

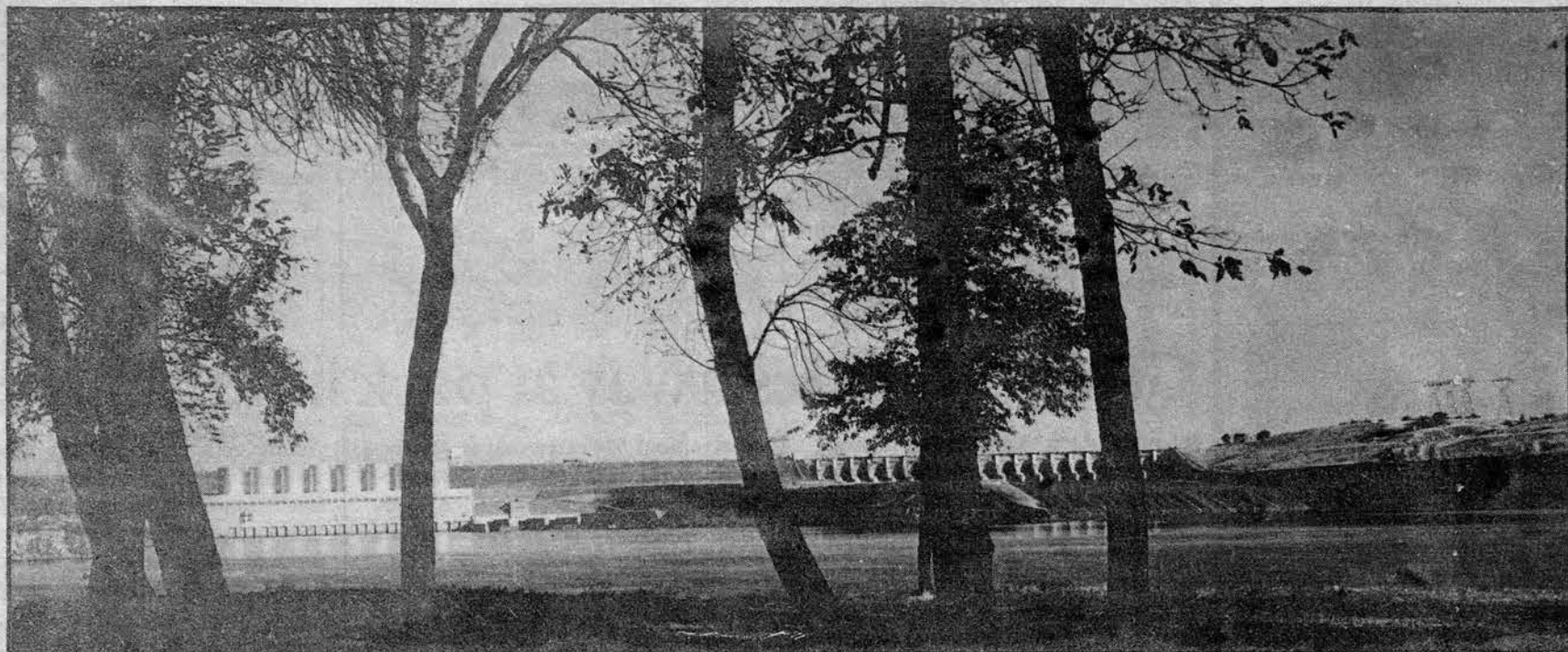
High Country News

September 30, 1985

Vol. 17 No. 18

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



Kent and Donna Danner

Fort Randall Dam on Missouri River, South Dakota

In the Missouri River Basin

Let the brawl begin

by Ed Marston

The Colorado River has the consideration to stay in one climate zone -- arid -- where people share a compulsion to irrigate deserts, grow Kentucky bluegrass on land suited to cactus and dam free-flowing rivers for waterskiing and motorboating. Such commonality does not make for peace. But it does make for a consensus on what the war is about.

That consensus has made it possible for the seven Colorado River basin states to part the waters -- to allocate by compact, by congressional action and by extended litigation -- the river's water among California, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Nevada.

The Missouri River has shown no similar consideration. It straddles the 100th meridian, the dividing line between the arid West and humid East. It flows from headwaters in the "real" West of Montana to the Great Plains of the Dakotas through half-wet, half-dry Nebraska and Kansas on to truly humid Iowa and Missouri. Along the way, it collects water from tributaries in Canada, Minnesota, Wyoming and Colorado.

Until now, the Missouri's saving grace has been that it is incredibly

wet. In a normal year, the Colorado produces 14 million acre-feet before anyone has used a drop. The Missouri, after all the upper basin depletions, still sends 22 million acre-feet a year past Sioux City, Iowa.

The 22 million acre-foot flow, regulated by 75 million acre-feet of storage in the upstream reservoirs of Fort Peck, Oahe, Sakakawea, et al, is enough to float barges carrying fertilizer, wheat, coal, steel and concrete along Army Corps of Engineers-dredged river channels starting at Sioux City and going past Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Kansas City to St. Louis, where the Missouri joins the Mississippi. It's enough water to give Iowa an ocean port, with access to New Orleans.

It should also be enough water to prevent water fights. Until 1982, it did. Even without an interstate compact, the Missouri River basin states lived peacefully. Some ignored the river. Colorado, which has spent millions fighting over the Colorado, sends the South Platte eastward into the Missouri, but has little interest in the politics of that basin. Minnesota has only a small chunk of the basin.

Kansas, which has both arid Western and humid Eastern land, is called by some the "Switzerland" of the basin (undoubtedly the only time that state has been compared to Switzerland) for its statesmanlike

approach to basin problems. That title might also go to Montana. It is working to get its house of water in order while it attempts to draw the other states into negotiation rather than litigation.

For decades, then, the Missouri River states have gotten along without the tools Colorado River states found necessary -- interstate compacts, scores of interstate lawsuits and a web of commissions to keep everything sorted out.

The Missouri River has had only the 1944 Flood Control Act, under which Congress authorized the construction of six huge Pick-Sloan dams in Montana and the Dakotas to control floods in the downstream states, to produce hydropower, to irrigate land in the arid states and to float barges from Sioux City to St. Louis.

That period of peace ended in 1982, possibly launching the Missouri on the same route the less bountiful Colorado took in the 1920s. Of course, the peace wasn't as peaceable as it looked. The lower basin states have gotten what they wanted out of the six large Pick-Sloan dams -- navigation and enormous amounts of cheap hydropower. But Montana and the Dakotas have not gotten the irrigation projects they were promised by the 1944 Pick-Sloan compromise.

Moreover, they have lost some-

thing -- hundreds of thousands of acres of rich bottomland to the reservoirs that have backed up behind Fort Peck Dam in Montana; Garrison Dam in North Dakota; and Oahe, Big Bend, Fort Randall and Gavins Point dams in South Dakota. The Dakotas especially see themselves as victims -- home to reservoirs that have turned their stretches of the Missouri into giant watery steps without giving them benefits.

In 1982, the dispute went official and reached the courts. It started when South Dakota, under Gov. William Janklow, R, sold 50,000 acre-feet of water a year out of Oahe Reservoir to the proposed ETSI (Energy Transport Systems, Inc.) interstate coal slurry pipeline.

By any common-sense measure, the sale should not have set off an interstate fight.

Oahe has 23 million acre-feet of water, and the amount South Dakota sold to ETSI was one-tenth of what annually evaporates out of the 230-mile-long lake. Those who specialize in such matters estimate that Iowa couldn't even measure the missing water at Sioux City, let alone be damaged.

Nevertheless, two lawsuits were

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Arthur Carhart, a name to remember ✓ 7

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WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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There's a new worry in Utah: drought

An unusually hot summer has for the moment ended Utah's worries about a rising Great Salt Lake and slip-sliding hills. The heat has evaporated 13 inches of water from the lake since May -- almost as much as evaporated in all of 1983 and 1984.

As a result, according to the *Deseret News*, the state has shelved a \$100 million plan to pump water out of the inland sea and into the desert west of it in order to save Interstate 80, a railroad line, surviving lakeside chemical plants and Salt Lake International Airport. But the lake is still at very high levels, and thousands

of acres of wildlife habitat along the lake's eastern shore remain underwater (*HCN*, 1/23/84).

In addition to lowering the lake's level, the hot weather has dried out the ground throughout Utah, ending fears of additional mudslides. In some cases, the drying trend has solved old problems. West of the Great Salt Lake, Bonneville Salt Flats is usable for racing and speed trials for the first time since 1983. In fact, the flats are better than ever, thanks to the smoothing effect of the now receded water.

But south of the Great Salt Lake, in

Spanish Forks Canyon, a troublesome and expensive remnant of the wet years remains. The giant Thistle mudslide still blocks the canyon, and Utah County recently voted to spend \$277,000 to determine whether the mud dam and the three-mile reservoir created by the 1983 slide can be safely managed.

Finally, with the waters receding, some Utahns are beginning to worry that a repeat in 1986 of this summer's hot, dry weather could lead to water shortages.

--Ed Marston

Group whittles away at park inholding

Forty acres of lodgepole pine and Englemann spruce, meadows, wetlands and a creek have become the focus of some attention in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park. Surrounded entirely by the park, the acreage was threatened with subdivisions and condos when it was put on the market in 1983. The Reagan administration's freeze on acquiring new park land blocked the Park Service from buying the inholding.

Then the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the activities of the Park Service, took the plunge and negotiated a purchase agreement with the property owners. The group continues to raise money through exhibits at the park's visitors' center, but members say they will have trouble meeting a \$43,000 balloon payment this November. Refinancing is expected to extend the deadline.

Anyone who has visited Rocky Mountain National Park knows it is not a border-to-border wilderness. The 40-acre tract in the Kawuneeche Valley is just one of 87 parcels totaling

more than 1,000 acres that is still not owned by the Park Service. When the park was established, however, there were more than 11,000 acres of private land within its boundaries.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Rocky Mountain

Nature Association, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO 80517. Each dime buys one square foot of land and donors of \$5 or more receive a certificate of appreciation.

--Bob Jamieson

Montana coal tax to be tested

Two Montana companies are still in the bidding for a valuable coal contract which is a controversial force behind a one-third reduction in the state's coal severance tax.

The Westmoreland Resources mine east of Hardin and the Western Energy mine near Colstrip are among five companies still vying for a 2.5 million ton-per-year contract with Northern States Power of Minneapolis. A decision is expected sometime this fall.

The contract was a major issue during the 1985 Legislature when Gov. Ted Schwinden proposed the tax cut as a way to lure new purchases from Montana mines.

The proposal will give coal companies a chance to prove their claim that Montana's tax is a hindrance to coal production.

Under Schwinden's plan, coal companies receive a one-third severance tax credit on new contracts or on increased production from existing contracts. A "window of opportunity" will allow the credit to be offered through mid-1987.

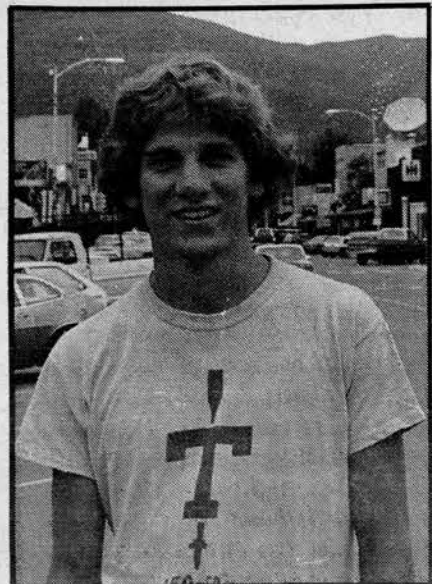
Opponents of the proposal have said that its sole purpose was securing the Northern States Power contract and that it would lead to a permanent reduction in the severance tax.

--John Holt

Dear friends,

This fall's intern is David Havlick of Boulder, Colorado, who is taking time off from English and environmental studies at Dartmouth College. In addition to working in the office, he keeps busy by bicycling or running daily, tying flies for fishing and "writing a years' worth of overdue letters to long-lost friends."

David was kind of pooped-looking last Monday but we wormed the reason out of him: the day before he had biked, run and swam to place second overall in the Aspen Triathlon's mountain course.



David Havlick

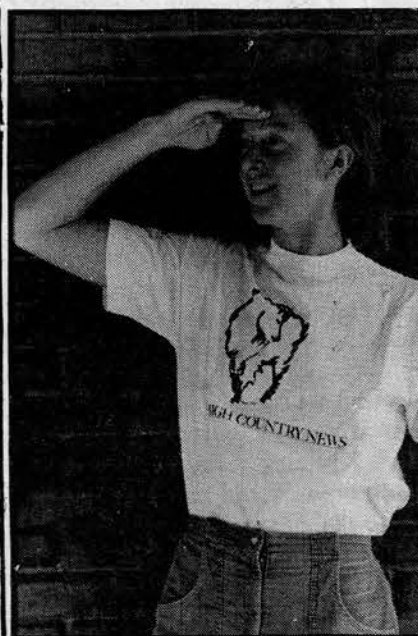
We read recently in the *Denver Post* that this would be an early winter. The *Post* knew that because of enlarged beaver dens, taller than normal skunk cabbage and early turning of aspen leaves. Frankly, we were shocked that "The Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire" would base a page one story on such flimsy theories.

We at *High Country News* know that the real key to the timing and harshness of winter lies with the grasshoppers -- how quickly they mature, and when their interest turns from rhubarb leaves to romance. Another key to winter lies with bears. As a page four Hotline in this issue shows, when bears make early visits to ski towns, we're in for a tough one.

Page five has another story of particular interest to the staff. Writer Geoff O'Gara describes how the National Outdoor Leadership School, of NOLS, in *HCN*'s old hometown, has been transformed from the hippie school of the 1960s to an economic pillar of Lander, Wyoming. The same phenomenon is occurring in *HCN*'s new hometown of Paonia, where the hippie radio station, KVNF, is considering a move and is being courted by several of the towns it serves.

--the staff

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Unique group seeks to build a power plant

The light is still green for a 2000-megawatt coal-fired power plant planned for northern New Mexico by the Navajo Tribe and four companies. Utilities in southern California, Arizona and Texas have told project sponsors they will buy the power if the New Mexico Generating Station comes on line in 1993.

