

High Country News

October 28, 1985

Vol. 17 No. 20

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

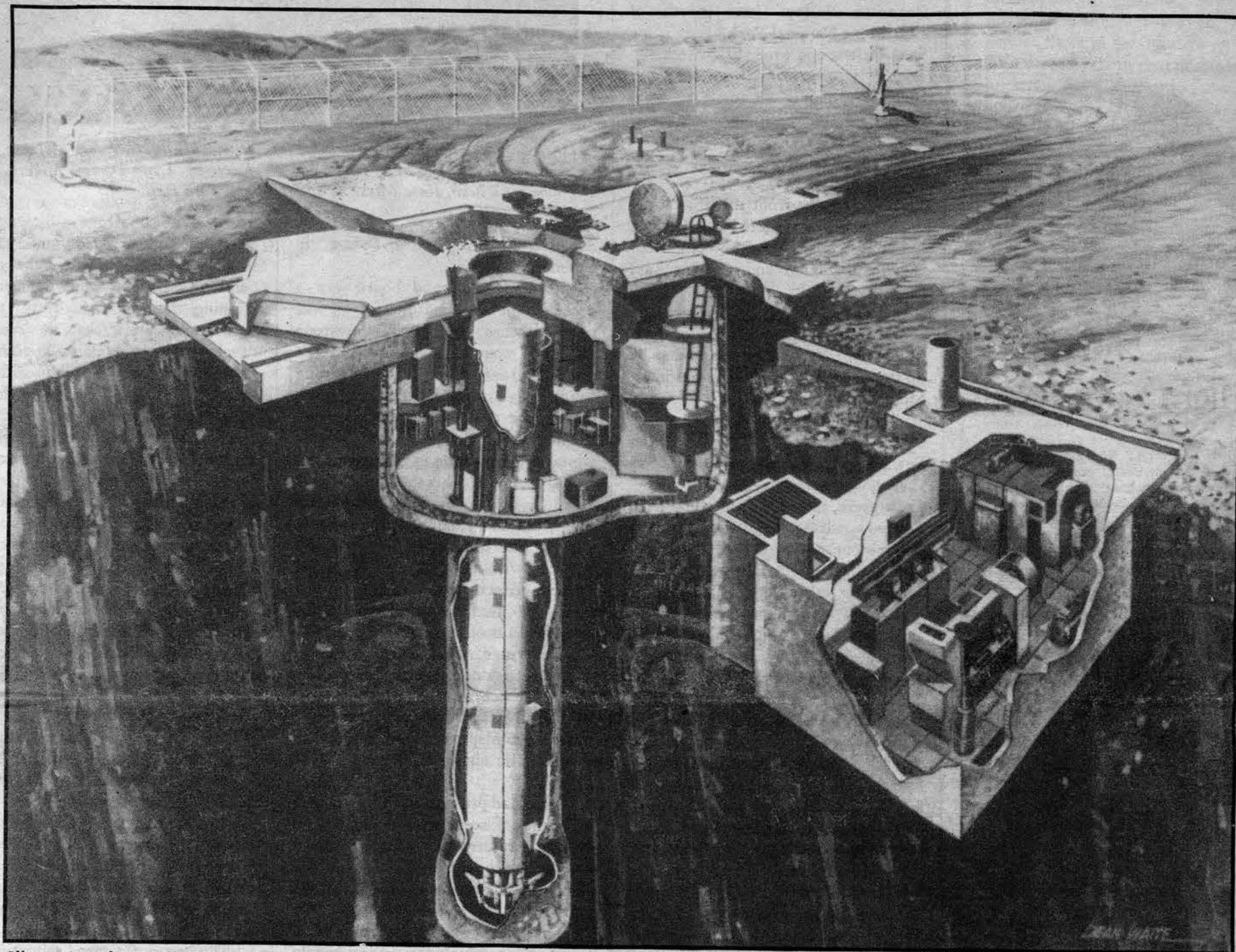


Illustration of an MX missile deployed in a Minuteman missile silo, as planned for the area around Cheyenne, Wyoming

Home, home on the range

The fully operational MX missile

by Philip White

Winter has come early to these lonely grasslands northeast of Cheyenne. Frigid winds will prevail for months before the townsendia daisies and Hood's phlox bloom again. The horned larks, who make a living here year round, will soon be joined by rosy finches from the mountains and some snow buntings from the north. Their struggle to endure the winter will be little affected by the momentous changes that will come to this land next year.

