciding factor has to be citizens' values."

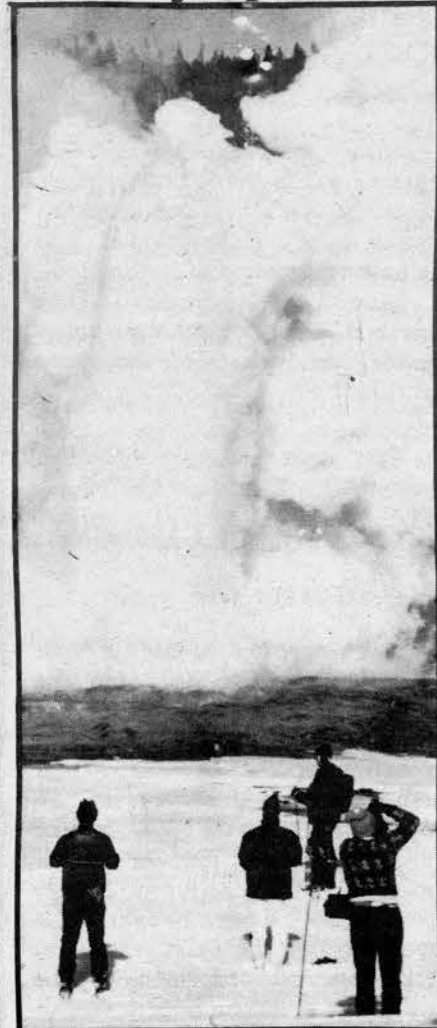
Stucker added that the federal government wasn't likely to force a state to run a dump for out of state waste since regulations require states to take title to low-level dumps once they close. No one could force a state to take title for land, he said.

The most forceful speaker on technical questions was the Sierra Club's Jesse Riley. He noted that a government report in 1982 revealed that Chem-Nuclear's Barnwell site is leaking cobalt and tritium, and corrected the governor, who thought low-level waste was short-lived.

--Jeanne Koster

HOTLINE

Old Faithful quickens



Wyoming Travel Commission

Old Faithful

Yellowstone's Old Faithful geyser is bouncing back from the blow dealt it by the Mount Borah, Idaho earthquake (HCN, 11/28/83). The quake lengthened the geyser's eruption interval from 69 minutes to 77 minutes. But the rate of eruption is quickening now, with the average interval down to 75 minutes.

Look homeward, Wyoming

New marketing methods are needed for Wyoming's agricultural products if financially strapped farmers are going to survive. A report by Wyoming's Powder River Basin Resource Council says farmers and ranchers need more in-state processing and markets. Agricultural producers have traditionally been unable to have their products processed in-state and have had to pay higher costs for the extra transportation. The three largest grocery chains serving Wyoming also have their processing plants and central warehouses out of state. The report notes that the tourist industry, state agencies and agricultural commodities have failed to effectively coordinate their efforts to develop and market products for sale to tourists, restaurants and lodge owners, and Wyoming citizens. Another marketing shortcoming is that no preference is given to in-state producers and processors in sales to state institutions. The resource council says the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has done little to promote the selling of Wyoming agricultural products in-state.

Through the breach

The north and south arms of Utah's Great Salt Lake are approaching equilibrium, thanks to the 300-foot-long breach opened this summer in the dam-like railway causeway which splits the lake. The south arm is now less than a foot higher than the north arm. It had been almost four feet higher in August. The breach has spread the flooding pain a bit, but the record snowfall which hit the basin in October indicates the relentless rise may continue.

BOOK NOTES

A Tucson water experiment fails

Saving Water in a Desert City

William E. Martin, editor. Washington, D.C.: Resources for the Future, June, 1984. 111 pages, \$10, paper.

Review by Bob Gottlieb and Peter Wiley

The cities of the desert West are a paradigm of a future where shortages of resources, particularly water, will be a central issue.

It is all too easy to dismiss water shortages as an issue peculiar to the arid West, but with each year, the problem of water becomes more and more of a national issue. In the East, old water systems are decaying rapidly. In the Midwest, cities like Chicago are considering the possibility of tapping new water sources, such as the Ogallala Aquifer, which underlies six High Plains states and already faces depletion in the not too distant future. In short, whatever the region, new sources of water are expensive to develop, and conservation and price are the issues of the future.

In a hotly-debated new study from Resources for the Future, *Saving Water in a Desert City*, William E. Martin, Helen Ingram, Nancy K. Laney, and Adrian H. Griffith critique the controversial efforts of Tucson, Arizona to save water and come up with their own recommendations about how to design a rate structure so as to balance water development and conservation.

The authors tell the story of how a group of political activists and environmentalists known as the New Democrats gained a majority on the Tucson City Council in 1975. Among the positions championed by these neophytes was controlled growth. One of the means chosen to control growth was higher water rates. Higher water rates, they assumed, would discour-

age development on the edges of the city, where water would be more expensive, and encourage development on vacant land within the city.

Within its first year the city council raised water rates an average of 41 to 85 percent, instituted a voluntary "Waterless Wednesday" program during the summer, and gave the city manager new powers to call water alerts and to implement emergency conservation measures. The additional revenues were also meant to help finance the construction of new water facilities.

When the first water bills based on the new rates reached the public, people were furious. A recall campaign was organized, and within six months three of the New Democrats were thrown out of office.

According to the book, the New Democrats ran into trouble because they had sent a confusing message to the electorate. They had used higher rates and other programs to both encourage restrictions on demand and to raise funds to increase supply.

But it turned out that the deposed New Democrats had been partially right all along. The new city council, which was backed both by real estate developers and outraged citizens, found to its dismay that they had to stick with the higher water rates. Water rates had to be increased in some manner or the system was headed for bankruptcy.

As a result of the rate hikes, water use did decline dramatically for a number of years, particularly during the peak-use summer season. But then in 1980, water use began to inch upward, eventually approaching the old levels.

How are we to understand what happened? According to Martin, et al, the Great Tucson Water Experiment was well-intentioned but ill-conceived. There were two fatal flaws. First,

although the New Democrats were environmentalists and controlled-growth advocates, they tried to both restrict demand and increase supply, serving both environmental interests and increasing the supplies which were the prerequisite for new real estate development. Secondly, they used the wrong pricing mechanism to set the new water rates.

The authors advocate an approach that would balance development of new supplies with reductions in water use. But they want this approach to be based on a correct pricing mechanism. "If something plentiful and cheap now is going to be more scarce and expensive to produce later on," they write, "the sensible social policy is to make it expensive right away." And the correct way to determine price is to use marginal-cost pricing. That is, price should be determined by the cost of developing an additional unit of supply.

In Tucson's case, the cost of Central Arizona Project water should be the basis for determining the price of city water. (The CAP is a giant water project designed to bring water from the Colorado River to central Arizona.) Using the cost of CAP water, Martin et al advocate raising the price of water an additional 58 percent!

The authors of the study are particularly concerned about what they consider environmentalists' bias "against economic analysis as a basis of decision." They argue that if the controlled growth advocates had used economic analysis and their pricing system, they wouldn't have gotten into a situation where a program designed to promote water conservation became the basis for further real estate development.

□

Gottlieb and Wiley are the authors of *America's Saints, The Rise of Mormon Power*, published in 1984.

LETTERS

TAD SIGHT BETTER

Dear HCN,

Contrary to what Mr. O'Toole suggests, in Colorado's Uncompahgre Forest, Crowell's boys are telling us they will make a minimum of \$123 an acre for the 660 acres to be "treated" up Lone Cone's Beaver Creek watershed. That's a tad sight better than 25¢. Although still too cheap, one might think.

Art Goodtimes
Telluride, CO

THE INJUSTICE OF GARRISON

Dear HCN:

I was interested to see, in your quite comprehensive article on the Garrison Project (HCN, 9/17/84) that the principal argument advanced for the project, at least by some, is that North Dakota deserves to be compensated for the loss of the farmland inundated by Lake Sakakawea. Even the Audubon Society appears to have bought this proposition as the main reason for abandoning its opposition to the concept of a diversion project.

Although the maps you included do not reveal this fact, approximately half or more of the prime Missouri River bottomland now rotting beneath the lake was previously part of the Ft. Berthold Reservation of the Three Affiliated Tribes. Those lovely valleys were, indeed, the aboriginal homeland of the Mandan, Arikara and Hidatsa tribes. North Dakota's case for "compensation," thus, is largely based on land that was owned by Indians. I notice, further, that the diversion project does not propose to irrigate any of the remaining lands of the Three Affiliated Tribes. I consequently find it difficult to accept the compensation argument; or at a minimum, it strikes me that the wrong people are being compensated.

Richard W. Hughes
Albuquerque, NM

PRIVATE CONSERVATION

Dear HCN,

Thank you for your coverage of the new National Wildlife Refuge being established at Ash Meadows near Death Valley Monument in Nevada (HCN "Hotline", 7/9/84).

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed additional materials describing the unique qualities of this desert oasis. The story of the fight to preserve Ash Meadows is lengthy and dramatic. We are delighted it has had a happy ending.

As for flooding along the Great Salt Lake (HCN, "The Great Salt Lake Buries Bird Refuge" July 9, 1984), it might interest you to know that the Nature Conservancy has been working with the Utah Wildlife Habitat Development Foundation to protect private wetland areas adjacent to flooded state and federal refuges so that Utah's shorebirds and waterfowl will have somewhere to nest, forage and land.

The moral of both stories is clear: by working together, private conservation groups can make a significant contribution to preserving natural areas in the intermountain West.

Dave Livermore
The Nature Conservancy
San Francisco, CA

Realtor advises: 'Shoot a land developer'

Paul Brunner, "an environmental land broker," has distributed 6,000 bumper stickers which say "Keep Montana beautiful -- shoot a land developer."

This unconventional approach has made Brunner Montana's only broker who specializes in selling ranches and other large tracts of land to people who promise never to subdivide. Although the bumper stickers are a tongue-in-cheek gimmick, his goal is quite simple:

"I want to preserve land. By selling land which can never be developed, we will preserve beautiful tracts of wildlife habitat and not turn Montana into everyone's second home."

Brunner has helped preserve over 280,000 acres -- mostly in Montana -- which have been put into permanent trust for the future. While his 12-year-old business, Eco Realty, is based in Ovando, Montana, a relatively remote town 60 miles east of Missoula, Brunner scurries all over the state matching buyers and sellers of "ranches which have environmental importance."

Eco Realty annually handles the sales of 10 to 12 large ranches, each with an average price of \$1 million. Brunner avoids commercial real estate and regular residential transactions, and does not market small parcels. "Occasionally," he says, "I handle tracts of timber and meadows in the 500-acre range," but he mostly deals with enormous, picturesque ranches.

Montana has had its share of speculators who accumulate large tracts of land to be subdivided into smaller, more lucrative parcels. "That type of subdividing," especially when the lands contain abundant wildlife or are agriculturally productive, "is what bothers me the most," he says.

"It's one thing to subdivide near a town, but it's quite another thing to subdivide land 50 miles from town on the banks of a beautiful trout stream. It ruins the habitat just so someone can have their vacation home there."

How does he ensure that subdivision won't occur on the properties he sells?