This month, the project sponsors plan to begin negotiating with the utilities for letters of intent to buy the power. The letters are necessary because the partners would be selling electricity wholesale on the open market.

The proposal is controversial. Its size, impacts on air quality, and the coal and land ownership are all subject to debate. In addition, some environmentalists see the Navajo tribe, which is a partner in the plant, as betraying the environmental ethic often ascribed to Indians (HCN, 4/1/85).

As well as being controversial, the plant is unique. Tom Champion of the project team says the financing to be used is the "wave of the future." In the past, power plants have almost always been built by utilities for the use of their customers. Financing has

rested on the fact that the customers would begin paying for the plant once it began producing power. In some cases, rates were raised even as the plant was being constructed.

But the end of the growth era, surplus supplies of electricity in the West and large construction cost overruns, combined with state public service commissions which have stopped automatically passing through all costs to ratepayers, have made power plant building a speculative business. As a result, construction of power plants by regulated utilities has dried up in the West.

Champion says, "Business now has to be conducted differently." In this case, it means that firms that normally supply and build power plants for utilities have been drawn into ownership. Partners in the project, in addition to Public Service of New Mexico and the Navajo Tribe, are three power plant suppliers and builders: Combustion Engineering, Bechtel and General Electric. Because this plant would be built by the suppliers and builders for mainly out-of-state customers, New Mexico ratepayers would not be asked to pay for construction.

"It's somewhat revolutionary," said Don Wharton, an assistant attorney general for the tribe. "Last August when we started, no one else was considering this approach." Now a similarly financed plant is being proposed for Thousand Springs, Nevada.

The tribe became involved to increase its control over reservation development and for the potential financial return. In addition, Wharton said, "We need a stable source of power we control" for present and future needs. The tribe would get a minimum of 100 megawatts from the plant.

The tribe now gets its power from the Four Corners plant. However, when its contract expires in 1993, the tribe expects the cost of the power to increase four to seven times, Wharton said.

He also said several issues must be resolved before the tribe decides whether to proceed with the project: whether impacts on local people can be mitigated, coal ownership, water rights and delivery, and compensation for transmission line rights-of-way.

--Marianne Ambler

HOTLINE

Legitimate deception

A recent ruling by California's 9th Circuit Court of Appeals may set a precedent tough to overcome for others hoping to gain government compensation for radiation-related illnesses. Eleven Navajos, who said their lung cancers stemmed from 20 years of work in uranium mines, argued that the government failed to warn them of the hazards of radiation. But the court ruled that the Public Health Service's decision not to warn the miners was a "policy" question, and thus protected by a 30-year-old clause granting the government immunity against lawsuits. A similar ruling was made earlier by a federal district court against 24 uranium miners in Utah.

An enlightening load



A backcountry ski hut near 13,000-foot Pearl Pass in western Colorado is the first of its kind to be electrified, thanks to solar panels installed this summer. Llamas lugged in much of the heavy equipment to the Friends Hut between Crested Butte and Aspen. The experiment in using solar energy at high altitude was part of a retrofit program offered by Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs. Instructor Steve McCarney said the two photovoltaic cells, which were mounted on a pole above the cabin roof, will power four 25-watt light bulbs. Electricity is stored in two 55-pound sealed batteries that are freeze-resistant.

Back country SWAT team

If a joint program by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Fish and Game Department is successful, some Wyoming grizzly bears will learn to fear humans. The \$40,000 experiment, which begins this fall, aims to condition bears that have lost their fear of man to regain some natural caution. Biologists plan to camp in remote parts of northwestern Wyoming where bears have been sighted, and then create negative stimuli by firing rubber bullets at the grizzlies. Researchers hope that recorded voices played before and after the grizzlies are shot will also teach the bears to associate pain with humans.

Jackson Hole moose are under pressure

Around the turn of the century, moose moved into Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and have since become a thriving, year-round resident numbering, according to Wyoming Game and Fish estimates, about 1,800.

But Game and Fish officials say that the population has been on a downward trend for the past 20 years because of habitat reduction and poaching. There are 20 percent fewer moose than the state's objective of 2,200 animals.

Officials from three government agencies and a local outfitter discussed the Jackson Hole moose population before a crowd of about 100 international wildlife biologists and managers at the 21st North American Moose Conference held in April in Jackson.

Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson said fur trappers in Jackson Hole during the early 1800s did not mention the presence of moose, and it was probably not until about 1900 that moose made their way into the area, after extensive forest fires. According to Jackson, moose favor the early stages of forest succession, especially willows and aspens.

Tom Toman, District Supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said the main problem moose now face in Jackson Hole is loss of habitat. "We went from a sleepy little town... to a multi-season resort town." He also said that subdivisions, golf courses and even the recent invasion of fast food outlets have taken up prime moose winter range.

According to another Game and Fish official, indiscriminate killing of moose is also "a tremendous drain on the population." Toman estimated that Jackson Hole loses 100 to 125 moose per year to poachers.

To maintain moose populations, the Game and Fish has sharply reduced the number of moose permits to be issued for the next hunting season. And Jackson said the



Bridger-Teton National Forest is trying to reestablish the habitat conditions of the early 1900s in some parts of the forest by timber sales to clear out old trees and by prescribed burning of overgrown willows and aged aspens to stimulate new growth.

According to Grand Teton National Park biologist Bill Barmore, moose management is not a high priority in the park's Natural Resources Management Plan. In fact, he told conference participants that it ranks 32 out of the 33 management problems the plan addresses.

Jackson outfitter and state senator John Turner was somewhat critical of both agencies' approach to moose management. Turner said that while the Forest Service was one of the leading agencies in habitat manipulation, the agency's large-scale clear-cutting -- especially where the forest is replaced with pure stands of lodgepole -- was "one of the most detrimental things to our moose herd." And he said extensive road systems on the forest have led to a tremendous increase in poaching.

Turner also criticized the Park Service for establishing a major

campground in moose habitat on the Gros Ventre River, and he said the agency should be "a little more aggressive" in managing for moose.

--Betsy Bernfeld

BARBS

America's Midwest utilities, and their never-ending struggle to find justice in an unjust world.

About 80 utilities will appeal a recent federal court ruling which orders the EPA to force several Midwest states to reduce their emissions of sulfur dioxide. A spokesman for American Electric Power Company called the court ruling a "shocker" and "very disturbing."

Cold Comfort.

Jim Roth, chairman of Wyoming's Democratic Party, said Gov. Ed Herschler's recent filing for bankruptcy -- stemming from a failed cattle ranch -- had its bright side. He told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that ranchers now know that "no one is immune to the troubles of agriculture."

HOTLINE

Winter is bearing down



Three western Colorado mountain towns had a total of six black bears visit them recently, raising suspicions that it will be an early winter this year. The bears, seldom seen in the towns of Gunnison, Lake City and Crested Butte where they appeared, are thought by state wildlife officials to have come to lower elevations because of low berry supplies in the mountains -- a possible indicator of winter's rapid approach.

Back to square one

The 2,350 public comments on the proposed Bureau of Land Management-Forest Service land swap have sent the agencies a prominent message: don't. Although the agencies' recently released analysis shows many groups support land exchange goals such as better and more efficient public service and lower costs, few believe a swap would achieve those goals. The various responses, which came mostly from Western states, stressed primarily local concerns and a reluctance to give minerals management to the Forest Service or timber management to the BLM. BLM director Robert Burford said one result of the public comment analysis is a decision by the agencies to do an environmental impact statement, which will be sent to Congress along with proposed legislation.

Burgeoning bison



A rapidly growing bison herd in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is causing problems. Although a draft management plan begun two years ago recommends 50 as the optimum number, the herd is already at 90 and gaining, with a birthrate of 14 to 16 percent. In 1975 only 18 bison roamed the area. The state is now considering options for limiting bison that range from sport and agency hunting to sterilizing animals or trapping and transplanting them. A 2,000-pound bison, however, is not easy to trap. The problems bison cause occur when the animals, which share the range with elk, compete in winter for hay provided by the Game and Fish Department. Bison gore elk that get in their way. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission says it welcomes ideas about bison control up to and at its Nov. 7 and 8 meeting in Worland at the Washakie Hotel.

Waferboard plants get breathing room

The words "state of the art," which have been frequently used by Louisiana-Pacific Corp. managers to describe their two highly automated Waferwood plants in western Colorado, came back to haunt the corporation this month.

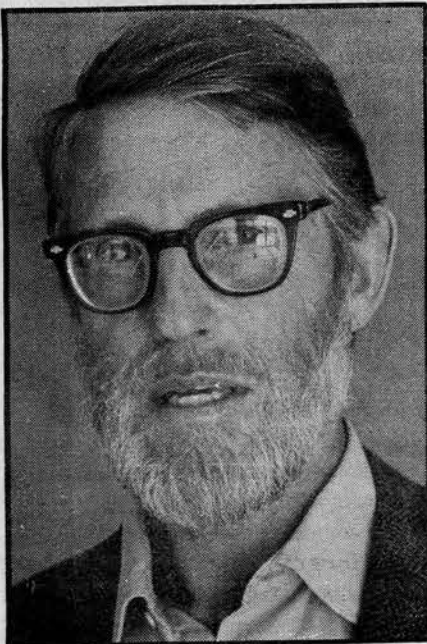
After a formal hearing Sept. 5, Colorado revoked L-P's wafer-dryer emissions permits if air pollution is not brought under control by Oct. 15 at the Olathe plant, and by Nov. 15 at the identical plant in Kremmling.

The decision was a compromise. The state's Air Pollution Control Division urged immediate revocation on grounds that the \$40 million plants have violated state standards for almost a year. The deadline for compliance is six months after a plant begins operating.

Another phrase that came into question during the six-hour Grand Junction hearing was "good faith." John Gaudette, a transit consultant from Denver and member of the state's Air Pollution Control Commission, repeatedly asked L-P official Dan Dilworth who "on-site" was directly responsible for solving the air pollution problem. Assistant Attorney General Robert Hykan began the hearing by telling commission member's that L-P's "illegal operations" had resulted in a barrage of complaints from citizens.

Dilworth, manager of seven Waferwood plants including Olathe's and Kremmling's, replied that he and other L-P officials as well as equipment manufacturers all wrestled with the pollution problem over the months. But he named no one in particular for whom pollution was the main concern. When commission members were later polled informally before voting, Gaudette said L-P had been "irresponsible. They've not been good corporate citizens."

Before the hearing, L-P had agreed that the inspection record compiled by Scott Miller, the state's only inspector on the west side of the Continental Divide, was correct. L-P's record was dismal: of 16 inspections at the Olathe plant to see if the allowable standard of 20 percent opacity of smoke from the wafer-dryer was being met, the company came into compliance only twice. Readings were as high as 61.3 percent and the latest test May 3 was 40.1 percent. At Kremmling, compliance was achieved once out of 14 tests, and the latest reading on May 1 was 36 percent. The only particulate emissions measurements, all done by an outside firm hired by L-P, were also above legal limits.



Stuart Krebs

Dilworth said it took a long "shakedown period" for the company to understand why its multicyclone wafer-dryer wasn't cleaning up the plant's smokestack. Smoke is released in a wet plume as thin aspen wafers are dried before compression into 4 by 8 foot panels. Dilworth said the higher altitudes of western Colorado plants contributed to the pollution problem, and that it took time for equipment manufacturers to realize a new process was necessary.

That new equipment, electrified filter beds, costing a total of \$800,000, "are on site and can be installed in 30 days," Dilworth said, in asking for a permit extension. Of the 35 Waferwood plants in North America, Dilworth added, only Colorado's were in trouble. "No state-of-the-art is proven beyond doubt."

The head of the 700-member coalition called Western Colorado Congress, which was a party to the hearing, told the commission that L-P had never shown a good faith effort at bringing its pollution -- which includes unregulated volatile chemicals such as phenols and aldehydes -- under control. Stuart Krebs said the result has been suffering for at least 21 neighbors of the Olathe plant who frequently experience headaches, nausea and diarrhea.



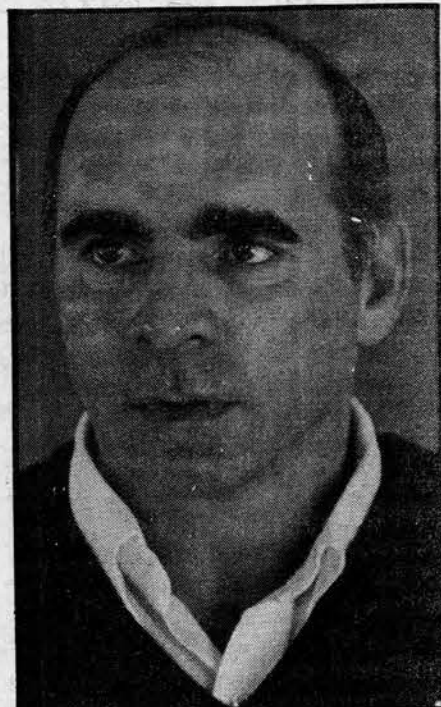
Margaret Orjias

"L-P has known almost from the onset that the present pollution control equipment is far from adequate... They have never met a deadline... Only when faced with permit revocation and plant shutdown did they finally order new equipment," Krebs said.

Krebs also charged that in March, L-P refused to allow state officials to calibrate an opacity-monitoring system in the Olathe plant, and then in June removed the device from the dryer. That is hardly "good faith," Krebs concluded.

Later, L-P spokesmen said they put black tape over the opacity monitor and resisted state attempts to use it because they didn't trust its reading of a "wet stack." They said calibrating the device would also have meant a halt in production.

Although attorney Hykan urged the commission to disregard both the issue of economic repercussions to L-P if their permits were revoked, and company promises to clean up pollution quickly, both points clearly carried weight with commission members.