For the most part, these uplands where the Great Plains meet the Rockies look much as they did when Arapahoes and Cheyennes hunted bison here. No human habitation is visible. Above the limestone cliffs

along Horse Creek, a mile to the north, a few ponderosa pines dab the hills a dark green.

But here, just 25 miles northeast of Wyoming's capital city, the traveller comes upon a small, square area, less than a city block in size, which is bounded by a high fence. Cement and gravel, not grass, cover the ground inside. Odd-looking antennas and sensors test the wind. A sign on the gate warns that "use of deadly force is authorized" against trespassers.

A casual visitor would not suspect that beneath the cement slab inside that fence are three nuclear bombs in the nosecone of a cocked intercontinental Minuteman III ballistic missile. The visitor would not suspect that this, the Minuteman site known as "Papa-7," is the end of an ironic, tortuous journey toward least resistance, a journey on which the MX

missile has been embarked for a decade.

It is here at "Papa-7" where the U.S. Air Force will deploy, by late next fall, the first operational MX missile -- a four-stage, long-range rocket with 10 independently targetable nuclear bombs in its tip, each packing 25 times the explosive force of the Hiroshima bomb. With a sophisticated compu-

ter-controlled guidance system, the MX is probably the world's most accurate ICBM.

In January, Air Force personnel will come here to "de-posture" this Minuteman site, removing the missile and its control hardware. Then the Boeing Co. of Seattle will begin retrofitting the silo for the MX.

(Continued on page 6)

Part II:

Last stand for the Colorado Plateau...10

Richard Avedon's West...4

Dear friends,



High Country News

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If the October 12 to 13 meeting of the *High Country News* board came off, we joked beforehand, the paper would be ready to organize the invasion of Normandy. The meeting came off, but we're not sure we want to do Normandy.

On October 12, by air, by road and by foot, approximately 15 board members, spouses, staff and guests converged on Gardiner, Montana, in Paradise Valley, just north of Yellowstone National Park. They came from Helena and Missoula, Montana, to the north, from Sheridan and Buffalo, Wyoming, to the east, from Lander, Wyoming, to the southeast, and from the Front Range and Western Slope of Colorado, to the south and east.

A snow-laden front moving slowly down from the north caused the difficulty. Mike Clark, Tom Bell, Robert Wigington and Garrett Ray, having reached Jackson Hole by various means, spent five hours slip-sliding past the Grand Tetons into Yellowstone National Park and then on up through the park toward Gardiner, Montana.

The Western Slope crew, made up of the staff and of board member Patrick Sweeney, made it as far as Cody, Wyoming, in a small plane. From there, thanks to the same front that was making life difficult for the Yellowstone group, it was northwest by rental car through Bearcreek, Red Lodge and other Montana towns to Livingston, and then south with the Yellowstone River, also toward Gardiner.

It was a circuitous route -- the straightest path would have been west from Cody into Yellowstone, and then north. However, the road reporter said: "Hurry. We're about to close Sylvan Pass." So we took the four-hour drive around the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, and were rewarded by the sight of a bald eagle perched in a roadside tree as well as by winds that swept away the clouds and revealed the mountains.

The difficulties in coming together were symbolic of the challenge of operating a regional *anything* in the Rockies, where enormous distances, sparse populations, sparser services and always changing weather wreak havoc with schedules.

Also symbolic of the Rockies was the setting for the meeting. Our host was board member Herman Warsh, at the B Bar Ranch between Gardiner and Livingston. The ranch house sits at the end of 10 or so miles of a mud-and-snow dirt road -- a road which almost pitched one car into a stream. It's grizzly country, mountain country and, even in October, winter country.

The meeting was a rare one for *HCN*. Instead of the usual 9 to 5 schedule, we met on Saturday from about 3 to 6 p.m., and then again after dinner. The Sunday meeting started at 8 a.m. (If you don't count a 6 a.m. committee meeting) and adjourned at noon.