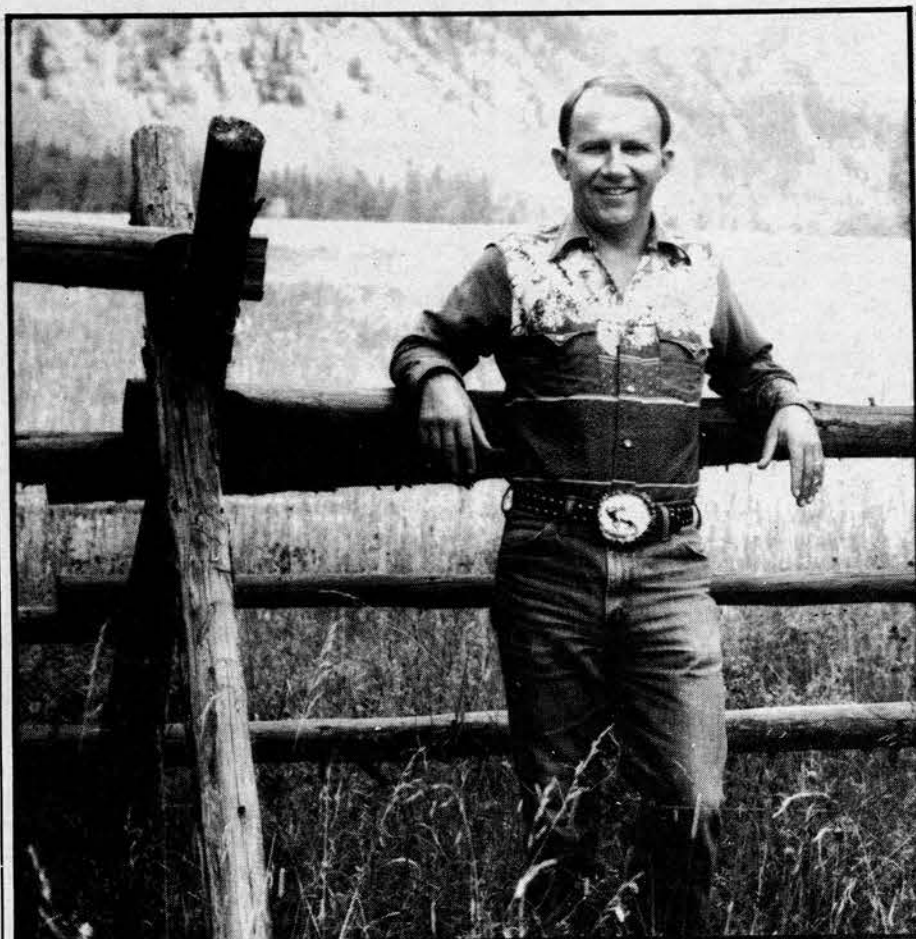
First, he identifies sellers who have large tracts that are scenic or abundant with wildlife. If they list with Eco Realty, he tries to identify buyers wishing to preserve land as natural habitat or for agricultural purposes.

Then, he educates the buyers about conservation easements -- legal maneuvers which put land into a perpetual trust.

Montana's Conservation Easement law, passed in 1975, enables landowners to donate subdivision rights to non-profit conservation organizations such as the Nature Conservancy or the Montana Land Reliance. Since these rights are given as gifts, the donor is entitled to a tax deduction which can be spread out over several years. The recipient organization has the power to prevent the land from being chopped into 10-acre tracts.

Consider a ranch which sells for \$1 million. In Montana, conservation easements are typically valued at 50 percent of the land value. Thus, if a buyer wanted to donate a conservation easement to the Nature Conservancy, for example, a professional appraiser would value the easement at approximately \$500,000.

If the buyer is in the 50 percent tax bracket, the easement will mean a \$250,000 gift write-off that can be



Paul Brunner

taken all in one year, or it can be spread out over five years.

"The values set for conservation easements are set by professional appraisers and are subject to the scrutiny of the Internal Revenue Service," Brunner adds.

There are two common misconceptions about conservation easements, he says. "The first is that when you give an easement, you must allow open public access to your lands. The second is that the land will be controlled by the party receiving the donated easement. Both of these are untrue. You can fish, hunt, ranch, cut timber, even set up a dude ranch, if you want to. You just can't subdivide."

Who are Brunner's benevolent buyers? Reviewing the last ten years of transactions, he concludes that "Most of them are second or third-generation millionaires from the Midwest or East who have a strong conservation ethic. They are usually people who are in love with the West and want to have a beautiful ranch as a part of the family legacy."

Eco Realty does a healthy amount of advertising in national magazines and newspapers. Last year's advertising budget was \$40,000. "But most of my clients hear of me by word of mouth." Potential buyers stay at his Blackfoot River ranch and leisurely look over several properties.

Brunner, who laughingly calls himself "a Connecticut Yankee," came to Montana after feeling pinched by the overcrowded East. "I saw what had happened back there," he notes, "and I just didn't want the same thing to happen in Montana."

Who are Brunner's sellers? "I have one ranch for sale that has too many elk on it to be a profitable cattle operation." The property is located near Yellowstone National Park and, with its rich habitat, will probably be appraised with high conservation-easement values.

"Most of my listings are sales to settle estates, settle divorces, or because of poor agricultural economic situations," he says. "But that's no reason that these properties should be sold, subdivided, and crowded with weekend cabins."

Brunner likes to recall his first successful effort at preservation.

Some developers planned to purchase a 1,000-acre ranch in the Bitterroot Valley which had seven miles of spring creeks and a rich array of wildlife.

"I got a 30-day option right before the developers tendered their offer." With the assistance of Trout Unlimited, a private, non-profit sportsman's organization, he found a buyer on the 30th day: the ranch remains in its natural, undivided state.

The maverick land broker has received his share of criticism from peers, and he is quick to note that Eco Realty was conceived in response to sharp attacks from other real estate sellers. "Their negative comments actually helped draw attention to my concern for sensible development."

The friction between Brunner and several real estate agents began in the early 1970s. "I had given a lecture to wildlife biologists at the University of Montana," he says. "I told them that the single worst enemy of wildlife habitat was developers. Shortly after that, the Board of Realtors charged me with unethical conduct. I have even been told that I can't be a Realtor and an environmentalist at the same time."

Eventually, the charges of unethical practices were dropped, Eco Realty was launched, and Brunner's attitude toward development has not changed appreciably in 12 years.

As Montana's only self-proclaimed "environmental broker," Brunner wonders why others don't follow his example.

"I still believe that development in certain locations does the largest harm to wildlife. In recent years, ranchers have found that nearby subdivisions are extremely detrimental. If four ranchers who own consecutive properties next to a beautiful, productive river all donated easements, they'd never have to worry about subdivisions in their area," he explains.

"It's nearly impossible to think of a farmer or rancher who would want a subdivision next to his property. Quite simply put, Western ranching and new subdivisions just don't mix."

--Renee Wyman, Western Business

BULLETIN BOARD



THE YELLOW BOOKS

If you get ulcers trying to get hold of your congressperson, senator, or any other big cheese in Washington D.C., the Congressional Yellowbook and Federal Yellowbook may be for you. The Federal Yellowbook (\$130/year) has phone numbers and addresses galore, of over 29,000 top level, decision-making federal employees in the White House, federal departments and agencies and regional offices nationwide. The Congressional Yellowbook (\$95/year) lists House and Senate members, their staffs, their legislative responsibilities, committee and subcommittee assignments and memberships in official and informal caucuses. For more information write The Washington Monitor, Inc., 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington D.C. 20004.

THE CLEAN PLATE CLUB

The Forest Service in Montana's Helena National Forest may be doing too good a job of cleaning up after timber sales. Silviculturist Al Underwood says complete removal of wood after timber cuts can do more harm than good. The logging slash, as it's called, returns organic nutrients to the soil, protects tree seedlings, and reduces soil erosion by acting as a soil movement barrier. Also, much of the slash can be used by the public for firewood. For more information, contact Al Underwood, Helena National Forest Silviculturist, 301 S. Park, Room 328, Helena, MT 59626.

WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

The 9th World Forestry Congress has been set for July 1-12, 1985 in Mexico City, Mexico, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The meeting's theme is Forest Resources in the Integral Development of Society. A provisional agenda includes sessions on "Forestry Activities and Their Role in Development," "Trends and New Contributions in the Management of Forestry Resources," "Trends and New Contributions in Production and Productivity," and "Trends and New Contributions in Institutions and Rural Development." Volunteer papers are invited. For more information, contact Don Girton at 202/477-3760 or Hank DeBruin at 800/368-5748.

PUEBLO WILDLIFE FILMS

A winter film series in Pueblo, Colorado will feature everything from African baboons and butterfat zebras to Death Valley kangaroo rats. Distinguished naturalists such as Roger Tory Peterson will be on hand to comment on the wildlife and natural history films. The first in the four-film series will be shown on November 19. Contact the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, 2115 N. Greenwood, Pueblo, CO 81003 or the Nature Center of Pueblo (303/545-9114) for a list of films, prices and showtimes.

MONTANA WILDERNESS CONVENTION

The 26th annual convention of the Montana Wilderness Association will be held on November 30 and December 1 at the Copper King Inn in Butte, Montana. This year's theme will be "Blue Ribbons of the Big Sky -- Protecting the Watershed of the Big Hole River." Speakers will focus on threatened wilderness proposals for the Beaverhead National Forest in southwest Montana, as well as the endangered Big Hole River country, below-cost timber sales, wilderness management and new tactics and ideas for wilderness designation. For more information contact the Montana Wilderness Association, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624.

NUCLEAR RATE SHOCK

America's electric bills will increase by \$25 billion per year as nuclear power plants now under construction are put into operation, according to a study of nuclear "rate shock" by the Environmental Action Foundation. Over their lifetime, these plants will cost \$191 billion more than the fossil fuel plants they will replace, the study reports. The states hardest hit by nuclear rate shock will include Illinois, Indiana, New York, Michigan, Arizona, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Ohio, and New Hampshire. For more information contact Richard Asinof (202/833-1845), Alan Nogue (202/659-1130), or Kirk Stone (603/224-8189).

BRIDGER-TETON DRILLING PROPOSALS

Public comment is being sought on two proposals to drill exploratory oil and gas wells in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming's Sublette County. True Oil Co. of Casper has submitted a request to drill in the Bare Creek and South Cottonwood Creek drainage about 25 miles northeast of Big Piney, and Chevron USA Inc. of Denver is seeking permission to drill in the Cabin Creek Unit in the Clause Creek and Cliff Creek area of the Big Piney Ranger District. The drilling proposals are outlined in separate statements available for public review at the Big Piney Ranger District's office in Big Piney or the Forest Supervisor's office in Jackson, or write Bridger-Teton National Forest, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, Wyoming 83001.

MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED FOR REVIEW

The long-range land and resource management plan for Colorado's Pike and San Isabel National Forests, and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands has been released for public review. The plan identifies management practices, the projected levels of goods and services, and locations where the management activities are expected to occur. The Record of Decision also contains Forest Service wilderness suitability recommendations for Sangre de Cristo, Buffalo Peaks, Greenhorn Mountain and Spanish Peaks Wilderness Study Areas. Both documents are available at all National Forest offices throughout the planning area and in libraries near the two National Forests and Grasslands. For information write the USDA Forest Service, 1920 Valley Drive, Pueblo, Colorado 81008 (303/545-8737).

MALHEUR REFUGE WOES

The Fall 1984 issue of *Defenders* features an article that gives the roots of the book *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough*, Denzel and Nancy Ferguson's stinging analysis of grazing in the West, (HCN, 3/5/84). In the magazine article, the Fergusons document the effects of decades of cattle grazing in southeast Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. They say that deer, antelope and 1287 species of birds are among the wildlife feeling those effects, which include reduction in nesting success in grazed areas, and erosion and siltation of streams frequented by cattle. Partly because of the authors' efforts while they were managers of the Malheur Field Station, the refuge has implemented new grazing policies. But another factor, not covered in the article, may have a profound effect on both wildlife and grazing policies: wet weather in the last few years has caused rising water levels in Harney and Malheur Lakes adjacent to the refuge. Parts of the refuge and thousands of acres of farmland are now under water.

GRAND OPENING FOR ARAVAIPA CANYON

Arizona's Safford District of the Bureau of Land Management will hold dedication ceremonies for Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness on Tuesday, November 13. The program begins at 11 A.M. at the east entrance of Aravaipa Canyon with officials such as Barry Goldwater and other members of the Arizona congressional delegation, BLM National Director Robert Burford, and State Director Dean Bibbes. After the dedication a barbecue lunch will be served by the Defenders of Wildlife Trust for the George Whittell Wildlife Preserve at Aravaipa Canyon. For more information write the BLM, Safford District Office, 425 E. 4th Street, Safford, Arizona 85546 (602/428-4040).

TROPOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY

The National Academy of Sciences has published a 208-page report called "Global Tropospheric Chemistry: A Plan for Action," which addresses increasing concern about disturbing changes in the atmosphere's chemical balance. The report lays out a conceptual framework and a scientific strategy for conducting international research into the dynamics of the troposphere -- that region of the atmosphere closest to the earth's surface. Concerns include smog and other air pollution, acid rain, ozone-layer photochemistry and disturbances, and increasing carbon dioxide concentration. For more information write the National Center for Atmospheric Research, P.O. Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307.

DESERT TORTOISE IN DANGER

Defenders of Wildlife, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the desert tortoise as an endangered species. The desert tortoise, known as *Gopherus agassizii*, inhabits Arizona, southeastern California and southern Nevada. Defenders of Wildlife says it was once widespread and abundant, but since has declined as a result of collecting, vandalism, careless recreational use, overgrazing, urbanization and agricultural development. For more information call Steve Johnson or Richard Spotts of the Defenders of Wildlife at 602/297-1434 and 916/442-6386, respectively.

OUTRAGE IS NEEDED

Naturalist Jasper Carlton asks readers of *Earth First!* to save the grizzly bear and block mining in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in northwestern Montana. Carlton says "widespread public outrage and legal action" may be the tools necessary to keep U.S. Borax and the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) from drilling in the 94,000 acre wilderness.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOOKLET

A 32-page booklet, "Placing Wildlife Management in Perspective," is available from the Wildlife Management Institute. The booklet is a synopsis of the role and objectives of wildlife management and provides current examples of wildlife population numbers, interrelationships and values. Also addressed are opportunities for citizens to participate in and influence wildlife management. Copies are \$1 postpaid from the Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 725, 1101 Fourteenth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20005. Information is available from WMI on discounts for bulk orders of more than 25 copies.

ANIMALS' DOOMSDAY

The Doomsday Book of Animals is an illustrated encyclopedia of nearly 300 birds, mammals, and reptiles that have vanished in the last three centuries. Author David Day gives the date of each animal's extinction and describes its nature, behavior, living pattern and unsuccessful battle to survive. The book costs \$14.95 and is published by the Viking Press, 40 West 23 Street, New York, NY 10010.



CONSERVATION STAMP ART CONTEST

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is seeking entries from artists who would like to enter Wyoming's second annual conservation stamp art contest. The winning artwork, which must feature the North American pronghorn, will be reproduced on the 1986 Wyoming Conservation stamp. Submit your entry by June 1, 1985 to Game and Fish headquarters in Cheyenne. Contest rules, guidelines, and entry forms can be obtained from the headquarters as well as district offices in Jackson, Pinedale, Cody, Sheridan, Green River, Laramie, Lander, and Casper, Wyoming, or call Al Langston at 307/777-7736.

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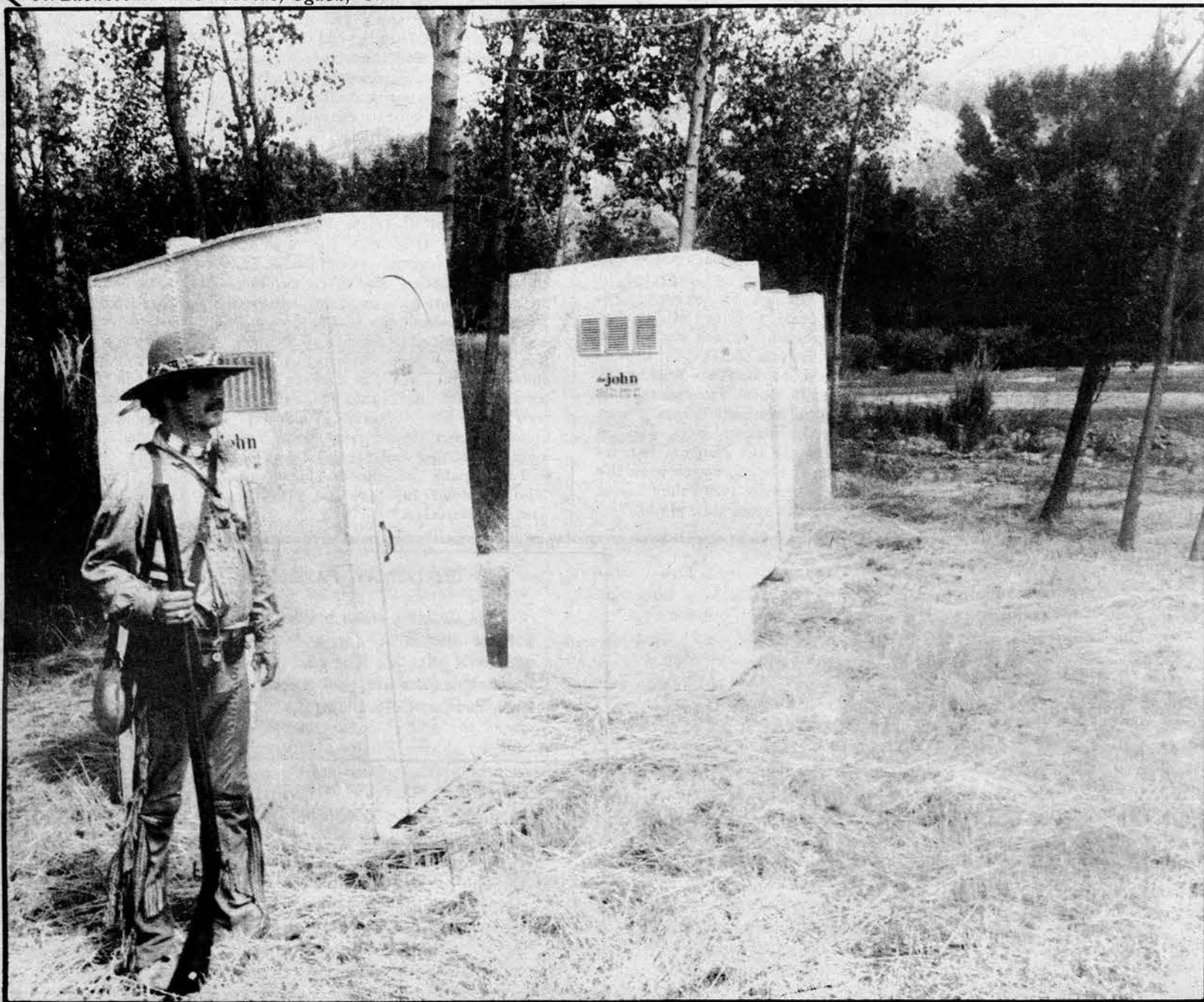
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Cattle surrender

GREGER'S BIZARRE WEST

Ft. Buenaventura Rendezvous, Ogden, Utah

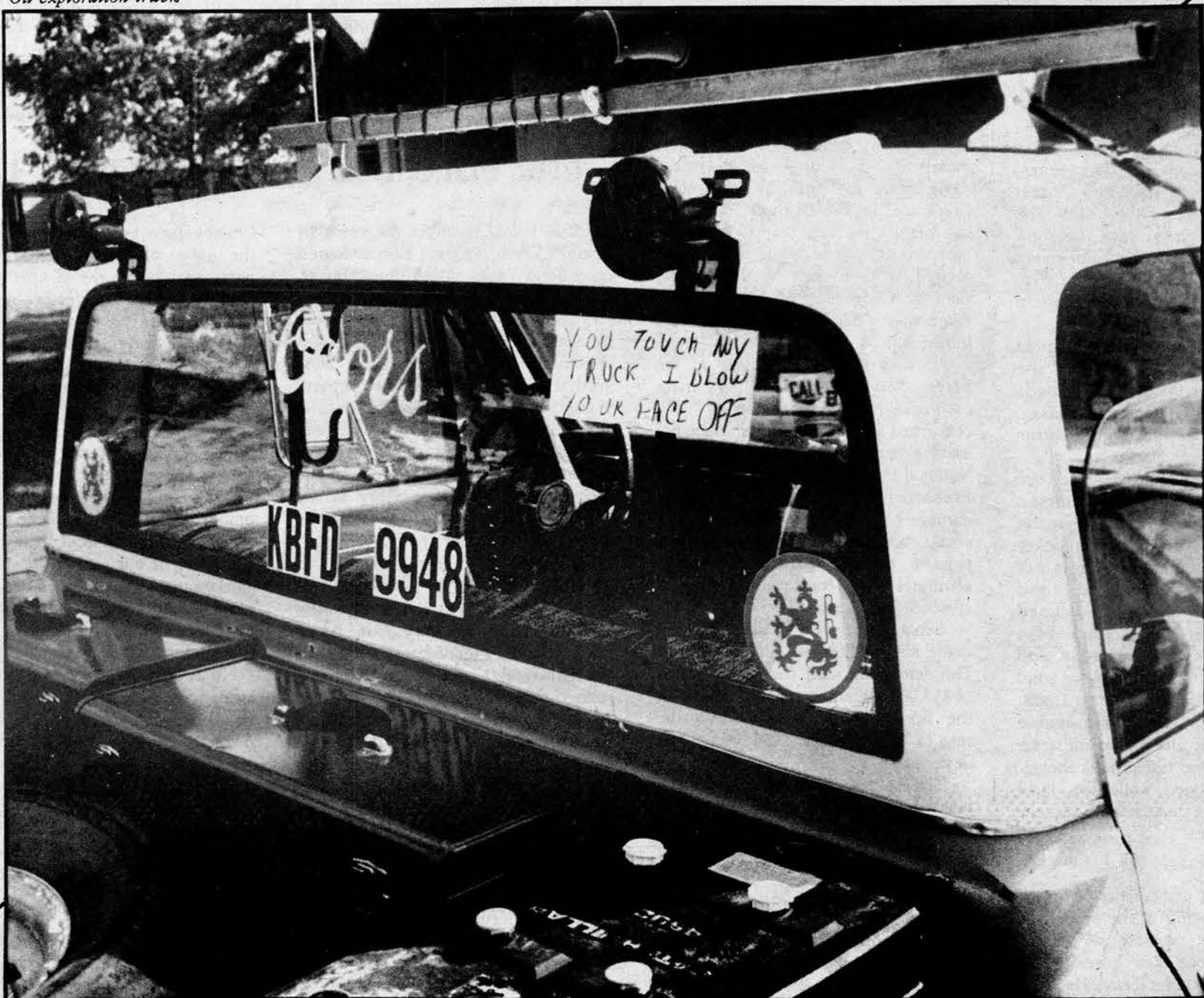


Dubois, Wyoming



Bob Greger's freelance photography has taken him across Wyoming and around the Four Corners area. Formerly living in such outposts as Hobbs, New Mexico and Taylor, Arizona, he now lives in Ogden, Utah.

Oil exploration truck



Armageddon in the forests

Jackson Hole tries its hand at forest management

by Ed Marston

“Armageddon seems to be in style these days,” says Phil Hocker of Jackson, Wyoming, referring to the Forest Service’s belief that unless forests are roaded and logged, they will be consumed by pests, pestilence, and then fire.

But environmentalists have their own vision of Armageddon. They ask if deficit timber sales and forest road building is the Forest Service’s way of settling the wilderness question once and for all. Ed Chaney, a natural resource consultant in Idaho, told the *Denver Post*:

The Forest Service “is on a road-building binge... In my darkest moments, I believe this is an attempt at a de facto resolution of” the wilderness issue.

Only roadless land is eligible for wilderness status; if the agency can road the nine million roadless acres in Idaho, the three million roadless acres in Wyoming, the six million roadless acres in Montana and so on, the issue will disappear.

The conspiracy charge is not confined to Earth First! publications. The *Post*’s story by Dan Jones on roading ran lead in the Sunday, October 21 issue. In addition to quoting Chaney on his dark fears, Jones also quoted unnamed Forest Service employees who said the apparently piecemeal road building effort in the Rocky Mountain states will add up to extensive roading -- to the equivalent of a 140,000-acre strip mine.

The story reported that almost \$900 million, or 75 percent of the agency’s budget, would go to roads and timber sales. It compared that to the \$9 million to be spent on trails this year.