Dan Dilworth

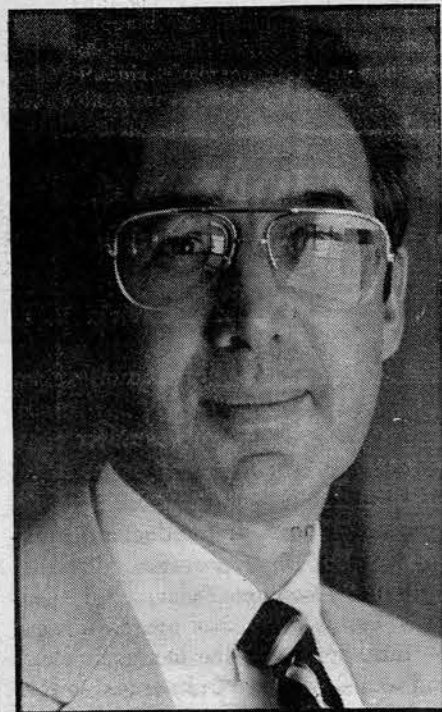
Kremmling sent no representatives to the hearing, but Bob Corey, Montrose County Commissioner, said he represented the county and the town of Olathe, as well as area chambers of commerce. Corey ticked off the benefits from L-P's monthly payroll of \$160,000, its \$55,000 monthly electricity bill and its \$200,000 annual property tax as crucial to the economic health of an area depressed by the decline in coal and uranium mining.

Corey, who said he lives nine miles from the Olathe plant, added that its smoke did not bother him. But neighbors much closer to the plant testified in detail about the effect L-P's pollution has had on their lives.

Margaret Orjias, Beulah Smith, Vivian Henderson and others talked about a pall over the valley caused by the heavy smoke, how it entered their homes, how their eyes and throats burned. Orjias, who lives less than a mile from the plant, broke into tears after all commissioners present but one, Paula Palmateer of Vail, voted to give L-P more time to come into compliance.

Dr. John Sbarbaro, a commission member from Denver, told Orjias that until Colorado regulated volatile organic compounds such as formaldehyde, which L-P uses in a resin to bind wafer chips, her symptoms would persist. Roland Gow, a commission member from Colorado Springs, said VOCs, as they're known, were a matter the commission must address.

--Betsy Marston



John Sbarbaro

NOLS, at 20, broadens its perspective

The National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyoming, celebrated its twentieth anniversary in August. The gathering, attended by over 200 "alumni" of NOLS' outdoor education programs, demonstrated the school's turn toward a more public profile both in Wyoming and in the debate over management of public lands. And an appearance by founder Paul Petzoldt, now 77, marked a reconciliation of sorts.

The school was founded in 1965 by Petzoldt, a former Outward Bound instructor in Colorado, with an emphasis on teaching basic wilderness survival skills. Though some of the early students were from local families, businessmen in this Wyoming ranching community reacted negatively when NOLS' young, often long-haired clientele showed up on Lander streets. As a result, NOLS was compelled to rush students from its headquarters in the historic Noble Hotel into the wilderness -- an approach that it still uses, though the community's attitude toward the school has done an about-face.

The recent announcement that the school would build its new headquarters here brought cheers from the mayor and other officials. Linda VanFleet, manager of the Lander Chamber of Commerce, said, "NOLS is a real benefit to the community." In an area where mine closures and cutbacks (HCN, 3/18/85) have crippled the economy, NOLS, with its \$4 million budget, is now recognized as a major asset.

The school sends almost 1,800 students a year into Wyoming's Wind River and Absaroka mountains, the Cascades of the Northwest, and the ocean waters off Baja, Mexico, and Alaska. NOLS also has a Kenya branch, and there is talk of setting up other international outposts. Where Outward Bound advertises itself as a school to help individuals realize their own potential in the wilderness, NOLS puts its stress on training wilderness

Tom Stromme



Jim Ratz

instructors. The students are generally well-heeled, paying up to \$3,400

per course; there is also talk of a NOLS scholarship endowment fund.

The current director of NOLS, Jim Ratz, was once one of the ragamuffins frowned upon by Lander businessmen. He doesn't think he's changed, "except for getting a razor." But Ratz has pushed the school into a more active role in public lands management debates, particularly emphasizing education of wilderness users. "We can carry the banner there," said Ratz. "There's 20 years of knowledge at this school that's hardly been tapped."

Ratz sees the dominant influence of foresters in the Forest Service declining, and recreation specialists, who are "still second class citizens," playing a bigger role. Recently, NOLS held a five-day "Wilderness Colloquium" for public lands agency personnel from around the country.

That group was invited partly to help NOLS officials brainstorm about a new research division within NOLS. Ratz noted that despite emphasis in federal publications on the importance of user education in wilderness management, agencies doing studies in the field are underfunded, and NOLS should be able to play a role.

In addition, NOLS is making a stronger effort to keep its graduates up to date on and involved in issues such as acid rain and federal land management policies. "We may not take a 'political' stance," said Ratz, "but we have at least a responsibility to keep alumni informed on issues."

It might also be an indication of its new maturity that NOLS, which parted ways with Petzoldt during a power struggle in the 1970s, welcomed him back and awarded him, along with the conservationist Margaret Murie and several others in the outdoor education field, an "award of excellence." "It was long overdue for the school to take the first step," said Ratz.

--Geoff O'Gara

HOTLINE

Bees are decimated



What some people warned against when the federal government waged its massive spraying campaign against grasshoppers this summer seems to have happened in Idaho. Beekeepers there charge that the broad-spectrum insecticides also wiped out up to 30 percent of the state's bees, for a loss of \$1.7 million. Beekeepers have threatened to sue for damages. Entomologists at the University of Idaho say the chemical spraying also wiped out "good" insects such as ladybugs, pirate bugs and parasitic wasps that naturally control pest insects such as army worms, spider mites and leaf miners. Talks are now going on with the bee industry, Idaho agriculture officials and chemical company representatives in an attempt to avoid bee kills and other problems in the future.

Overbay moves up



James Overbay replaces Tom Coston Oct. 4 as head of the Forest Service's Northern Region, which includes Montana, northern Idaho and parts of Wyoming and the Dakotas. Overbay most recently served as deputy regional forester for resources in the Southwestern Region of Arizona and New Mexico. Although considered by co-workers to be a timber-oriented administrator, Overbay said in a *Great Falls Tribune* interview that he'd like to see Montana and Idaho wilderness bills approved by Congress. Tom Coston has been promoted to regional forester of the Pacific Northwest Region in Portland, Oregon -- a position described by some observers as wielding more power than a governorship. During Coston's six-year stint in Missoula he blocked use of exploratory seismic explosives by petroleum companies in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and took strong stands against deficit timber sales.

Wapiti wildcat is dry

Marathon Oil Company's hotly debated Wapiti wildcat well in Wyoming's Shoshone National Forest has proved to be a multimillion dollar dry hole. The 5,262-foot well cost Marathon over \$1.5 million to drill and caused a legal battle that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The Park County Resource Council tried to prevent the drilling in what is a former wilderness study area surrounded by designated wilderness (HCN, 8/19/85).

Wyoming Wind jumps through the hoops

The Wyoming Wind Power Co. has "jumped through the flaming hoops" that have ensnared and discouraged many other entrepreneurs.

This month the Casper-based company was granted a special-use permit for the state's first privately run wind farm. Carbon County planner Frank Alguire says Wyoming Wind Power has also moved aggressively to negotiate contracts with Carbon Power and Light and the

Western Area Power Administration, crucial steps necessary before any power is produced.

Consumers are expected to be residents of Montana, a state which pays better than Wyoming for alternative sources of power. The new facility will be built entirely on private land, depend upon private funding and use 100 small wind generators for flexibility instead of a few large turbines.

Calling the company proposal "the most solid one we've had," Alguire says his county in south-central Wyoming supports wind power in part because it is "environmentally benign." The planner adds that roads are already going in for the wind farm and that if all goes well the 10-megawatt facility could be producing wind-generated electricity this winter.

--David Havlick

BARBED WIRE

It sounds like they've confused souls with pocketbooks.

A 22 percent drop in the number of ducks migrating south this fall has led to recommendations that duck hunting be limited. A spokesman for the National Audubon Society told *The New York Times* that the Fish and Wildlife Service had to do a great deal of "soul searching" before making the decision because part of its budget comes from a tax on sporting equipment.

No, no! They're not Commies. They're Consies.

The *Grand Junction* (Colo.) *Daily Sentinel*, in an editorial, characterized Amory Lovins' Rocky Mountain Institute as "left-leaning." An Institute report criticized the \$46 billion in federal subsidies going to energy, and called instead for conservation. The *Sentinel* used the Institute's data to call for a larger slice of the subsidy pie for a local industry, oil shale.

Who says nuclear energy isn't a bargain?

A utility holding company is offering to pay \$56 million for a share of the Seabrook nuclear plant in New Hampshire which cost \$370 million to build. The catch is that the buyer will have to help complete the plant.

Old MacDonald had an electrostatic precipitator, ee-i, ee-i, oh.

A Canadian scientist told *The New York Times* that air pollution produced in buildings housing dense numbers of pigs and chickens is a hazard to the animals, the workers, and possibly to the people who eat the food produced in these facilities.

HOTLINE

An apple a day



Ben Eastman

To the dismay of the apple industry, the Environmental Protection Agency is moving to ban daminozide by Oct. 31. Daminozide, a growth regulator that keeps fruit on the tree longer and turns apples redder, has been found to be as carcinogenic as EDB, which the EPA banned last year. The chemical is produced only by Uniroyal, Inc. and sold as Alar, Kylar or B-Nine. Ben Eastman, an apple grower and member of the Colorado Agriculture Commission, says the Washington apple industry has geared up to fight EPA's data, which was, ironically, supplied this year by Uniroyal. If the chemical is banned, Eastman says, apple growers will suffer multimillion dollar losses. The EPA says washing removes neither daminozide nor its main breakdown compound, UDMH, which is 1,000 times more carcinogenic than the parent compound.

Timber mills at risk

Faced with a 9.4 million-board-feet loss of timber for its Wyoming mills, Louisiana-Pacific on Sept. 10 appealed a decision by the Bridger-Teton National Forest which postponed several timber sales near scenic Union Pass Road. Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson put the sales on hold this August until a draft forest plan is completed in January. But the delay, warns L-P forester Jim Baker, could force the company to close its mills in both Dubois and Riverton. Timber sales near Union Pass Road became controversial this summer after conservation groups appealed Jackson's decision to allow L-P to upgrade part of the Union Pass Road.

Dump comes closer for Last Chance

More than four years after Texas-based Browning-Ferris Industries applied for permission to open a commercial hazardous waste dump in Adams County, Colorado, the state Department of Health said this month that the company's application is complete and that an operational permit will be drafted. The site for the land disposal facility is seven miles west of the small town of Last Chance (HCN, 9/5/83). Although citizen concerns about environmental safety have been high, a nine-member monitoring committee established by the Colorado Department of Health has apparently helped to alleviate some fears. To follow up on the committee's evaluations and reviews of the site, a public hearing on the company's plans will be scheduled for early 1986. According to the Health Department, a final permit could be issued within three months after the hearing.

County wants to straighten a wild river

A desire by the Lemhi County Commission and the Salmon City Council in Idaho to prevent flooding is leading to an assault on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Earlier this year, the county commission and the council endorsed channelization of some three miles of the Salmon River in Idaho to ease winter flooding. The commissioners also voted to become a local sponsor of channelization by the Army Corps of Engineers. The stretch proposed for channelization is part of 125 miles of the Salmon River that was added to the national wild and scenic river system in 1980.

The channelization, however, was blocked by the U.S. Forest Service, which told the Army Corps that it would be illegal to channelize a stretch of wild and scenic river. The Corps, which itself may not have been enthusiastic about channelization, told a Salmon River public meeting August 8 that there were other alternatives, including construction of levees and relocation of those in the floodplain. But without a public sponsor, the Corps cannot act. And Lemhi County will only sponsor channelization.

In fact, both the Lemhi county commissioners and the Salmon City Council have asked the Idaho Congressional delegation to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to allow the dredging; Sen. Steve Symms,

R, has agreed to introduce such a bill.

Meanwhile, the flooding problem caused by the Dump Creek/Deadwater stretch -- 26 miles downstream of Salmon -- is likely to continue. Freezing in this reach contributes to icejams upstream on the Salmon and its tributary Lemhi River.

According to the Army Corps, channelization is the most expensive of the four options it studied -- an estimated \$3.9 million -- but it has only a \$10,000 up-front cost to the town and county.

A second option, extension and improvement of the existing Lemhi River levee, would cost \$1.5 million, but \$570,000 would have to come from a local sponsor. Removal of all buildings from the Lemhi River floodplain by condemnation would cost \$2.7 million, but would carry a \$540,000 local share. At an August 8 public meeting, a representative from the governor's office said state funds could be available to help with the levee and relocation options. But the city and county are not interested in some combination of those approaches. And at the same meeting, an aide to Sen. Symms offered his help in changing the law.

Lil Erickson of the Idaho Conservation League, which has been fighting the proposal since it surfaced, speculated that hostility to the river's

wild status is playing a role in the insistence by local government on channelization. She also said the river had been channelized in the 1950s, and that the new channel had filled up within a year.

Channelization is opposed by the governor and state agencies, but is favored by the state Legislature. The Salmon ICL opposes channelization because of the impacts on fish and wildlife, and because they believe it might spread the problem. "Channelization could cause flooding up and downstream of the stretch they channelize."

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game predicts the project's sedimentation would eliminate the entire 1986 steelhead salmon season starting at Deadwater and running 150 miles downstream to Riggins. It would also destroy 200 acres of wetlands and 50 islands.

The ICL sees no easy answers. The levee would be very expensive and forced condemnations are undesirable. The chapter urges instead negotiations among all interested parties, leading perhaps to voluntary relocation of some floodplain residents, building of levees where that makes sense, and a waiving of compensation by those who choose to remain unprotected in the floodplain.

--Pat Ford and staff

Grand Canyon mine draws protests



A recent demonstration at the Grand Canyon's South Rim Visitor Center

Although Denver-based Energy Fuels Nuclear Inc. has been exploring for and mining uranium in the Arizona Strip north of the Grand Canyon for over a decade, they have only recently ventured close to the canyon's South Rim.

In a controversial move, Energy Fuels is now planning to develop a mine just 13 miles south of the Grand Canyon Village and two miles from the South Rim's main road (HCN, 2/4/85). The planned Canyon Mine would be operated within the heavily wooded Kaibab National Forest.