Mealtimes were also well spent. The board is a surrogate for the paper's readers. But in addition, we had visitors -- Leonard and Sandy Sargent, who own a neighboring ranch (only an hour away), John Driscoll of Montana's Public Service Commission, best known for being the one in a series of four to one votes on a rate hike for Montana Power Company, and Gail Stoltz, head of the Montana



High Country News board members, from left to right: Garrett Ray, Herman Warsh, Kate Missett, John

Driscoll [guest], Adam McLane, Pat Sweeney, Lynn Dickey, Mike Clark and Tom Bell

Alliance for Progressive Policy in Helena.

So while staff and board got a sense of the area, most attention was turned inward, away from Yellowstone and the mountains and toward the paper. Board meetings convene roughly every four months, and each one in the past was concentrated on the nitty-gritty details of survival. The winter 1985 meeting in Cheyenne, for example, voted to bet the paper's nest egg on a circulation-building campaign. In the June 1985 meeting in Paonia, the board grappled with the cash flow difficulties that bet had caused. (Each new subscriber costs *HCN* \$10 to \$15 in the first year. Growth pays off in the second year.)

This time, the board faced no imminent financial crisis. Rather than anticipate one, and plunge again into fundraising and cost cutting, the meeting was spent in a sort of retreat, focusing on long-term directions and prospects.

Staff had presented the board with an array of scenarios as a guide to possible future direction. The most conservative was a "keep on the track" approach of continuing to build circulation and editorial reach. The most radical was a "great leap" proposal in which the paper would look to additional media -- perhaps radio or cable services -- to spread its information and message.

The board discussed the alternatives, and decided it would take another year of direct mail and sampling efforts to determine if *HCN* can increase its circulation much beyond the present 4,000. (Readership is higher. Each copy is read by between three and four people. In addition, the paper goes to writers for the national and regional media, who often use *HCN* for leads.)

A second discussion centered on *HCN*'s mission and audience. However far the paper's information and perspective may eventually spread, *HCN* reaches on its first bounce a small audience united only by its willingness to grapple with often depressing, always complex information about widely scattered areas in seven or eight states.

The paper's readers are certainly not Yuppies -- the large numbers who live in small communities show that. Neither are they six-pack Joes. Which leads to the question: Does *HCN* serve a small group whose conservation and environmental values are at odds with those of the majority in the Rockies?

The answer of the board and visitors was an emphatic no. Strongest on this point was board member Tom

Bell, who started *HCN* in 1970 in Lander, Wyoming. He told the group gathered around him on Sunday morning that he started the paper because he knew that the reckless development going on in Wyoming at that time was not in step with the people he knew. And Tom, a fourth generation Wyoming resident and rancher, knew people like himself.

John Driscoll, a Butte native and Public Service Commissioner, weighed in with the same conclusion from a very different community. He said the values expressed by *HCN* are the values of the majority, including the man or woman who may be operating a bulldozer or marking trees in a Forest Service deficit-timber sale.

What separates "environmentalists" from others isn't a system of beliefs. More often, it's a matter of style, background, method of earning a living and approach to recreation, and perhaps a willingness to speak out. If we heard the board and visitors correctly, the West is filled with environmentalists. If some environmentalists don't hear *HCN*'s message, it is because the paper is not speaking clearly enough, or because it hasn't stripped the message of irritants that cause it to be disregarded.

The board did spend some time on money, and even here it was in the context of long-range planning. *HCN* has been fortunate this year in its approaches to foundations. It has received a \$20,000 grant from the Tides Foundation to produce four special issues this spring on the three river basins we cover (the Columbia, the Colorado and the Missouri). In addition, the New-Land Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, the CS Fund, the Harris Foundation and Recreation Equipment, Inc. have aided the paper. A total of \$39,000 has been received in 1985 -- more than at any time in the paper's past. That money has helped build the paper's circulation, will produce special issues and build circulation in 1986, and has avoided the fiscal crisis, staff turnover, and general chaos which would otherwise have occurred.

Despite this encouraging and valuable support from foundations, board and staff agreed that foundation income is not dependable. *HCN*, they said, should continue in its planning to depend largely on its reader-contributors. However, the paper occupies a privileged observation post in the Rockies, giving it the opportunity to do research, analysis and synthesis no other organization can do. The production of major special issues,

(Continued on page 3)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Idaho conservationists gear up for 1986

"And I have to say that if I ever see a bulldozer on Railroad Ridge, I'll be the first to sit down in front of it."