Increasing talk of a conspiracy led Forest Service chief R. Max Peterson to say in Missoula, Montana, that the agency is not practicing “bulldozer diplomacy. The Forest Service is not anti-wilderness.” He said road building expenditures had declined since the Carter years, from \$494 million then to \$456 million today, and that the number of Forest Service road engineers had dipped by 56, to 1,308.

He also said that a reasonable balance between forest uses must be maintained so that timber and energy could be harvested while the land provided wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.

Whether by coincidence or by the fine grinding of the wheels of fate, the question of Forest Service intentions has arisen most starkly on the Bridger-Teton National Forests in the Yellowstone and Teton

National Park area in Wyoming. It is a forest in which the value of commodity outputs such as timber, oil and gas are dwarfed by recreation. Not only does the forest itself get two million recreation visitors a year, but it is part of the complex of public lands which attracts four million visitors yearly, almost two percent of America’s population, to Jackson, Wyoming.

The Bridger-Teton is intensively used by guides and outfitters escorting hunters, fishermen, and sightseers, as well as by freelance visitors. In addition, the 3.4 million acre forest can be seen as a reserve for the future, in case Yellowstone -- beset by pressures of development and grizzlies -- needs lebensraum.

The Jackson community is aware of the importance of the Bridger-Teton roadless lands. Although Teton County is conservative and Republican, all of its local officials, from the Jackson City Council to the Teton County Commissioners to the state legislators, came together this spring to pressure the Wyoming delegation for wilderness protection for key roadless land. (See related story.)

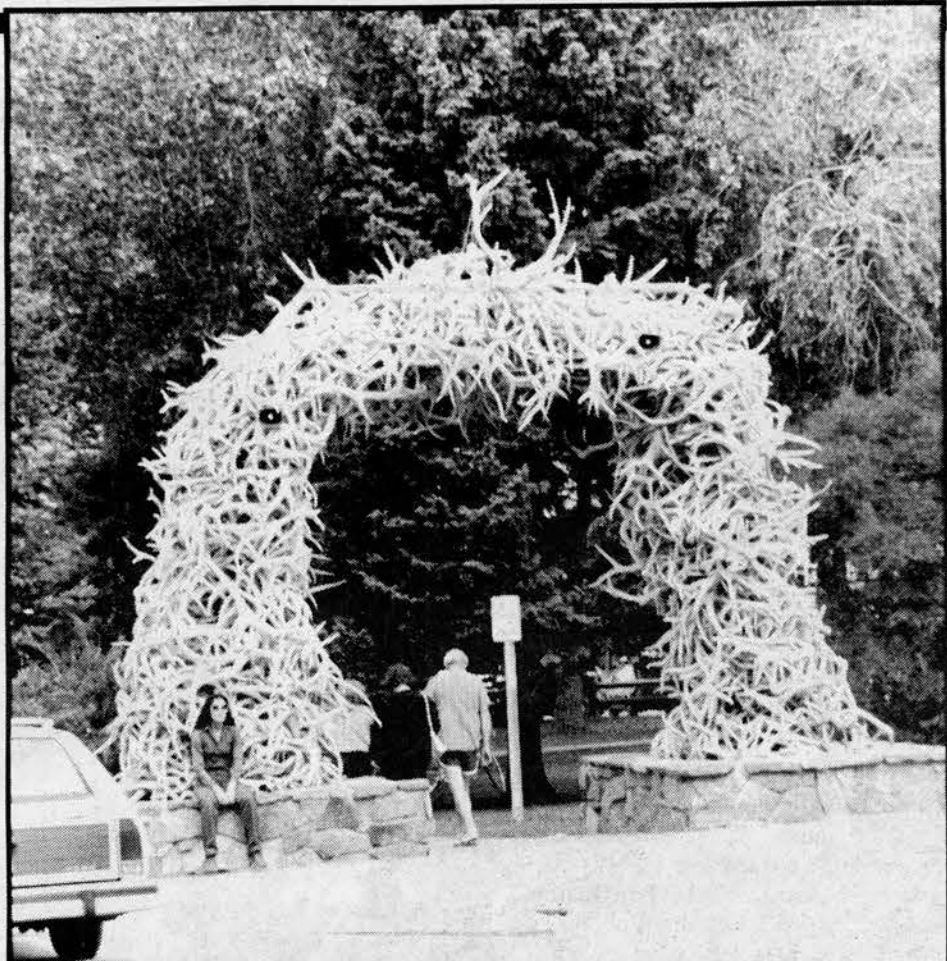
The Wyoming delegation, which is also Republican and conservative, heard its constituents. Congressman Dick Cheney, the state’s sole House member, initially opposed wilderness designation for the Little Granite Creek area on the Bridger-Teton. But the unanimous local support brought him around. It brought him so far around, in fact, that he took to the floor of Congress during October’s discussion of the Wyoming wilderness bill to say:

“I wish to make it clear to the Forest Service that the Wyoming congressional delegation is very concerned about the timber management program in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, and intends to work to ensure that the program does not do damage to the recreational, wildlife, scenic, and other values which we regard as the most important attributes of the forest and the region of which it is a part.”

Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) made similar remarks in the Senate. The delegation said that the creation of 350,000 more acres of wilderness in the Bridger-Teton didn’t mean the rest of the roadless land was to be developed.

The top man on the Bridger-Teton reacted to this quickly. In a letter to the manager of a Louisiana-Pacific mill at nearby Dubois (see text of letter) that employs 200 people and depends on the Bridger-Teton, Supervisor Reid Jackson wrote:

“We are fearful that the commitments made by Congressman Cheney...is going to intensify the controversy over timbering...” The



Antler arch at the center of Jackson, Wyoming

letter also referred to “a media that is biased against timber harvesting where clearcutting is involved” and referred to the media’s “influence and bias.”

He also told the L-P manager: “We will continue to need your help as we work through the sensitive period ahead. All of us need to work together on gaining public support for timbering as a management tool.”

The letter appeared to reveal an agency that was resentful of Congressional, public and media pressure to change traditional practices. But some put a darker interpretation on it. Hocker, who is a Jackson architect and active local environmentalist as well as a Sierra Club national officer, said: “The letter Jackson wrote amounted to a conspiracy to evade the direction which the Bridger-Teton was given by the delegation on the floor of Congress.”

Jackson saw it differently. He explained that Cheney’s statement seems to put the agency in an untenable position -- one where it can’t carry out its mandate to manage. Given the nature of lodgepole pine, he said, “Our options are frankly limited to some form of clearcutting. The alternatives are insect attacks followed by fire.”

Jackson’s staff has responded to the insinuations of an anti-roadless area bias some have drawn from the letter. Forest planner Carl Pence wrote that the release of roadless acreage by the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act “does not, in all cases, mean development.” He said sensitive areas “are being identified by planning for management that will maintain semi-primitive and primitive recreation opportunities.”

“Planning” refers to the Bridger-

The Forest Service writes to L-P

(The following letter was sent by Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson to Robert Baker, the manager of the Louisiana-Pacific mill in Dubois, Wyoming on October 19. Carbon copies went to Dan Budd, Wyoming state representative from Sublette County, and H.L. Jensen, Wyoming state representative from Teton county. Baker is also a state legislator. HCN does not know how the letter came to be public. It was the subject of a front page story in the October 24 *Jackson Hole News* by Angus M. Thuermer, Jr.)

Dear Bob,

I appreciated your visit to my office on October 17 to discuss various issues related to the timber program on the Bridger-Teton National Forest as they relate to your company’s operations.

As you know, we share many of your concerns and we plan to work with you whenever possible to work out solutions that are mutually satisfactory. The Forest Plan will play a very important role in chartering the future timber operations as well as overall resource management.

As discussed, politics associated with the recently passed Wyoming Wilderness Bill are of serious concern to us. We are fearful that commitments made by Congressman

Cheney (see enclosures) to “monitor the timber management program with particular care in the months ahead,” referencing the Bridger-Teton National Forest, is going to intensify the controversy over timbering in some areas on the Forest. This will be particularly true of the Upper Green River areas.

We will continue to need your help as we work through the sensitive period ahead. All of us need to work together on gaining public support for timbering as a management tool.

As mentioned to you during your visit, one of our primary problems in gaining public support has been, and I suspect will continue to be, a media that is biased against timber harvest where clearcutting is involved.

In regard to the media and their influence and bias, I mentioned an editorial from the June, 1983 issue of *American Forests* magazine that speaks to this subject. A copy is enclosed for your information.

Bob, thanks again for taking the time to visit with us. We look forward to a continued good working relationship with you and your company.

Sincerely,
Reid Jackson
Forest Supervisor

Teton's Fifty Year Plan, which is due out this March. Pence, whose remarks were made in a letter to the editors of Jackson papers, is pledging that some roadless areas will be kept roadless without being put in wilderness.

Fred Kingwill, the Bridger-Teton's public information person, was more specific. He said the upcoming Forest Plan will probably drastically decrease the percentage of the land being managed for maximum commodity production. At present, he said, 40 percent is being managed that way. He predicted the plan would drop that figure to 12 to 15 percent, producing about 30 million board feet of timber a year. "It's not a major number." Bridger-Teton has 3.4 million acres, with one-third in wilderness and 135,000 acres of the Palisades area in a wilderness study area.

Kingwill said it is false to say that the public must choose between wilderness and a roaded tree farm. He said the Fifty Year Plan will show that the agency can and will manage for wildlife, for roadless primitive areas, and for a variety of recreation opportunities.

He also said that the tone of Jackson's letter should be put in context. "The comments about a biased press were a personal statement of Reid's," who, he said, has had some unfortunate experiences with reporters.

Kingwill also said the public has to understand the frustration of "resource managers who have spent their lives managing forests and who know that clearcutting (of lodgepole pines) is better than shelterwood cutting. It has the best benefit for the public." The managers, he said, are naturally frustrated at their inability to get that truth across.

"What Reid and others fear is the loss of that management tool" -- the ability to clearcut to prevent eventual conflagrations. That also explains the relationship to the Louisiana-Pacific mill. "Since we don't cut the trees ourselves, we have to depend on the timber industry. I'm glad that letter was printed. We do talk with the timber industry. That's the real world" and the public should be aware of it. But that doesn't mean, he continued, that L-P calls the shots. "We call the shots."

Kingwill didn't directly respond to the question: Does Jackson's letter show a mistrust or dislike of the process by which the public, the media and Congress attempt to influence the Forest Service? But he did indicate that Congress can make impossible demands on the agency, asking for both commodities and for untouched forests. Such incompatible demands put the agency in a no-win situation.

Finally, he urged close attention to the Forest Plan: "That's when we'll be putting our cards on the table."



Phil Hocker

Hocker, the Jackson architect, differed with Pence and Kingwill on the extent to which the agency intends to leave roadless areas alone. The heart of Forest Service policy, he said, is its belief in Armageddon -- the killing of trees by insect and disease, followed by enormous fires. That belief, he said, means the agency can't confine itself to 12 to 15 percent of the forest.

"What if they do a bunch of little clearcuts. What difference will it make" in stopping insects and fire? Their belief, he said, requires that they road and cut all the trees during the forest's cycle. And that, he continued, means the transformation of the entire non-wilderness part of Bridger-Teton into a tree farm.

What is the forest's cycle? "If you look before the white man came, you find the forest would burn in fairly dramatic fashion every 120 to 140 years." So even if the Forest Plan speaks of developing only 15 percent of the land, he said, the agency's logic will require it to develop all the land over 140 years.

Lodgepole pines are well suited to fire: their cones accumulate until a fire, and then sprout in high heat, according to Hocker. That, he said, makes the Forest Service efforts to regenerate lodgepole forests difficult. Clearcuts let in sunshine and raise the temperature of the cones, but, according to Hocker, expensive planting of seedlings is still often necessary.

Isn't that still better than insects, disease, and fire? "We look around and see beautiful, healthy forests that weren't planted by the Forest Service. My belief is that the total process is a beautiful thing, even if it has its ugly phases."

The Congressional process that ended in the creation of 884,000 acres of Wyoming wilderness and 190,000 acres of wilderness study originally had a middleground. A group of Pinedale, Wyoming residents, with rancher John Barlow as spokesman, asked the delegation this summer to legislate multiple use for their Upper Green River area.