The Forest Service will soon complete an environmental impact statement in response to concerns about the mine's proximity to popular tourist, hunting, grazing and timber-

ing areas. Energy Fuels spokesman Ron Nuzman says attention has been focused on the proposed mining because the rest of the uranium industry continues to slump. He says the Canyon Mine would be a relatively small operation employing 35-40 people and covering 17 acres of surface mining operations, and that it would not be visible from the main road. The site, he says, is made financially worthwhile by the existence of mineral-rich breccia pipes, known to be 10 times richer in uranium than other ore deposits in the country.

Some are not convinced that the project can ever be acceptable. An environmental activist who calls herself "Hayduchess" reported in an

August press release that she "removed survey stakes, placing them in the well-pipe, re-hung my banner, and left messages of my intentions to stop this mine!" Dramatic as her claims may sound, Nuzman said Hayduchess wasn't a major problem, although her actions helped to "focus the attention there."

More recently, 20 people clad in radiation suits and bearing placards, protested the mine in front of the South Rim Visitor Center of Grand Canyon. The demonstrators said they also opposed the 1877 Federal Mining Act because it could leave the Forest Service helpless against the mine's installation, regardless of the EIS results.

--David Havlick

Trappers Lake, Arthur Carhart get their due

Trappers Lake in Northwest Colorado's Flat Top Wilderness has finally been accorded the distinction it deserves as the birthplace of the wilderness concept. And Arthur Carhart, the concept's father, has finally been given his due.

These two bits of revisionist Forest Service history surfaced during ceremonies held this summer to dedicate the new Carhart Trail around Trappers Lake, on the edge of the Flat Tops Mountains.

The new information contradicts the popularly held idea that the wilderness concept sprang into being when forest ranger/educator Aldo Leopold succeeded in having the Gila National Forest designated a wilderness area in 1924. The culmination of Leopold's and Carhart's dedication to preserving untouched wilderness came in 1964 when the U.S. Congress passed the Wilderness Act. The act set aside wilderness within national forests and prohibited development or any sort of machinery -- from cars to chain saws -- on those tracts.

Glenwood District Ranger Bob Miller recognized Carhart's contribution to the development of the wilderness concept after a 100-year history of the White River National Forest was printed in 1981. Last year Miller began a push for a trail to be named in Carhart's honor at Trappers Lake.

Miller prevailed; the trail was officially dedicated July 21, and the story of Carhart's contribution was told to 50 observers by several Forest Service speakers and a friend of Carhart's. The Forest Service speakers quoted primarily from *The Quiet Revolution*, a book by Donald Baldwin.

It was June of 1919. Carhart, the Forest Service's first landscape architect, was dispatched from Denver to Trappers Lake to survey 100 planned summer home sites and a road around the lake.

He completed his survey and returned to Denver. But in a

strongly worded closing to his report he stated his opposition to the summer home plan and proposed that the remote area remain roadless and undeveloped.

In an unprecedented move, the special use permit for the homes was set aside "for further study" and the proposed road never built.

Carhart's supervisor, Carl Stahl, also suggested that Carhart meet with Aldo Leopold, then an assistant forester with the Forest Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to further discuss the radical idea of keeping certain scenic areas in the national forest system undeveloped. What both men were up against was the prevailing logic -- at least from the Park Service -- that the Forest Service's duty was to promote commercial development of national forests, and the Park Service's mission was to promote recreation.

After Carhart and Leopold met in Denver to discuss the value of preserving pristine areas in national forests, Leopold asked Carhart to write a memorandum summing up their shared approach. That approach questioned the Forest Service practice of placing dollar values above aesthetic values for lands held in the public trust. Carhart also forecast that "recreation can become one of the greatest returns from the forests of our country." He said those returns would be found in "good health, better, keener thinking and wealth to the nation that cannot be accurately estimated." Carhart also said the time had come for a new "regional basic planning," and warned that allowing private holdings within public lands was unwise and should be stopped.

Carhart's memorandum became the heart of the wilderness area concept. Carhart worked for adoption of his ideas but eventually became disillusioned by resistance from not only the Park Service and Congress, but also from the Forest Service. Carhart resigned from the Forest



Arthur Carhart

Service in 1922 and went to work as a landscape architect, but remained active in the wilderness campaign through articles and talks.

Leopold returned to New Mexico, and through his efforts the Gila National Forest was designated the nation's first wilderness in 1924. Leopold was later hired by the University of Wisconsin where he founded the profession of game management. He wrote the first important book on the subject and used his academic base to expound his views on the wilderness area concept. His most influential work, *A Sand County Almanac*, was published in 1949, one year after his death.

Carhart died in 1978.

After the recent trail dedication, Clif Merritt, a friend of Carhart's who is executive director of the American Wilderness Alliance, said Carhart's lack of a public forum probably prevented him from being widely recognized, like Leopold, as one of the founders of the wilderness concept.

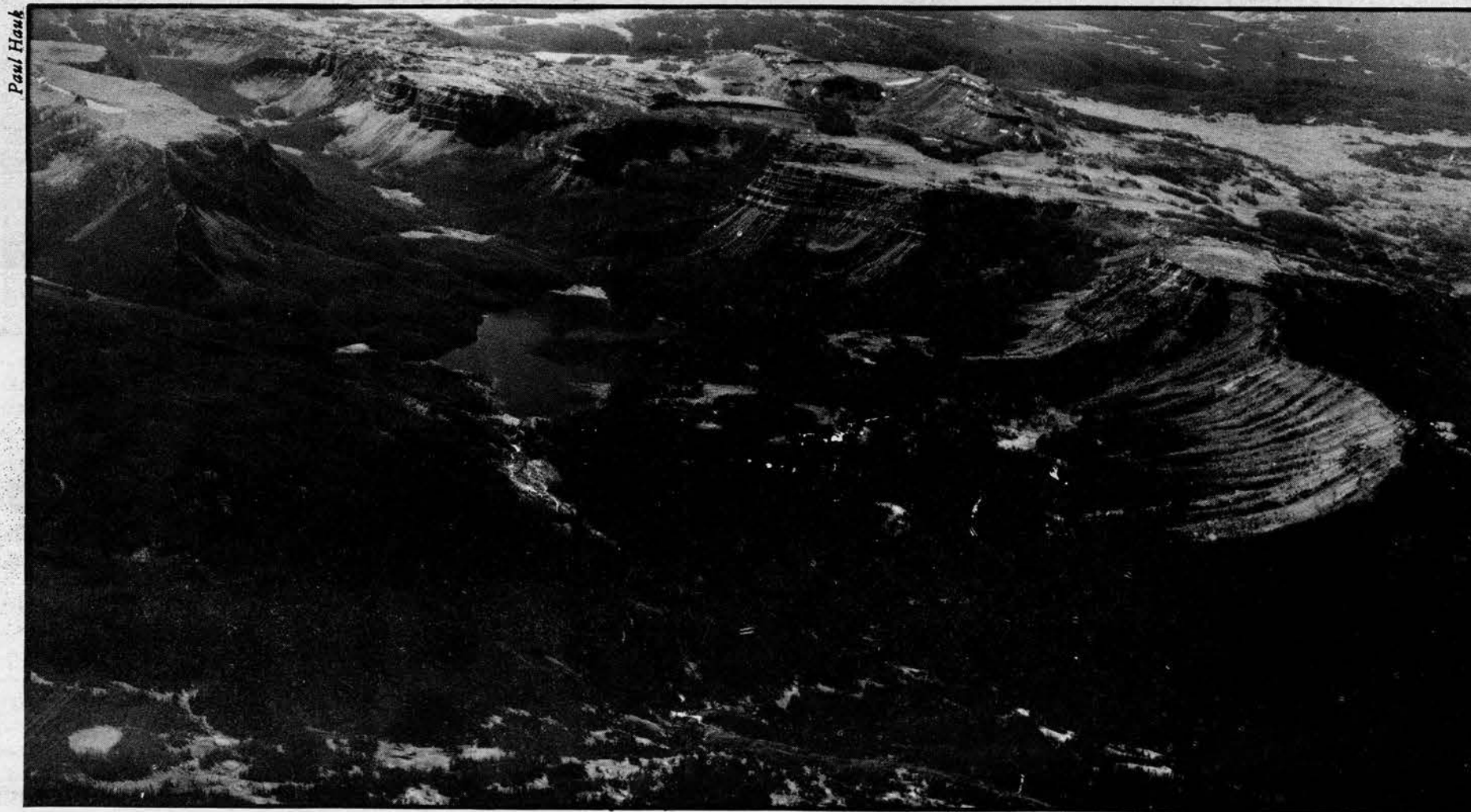
Until now, that is. A plaque at the trailhead briefly tells the reader of Carhart's place in history.

After the dedication ceremony, Miller was asked what Trappers Lake would be like now had Carhart not saved it from development. "Public access to the shore would have been limited by the houses, motorized boats would be allowed and resorts would have popped up," Miller said.

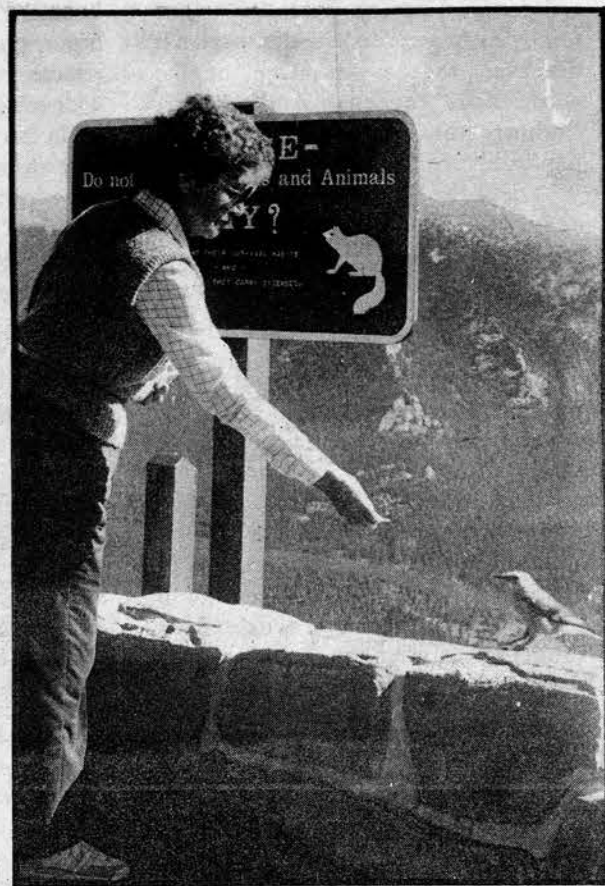
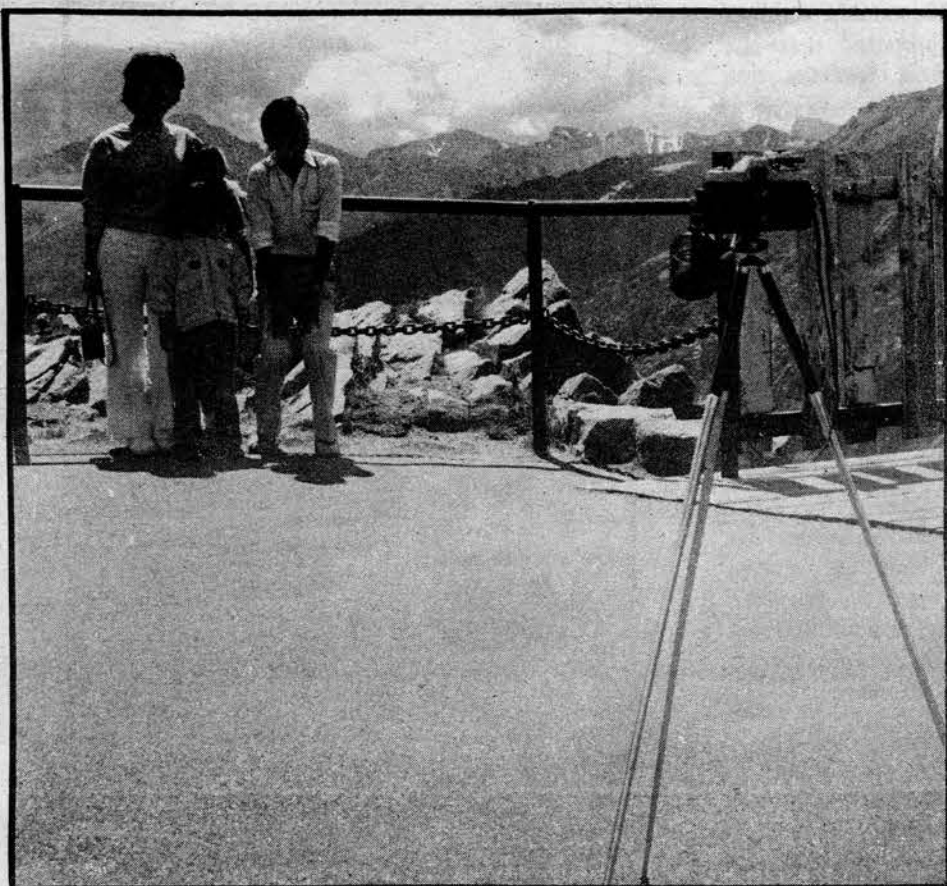
Instead, Trappers Lake is much the same as it was when Carhart first saw it 45 years ago. Ripples in the lake are from surfacing trout, wind and an occasional canoe.

The echos of chirping birds mix with the gentle sound of rushing water at the lake's outlet. The only manmade sounds come from overhead jets and kids yelling back and forth. Coca-Cola signs and golden arches don't dot the shoreline. Nothing dots the shoreline except the trees Carhart saw in 1919.