These words -- loudly applauded by 130 people in Ketchum Sept. 28 at the Idaho Conservation League's annual meeting banquet -- came not from a young environmental fire-eater but from Bethine Church, the widow of Idaho's former U.S. senator, Frank Church. Railroad Ridge is in the White Cloud Peaks, and Mrs. Church's one-time family ranch lies at their base.

The loudest applause came from the annual meeting's hosts, ICL's Wood River Valley chapter, who are today Idaho's most aggressive and organized group for wilderness. The value of wildland was Mrs. Church's theme, just as it was the theme of Sen. Church when he made his last public address to the same organization two years ago. Frank Church had spoken in Boise, which was the scene of all ICL annual meetings until this one.

Meeting, re-meeting, and mutual affirming is the meat of such get-togethers. In a state where geography makes statewide volunteer meetings rare, ICL's 13 chapters renewed their mutual ties to each other, to their elected leaders and to their staff. ICL members offered appreciation to their outgoing board chairman, Tim Crawford, and welcomed their new chairman, Carol Kriz. Both praised ICL's six staff members.

"Each one is so competent in her own way," Carol Kriz told the dinner guests, "and I can say 'her' because ICL has an all-woman staff."

Work was also done. After a morning workshop unravelling the technical and legal details of hazardous materials and waste in Idaho, the ICL Board of Directors created a Toxics Task Force led by outgoing chairman Tim Crawford. At the upcoming 1986 Idaho Legislature, ICL and a coalition of firefighter and community groups will push for the fourth year a hazardous materials

Dear friends...

(Continued from page 2)

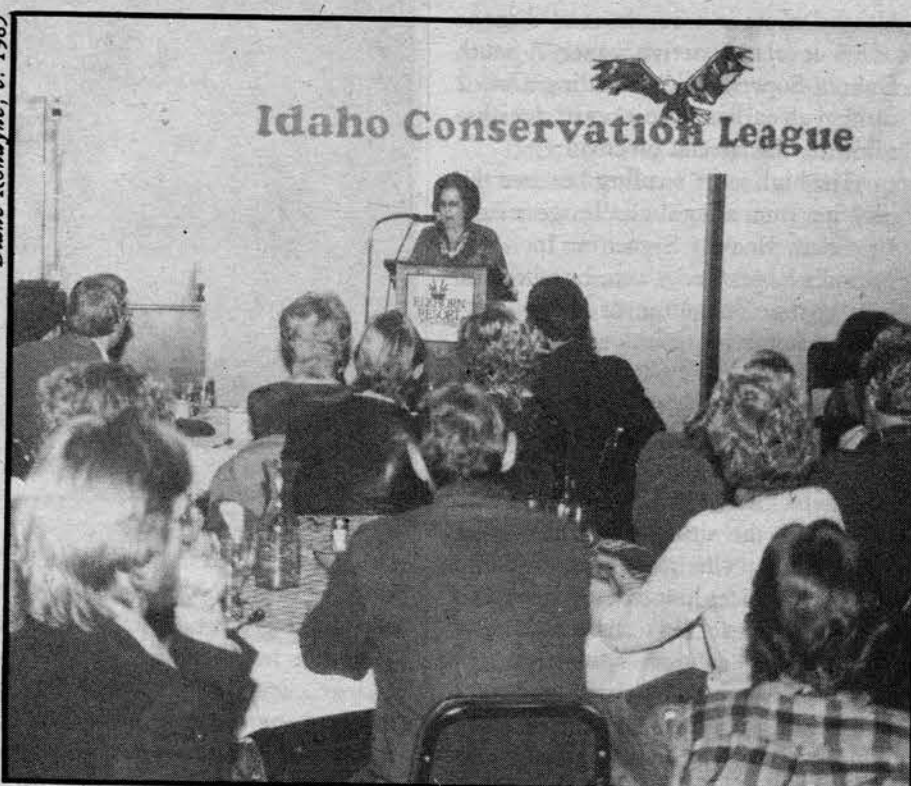
such as the four river issues to be funded by Tides, based on the paper's unique position in the West, is appropriate for continuing foundation support.