They defined their multiple use as banning mining, geothermal development, largescale clearcutting, and building of new roads. The approach would have allowed small-scale timbering and some vehicular activity

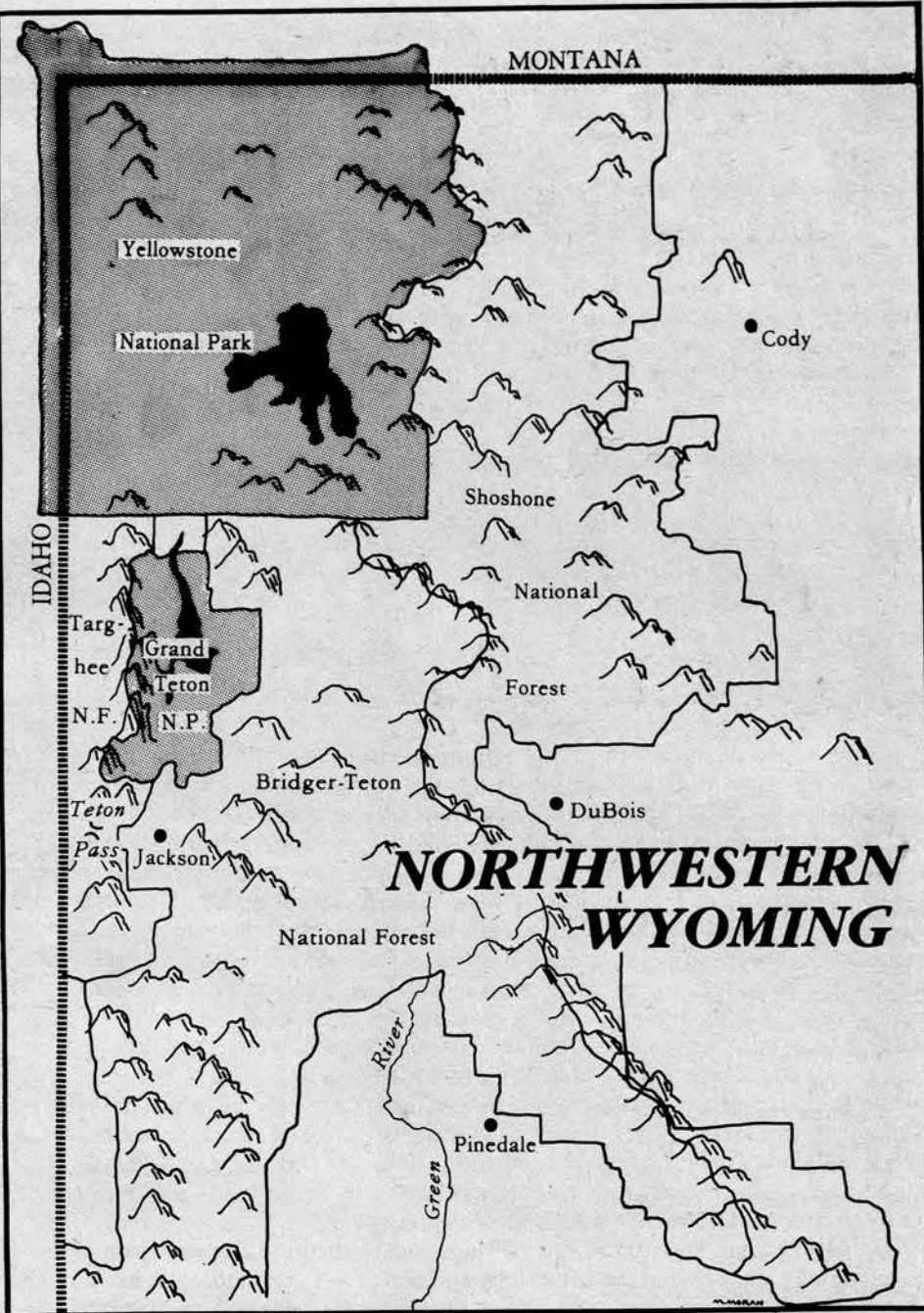
Jackson also fumes over a Getty oil well

The roading and logging of roadless areas is not the only issue which has brought Jackson, Wyoming into conflict with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The community is also aroused over a gas and oil exploration well that Getty Oil, now Texaco, wants to drill six or so miles up roadless Little Granite Creek.

The Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the state of Wyoming have challenged Getty, the Forest Service and the BLM, and have won a major victory.

Perhaps more important, the City of Jackson and Teton County have backed the legal action with political muscle. When Republican Congressman Dick Cheney told the community this spring that Little Granite probably could not be made a part of the proposed Gros Ventre Wilderness area, the county commissioners, town councilmen and state legislators insisted that the delegation make it wilderness.

As a result, the just-passed Wyoming Wilderness Act includes the



(HCN, 6/11/84). According to Barlow, it was an attempt to chart a course between a wilderness lockup and massive clearcutting and roading. However, Congressman John Seiberling (D-OH) refused to consider the middle ground and it died.

Hocker said the Upper Green River proposal deserved to die. "We were afraid the Forest Service would develop a new word for clearcut -- that they'd call it an insect infestation management area or something. We didn't feel the special management language proposed" would stop them.

According to Hocker, there is evidence to indicate that only the most stringent, precise controls can keep the agency from roading and logging.

He said that in the 1920s and 1930s, the Forest Service designated some areas as Primitive, an agency classification which banned all development.

But, he continued, with the same stroke of a pen, the agency would then declassify such areas. He cited as an example the declassification of a strip of land down the center of the Gila Primitive Area in New Mexico, so that a road could be built through it. Actions such as those, he said, convinced conservationists that a much stronger classification was needed -- one which would deny the agency any discretion. Out of that decision, he said, came the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Little Granite Creek area Getty wants to drill in. But the act also has language that says the wilderness status is subject to all "existing valid rights." Getty has interpreted this to mean that the area's new status is a detail. Getty's Bob Jacob said, "It does not affect our ability to drill the well."

The legal issue is complex. But Little Granite as a legal case is less interesting than Little Granite as a sign of how Jackson is redefining its attitude toward the public land around it. There is a lot of that land. Story Clark, who heads up the Jackson Hole Alliance, says National Parks and National Forests are 97 percent of the county.

She also says, "There's a consensus developing about the Bridger-Teton in the community. The feeling is growing that we want to protect wildlife, scenery, and recreation." That preservation feeling is clearly visible, she says, in the current county commissioner races. "Four years ago, that wasn't the case. The new attitude takes me by surprise because it wasn't always true."

Attorney Bob Schuster, who represents the alliance in the Little Granite case, says, "The community is very strong in our favor. I've never seen a situation where there has been such grassroots opposition to mineral development."

Schuster says the Little Granite case could mark a change in the relationship between the oil industry and federal agencies on the one hand, and the community on the other. "We've had 130 wells drilled in Teton County and on the Bridger-Teton, and we've never raised a stink. We've never filed a lawsuit. Industry has come to us 130 times and said: let us drill. And the people have said OK. Jackson, after all, is just a regular Wyoming community. There aren't firebrands here."

But, he says, Jackson expects industry to also be reasonable. "When we ask once, just once, out of 130 times, that development not be allowed, industry refuses. They thumb their noses at the town council, at the commissioners, at the Senate and House of Representatives. That kind

[Continued on page 16]

Escalante...

[Continued from page 1]

office of the Forest Service is a short main street with a few stores and gas stations. There is (que barbaridad!) one bar. Along cottonwood-shaded side streets are tidy, rather than imposing, homes.

People work hard here, but livestock, a bit of logging, a small oasis of irrigated hay and a few oilwells do not a boom comprise. The signs are faded, the pickups are mostly old, the ranch trucks -- one-tons and such -- even older. The town seems worn thin with hard work and bitter heat and winter's isolation. If there is madness here, it is not the blatant greed of the resort towns, the crude avarice of boom-and-bust economies. It is quiet and lingering and private, a hidden legacy.

We -- Princess, Varmint and self -- pull into a gas station, brakes squealing at the bats in the driveshaft. And feel immediately out of place. Escalante is one of those towns where everyone stares: at you, your license plate, the stickers on your bumper, your aloha shirt and electric shorts. I feel like a fat steer at a stock-judging class.

I know these people, not one by one, but in my blood. I come from similar stock: Mormon migrants, displaced and thrust by events into a land which overwhelms the senses with space. Those who farmed and ranched, for the most part, never got rich. They survived, for the most part, and kept their faith. Sheep and cows and hay, the Lord giveth and taketh away. This is an isolated community, like Hopi, but one in which the often-cut roots have not fully grasped its soil. It has its oddities, a la Faulkner, but there is much shared and much unspoken. There is a stange blend of steely practicality and weird notion. Rumor and gossip shape the social life and maintain order more than does the county sheriff. Into the 1940s the town was governed by the Bishop, an arrangement that was accepted from the days of the Mormon frontier. It worked. What works shall be the law. Amen.

My Wyoming plates are more respectable than those of Iowa or Minnesota. They have a cowboy silhouette on a horse in mid-buck. California or New Jersey plates are the rough equivalent of leprosy. Though Wyoming plates signify that one drinks, probably to excess.

A brand new and thoroughly hammered pickup chugs up to the pump, blazoned with "America Needs American Oil" stickers. Two cowdogs circle in the back, an economic paradox. A straightforward translation of the stickers would read "Escalante Needs American Money." It does. Badly.

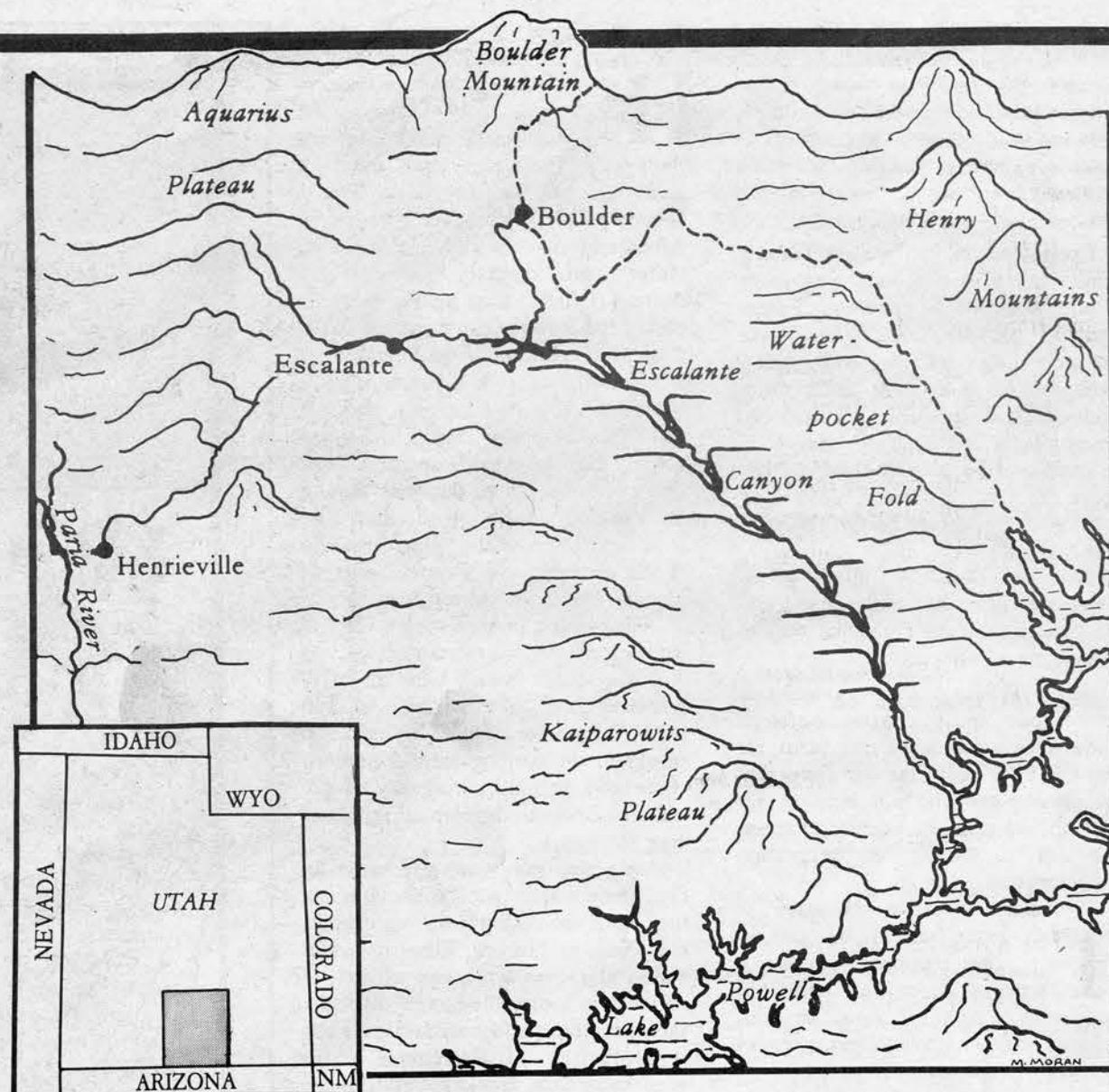
What are the symptoms of a dying town? Simply this: in the fecund state of Utah where birth rates are twice the national average, Escalante has dwindled. In a 1941 guide to the state, the population is given as 1,105. Current estimates top out at 750.