--Lynn Burton and staff

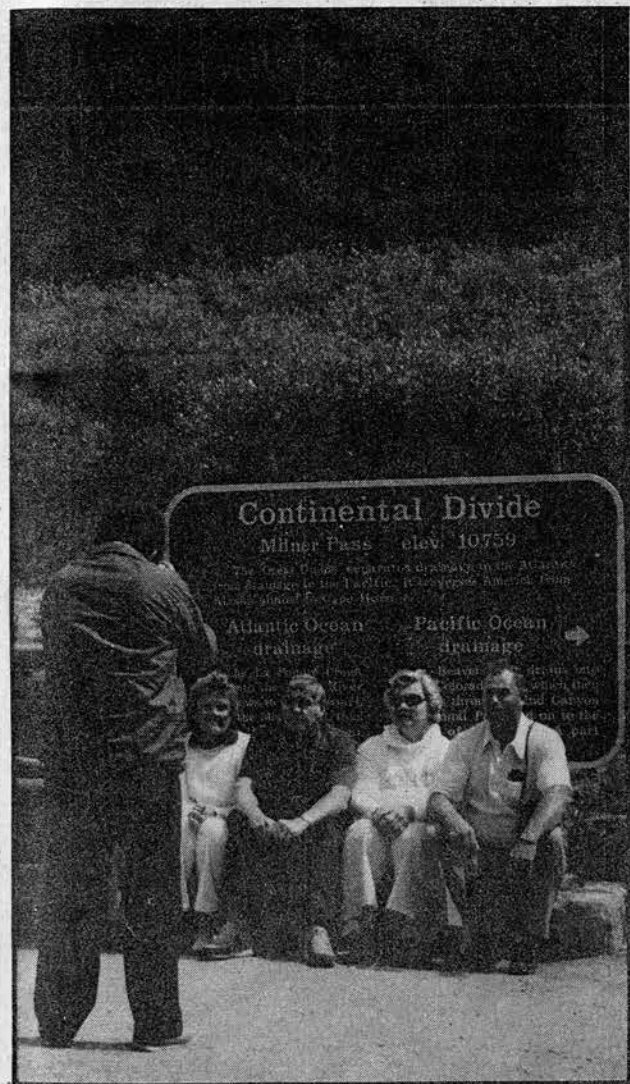


Trappers Lake with Flat Tops Wilderness in background, 1962



Tourist-watching at Rocky

Photographs by Janet Robertson



Mountain National Park

Brawl...

(Continued from page 1)

launched. The suits may have resulted from a rational analysis of the precedent being set by the \$1.3 billion water sale. But they may also have been provoked by Janklow's boastful rhetoric and the scramble he set off when Montana and Wyoming sought their own billion-dollar water sales. Rather than a small, though lucrative sale of water, the ETSI deal began to look like the beginning of an energy-based gold rush.

Although the lawsuits were eventually combined, initially the Sierra Club, the Farmers Union and the railroads brought one and the downstream states of Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri another. The Sierra Club was concerned about the transfer of water from one river basin to another, about superficial studies, and about loss of hydropower and increasing dependence on coal-fired plants that would occur if the Missouri were increasingly dewatered.

The railroads were concerned about competition for coal customers. On one front, they worked to block ETSI's attempts to obtain rights-of-way beneath their tracks. On another, they attempted to block ETSI's quest for water.

Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri brought their suit on a variety of grounds, including the threat to the environment (about 70 percent of the people in Missouri take their drinking water out of the Missouri River), to wildlife and fisheries and to navigation.

Arguments about how little water ETSI would take out of the Missouri didn't impress the downstream states. Curtis Thompson in the Missouri Attorney General's office, quoting his governor, told HCN, "The average temperature in our state is 58 degrees. But we don't calculate our heating or air-conditioning needs based on that."

Despite such statements, it is not clear why the lower basin states chose to make their Missouri River stand on

ETSI. It may even have been a stand they later regretted. For example, when ETSI collapsed of itself, the downstream states tried to withdraw their suit. But the federal government, whom the states had sued for granting to ETSI permits to take the water, argued that a broader issue than the ETSI sale had been raised. The court agreed with the feds, and kept the case going. (South Dakota was not sued, and has not been allowed by the courts to enter the case.)

Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri could have chosen much larger targets to challenge upper basin water development. North Dakota, for example, has been struggling to build the gigantic Garrison irrigation project for decades (HCN, 9/17/84), and a large amount of work has been done on it. If it is ever completed, the project will take 3 million acre-feet out of the lake behind Garrison Dam, upstream of Oahe on the Missouri.

But the lower basin states have not challenged Garrison in court. Joe Cichy, an attorney with the North Dakota State Water Commission, doesn't see this as good will. He speculates that they didn't sue "because the environmentalists were already challenging it. So the lower basin states didn't have to."

The ETSI lawsuit is now before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on appeal, awaiting decision. The Sierra Club, et al, had won a lower court decision blocking a federal permit to ETSI, and that decision was appealed by the federal government to the Eighth Circuit.

Even before a decision, two other suits have been filed. South Dakota, under Janklow, is suing the railroads for damages. He claims they conspired to stop ETSI, thereby violating various federal antitrust and anticompetitive laws. In the process, South Dakota charges, the railroads harmed South Dakota, depriving it of \$1.3 billion.

That suit doesn't have the basin-wide implications of another suit Janklow launched this summer. On Aug. 16, South Dakota asked the U.S. Supreme Court to accept a lawsuit



Dams along the Missouri River. The river basin is outlined by a dotted line and its location is shown on the map, left.

against Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. (If Kansas is the Switzerland of the basin, South Dakota, under Janklow, is the Roman Empire under Caesar.)

In technical terms, the South Dakota suit is a "quiet title" complaint, similar to what a home owner would file on a disputed 10-foot strip in his backyard. Janklow argues that Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, although they chose to sue the federal government in the ETSI case, are really challenging South Dakota's right to draw water out of Oahe. The courts haven't allowed South Dakota to enter the ETSI case. So the state is asking the Supreme Court to recognize its ownership of part of the water in Oahe under the Flood Control Act of 1944.

Water cases are not cheap. The South Dakota Legislature has set aside \$1 million for this one. If the case develops into a full-fledged apportionment of the Missouri, that will be pin money.

In the upper basin, North Dakota appears sympathetic to South Dakota while Montana looks on in quiet horror. Montana sees the possibility of being drawn into a basin-wide division of the Missouri which could take several decades.

Montana's attitude stems from its approach to the Missouri. Like the Dakotas, it knows that downstream states might use the courts to block

upstream water development in the name of downstream navigation, hydropower and environmental quality. But it has reacted differently from the Dakotas. The Dakotas, over the years, have adopted a pure "use it or lose it" strategy. They have attempted to develop large, federally funded irrigation projects such as Garrison in North Dakota and CENDAK in South Dakota to establish claims to water, no matter how uneconomic the projects.

Montana has been more sophisticated. A 1982 report prepared for Montana, titled *A Water Protection Strategy*, laid out the threats to Montana's water. Attorney Frank Trelease, in a 100-page legal opinion, cautioned Montana that in water division cases ("equitable apportionment" in the jargon), the Supreme Court has deferred to states that have put their water to use. The conclusion appeared to be that if Montana wanted to save its water, it should build projects.

But the legal precedent has shifted somewhat since the Trelease report, according to John Thorson, a Helena attorney and consultant to Gov. Ted Schwinden. D. Thorson said that in a 1984 interstate case between Colorado and New Mexico on the Vermejo River, the Supreme Court indicated that planning is also important in establishing a state's claim to water.

If that is true, Montana may do



Oahe Dam and powerplant, South Dakota

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

well in any future court battle. Unlike other states in the basin, it has negotiated or is negotiating water claims with the federal government and with Indian tribes. Moreover, in 1985 it passed a comprehensive law (HB 680) building the public interest and limits on private appropriation of water into its water law.

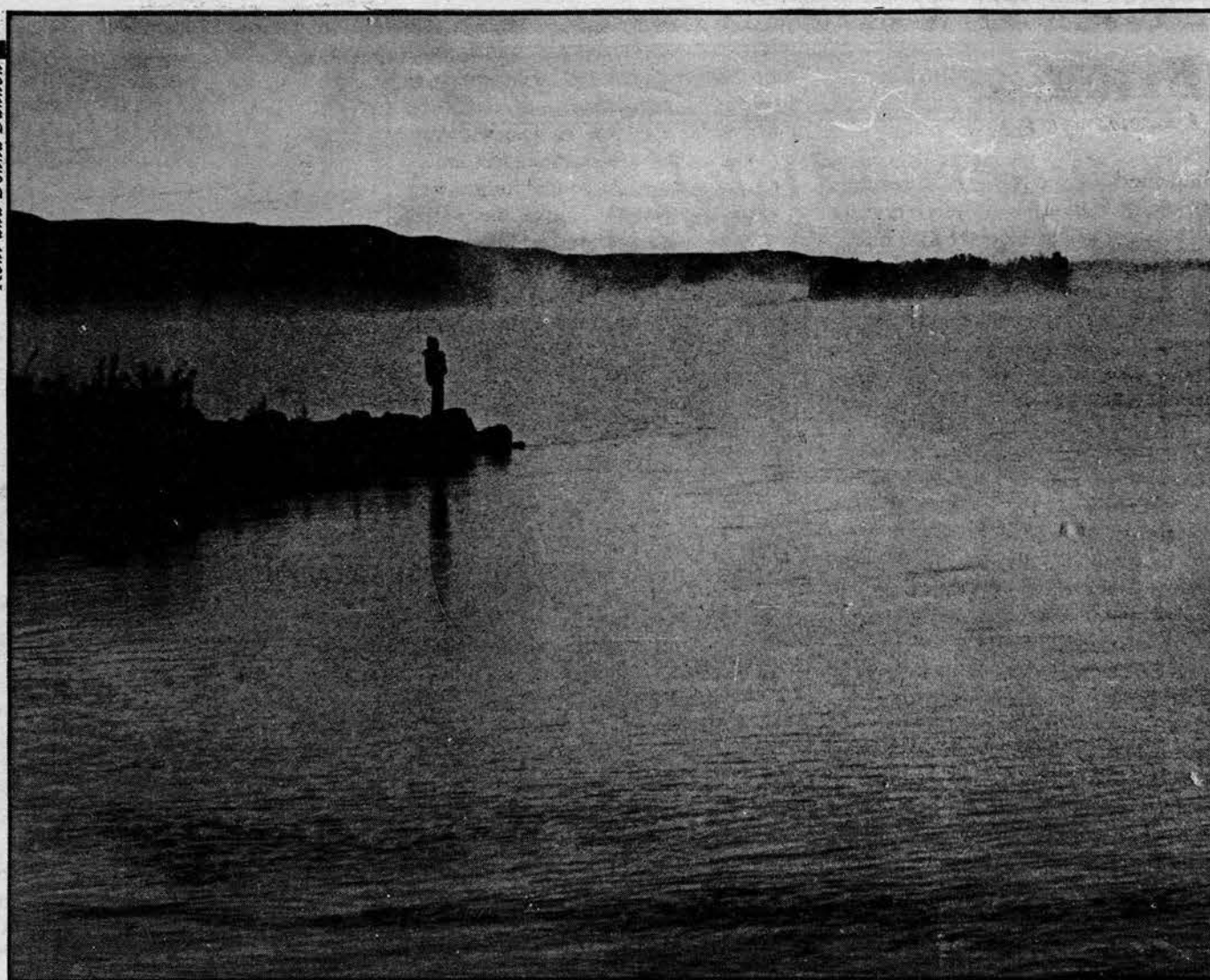
It also has an allocation system in effect on the Yellowstone River, which is tributary to the Missouri. The allocation system broadly outlines the uses the state foresees for currently unused water. The possibility of extending such a system to the mainstem Missouri is also being studied by the state.

Montana has made it clear that it is trying to build a state water plan, in part as a base for negotiations with other states in the basin. An unofficial step toward such negotiations will take place in early 1986, when the Northern Lights Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Helena, brings together representatives from four upper basin states -- Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas -- to discuss approaches to the problem of dividing the waters.

Northern Lights director Don Snow says "the basic goal is to get key people in the upper basin states to discuss cooperative plans. We're not excluding the lower basin," but Northern Lights believes any settlement must start with understanding among the upper basin states.

Are such negotiations likely to be shortcircuited by a full-blown Supreme Court case, comparable to the Arizona-New Mexico case on the Colorado? If attorney Trelease is correct in his 1982 report to Montana,

Kent and Donna Danner



The Missouri River at dawn

the Supreme Court won't accept South Dakota's case at this time. Trelease said the court gets involved in interstate disputes only when there is an imminent threat to someone's interest.

Although it is predicted that by the 21st century barges will need wheels to negotiate the Missouri River near Sioux Falls, the threat is not

imminent. Most likely, the Supreme Court will reject Janklow's request to file a lawsuit, giving the Switzerlands of the Missouri River time to encourage negotiations.

The direction the water division issue takes will affect environmental values. If the upper basin states become convinced they must build

projects to claim a share of the water, the Garrisons and CENDAKS will be pushed ever harder. But if Montana's more deliberate approach -- one based on resolution of in-state issues, on planning, on basin-wide negotiations, and on protection of wildlife and fisheries -- takes hold, then environmental values are likely to get a more receptive hearing.



Top: Mount Williamson, Sierra Nevada, from Owens Valley, California, c. 1944, by Ansel Adams. One of a notecard set.
Bottom: Zapotec rug.

A mini-catalogue of gifts from the High Country News Research Fund

By now, subscribers should have received the 1985 annual Research Fund mailing. Although it is not mentioned in the mailing, this year, thanks largely to the generosity of several readers of *High Country News*, the paper will be able to show its appreciation of contributions to the fund.

Those who contribute \$50 or more will receive a free gift subscription to *HCN*, which they can send to a new subscriber of their choosing. A card will inform the recipient of the gift.

Those who contribute \$250 or more will receive a box of eight notecards with scenes of national parks taken by Ansel Adams. The cards come from

two anonymous donors, and are produced by Museum Graphics of Redwood City, California.

Those who contribute \$500 or more will receive a mounted color photograph by Stuart Mace titled "Liquid Silver," showing a closeup of an outdoor scene in the Castle Creek Valley of Colorado.

Contributors of \$1,000 or more will receive a handsome Zapotec rug woven by a master weaver of Teotittlan de Valle in Mexico. The 31 by 58 inch rugs come from the Toklat Galleries in the Aspen area, operated by Stuart and Isabel Mace.

In case you have misplaced your Research Fund mailing, a form is included below.



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afield

Brilliant and vital

by Peter Anderson

Inspired by their bright colors and incredible speed, birdwatchers have referred to them as horned sunbeams, bronze-tailed comets, Andean hillstars and purple-crowned fairies. "They are on hand when the sun is out in earnest, when the blossoms are with us..." wrote William Saroyan. "You can hardly go through the best kind of day without seeing a hummingbird suspended like a little miracle in a shaft of light or over a big flower or a cluster of little ones. Or turning like gay insanity and shooting straight as an arrow toward practically nothing, for no reason, or for the reason that it's alive."