Staff and board discussed the level at which HCN might become self-sustaining, and calculated that level at 10,000 circulation. Subscriber income, combined with increased Research Fund contributions, would let HCN function without crises and without hidden subsidies from freelancers and staff. As mentioned, the board directed the staff to discover in 1986 the potential circulation for HCN. The draft 1986 budget has set as a tentative goal a 1,000-subscriber increase, to 5,000.

If the paper discovers that 5,000 is possible, it will push higher. But if it appears that the pool of potential readers limits the paper to its historic subscriber range of 3,000 to 4,000, then *High Country News* will face a crisis much deeper than that caused by a mere lack of cash.

--the staff

Diane Ronayne, c. 1985



Bethine Church at ICL's membership dinner

right-to-know law for communities and emergency personnel. The task force may also involve itself in Envirosafe, Inc.'s application for a federal permit to continue operating their hazardous waste disposal facility near Grandview.

A second workshop reviewed 1986 legislative priorities. Their major campaign will seek to strengthen the Environmental Protection and Health Act, Idaho's basic air and water quality law. A series of mining accidents in central Idaho during the past four years, none of which was prosecuted, spurred the campaign.

The third workshop, on national forest plans and wilderness, was led by Rick Johnson of the Wood River chapter. That chapter -- over 200 members in a valley of 4,000 or so -- raised enough money this summer so ICL could hire three chapter leaders for three months to dissect the Sawtooth and Challis national forest plans. These forests contain three big chunks of unprotected wildland -- the Smoky Mountains (240,000 acres), the Pioneers (182,000 acres), and the White Cloud-Boulders (450,000 acres). The Wood River chapter has adopted all three, won solid local support for their wilderness designation and is now taking the same message throughout southern Idaho.

ICL members unanimously passed a resolution, submitted by the Sandpoint chapter and the Panhandle Environmental League, against siting

a high-level radioactive waste repository at the Hanford Reservation in eastern Washington.

ICL members also talked about their organization's major troubles. The first is money. The staff could be down to three or four by the end of the year, and board members particularly had that on their minds.

The second is the field program. The group has long wanted to create a permanent field office in each of Idaho's four regions. But ICL has never had more than three offices operating at any one time, and is today down to one, in central Idaho. This patchy coverage causes frustration in those chapters without field staff support and tension among regions.

As people arrived in Ketchum Friday night, they were greeted by the first brief snow of the year. Saturday and Sunday were crisp and sunny, and 30 members eager to skip the Sunday board meeting were led on a four-hour hike into the nearby Pioneer Mountains. Their destination, at 9,460 feet, was Pioneer Cabin, where 13 months before some 70 Wood River members greeted Rep. John Seiberling, D-OH, who arrived by helicopter on his next-to-last day of a week-long tour of Idaho wildlands. The words on the cabin are a bit corny but apt for the hikers and climbers who most often see it: The Higher You Get, the Higher You Get.

--Pat Ford

Parks have economic allure

Two Western states are looking at the creation of new national parks as spurs to economic development.

This month in Colorado, an advisory team appointed by Rep. Mike Strang, R, recommended the formation of a park around the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument. But a key element of the park -- designation of some 25 miles of the Gunnison River as wild and scenic -- must still be resolved because of existing water development rights.

In Utah, Emery County officials began meeting this fall with Utah Wilderness Association leaders and the congressional delegation to discuss the creation of a sixth national

park, which would be Utah's third largest. As proposed by Emery County, the new 210,000-acre park would encompass the San Rafael Swell in east-central Utah and include two Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas: Sids Mountain and Mexican Mountain.

George Nickas of the Utah Wilderness Association says that although knotty problems such as current grazing allotments and other issues must be worked out, "the county recognizes the economic and environmental importance of preserving the San Rafael Swell in its natural state."

--Betsy Marston

HOTLINE

Flawed Alar study

A scientific advisory panel met late last month to review the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed ban on daminozide, a plant-growth regulator used to turn apples redder and to keep fruit on the trees longer for a single harvest. Research has shown the chemical, sold as Alar, to be carcinogenic to humans. The EPA's advisory panel, however, found serious flaws in the studies on which EPA bases its claim that daminozide is a serious health risk. An EPA spokesman says the panel's report makes its decision a tough one, and that the agency is now waiting for additional comments from the Department of Agriculture before it makes a decision.