Father Francisco Silvestre Velez de Escalante, for whom the river and the town were named, supposed the befuddled wanderings of his 1776 expedition in the canyons to the south to be "...perhaps as benign punishment for our sins." One campsite, at present-day Lee's Ferry, was designated "Salsipuedes." Get out if you can.

Escalante's children, more than two hundred years later, seem to be following this advice. There are few jobs for those fortunate enough to get college degrees or technical training elsewhere to return to. The native youth are unlikely to become petroleum geologists or oilfield electricians simply by virtue of availability.

Even so, the oilfolks, who tend to say "y'all" a lot, need groceries and gas and year-round housing. Backpackers visiting the canyons stop for a half-a-tank and munchies on the way in or out. All the expensive stuff -- backpacks, cameras, boots, BMWs -- are purchased outside.

Imagine, for a moment, the chagrin of the local rancher observing the spawn of Phoenix and L.A. Sierra Clubbers -- unbelievers all -- rolling smugly through his town on their way to the canyons. Dressed in their Patagonia finery, sleek, affluent, possessing Nikons and other fruits of the dream. To the canyons. The kind of places that Ebenezer Bryce called "A hell of a place to lose a cow." Cruising in airconditioned splendor past the true marvels of Escalante: the irrigation ditches, dug by sweaty hands, the houses. Paved streets. To the damned canyons. How long, Lord, how long?



The west side of the Colorado Plateau has, in common with much of Utah, "more cattlemen and fewer cattle than any state in the West." Much of the arid range has been devastated by overgrazing and the combination of high overhead and lousy beef prices has hit marginal ranches hard. In cowcountry, the phrase describing the fate of shoestring operations is succinct: belly up. The victims of flash-flood economics.

When the town was isolated and largely self-sufficient -- mutton, wool and beef; garden truck, homesewn drawers and handforged wagon parts -- the saleable surplus livestock and the tightknit cooperative economy of the Mormon village guaranteed sustenance for all, barely-gittin'-by as the phrase runs. The requirements of mechanized agriculture -- gas, diesel, tractor, trucks -- have made cash or credit a necessity.

Until fairly recent times, there was one (dirt) road to Escalante. The nearby (by southern Utah standards) town of Boulder got its mail by packmule until 1935 via a tortuous trail known as Hell's Backbone. The road to Escalante is now paved and the road to Boulder soon will be. A blessing? Perhaps to the recreational tourist visitor. But the roads have, in a sense, bled the place dry: money and children have gone out faster than they've come back and the isolated, proud, self-sufficient life of the pioneer is no longer possible. In its stead, there remains a gnawing hunger.

We pay for our half-tank of gas. The Princess uses the restroom. The Varmint exchanges compliments with the cowdogs. We go to the grocery for odds and ends. The lady running the store is pleasant, quiet. Her steps are small and careful, as if she walked with a child.

OUT OF TOWN

"...the Lady of Permutations... she passes and things pass. Man's mortal reason cannot encompass her."

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*
Canto VII, circle four

Out of town, in a place like Escalante, covers a lot of area. North looms the segment of the Aquarius Plateau known as Boulder Mountain. West, the center part of the Aquarius, Escalante Mountain, and the Table Cliffs Plateau rear like walls. When the Mormon colonists arrived in 1875, sunset was something they had to look up to see. The land, in the large sense, hasn't changed. Roads are like barbed-wire scratches on the body of a bull, with overgrazed benches and clearcuts like patches of mange.

Southward, the Kaiparowits -- the Fifty-Mile Mountain -- humps its way down to the drowned intricacies of Glen Canyon. East are the convoluted domes of the Waterpocket fold, a slickrock monocline, and the maze of canyons through which the Escalante River and its tributaries reach what was once the Colorado River and is now a huge settling pond.

The setting sun casts the shadows of pines from the High Plateaus like ghost arrows across the descending planes of rock and sand that Captain Dutton of the Powell Survey called "...an extreme of desolation, the blankest solitude, a superlative desert."

From the dry terraces, skylines are long strokes of violet and blue, dimmed by dust and haze from civilization to the southwest. Hidden are the defiles and gorges where water finds her way down, obeying laws whose meanings are explicit and old as the earth.

The descent from the town into the canyons has a metaphoric quality. Like the ancient Chinese, the native people of this region found in their country the quality of womanhood, the grandmother archetype. The mountains might be seen as her shoulders and breasts and knees. The canyons, with their deep and rosy folds, were surely the entrance to the womb, the source of life shaped by the yielding of rock to the insistence of water.

Life on the Colorado Plateau has always tracked the course of water. Dwellings, from the stone houses of the Anasazi to the ranchhouses of the Mormons, cluster along streamcourses. The cattlemen worked their herds down canyon along the streams. The prospectors during the abortive Glen Canyon gold rush in the 1890s worked up canyon from placer deposits along the Colorado into the network of canyons, the greatest human presence in terms of numbers that the area has ever seen. Gold was found and could be gotten, but the huge, riverborne dredge of Robert Brewster Stanton's Hoskaninni Company proved a total loss. The gold dust of the canyon country, almost as a rebuke to a machine that looked like a floating hotel, proved too fine for mechanical recovery. Like most of the booms and fevers of those who came here primarily to get rich, the gold rush went bust, kaput, zip. Belly up.

In Escalante, stories are told of strange doings "out of town": madness and suicide in the winter cowcamps, the planes of drug runners landing on lonely roads, pickups riddled with bullets and burnt. For every specific, there are many mysteries. The lower Escalante is one big hiding place.

On November 11, 1934, when Boulder was still a packhorse town, twenty-year-old Everett Ruess set out with two burros and a load of provisions to

explore the Escalante Desert. A week later, sheepman Clayton Porter saw him near the mouth of the Escalante River. If Reuss met anyone after that, they've kept it quiet. Searches by local Mormon parties and Indian trackers found nothing except a cryptic scrawl on the rocks by a dead campfire: "Nemo, 1934." A reference to Jules Verne? A reversal of the word "omen?" Perhaps his diary, if it is ever found, will tell. Until then, a stanza from a Ruess poem is a proper epitaph:

Say that I starved;
that I was lost and weary;
That I was burned and blinded
by the desert sun;
Footsore, thirsty, sick
with strange diseases;
Lonely and wet and cold
...but that I kept my dream.

CLOSE TO WATER

*"With the pristine wisdom granted them,
they understood that the earth was a living
entity like themselves. She was their mother;
they were made from her flesh;
they suckled at her breast."*

White Bear Fredericks and Frank Waters
Book of the Hopi

The Escalante River runs soft and clear under the bridge. The Varmint exits the bat-infested pickup and beelines to the water, lapping and wading. The Princess and I pack up, lock up and begin the walk. A BLM sign directs our attention to "Moqui Houses" perched under the sandstone rim, small shelters and storage cells of the Virgin River Anasazi culture which are scattered along the river. For them, too, it was marginal country. There are no Cliff Palaces or Keet Seels in the Escalante. Below the pinon-juniper belt, which bottoms at about 5000 feet, the canyons were a frontier for the ancient Indians. The lower plateaus are thinly grassed, given largely to shadscale, blackbrush and cactus. In the narrow floodplain of the river are cottonwoods and cattails, but farmable openings are few and game has never been plentiful.

Across the road from the "Moqui Houses" is another, built since my last visit. A sign advises that the trail begins on the other side of the river. I wonder who lives there; some spiritual descendant of canyon country hideouts like Peter Shurtz or Cass Hite or Charles Hall? A rich refugee from the cities?

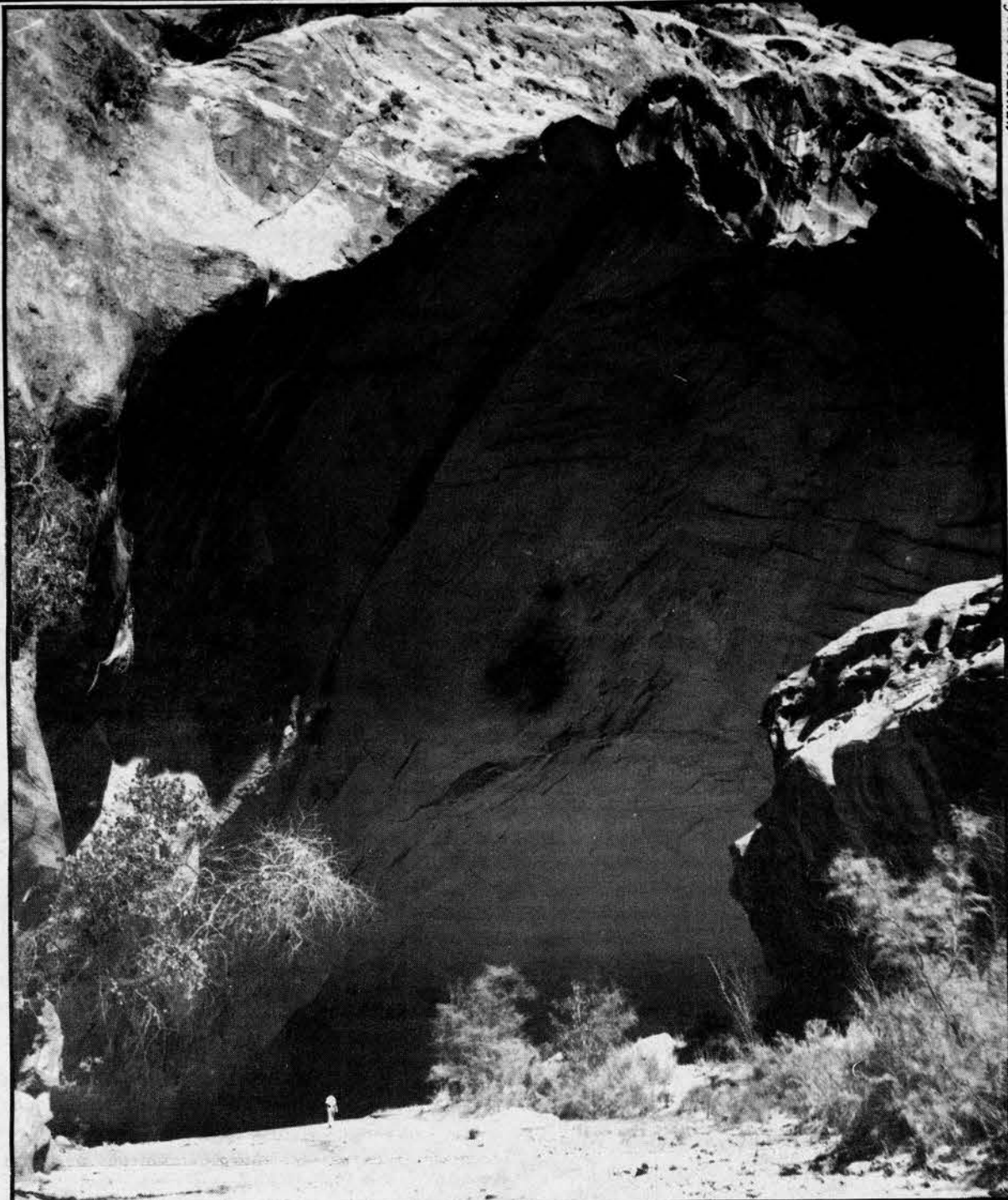
Cottonwoods show only the tiniest buds and the willows are leafless and scratchy. We wander, wade, wander. Under the shade of the rimrock, barefoot, I find myself walking on ice with last year's leaves frozen into it. In a quicksand meander, a stone mushroom stands alone with flashflood debris tangled on its top. One log is handhewn, a timber from a bridge wrecked by flood. Escalante Natural Bridge rears, framing an ellipse of darkening sky, and we camp in the jungle of sage and dried cowflop on the floodplain.