I've been told that hummingbirds heading south for the winter ride like stowaways in the plumage of larger birds. This theory may owe its origins to an incident involving a hunter who, back in the 1930s, shot a goose and discovered, much to his surprise, that a live hummer was buried in the bird's feathers.

I'm not enough of an ornithologist to know if the hitchhiking theory has ever been documented, but I must admit I have my doubts. Nevertheless, these critters, the smallest birds on the planet, have some unusual habits.

Take their mating routine. Female hummingbirds, as a rule, prefer casual relationships, associating with males only long enough to get their eggs fertilized. The males go through an elaborate show of acrobatics to attract a mate, and often the female will watch for a while and then fly off apparently unimpressed. Despite the female's "ho-hum" reaction, the males persist, their wings reaching speeds of up to 200 beats per second during their aerial dance.

Alexander Skutch, in his book, *The*

Life of the Hummingbird, writes of some strange hummer/human encounters. "While Emerson Stoner watered his garden in California, a female Anna's hummingbird often came to flit through his hose. One day, she discovered that she could ride the stream, a solid jet of water about three-quarters of an inch thick."

"Flying up at right angles, she alighted on the jet as though it were a branch and permitted it to carry her forward. Over and over she did this stunt. She seemed to be playing rather than bathing." Surf's up. Hang ten. Tubular: maybe this is an evolutionary development peculiar to California's hummers.

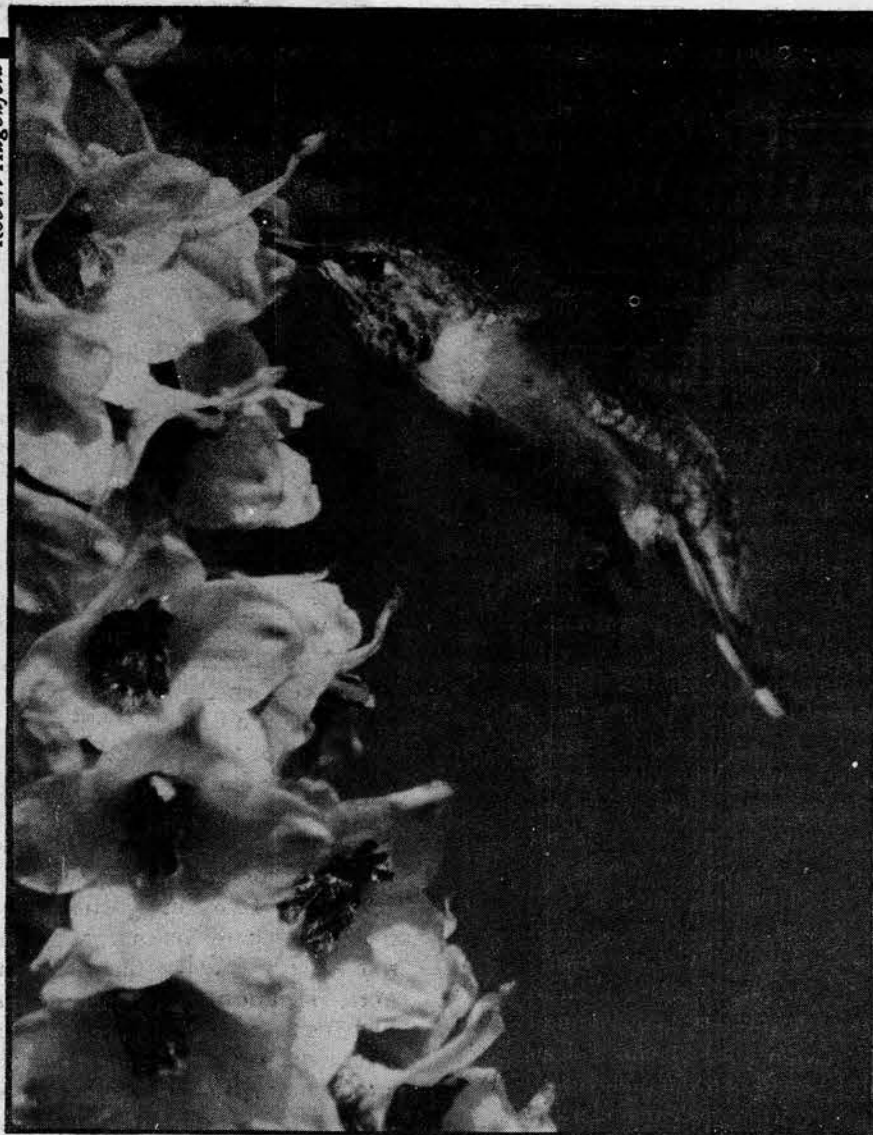
Skutch tells another story of a friendship between a hummingbird and an ailing artist named Arthur Fitzgerald, who was laid up in a California sanatorium, where he was recovering from tuberculosis. A rufous hummingbird hovering next to a feeder outside his window apparently did wonders for his sagging spirits.

"The presence of the creature so brilliant and full of vitality... gave Fitzgerald an outside interest and hastened his recovery," Skutch wrote. Before long, the artist was allowed to spend some time outdoors in his wheelchair, and the hummingbird would come down off the feeder, and hover around his head.

"When the convalescent finally returned home in a car, the rufous somehow followed to his house eight miles away. Then to build up his strength he began taking daily walks on which the hummingbird always accompanied his human friend, flying ahead and perching until the slower pedestrian caught up."

Eventually, Fitzgerald returned to his job in the city, but when he came back to his mountain retreat a month later, "the rufous was there, whizzing

Robert Hilgenfeld



Rufous hummingbird

around his head and dancing back and forth before his glasses."

I don't know of anyone who's ever kindled this kind of friendship with a hummer, but I have noticed that they are basically fearless. They also seem to be attracted to the color red. A friend of mine who has a red rose tattooed on his shoulder had an encounter with several hummers not long ago. He was standing by a feeder, when one came and landed on his tattoo. Seconds later, several other hummers landed on his finger which he was holding out next to the feeder. "They all just stood there for awhile, waiting to get into that sugar water," he said.

My friend theorized that they are

as bold as they are because they never have to worry about predators. But there was a time when we humans were chasing after hummers: years ago their flashy colors really caught on, and fashionable women all over Europe were pinning stuffed hummers onto their hats. Fortunately, fashion trends often disappear faster than hummers in September; now most of us are content enough to just sit back and watch the show, while hummers shoot "straight as an arrow toward practically nothing, for no reason, or for the reason that (they're) alive."

Peter Anderson is a freelance writer in central Colorado.

BOOK NOTES

The admirable, disappearing mountain lion

In Praise of Mountain Lions

Edward Abbey, John Nichols. *Albuquerque, New Mexico: Wildlife Committee, New Mexico Sierra Club*, 1984. 50 pages. \$4, paper.

The Cougar in New Mexico: Biology, Status, Depredation of Livestock and Management Recommendations

Dr. Wain Evans. *Santa Fe, New Mexico: New Mexico Game and Fish Department*, 1983. Free, paper.

Review by Elliott Bernshaw

It was eagles vs. lambs in Texas during the late 1970s, and in New Mexico, the culprit is mountain lions eating livestock on public land.

The answers emerging from an ongoing debate in New Mexico are various: eliminate lions altogether, remove livestock from lion habitat, or rate some losses to lions or find entirely new means of lion control.

Both reports by the Sierra Club and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish conclude that the lion

population has drastically declined and that livestock depredation is infrequent and economically insignificant. Both recommend either a moratorium or major reduction of the hunting season and bag limits. But the Sierra Club booklet points out that New Mexico ranchers continue to pressure the state legislature to return the lion to its former "varmint" status.

Conservationists are incensed that livestock losses to lions in 1983 were estimated to be only \$30,000, yet government agents spent \$90,000 to kill mountain lions. In the Sierra Club booklet, Ed Abbey says the public shouldn't be paying the bill: "If the land and cattle companies insist on running their 'hooved locusts' on our public lands, they've got to take the risks. Let them add the costs of the losses to their business expenses; it's all tax deductible."

Abbey concludes, "Why mountain lions? Because they are beautiful. For the same reason we need bald eagles, redbellied hawks, bobcats..., wild grapes and untamed rivers. How to say once more what has been said so often? Who is listening?"

John Nichols sees both ranchers and lions as endangered by socio-economic forces. "I think that as soon as the ranchers clean up the territory, making it safe and free of those dastardly predators, the banks will foreclose on the ranchers, and then the developers will move in and take over." He quotes Grant County rancher Lewis Oliver as saying: "I would like to say I can feel for these people who want to protect the mountain lion. These people, however, are obviously city-dwellers. The lion is one of the most deadly killers in the world. My ancestors fought him well over 100 years ago."

At the core of the wildlife-livestock debate is the multiple-use concept of federal lands. Wildlife defenders claim wild animals -- including predators -- as part of our natural heritage, are worth greater consideration or at least equal consideration with livestock. Ranchers, of course, point out that their families have been running livestock for generations on federal lands.

According to the Sierra Club booklet, the four states of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Texas still



class the lion as a "varmint predator." In those states it is legal for anyone at any time to kill any mountain lion, male or female, even nursing mothers and suckling cubs. This used to be the case also in New Mexico, until the New Mexico Game Commission declared the lion a big game animal subject to hunting regulations.

Elliott Bernshaw is a freelance writer and conservationist in Salt Lake City, Utah.

LETTERS

ESCALANTE WAS UNFAIRLY CHARACTERIZED

Dear HCN,

I wish to respond to Ed Grumbine's article in the July 22 issue of HCN. Let me clarify that I am not contesting his opposition to paving the Burr Trail, but rather his unproductive attack on the local residents of Escalante.

I have lived in the West all my life, and in Utah for eight years, most of which time I spent in small, rural towns, including Escalante, where I recently lived for a year and a half. I have also been backpacking and exploring in those beautiful and wild Escalante canyons since the mid-1970s. My love affair with that wilderness of sunlit sandstone is ongoing.

But in addition to the rugged beauty of the land, there is also a human element -- sometimes equally as rugged, basic, and straightforward. And, like the land, the human inhabitants of this rural area are frequently unsophisticated in comprehending bureaucratic processes, although there is recognition that such processes can have far-reaching effects on their lives.

Mr. Grumbine admits that this country is different from his boyhood home of Maryland. One major difference is that over 90 percent of

this land is federally or state-owned. This helps explain why "outsiders" have historically had so much say in the economic dreams of these southern Utah communities -- dreams which Mr. Grumbine glibly labels as "atrocities." There may be some merit in this observation, but neither is it pleasant, good or pretty for a family to be subsisting on near-minimum wage paychecks or unemployment. Sure, these people could leave, move to California, returning once each year, as Mr. Grumbine does, to "revel" -- but they don't. They try to stay -- family ties are strong and this is home. They struggle, worry, some grow bitter and angry at what they perceive as a lack of independent control over their livelihoods, which are closely tied to the land around them. Public land.

Their problems deserve and require recognition and knowledgeable understanding, if answers are to materialize. Mr. Grumbine agrees that their economy is in sad shape but offers no firm suggestions. He confesses to being much more familiar with desert ecology than with the woes, isolation, and day to day concerns inherent to life in these small communities. He is quick, however, to provide derogatory comments aimed at the residents, citing their unfriendliness toward him. He further states that the locals were violent, hurling insults. The author's higher sophistication shows through -- he waited until he was safely home to vent his violence and insults with his pen: scathing criticisms with little

understanding, compassion, or constructive advice. He remained, by his own choosing, an outsider.

Mr. Grumbine notes that no one at the Burr Trail hearing spoke of wilderness values, and he mentions being angry at "the unending array of pro-paving county commissioners, cowboys and government lackeys" -- a seeming exhibition of his own intolerance for people and viewpoints different from his own, an accusation which, paradoxically, he also levels at the locals. In fact, Mr. Grumbine, there do happen to be many Utahns, even "government lackeys" -- even some residing in Escalante -- who oppose paving the Burr Trail. That few

of them spoke at the Escalante hearing is apparent -- perhaps they opted to send in written comments, the same as the author, who himself declined to formally speak out, reportedly because it was inconvenient to wait until after midnight for the first available opening.

In closing, let it be said that at least the "redneck locals" who spoke at the hearing won points on one level of human advancement. They had the common social courtesy to bathe beforehand, a social grace Mr. Grumbine amazingly lacked.

TinaMarie Gornick
St. George, Utah

THINNER LIPS -- GIVE ME A BREAK

Dear HCN,

I didn't want to jump into the middle of the exchange between Susan Brater and Jack de Golia about his criticism of Kathleen Ferris' photo, but after reading the latest from de Golia in the Sept. 16, 1985 HCN, I couldn't contain myself.

Mr. de Golia resorts to an age-old trick of trying to get the other person in the argument on the defensive. He also hides behind stilted phrases such as "Like it or not, in the real world..." and "People make decisions..." De Golia tries to disassociate himself from his decisions by attributing them to the faceless "real world" and other "people."

I would have had a great deal more

respect for Mr. de Golia if he had taken responsibility for his original comments and apologized for them if he felt so inclined after some time to reflect on them, or acknowledged that he didn't see anything wrong with them. Instead he tries to paint himself as a wrongly accused "sexist" and hopes that by throwing in some inflammatory statements and shifting the blame to Susan Brater for misunderstanding him he can escape unscathed.

Mary Ann Nichols
Denver, Colorado

P.S. I wasn't all that thrilled with your headline either -- "Thinner lips called for." Give me a break!

ACCESS

WORK

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS: The Dakota Resource Council is a grassroots organization of farmers and rural people active in energy development, family farm and toxics issues. Members are committed to economic justice and advocacy at the local, state and national levels. Organizers are responsible for membership recruitment, leadership development, fundraising, action research and campaign development, and must be committed to working with rural people towards social change. Starting salary is \$9,600 per year, benefits. Contact Theresa M. Keaveny, Dakota Resource Council, 29 7th Avenue West, Dickinson, ND 58601. Phone 701/227-1851.

EXPERIENCE WIDE OPEN SPACES AND BLUE SKIES while working as an organizer for a grassroots conservation organization in Wyoming. Salary: \$8,500/year with automatic \$900/year raises. Medical insurance and thirty days paid vacation provided. Send resume to: Powder River Basin Resource Council, 48 North Main, Sheridan, WY 82801.