Sunstone sabotaged

Sunstone, the alternative magazine for Mormon intellectuals, is still recovering from the theft this spring of its mailing list and computer. Nothing else of value was removed from the magazine office in Salt Lake City, Utah. Associate editor Ron Bitton says although insurance replaced the computer, reconstructing the mailing list of 7,000 names was time consuming and delayed publication of the monthly magazine. Bitton says he sees no connection between the break-in and recent car bombings in Salt Lake City that killed Mormons doing research into the origins of the Mormon religion. If you're a "lost" *Sunstone* subscriber, write the magazine at 59 West First South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101, to be restored to the mailing list.

Fencing again in Wyoming

The two-year-long saga of a rancher's fence blocking Wyoming antelopes' access to winter range continues. Well in advance of heavy snow, the Wyoming and National Wildlife federations have filed suit against the rancher, Taylor Lawrence, and now the national group has asked for a preliminary injunction to force removal of the fence in the Red Rim area south of Rawlins. Although Lawrence's fence is on his land, the area is a checkerboard of private and public holdings, and it blocks access to winter range on public land. Colorado State University wildlife biologist Bill Aldredge says "as many as 50 percent to 60 percent (of the antelope) can be lost in a winter." In past disputes, national publicity over the fight has brought Gov. Ed Herschler, D, in as mediator. Lawrence says the fence protects grass growing on his land from antelope.

Un-reclamation

After Lawn Lake Dam in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado failed three years ago and flooded the town of Estes Park, the Bureau of Reclamation studied what other dams might give way. The study found that four dams were "significantly vulnerable," including one recently removed by the park. Called Lost Lake Dam, it was built 74 years ago along the North Fork of the Big Thompson River. Park officials say work will begin on removing the three other dams this spring.

HOTLINE

Foster care that works

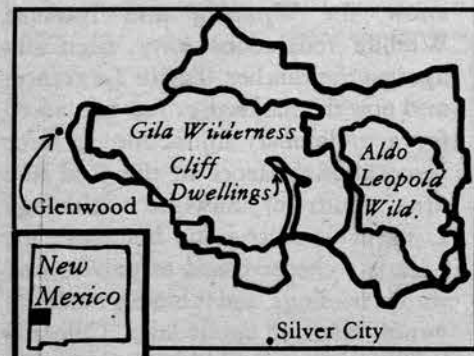


Ten whooping crane chicks under foster care with sandhill crane parents at the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho are reportedly still alive and well. University of Idaho biologist Elwood Bizeau collected 23 whooping crane eggs from Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada for the transfer, and although 20 hatched, 10 later died. The program to develop a wild whooping crane flock in the Intermountain West has been underway since 1975, and there are now 30 whoopers ranging in age from one to nine years. The cranes summer in eastern Idaho and western Wyoming before migrating to New Mexico for the winter.

Plea bargain

Earth First! co-founder Howie Wolke has offered to pay Chevron \$2,500 in damages for allegedly removing company survey stakes in Wyoming. Wolke made the offer if charges against him are reduced from felony destruction of property, which carries a minimum one year in the state penitentiary, to a misdemeanor charge. Wolke was arrested at hatchet point June 23 by a contractor at Chevron's planned oil rig site near Cliff Creek, Wyoming (HCN, 7/8/85). Chevron reportedly accepted Wolke's plea arrangement, but both parties must still sign an agreement.

Outrageous Earth First!



Shaded areas are Earth First!'s proposed additions to the Gila-Aldo Leopold wildernesses.

Saying "it is time to do what is right," Dave Foreman of the action-oriented group Earth First! has proposed an addition of 500,000 acres of wilderness to the Gila - Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas in New Mexico. The new acreage would unite two existing wildernesses which were set aside in 1924 as the nation's first protected roadless areas. Foreman calls for closing and removing several roads, two small reservoirs and a small community near Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument inside the Gila National Forest. Although Foreman's plan is "very pure in its concept," says Bob Schloss of the Gila National Forest, the proposal is "outrageous" because it ignores forest multiple-uses such as ranching, timbering and non-wilderness recreation.