At dawn, cliff swallows tumble from their nests and wheel across a perfectly clear sky. The arch spans its opening with absolute, useless dignity, a way from the rock back into the rock. In the alcove underneath, the sky is framed in red stone, the shape of a huge eye.

Where a cold stream enters from a side canyon, we startle big catfish out of their formations and wade up slick channels blessed into shape by centuries of fast water. A seep chants quietly from the roots of boxelders, the moisture painting frescoes of oxide and moss, watering a tiny garden of cress. The Princess raises her leg like a Degas dancer, to plant a bare foot on the wet rock. I watch, making an unspoken link in my mind between the present and the always.

We drink clear water and pass between canyon walls that rise in scooped-out meanders above a creek that twists like a startled snake. There is an identity, in the native mythology of this country, shared by snakes and water: a sinuous form, a seamless flow, a common knowledge. Petroglyphs of wavy lines are frequent; Snake Clan signatures? water symbols? Among the sedges at the stream's edge we see a small, dark-green snake, fleeing from us in the same apex as the petroglyphs and the water.

After the expanse of the benchlands, the scale of the canyons is small and intimate. Close to



Escalante Wilderness

water, the views are short. Our eyes meet rock in all directions except up to the sky and down to the stream. In a few steps we pass from the country of catfish and beaver to the terrain of lizard and ringtail cat. Each country has its own plants and inhabitants. Cattail to horsetail to tamarisk and willow, grass, sand, cactus, by cottonwood to willow and tamarisk to water.

The walls are Navajo Sandstone but the streambed is cobbled with pebbles of lava and shards of igneous glass, swirled with hues of ocher and oxblood. In a gap between the tower and the wall, a huge lava boulder rests far above recent highwater marks, a relic from the high plateaus, hammered into roundness by monumental floods.

I've been here before. I locate our camp under a familiar overhang and we traverse up to a broad ledge where Indians camped and worked. What did they do here? The canyon is too narrow and flood-swept for farming, but the dusty ledge is littered with tiny corn cobs, the Anasazi equivalent of granola bar wrappers.

On the slopes above are large knuckles of glassy flint, some bedded with hammerstones and surrounded by a corona of chips struck from their cores, lying where they were left by the toolmakers who packed in corn and dried meat, shaped the flint and left with finished points, drills, axes and such. In the exposed sandstone of the ledge are channels ground by the process of smoothing and dulling the edge of tools to be gripped in hand or bound to shafts. There is a perfectly spherical hole in the soft rock at the back of the ledge, about a foot wide and deep, a mystery to me, and petroglyphs which vary from very old and oxidized to strikingly fresh, comparatively recent.

Where a squarecut boulder faces the wall, Kokopilau, the hump-backed fluteplayer charms a two-headed water serpent. The Kokopilau were katydid persons who spoke up for the first people of the Fourth World. Two of them were severely tested by Eagle and won with their courage the right of the human people to live on the land and the Eagle's promise to deliver their prayers to the Creator.

In his hump, Kokopilau carried the seeds of vegetation and the music of his flute brought warmth to the land. One of his songs is sung by the modern Hopi, but the words are not Hopi words

and their meaning is unknown. The Kokopilau on the boulder is that of the Gray Flute Clan and Society, the record of a migration, perhaps, or simply of a covenant.

In the dust, I find a piece of bone, carefully cut and smoothed into a gamecounter or charm, white as new ivory. I feel more welcome and at ease than was the case in the town. Like the people who chipped their symbols here, I will not stay. The air is sweet, the stream cool and close, the rimrock flames with late sunlight.

The Princess turns and looks at me. "It's good to know," she says, "that someplace is safe."

BACK TO AMERICA

*"Now may you see the fleeting vanity
of the goods of Fortune for which men tear down
all that they are, to build a mockery."*

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*
Canto VII, circle four

It's always a long walk back to the road. To car troubles and debts. To coal-fired stinkpots, stripmines, trailertowns, damned dams, waterskiers, television presidents and trash. The peace of the canyons is a relic, dear to me but to others useless. I deeply appreciate hot showers, cold beer and painless dentistry. As fringe benefits rather than foundations. There is much I can simply do without.

One of the curious paradoxes of the American experience is that many of those who live in closest proximity to wilderness exhibit the greatest contempt for it. That there is both fear and hatred of the unknown and tenuously possessed landscape, one can freely grant. Given the struggles of colonists to live a life only marginally suited to this region -- the barely required hard labor, the disappointments of weather and soil and foundered dreams; the claustrophobia engendered by punishing heat and long winters under the wall of the High Plateaus; the oppressive sense of huge, unpeopled space -- I can understand and even sympathize with the cowboy who stares, spits and says, "I don't go no higher than the cows do."

[Continued on page 14]

Jack McEllan

Escalante...

(Continued from page 13)

Or refers to the lower canyons as "a miserable son-of-a-bitchin' place to gather stock."

Narrow focus can be a form of self-protection. I've experienced it. A fencepost or the ass of a cow is, at times, a safer concern than the far horizon.

There are people in Escalante who love the land in a way different from that of the backpacking tourist. Those who feel, perhaps rightly, entitled by virtue of their persistence to make a living from it by any available means. That these means may be repellent to outsiders is, to many of the residents, a subtext. Who lives here, they ask?

We pass the new house and a teenaged boy fishing with a slightly sullen expression. Back at the truck, we are accosted by a man in his mid-thirties who looks distinctly uncomfortable, as if unsure of his reception. He introduces himself as Robert Weed. The house is his. He hands us a leaflet which describes the discovery of CO2 reserves at the heads of the canyons which we have been walking.

Following an announcement by ARCo that exploratory drilling has found carbon dioxide locked in the rock, the local governments, stockmen's associations and other powers-that-be have reversed their support for wilderness designations.

CO2 is used, it seems, to force flagging oilwells to give up their last petrochemical gasp. Development will mean, among other things, pipelines, blasting, drilling, grading, hauling. Fun with trucks and dozers. American Money.

Of Weed's group, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Escalante mayor Mohr Christensen later told the *Deseret News*: "Do you know who funds that outfit? The EPA. They fund the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club funds this bunch of parasites down there." Considering the political drift of the Reagan EPA, this is probably news to them. Such statements can probably be taken in the same spirit as those of Ulster politicians who claim evidence of a conspiracy between the Pope and the Kremlin. Hysteria rampant. It is hard to picture Robert Weed as the spearhead of a conspiracy, whether of parasites, Trotskyites or Abbeyites. He seems painfully, almost aching, shy.

I shrug out of my pack, unlock the truck and raise the hood to clean sparkplugs and placate the demons that inhabit elderly vehicles. Weed shuffles back to his lonely house. A few weeks later, an effigy bearing his name was hanged from signposts in the town of Escalante, his springbox salted, pipes broken and spiked boards buried in

The guy is friendly, a rough-and-tumble type.

A barely-gittin' by sort. If we talked politics, he might punch me in the nose.

Or hang me in effigy.

his access road. An expression of the displeasure of the freedom-loving taxpayers of Escalante.

Back in the allegedly real world, I clean sparkplugs. Spiffy cars bearing tourists zip by, downshifting at the bridge and buzzing up the dugway. They goggle and don't stop. A battered, obviously local pickup passes and labors up the grade. Shortly, it comes back. Across the windshield is a homemade sticker that reads STOP THE COUGAR! SAVE OUR DEER HERD. A stocky good-old-boy steps out and ambles over, the sunburnt antithesis of Robert Weed.

"I seen yer hood up. Got trouble? I'm goin' to town."

"Naw. Just a little tune-up. But it's good of you to stop."

It is. A chivalrous and decent act, overlooked by the gringos hastening to vacation's end in Phoenix and Vegas and Salt Lake. The guy is friendly, a rough-and-tumble type. A barely-gittin' by sort. If we talked politics after too many beers, he might punch me in the nose. Or hang me in effigy. Fortunately, politics don't come up and we part friends.

"A mind that seeks to understand and grasp this is therefore best, Both bad and good, and much of both, must be borne in a lifetime spent on earth in these anxious days."

Beowulf

POSTSCRIPT

Much of Box-Death Hollow was included in the Utah Wilderness Bill, but the ridge which separates the Box and Death Hollow drainages was left out. Dick Carter, head of the Utah Wilderness Association, says the bill puts some good stipulations on CO2 development along the dividing Antone Ridge, but that the very presence of these stipulations indicates the way is

open for the development of a CO2 field in the headwaters of the Escalante.

Also in the works are plans for a uranium processing facility near the Paria/Hackberry Wilderness Study Area and the paving of Burr Trail, currently a high-standard graded road, which is touted as an "economic boon to local communities" by Utah Senator Jake Garn. Estimated cost of the paving is about \$25 million.

According to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the main beneficiary would be Del Webb Corporation, developers of Sun City, Arizona and sole concessionaire on Lake Powell. A massive lobbying effort led by the alliance, however, succeeded in delaying the project at least for a year. Congress refused to include project funding in the 1985 Interior Department Appropriations Bill.

Given the nature of human passions, there will be a lot of fights, verbal at least, to come. Such conflicts as occurred over the plans to stripmine the Kaiparowits have left a residue of bitter feeling, the feeling of having been cheated by environmentalists, politicians and government agencies. That this emotion might be suddenly replaced by calm and sweet reason is not likely.

"The marriage of people to a place," observed Wallace Stegner, "may be close and considerate, and it may be hardly more than sanctioned rape." The state of the land is a legacy which, regardless of what is done only by some of us, is our collective responsibility. It is a biological fact that there are no "safety zones." Still, the common decency to refrain from despoiling what is irreplaceable and beautiful to gain a fistful of cash seems both difficult and necessary.

□

C.L. Rawlins is a man of many talents who lives in Boulder, Wyoming.

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For the past year, the members of the Western Colorado Congress have waged a tough fight to call this project for what it is and defend the right of rural citizens (human and otherwise) to determine land use.

Our goals are honorable but not easily won. WE NEED YOUR HELP! The most important way to help is to join (\$15 per year) and/or we will gladly take contributions of any size. To help and for more information contact Western Colorado Congress at P.O. Box 472, Montrose, Colorado 81402 (303) 249-1978.

OPINION

Can the Forest Service survive?

The Bridger-Teton National Forest in western Wyoming is unique for its beauty and for its location near Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. It attracts two million visitors yearly and is a vital part of the tourist economy centered on the town of Jackson.

If any National Forest in America should emphasize recreation, wildlife and scenery, it is the Bridger-Teton. That common sense conclusion is also consistent with the Forest Service's policy of supporting local dependent industries. In this case, the major dependent industry is hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation.

The Forest Service also has a policy of meeting national need, and two million visitors a year is one heck of a national need.

It is within that context that the letter from B-T Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson to a Louisiana-Pacific mill manager should be read. The letter is not sinister; even his critics tell us that Mr. Jackson is a good man. But the letter reveals professional characteristics that are out of place on the B-T: a very heavy emphasis on producing commodities, a political naivete about his area, and a hostility toward the press and perhaps toward public process.