THE NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL in Billings, Montana, is seeking a staff director. Community organizing, fundraising and management experience are important qualifications for directing the statewide membership-based citizens group. Annual salary, \$12,000-\$18,000 DOE. Call or write Margaret MacDonald, NPRC, 419 Stapleton Bldg., Billings, MT 95101 (406/248-1154). Deadline October 1.

DISTRIBUTORS/DEALERS: Royal Doulton, the world's oldest and foremost producer of ceramic/carbon water filters, announces the introduction of its products in North America. The range incorporates filters designed for domestic, commercial, and industrial application and includes units certified by the NSF under Standards 42 & 53. I am interviewing companies and personnel to market our line in designated areas throughout U.S. and Canada. If you have a strong track record and a desire to market a line with superior performance, please call or contact: Harry McCuaig -- Royal Doulton Water Purification, 5024 S. Ash Suite #104, Tempe, Arizona 85282 (602/345-2016 or 831-7305). (2x)

PERSONALS

SINGLE? ENVIRONMENTALIST, PEACE-ORIENTED? Concerned Singles Newsletter links unattached like-minded persons, all ages, all areas of the U.S. Free information: P.O. Box 7737B, Berkeley, CA 94707. (6x15)

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20 cents per word, prepaid, \$5 minimum. Rates vary for display ads; write HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, Colorado 81428 or call 303/527-4898 for further information.

NEAT STUFF

OUT-OF-PRINT books and magazines. Subjects include mountaineering, backpacking, hiking, nature, ecology, etc. \$1.00 for giant catalog (refundable). Frank Ashley, Box 3818D, Downey, CA 90242.

PROJECT LIGHTHAWK, which now has two airplanes serving conservation groups, can be reached in Denver at 303/499-3525, in Santa Fe at 505/982-9656.

HELP STOP NUCLEAR DUMP and protect the Black Hills: Beautiful quality notecards with Plains and Badlands nature photos now available; all proceeds go to stop nuclear dump. Free brochure -- write to: Native Beauty, P.O. Box 662, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. (4x18)

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BULLETIN BOARD

A WATERY LOOK AT THE 21ST CENTURY

A conference on Colorado water, with an emphasis on legal issues, will be held Oct. 8-9, 1985 at Denver's Regency Hotel. Among the speakers will be David H. Getches, Colorado's director of natural resources, attorney Clyde Martz, former state legislator Fred Anderson, Colorado State Engineer Jeris Danielson, state legislator Tom Glass, Dan Luecke of the Environmental Defense Fund, Justice George Lohr, engineer Kenneth Wright, attorney Greg Hobbs and attorney John Musick. The conference, titled "Colorado Water Issues and Options: the 90s and Beyond," has a registration fee of \$150. For information, contact Kathy Taylor at the Natural Resources Law Center, University of Colorado, Boulder, at 303/492-1286.



MAKING IT SNOW

If a Bureau of Reclamation proposal is approved, Colorado's 10,000-foot-high Grand Mesa may receive some unusual snowfall this winter. The "augmentation demonstration" involves seeding clouds with silver iodide or dry ice to see if the snowpack, which eventually melts to join the Colorado River, can be significantly increased. Bureau of Reclamation officials say this may be a possible solution to future water shortages. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed some concern that changing water flow might affect endangered fish species, and some area residents have said the mesa's 25 feet of snow during most winters is more than enough. Requests for the just-released environmental assessment and comments should be sent to Bureau of Reclamation, Montrose Skywater Office, Attn: Cindy Snook, 2075 East Main, Montrose, CO 81401 (303/249-2614).

ACIDIC WATERS SEMINAR

A two-day seminar on "Liming Acidic Waters: Environmental and Policy Concerns" will be held October 30-31 in Albany, New York. Aimed at conservationists, legislators, sportsmen, scientists and business people, the conference will examine how liming affects acidic waters. The sponsor is the Acid Rain Information Clearinghouse, and a registration fee of \$125 before Oct. 15 includes materials and meals. Scholarships are available. Call ARIC at 716/546-3796 or write to the Center for Environmental Information, 33 S. Washington St., Rochester, NY 14608.

ELEGANT TETONS BOOK

A beautifully produced book, *Grand Teton National Park: Where Lightning Walks*, features large color photos of trumpeter swans, blue, frost-covered harebells, the first snow on Teewinot Mountain and sunrise striking the Grand Tetons. The excellent pictures are by Pat O'Hara, the conservation-oriented text is by Tim MuNulty, and designers are McQuiston & Daughter. The book is one in a series on national parks.

Woodlands Press, 853 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014. Cloth: \$16.95. 72 pages.

APARTHEID DEBATE

Former Black Panther co-founder Bobby Seals debates South African businessman Stuart Pringle on the subject of apartheid at Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colorado, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. Pringle, a documentary film producer, believes American investment in South Africa helps control communism. Tickets cost \$4. Call Eric Erven at 303/248-1758 for more information.

LAND ACQUISITION WORKSHOP

A Western Governor's Association workshop on the creative acquisition of parkland will be held at the Westin Hotel in Denver, Colorado, on Oct. 16, 17 and 18. For a registration fee of \$275, participants will get an overview of land acquisition techniques illustrated by case studies, and will hear from guest speakers such as Colorado's Gov. Richard Lamm, Arizona's Gov. Bruce Babbitt, and Del Webb Corporation Chairman Robert Swanson. The program also includes the negotiation process, funding alternatives, and the development of a land acquisition strategy. To register and for information contact the Western Governors' Association, 700 17th Street, Suite 1205, South Tower, Denver, CO 80202 (303/623-9378).

NEW WETLANDS REPORT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has just published a report which examines the loss of wetlands and current efforts towards their preservation. Called "Wetlands of the United States: Current Status and Recent Trends," the report points out that wetlands are regarded by biologists as the single most productive habitat for wildlife, particularly North American waterfowl. Approximately 87 percent of the nation's total wetland loss has been caused by agricultural development. Write for a copy to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20242. Include GPO Stock Number 024-010-00656-1 and a check for \$3.

SKIING HISTORY

Historian Abbott Fay has written a colorful account of a century of Colorado skiing in the new book *Ski Tracks in the Rockies*. Old and new photos are excellent and dominate, making this a picture book with an accompanying text. The publisher is Cordillera Press.

COWBOY TALES

The Making of a Cowboy, by Vern C. Mortensen, makes up for its lack of narrative force with a wealth of detail and anecdotes. The author worked as a cowboy in the early years of the century and wrote the book so his grandchildren "would know how things actually were on cattle ranges."

Vantage Press, 516 West 34th St., New York, NY 10001. Cloth: \$11.95. 158 pages.

COWBOY POET SCHOLARSHIPS

The second Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, this winter is offering up to 50 expense-paid trips to cowboy poets -- both men and women -- who "represent the best in traditional or original verse recitation" and who have earned most of their living working with cattle at some time in their lives. Those wishing to be considered for the 1986 gathering, to be held Jan. 30 through Feb. 1, 1986, should submit their poetry or recordings of their recitations to: Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Box 888, Elko, NV 89801 (702/738-7508). The deadline is Oct. 30.



COWBOY POETRY

Cowboy Poetry: A Gathering, edited by Hal Cannon, is a handsome little book that was compiled after the first cowboy poetry get-together in Elko, Nevada, last February. Most of the poems are new, the rest have been recited over campfires for decades.

Gibbs M. Smith Inc., Box 667, Layton, UT 84041. Paper: \$9.95. 201 pages. Illustrated.



A LEAFY CELEBRATION

The Western Slope (of Colorado) Energy Research Center will celebrate a "string of victories" at a potluck party Friday, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m., in the VFW Hall in Hotchkiss. The victories came in a variety of battles over the handling of aspen cuts by the U.S. Forest Service on the Gunnison, Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre national forests. The Secretary of Agriculture has ordered revisions of a 50-year plan for those forests. For more information, call 303/872-3902.

RIVER RUNNERS

River Runners of the Grand Canyon by David Lavender is a fascinating book about the men and women who have run the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. It includes Powell's pioneering first trips, Robert Stanton's surveying trip in which three people drowned; the Flavell/Montez trip in which Flavell pulled a gun on his cold-footed partner and told him, "You can come along with me or you can float down dead;" and the excursions of Buzz Holmstrom, a gas station attendant who made his own boat from a cedar log and became the first person to run the canyon solo and the first to run all the rapids in the canyon.

University of Arizona Press, 1615 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719. Cloth: \$27.50. 147 pages. Photos.

FOR FERRET SEARCHERS

A workshop will be held Oct. 2 at the University of Wyoming in Laramie to train people from both public and private agencies to survey areas for black-footed ferrets. The one-day workshop about the endangered species will include classroom and field exercises as well as night, day and multi-seasonal survey techniques. Instructors from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will also cover laws and regulations about ferrets. Contact Angela Brummond, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Cooperative Unit, Box 3166, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071 (307/766-5415).

MONTANA STREAM ACCESS

Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has published a brochure summarizing how Montana's new stream access law affects use of the state's rivers and streams. The law that went into effect April 19 allows boaters the right to use rivers or streams regardless of streambed ownership. "Stream Access in Montana: Rights and Responsibilities of Landowners and Recreationists" is available from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Capitol Station, Helena, MT 59620.

SAVING WATER

"Saving Water: A Handbook for Community Water Conservation" has just been published by the New Mexico Solar Energy Institute to help water managers, policy makers, and concerned citizens. The \$15 handbook lists ideas for cutting back on water consumption, both on a personal and community level. Samples of water conservation brochures from various private and public agencies are included in the three-ring binder as well as specific suggestions on how to carry out a water saving campaign. Write to New Mexico State University, Box 3 SOL, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

The Colorado Environmental Lobby will hold its First Legislative Summit on Sat., Oct. 19, in Boulder to plan for the 1986 legislative session. Four topics will be examined: toxic hazards, water conservation, energy resource planning and state land use planning. Space is limited and reservations for the event should be made quickly. A fee of \$5 covers registration and lunch at the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. event to be held at the University Memorial Center's Aspen Room at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Call Briggs Gamblin at 202/320-0329 or write: CEL, 1724 Gilpin St., Denver, CO. 80218, for information.

TO SAVE A JAPANESE-AMERICAN FOREST

A letter from Japan tells us that a wildlife sanctuary has been preserved in the densely congested Greater Tokyo Metropolitan Area thanks to the U.S. Navy, which has used it for underground ammunition storage. Now the Navy wants to clear the forest to build 1,000 homes for sailors stationed at Yokosuka Naval Base. The Save Ikego International is asking people to write to the relevant Japanese official protesting the forest clearing. Letters should start: "According to Chapter 1, Clause 1 of the Kanagawa Prefecture Environmental Impact Assessment Law, I hereby submit my written opinion regarding the proposed Ikego U.S. Military Family Housing Construction plan. Regarding the assessment forecast of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (re U.S. Military Housing Plan in Ikego Ammunition Depot), my opinion..." The letter HCN received says comments in English are especially valuable, since the Japanese government will have to translate them. Letters should be sent to: Eiko Kawanishi, Citizen's Association for the Protection of Nature and Children, 5-4-24 Hisagi, Zushi, Kanagawa Prefecture, 249 Japan. Information is available from Frances Lipscomb at the National Audubon Society, 645 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

NEW WILDERNESS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The recently formed Wilderness Research Foundation in Fort Collins, Colorado, seeks to protect wilderness through the cooperative efforts of artists and scientists. In July the foundation held a four-day art show at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where more than 300 original paintings and sculptures of America's wilderness were exhibited. To find out more about the Foundation, contact Dr. Glenn E. Haas, President, Wilderness Research Foundation, Box 9502, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

BUILDING CONSERVATIVELY

When it comes to energy abuse and use, the Northwest has all the fun. On the abuse side, it has WPPSS. On the use side, it has the Northwest Power Planning Council, which operates under a federal law to tie together the Bonneville Power Administration and the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The region is attempting to do something no other section of the U.S. is even thinking of: determine its energy future. Part of that effort is on display in a collection of papers titled: "Conservation in Buildings: Northwest Perspective," which came out of a conference held at the National Center for Appropriate Technology, or NCAT, in Butte, Montana, this May. The papers are too technical to be of use to most contractors or people planning to build their own homes. But the information and techniques they contain should help advance the building of superinsulated homes, the installation of solar systems, the retrofitting and weatherization of existing homes beyond their current seat-of-the-pants level. Copies of the 484-page report are available for \$60, and will be of use to policy and technical people. For information or a copy of the report, write: NCAT, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, MT 59702. Or call Bob Corbett at 406/494-4572.

NEW AT MEIC

The Montana Environmental Information Center has a new executive director in former state Rep. Jim Jensen. Jensen took the helm Sept. 3 after being selected from a field of 40 applicants in a nationwide search. While serving in Montana's Legislature, Jensen was a member of the Natural Resource, Fish and Game, and Judiciary committees.

ROCK ART

After visiting five mine sites, Denver sculptor Paul Klite concluded that some tailings piles from unreclaimed mines could be turned into works of art. His "Reclamation Art" study, prepared for the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Division and the Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities, may become part of a long-range state plan to clean up the wastes piled at 10,000 inactive metal mines and 900 closed coal mines in Colorado. For a copy of Klite's proposal, write to the Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities, 770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver, CO 80203.

GUEST ESSAY

Treating forests as if they had souls

by George Wuerthner

Many years ago I was hired as a seasonal forestry technician on the Nezperce National Forest in Idaho. I was assigned to a timber stand exam crew. It was our job to hike through the forest measuring such things as tree growth, tree density, species composition, and other data that would later be used by forest planners back in the Forest Supervisor's office to determine which areas were to be logged and by which method.

One bright autumn day my crew huffed up a steep slope and unexpectedly crested out on top of a wind-swept ridge. We rested a moment, gulping with equal vigor water from our canteens, air into our lungs and the view. A cool breeze scented by pines dried the sweat from our faces. We squinted at the scene, each converting the blue lines of hills and clefts of valleys into a personal estimate of the days it would take to walk to the far horizon, had we wanted to get there. For in those days no road led to the distant mountain which lay beyond the green forest.