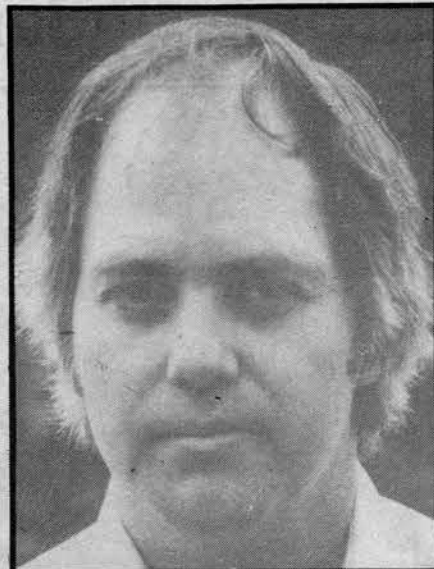
South Dakota to vote on nuclear pact

South Dakota voters will decide soon if their state should join with North Dakota in a compact to dispose of low-level radioactive waste. A South Dakota Supreme Court ruling Oct. 2 upheld an earlier circuit court decision allowing the special election.

The high court's ruling rescues the election from a legal challenge issued by Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc., the nation's largest rad-waste handler and a long-time promoter of a low-level waste dump in southwestern South Dakota. (HCN, 8/19/85).

Chem Nuclear's challenge jeopardized the efforts of the Nuclear Waste Vote Coalition, a grassroots coalition of South Dakotans that wants to prevent the siting of a radioactive waste dump in the state. (South Dakota produces just three cubic yards of waste a year, less than any other state.) The coalition sponsored the initiated measure that requires statewide elections on nuke waste issues -- a measure that was overwhelmingly endorsed last November by the state's voters.

While the initiated measure called for a vote on all current and future



Nick Meinhardt

radioactive waste-related issues, the Supreme Court's ruling allows only the special election on the Dakota Compact. In the future, opponents of nuclear waste will again have to circulate petitions in order to refer legislative decisions to a public vote.

Chem Nuclear has not requested the state's high court to rehear the case, and company officials say they have not decided whether or not to

appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Nuclear Waste Vote Coalition coordinator Nick Meinhardt says his group supports the court ruling. "We welcome the election and are organizing quickly for it," Meinhardt says. "We see this election as pivotal in deciding whether a large nuclear dump will have a chance of coming into our state."

If the Dakota Compact is approved, Meinhardt says, it will open the way for Chem Nuclear or someone else to operate a large low-level dump in South Dakota.

Meanwhile, Dakota Compact opponents and proponents are preparing for seven public hearings to be held around the state prior to the election and campaigns by both sides and stories in the state's media will continue to fuel what has been a very hot controversy among South Dakotans. Most people doubt that the radioactive waste issue will be permanently resolved by the results of the November 12th election, the first special election in the state's history.

--Peter Carrels

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Richard Avedon's battered West

Westerners are notoriously touchy about Easterners who presume to interpret them, to say who they are and how they live in this vast region where mountains and sky are dominant over the people working below. New York fashion photographer Richard Avedon has presumed to do just that in his travelling exhibit, "In the American West," which displays 120 portraits of Westerners as lifesize icons, and in the recently published book (Harry N. Abrams Publishers, New York) of the same name.