The major question Mr. Jackson's letter raises is: Why has the Forest Service kept him on as supervisor of the B-T for so many years? Why hasn't the agency transferred him to a commodity-oriented forest where his own inclinations would be more appropriate? Or, to be more positive, why hasn't the agency brought in a supervisor who would be in sympathy with the Jackson area's recreation economy, who would have less loyalty to cutting trees and drilling wells, and be more astute in dealing with the press?

If the agency had gotten the proper person in charge of the B-T, it might have avoided two unfortunate conflicts. First, it might not now be

crossways with the Wyoming delegation on the issue of forest management. Because of Mr. Jackson's management, the Jackson community has decided that its need for unroaded and unlogged land on the forest will not be honored by the agency. So it turned to the Congress, asking it for wilderness protection in some areas and for arm-twisting to prevent roading in other areas.

The Wyoming delegation obliged in both cases, creating 350,000 acres of new wilderness on the B-T and warning the Forest Service to listen closely to the public on management of the remaining roadless area.

Mr. Jackson was unable to appreciate the political forces which brought pro-commodity legislators like Congressman Dick Cheney and Senator Malcolm Wallop to the floors of their respective houses with such a warning. Lacking such understanding, he wrote to Louisiana-Pacific complaining that the delegation was taking management of the forest out of his hands.

Of course it was. That was the point of the Wyoming wilderness bill and of the floor language. Management was being taken out of his hands not because of a "biased" press or a misguided delegation, but because the Jackson community couldn't live with the kind of management he was imposing.

Criticism of the B-T management is not limited to the clearcutting issue. The proposed six-mile road up Little Granite Creek to give Getty Oil access to a drill site is another example of political insensitivity. Everyone from Governor Ed Herschler and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission down to the Jackson city council has objected to the drilling proposal.

So intense was the pressure that the Wyoming delegation was forced to act in outright opposition to oil and gas interests and put Little Granite into

wilderness. Politicians hate being put into no-win situations, and we wonder if the delegation's strong language on the B-T management issue wasn't provoked by irritation over Little Granite Creek.

The delegation certainly has every reason to blame the Forest Service for any political pain it suffered. The agency should have done everything possible to get Getty to surrender its lease "voluntarily." Mr. Jackson could have told Getty:

"The high emotions this proposal is generating endanger my agency's ability to manage the forest. You've got to give that well up." If Getty refused, the B-T should have asked the BLM to lift the lease. That was an especially defensible move after the Interior Department's Board of Land Appeals ruled this spring that the Getty lease was revocable if wilderness values are threatened.

Such a stand would have been no more of a policy excursion than Mr. Jackson took in writing to Louisiana-Pacific. But it is clear that his willingness to take risks and use imagination to resolve problems runs all in one direction -- a pro-commodity direction. So it probably never occurred to him or to others on the Bridger-Teton to pressure Getty to give up its lease.

It also apparently never occurred to the Forest Service regional or national office to put the B-T in charge of a supervisor who could operate creatively. They failed to see that the B-T, of all the nation's forests, required special treatment.

Why did they fail to see something that was obvious years ago? Perhaps because the agency can only think in terms of management which maximizes roading and logging, whether or not it is appropriate to a forest and region. One statistic tells the story. The Forest Service will spend about \$900 million this year on roading and logging. It will spend \$9 million on its deteriorating trail system. That is a ratio of 100 to 1.

Several months ago, we asked: Can the Forest Service be reformed? Now, after seeing that the agency can't even get along with the Wyoming delegation, we ask: Can the Forest Service survive?

--Ed Marston

A FEW MORE SMACKERS

won't turn us into Prince Charming.

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Tales of Julianne and Foxy and King...

by Peter Anderson

While they're certainly a significant part of the western landscape, I've never paid much attention to cattle. But every fall, when local ranchers bring their herds down from the high country, I end up with a few stragglers out by my house. Despite the strategically placed cowpies left like land mines out in the yard, I don't mind having them around for a few days. I like to think that it's a time for getting acquainted with my bovine neighbors.

One day this fall, while this old heifer was staking out her claim in the woodshed out back, I was looking through my notes taken from some old issues of the local paper when I came across some interesting cow lore. Back in 1917, a calf by the name of King Ormsby Jane Rag Apple was the pride of this valley.

"\$53,000 calf Has Cousin Here; Dairy Aristocrat on Wilson Farm" said the headline. King's grandmother, having set all kinds of milk production records, became famous that year. Her kin in turn achieved a great deal of notoriety in cattlemen's circles, which resulted in some big sales. When King's father sold for \$20,000 and her cousin sold for \$53,000, Mr. C.O. Wilson must have been one very happy man.

"The blood of this family is more

aristocratic than the crowned heads of Europe," wrote the editor, "because while the crowned heads are good only for getting people into wars and trouble, these cattle feed the nations. Their pure-bred ancestors have been on record for centuries."

I may very well have been smacking an aristocrat on the butt when I found that old heifer out in the woodshed later that afternoon, but she needed to know that she was abusing my hospitality. After she managed to knock over a cord and a half of stacked wood on her way out the door, I must admit that I was leaning toward the widely held conception that cattle are nothing special; that they are dull, boring, and generally lacking in intelligence.

Then a few days later, in an old Denver paper, I read about Julianne, "a pregnant, 700-pound, free-spirit of a cow." Apparently Julianne had an irritating habit of jumping five-foot fences and ravaging vegetable gardens in a nearby town. Rancher Sidney Kraftsow finally gave up on her, selling the heifer to a rancher down the road.

But Julianne, evidently not happy with her new home, embarked on a thirty-five mile trek across rivers, fences, and highways, and stumbled into Kraftsow's yard twenty hours later. Red Hayes, the fellow who bought Julianne, was flabbergasted.

"Talk about instinct," he said, "I'm amazed that she had that good a sense of direction." Hayes had followed her tracks, but lost the trail when she crossed the Econlockhatchee River.

A professor in animal sciences from the University of Central Florida was equally amazed. "It's a homing instinct that cats, dogs, and pigeons have," he said, "but I had no idea that cattle had that kind of ability."

Now there's some cud to chew on. Maybe we don't know as much about cattle as we think we do. Maybe they've still got some renegade in their genes, left over from their aurochs ancestors.

Torkell Swanson thought so. According to the local paper in 1883, Torkell claimed at a farmers' convention that he had come up with a strain of cattle capable of outrunning coyotes. Foxy, the first of this new breed, was "a bit queer when she was born," he said. "When I first saw her two days after her birth, she was a long-limbed slender-built little critter, and when I walked up to her, she leapt off like a doe."

Torkell claimed it was two weeks before he could get close enough to pet Foxy. He went on to say that various predators had polished off half his herd that winter, adding that Foxy, despite some close encounters, always managed to escape without a scratch. When this elusive heifer gave birth to



some offspring a year later, Torkell said they turned out just like her. "I guess you'd say they had a touch of the wild in them, because in winter, when fodder had run low, they'd go out in the forest and forage for themselves."

It sounds like Torkell was feeding the boys at the convention something other than fodder. Nevertheless, he throws the gate open to some speculation. I'd always figured that a cow is a cow is a cow; that cattle had about as much personality as a pound of ground beef. Now I'm reconsidering. As I head down the highway, passing by all those humble critters out in the pastures, I'll try to remember that there may be a Foxy, or a Julianne, or a King Ormsby Jane Rag Apple out there.

Peter Anderson is a freelance writer who lives ten miles east of the Continental Divide at 9,000 feet, near Salida, Colorado.

Little Granite...

(Continued from page 14)

of arrogance is dangerous to this state."

Schuster also wonders why the agency isn't showing as much initiative on behalf of Jackson as it is for the Louisiana-Pacific mill at Dubois. "Why isn't the Forest Service trying to solve the Little Granite situation? Why aren't they moving to lift the lease?"

The legal tide was running against Getty even before Little Granite was made wilderness. In response to an appeal from the state and the environmental groups, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled this spring that the BLM and

Forest Service had not done a proper EIS on Granite Creek. They said the agencies had to add a "no action" alternative. The agencies had not included such an alternative because they believed the lease had to be honored. The IBLA said that when the lease was extended beyond its original 10-year term, the extension language allowed it to be cancelled.

The IBLA decision also said the lease "may be denied upon a finding of unacceptable impacts on wilderness characteristics," which is stronger language than the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act contains.

Getty has not accepted the IBLA decision. It has asked the federal district court in Cheyenne to reverse the IBLA, and let the original EIS stand. If they lose at the district court

level, they can appeal to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service is standing pat. Al Reuter, who handles oil and gas matters on the Bridger-Teton, says the Forest Service and the BLM are ready to redo the EIS according to IBLA instructions. But first, he says, they are awaiting the outcome of Getty's court actions. "At this point, we can't even get started."

If the IBLA is upheld, Reuter says, the agencies will consider whether the six miles of road into wilderness and two years of exploratory drilling can be made compatible with wilderness. Reuter has no doubt the road could be reclaimed to wilderness levels. The more difficult question, he says, is the nature of the conflict between the road and drilling and wilderness character-

istics such as solitude and primitive recreation.

Reuter adds that Getty's concern with Little Granite may go beyond the potential value of the lease tract, which is close to the Overthrust Belt. "Industry sees a lease as a contract. Lease suspensions are common, and they wonder if Little Granite will lead to the loss of many more leases."

Reuter, who was also involved in Exxon's Riley Ridge development whose 230 wells will also be on the Bridger-Teton, agrees that the Jackson community and environmental groups have not automatically opposed drilling. "On the 130 other wells, they have raised good questions. But they've been basically supportive of the program."

--Ed Marston

LETTERS

CORRECTION

Dear HCN:

I enjoyed your article on leasing water from Upper Basin appropriators to Lower Basin customers (HCN, 10/29/84). Please continue your provocative reporting.

In the above-referenced article, you state that our clients in Meeker, Colorado (Bar 70, et al), lost the lawsuit against the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. That statement is incorrect. Under the leadership of Mr. Clyde Martz, Special Counsel to the District, and Mr. Doyle Berry, our client, the case was settled to the mutual satisfaction of the Bar 70 group of clients and the Yellow Jacket District.

By that settlement the Bar 70 group of clients received exactly what they were attempting to secure by the lawsuit: water rights to serve their

lands. By that settlement the District received what it was attempting to protect in the lawsuit. Thus, a good settlement was achieved. Could you please make this correction known to your readers.

A copy of the settlement is available at the courthouse in Glenwood Springs. You can confirm my representations by reviewing that document.

John D. Musick, Jr.
Boulder, CO

PRAISE

Dear HCN,

Well, we blew it and lost your recent mailing, but here is a contribution, nonetheless. We have much praise for HCN and find your coverage of wildlife and forest issues especially valuable. PLEASE continue your coverage on the grizzly and related issues! With best wishes for continued success,

Michael and Joy Smith
Boulder, CO

FURTHER EDUCATION SUGGESTED

Dear HCN:

I want to take you to task for sloppy writing in the October 29 issue. In an article entitled, "Wyoming succeeds where Colorado and Montana fail," the staff (whoever they are) wrote,

"After five years of struggle, Wyoming has a Wilderness Act." And later in that same article, the staff wrote, "Politically, Montana is more liberal and more pro-conservation than Utah, Arizona, or Wyoming which all passed (wilderness) bills."

Conservation politics are complex enough without you folks muddying the water with careless writing. Wyoming -- and all of the 50 states -- have had a Wilderness Act since 1964. Your sentence implies the state passed a wilderness law, which it did not. Congress enacted a wilderness bill for lands in Wyoming.

In the second example, you say the states of Utah, Arizona and Wyoming

passed wilderness bills. Again, they did not! Congress passed bills designating wilderness in those states. Small point? Not at all. Our system of government has many levels. Citizens depend on the press to tell them which level of government has done what. I suggest your staff members take a civics class to learn the difference between state government and the federal government, and then an English class to learn how to express themselves more clearly.

Jack de Golia
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

LIKE FALLING OFF A LOG

Dear HCN,

Outstanding squib on the "Secret Treehugger" (HCN, 10/1/84). And I bet you didn't even have to lie awake to think it up. It just came rolling off your fingertips onto the keyboard.

Bob Skaggs
NM