Finally, breaking the magic of the moment, one of my crew spoke. "Look at all that old decadent timber. Can't wait to cut it out. Get some young trees growing again." The others nodded in silent agreement. Where I saw a sweeping panorama of forest and mountains, they saw only future road systems and clearcuts. In the past, such unbroken forests might have been called virgin, old growth. Foresters of today call it decadent.

These foresters were not insensitive people. They enjoyed the fern-lined grottos and open glades of the forest. Nevertheless, they had been taught to view a forest as so many board feet of lumber, much as a rancher might view old Bessie as future hamburger.

Every forest has its own personality and qualities which reflect the land's topography, wildlife, plant life and climate. The personality of the Nezperce Forest was strongly influenced by the presence of pileated woodpeckers. The pileated is a large, crow-sized bird with striking black, white and red markings. It looks like a bird wearing a clown costume. Pileated woodpeckers can only live in old growth forests which have many dead and dying trees. The dead snags provide the pileated with both room and board. One knows if pileated woodpeckers are in the area for wherever they have fed, a distinctive rectangular hole remains in the trunk, marking their passage. These holes are approximately an inch deep, inch wide and three inches long. They are frequently so precisely squared that most people, upon seeing them, believe the holes to be man-made.

The Nezperce Forest was rich in dead and dying trees. As a consequence it was also rich in pileated woodpeckers. Sometimes I saw their flash of white and black wings as they flew from snag to snag. More often, I only heard their loud hammering on the trees; it sounds a lot like a carpenter pounding in nails. It is this sound that I remember most about Nezperce Forest.

Yet in our notebooks, where we charted the forest's attributes, there was no place for woodpeckers. Pileated woodpeckers were considered "extraneous noise" that muddled the data we collected on forest productivity.

I thought about pileated woodpeckers whenever my crew marked trees for timber sales. Armed with spray guns full of paint, we marched in evenly-spaced formations through the forest marking those trees which would later be cut. Usually we followed some marking prescription, such as marking only trees of a particular species or over a certain size. We almost always marked old trees -- the kind pileated woodpeckers need the most. Every now and then I came upon one of those venerable old giants of the forest -- trees so large the entire crew holding hands would have had difficulty encircling the trunks. These old giants, more than any others, were the trees that foresters wanted to cut.



Riley McClelland

Pileated woodpecker

Old trees grow slowly, if at all. They use nutrients which younger trees utilize more efficiently. (So do old foresters). Yet it seemed wrong to cut these survivors of blizzards, fires, windstorms and drought. I decided to make up my own marking prescription. Whenever I found one of these monarchs of the woods, I'd fall behind the rest of the crew. Then, on the wide, spacious trunks, I painted messages to the loggers. "Do not cut." "Don't touch me." "Leave me alone." "Get lost logger."

I don't know if my messages deterred any loggers. Probably not. And there are, no doubt, fewer pileated woodpeckers on the Nezperce Forest today.

Pileated woodpeckers are just one small component of many that give definition and identity to a forest. Like the dots that together form the composite image in a photo, each animal and plant in the forest serves to give a sharper and clearer image. The more numerous the dots, the higher the quality of the resulting photo. The education a forestry student receives at most of the nation's forestry schools teaches people to ignore the small dots which give the forest its personality. The utilization views of my co-workers are not surprising given the standard curriculum of most forestry school programs.

For example, at my alma mater, the University of Montana, forestry students must take a demanding gauntlet of technical courses devoted to the extraction and manufacture of trees into forest products. Such coursework includes surveying, road construction, forest mensuration, wood anatomy, timber harvest methods, sawmill science and forest products and industry, just to name a few. All of these courses reinforce the idea that forests exist solely for the production of timber.

In contrast to the timber-farming attitude that pervades nearly all the forestry students' curriculum, Montana students must take only one course in ecology. It is the only attempt by the school to direct students towards an ecological awareness of the forest ecosystem. If a student wants to take more ecology coursework, he or she

must usually attend school for additional quarters. The required coursework of technical forestry classes leaves little extra time for such "luxuries" as acquiring an ecological understanding.

In addition, forestry students are not required to take any classes that might give them a poetic appreciation of forests or nature. Such a view is both explicitly and implicitly ridiculed as unprofessional and sentimental. They are traits that forestry schools work to squelch in aspiring foresters.

Forestry, as an applied science, teaches students to memorize names of ecosystem parts, such as the Latin names of trees or the formalized names of soil types, but it seldom asks them to understand the interrelationships within an ecosystem. Forestry students may know the Latin name of the trees pileated woodpeckers live in, but it is doubtful if many know the ecological relationship between woodpeckers and those trees. Forestry schools assume that if a student has learned the names of individual parts, they will know how they work together. This approach to forestry is like learning the vocabulary to a foreign language and assuming one can automatically construct sentences and paragraphs. Forestry students are asked to learn the words, but not the syntax and grammar of an ecosystem.

This is not to suggest that foresters don't need some training in applied skills. Knowledge of road construction can avoid needless soil erosion caused by design failures. Knowledge of timber harvest methods can allow the forester more options in extraction and prevent damage to the forest ecosystem.

But in addition to technical training in the growing of trees, a forestry student should receive a broader education. These courses could include, but not necessarily be limited to, classes in wildlife biology, plant ecology, fisheries, soils, range ecology, recreation, wilderness appreciation and geography. In some cases, forestry students will likely take one or two of these classes, but seldom will a student have the broad-based natural history background which results from exposure to all of the above.

Most importantly, students should be exposed to the ideas of writers who expound appreciation of the natural world. Writers such as John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Edward Abbey, Bob Marshall and others. We ought to treat forests as if they had a soul. To many, such a view is like believing ancient Greek myths. Personally, I don't know if I believe that trees have souls, but I do believe it's important that we treat them and all living and non-living things as if they did.

Foresters without such training are like missionaries too sure of their own actions. Like missionaries who strive to save souls, foresters strive to save forests. Not with baptism and persuasion, but with logging roads and clearcuts. Foresters seldom spend time contemplating the ecological right and wrong of their actions, for all forests need to be saved. And there is only one way to save them -- cut them down.

Considering the educational priorities of most forestry schools, it is not surprising that our national forests are badly mismanaged as ecosystems. If we are to train foresters who will consider all parts of the forest ecosystem as important -- not just the trees, but the woodpeckers as well -- then we must initiate a change in the schools which train foresters.

If such a change in curriculum were to occur, then I believe future foresters might top out on wind-swept ridges and exclaim, "Look at all that old-growth forest. What a great place for pileated woodpeckers. Hope we see some."

□

George Wuerthner tells us he is over-educated in the fields of wildlife, botany, range and the liberal arts, but has received his real education as a wanderer in wilderness. He lives in Santa Cruz, California.

OFF THE WALL

by Ed Marston

No cacophony

(By this time, readers have received the 1985 High Country News Research Fund appeal. We thought you might be interested in several versions of the letter which didn't get selected.)

Dear Friend,

All is quiet outside. There is no cacophony of horn sounds drifting up from the street below... Paonia, you see, has no traffic after the rush-minute that occurs when school lets out. Nor is the *High Country News* office above anything. In fact, we're below, in the tiny town's only subbasement.

Nevertheless, this is the real world -- a lonely outpost in a lonely, empty part of the world. The staff has been on duty, continuously, for 187 hours, and the strain of no food and no sleep is beginning to take its toll. Moreover, the Paonia water department has shut off the water for lack of payment. So as well as hungry, we're also thirsty.

And, at this time of maximum strain, the electric company shuts off the electricity, so we're also trying to recall how to use manual typewriters.

Why the sacrifice? Why the strain? We can't remember. All we can think of is Big Macs and shakes so thick they'll fracture your foot if you drop them.

And speaking of "drop," could you please do that with a tax deductible check and the enclosed envelope.

--the staff

(Staff liked the subtle way we got into the plea

for money, but they thought that -- stark and realistic as the picture was -- it might be a bit much for many readers, unaccustomed to life as it really is in a nonprofit organization in the West. So we came up with a second version.)

Ominous silence

Dear cohort,

I am sitting at my desk in HCN's small office. The desk is slammed against the front door. Outside are a dozen Forest Service and BLM officials. They're ominously quiet. Then, peering up out of our small, grimy basement window, I see why. They have gotten Louisiana-Pacific to chop down a telephone pole under an emergency forest management plan. They're planning to use that pole to batter down the front door.

Luckily, a local attorney comes by just as they prepare to charge the door. He checks their paperwork and, finding no EIS or even an EA, sends them off to prepare a FONSI -- a Finding of No Significant Impact -- on the cutting down of the pole and the bashing in of our door.

But as those of you involved with natural resource issues in the West know, such legal maneuvers can buy time (God bless our lawyers) but they are not a permanent cure.

But there is a permanent cure. Our intern -- who was on his way to pick up the day's mail when the bureaucrats set their siege -- is free and outside. So, if you send a check today, we will have time to cash it and buy a stronger door. And remember -- your check is tax deductible.

--the staff

(Unfortunately, staff felt the above was a little melodramatic, although they liked the image of the isolated environmentalist and his desk standing off the bureaucracy. So we drafted a third version.)

HCN needs a new pair of shoes

Dear Friend,

Just yesterday we had a desperate call from a reader in Hogback, Nevada. It seems the BLM and Forest Service are planning to combine with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Sahara Gambling Casino in Las Vegas. I don't have to tell you what that means. It means they are literally going to play craps with the public land. It means that instead of chips, the bureaucrats are going to sit in the posh Sahara and gamble away your beautiful mountains, your arid deserts, your depthless arroyos, your drowned and dammed canyons.

It is potentially the biggest public land story of the decade. And while we have enough money to get to the Sahara, rent a room, eat at one of the \$1.99 buffets, and catch one of Frank's shows, we don't have enough money to get into the game.

And that is why I'm writing to you. Your tax deductible contribution could stake HCN. It could send us to Vegas to win back Glen Canyon, drain it, and reveal again that now-underwater desert world. It will help us throw sevens when Canyonlands gets put into the pot, and thus save it from nuclear waste storage. Rumor has it that a desperate bureaucracy, crazed from too many appealed EISs, even plans to throw in Hetch Hetchy -- providing literally the chance of a lifetime for the environmental movement.

effort. But you can also help in other ways. For the next several weeks, stay lucky: keep your fingers crossed, don't step on sidewalk cracks, and -- whatever you do -- don't open any umbrellas indoors.

--the staff

LETTERS

SOME OMISSIONS

Dear HCN,

I am glad *High Country News* was able to do a story on the so-called Cabin Creek Mine, only seven air miles northwest of Glacier National Park. However, Mike Dennison's article (HCN, 8/5/85) contains some omissions and needs some clarification.

The article reads "During the past decade more than 10,000 people in the Flathead Valley have signed petitions opposing the mine." Actually over 14,000 signatures have been gathered in three years, mostly at the Polebridge Mercantile. It is even more impressive when one considers that the North Fork has a year-round population of 100 people spread over 31 miles of gravel road, which is the reason the area is still so pristine. Exactly 13,598 signatures on bound petitions were presented to the International Joint Commission on July 9, 1985, in Kalispell regarding the "Flathead Reference" and more will be sent to the IJC as soon as the pile of new petitions are thick enough for binding.

Most Montanans, including Mr. Posewitz, chairman of the U.S. study board, know that the North Fork of the Flathead River is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River and that Waterton/Glacier Park is a United Nations Biosphere Reserve. The fact that Glacier Park was nominated to the World Heritage List is lesser known because of its very recent occurrence. After July 9, all members of the IJC present at the hearings in Kalispell should be aware of the designations.

Residents of the North Fork have written many letters, attended hearings and other work in order to deter this open-pit mine from operating.

Presently, four year-round residents of the North Fork own stock in Rio Algom, the parent company of Sage Creek Coal Ltd. Three of the four have travelled to Toronto for Rio Algom's annual meetings in order to protest the mine to the company itself. In April 1985, the resolution to stop the mine gained 1.6 million votes. Both the North Fork Preservation Association (environmental group) and the North Fork Improvement Association (landowners group) oppose the creation of the mine because of air and water pollution.

Rio Algom is likely to construct the mine at the confluence of Howell and Cabin Creeks over objections if there is money to be made.

What was omitted from Mike Dennison's article is that people having opinions or information on the Sage Coal Ltd. mine should write simultaneously to both the U.S. and Canadian Chairman of the IJC:

David A. LaRoche, Secretary, United States Section, International Joint Commission, 2001 S St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20440; David G. Chance, Secretary, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, Ontario KLP 5 M1.

John Frederick Polebridge, Montana

HUG AND SPIKE

Dear HCN,

Chip Rawlins' review of *EcoDefense* echoes a debate which has been

going on within Earth First! ever since its inception.

In condemning ecodefense, Rawlins inadvertently hit upon the reason some environmentalists believe it is a legitimate tactic when he wrote that "such tactics ought to be, as they were for resistance fighters during WW II, the last resort of persons who have been pushed to the utmost." Indeed, many of us are convinced that we are at the end of the line; and make no mistake, we are at war for Mother Earth and our own survival.

Neither passive resistance nor ecodefense are easy choices because one way or another there are severe risks. Besides, I can think of better things to do than hugging trees or repairing machinery. One of the premises of passive resistance is the assumption that the opposition possesses some civility, and therein lies its major strategic drawback. Passive resistance, for example, would have merely made it easier for the Nazis and the Russians to bundle people off to gas chambers and concentration camps. I am not sure where passive resistance leaves off and ecodefense begins. For example, lying down in front of a bulldozer during the day and monkeywrenching it at night accomplish the same thing except the latter does a better job of it. Either way, it is important to achieve results and not to antagonize public opinion which remains environmentalism's ultimate weapon.

Another argument for ecodefense is that the power structure is effectively controlled by those who have a vested interest in ripping off the environment. Look at our absurd tax structure and system of private rights, huge PACs, and national preoccupation with growth at any cost.

How do you deal with the bozos who blight the highways with billboards, slaughter whales, cut off pelican bills, and tear up the backcountry with their muscle machines when there isn't a snowball's chance in hell of bringing them to justice even when it is against the law? Albeit laudable, turning off the lights and riding bikes is too little, too late, and too easy a way out.

On one thing we agree -- it's a matter of conscience. Whether it's hugging trees or spiking them, action is what counts.

Claude Funnstonn
Anchorage, Alaska

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