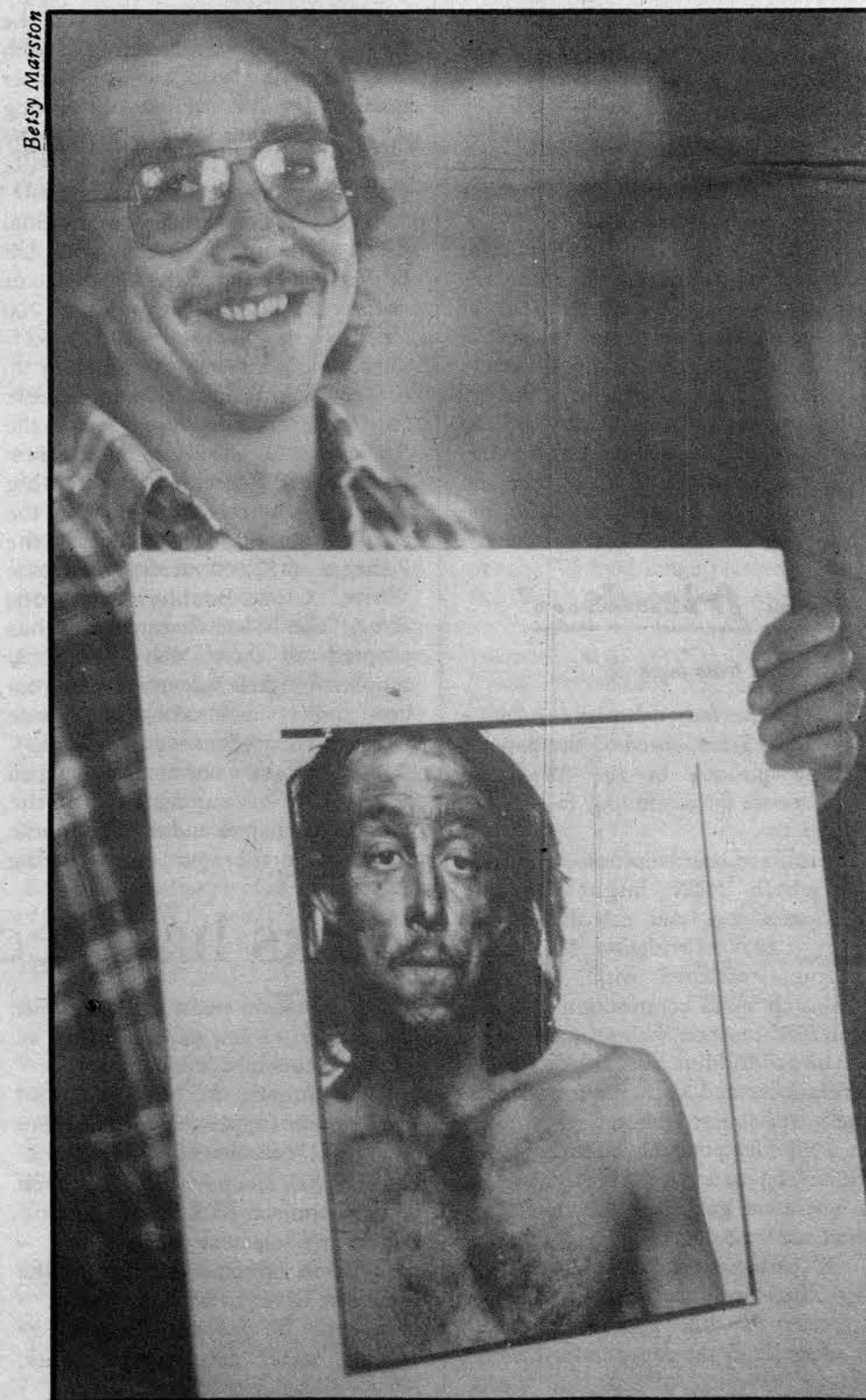
The exhibit took six years to complete and is Avedon's sixth "serious" show out of a lifetime of photographing the beautiful, the rich and the powerful. Avedon, a youthful-looking 62, has said this work is crucial to him artistically.

Being "on the wrong side of the years" drives him, he told radio documentary producer Connie Goldman. "At a certain age you look back at what you've done." What he sees, he said to Goldman, is that his years of commercial work, which include 20 years for *Vogue* magazine, took valuable time away from his work as an artist.

Avedon said this exhibit is also important to him emotionally, for it was while recovering from a serious heart illness on a Montana ranch that he learned to appreciate and respect working class people. One rancher in particular, he said, touched him by stopping in each morning to check up on him "just the way he checked up on the cows."

Regardless of what lay behind his impulse to document Westerners, Avedon's portraits speak for themselves, and those portraits, captured with a large, old-fashioned Deardorf camera, reveal less about the West than they do about the artist.

Many of the subjects are drifters, mental patients, jail inmates, meat cutters in a slaughterhouse or miners blackened by coal dust after an eight-hour shift underground. All



Hansel Burum with his Avedon portrait

have one element in common: idiosyncratic, compelling and rarely

smiling faces. They look as though life has left a hard mark on them.

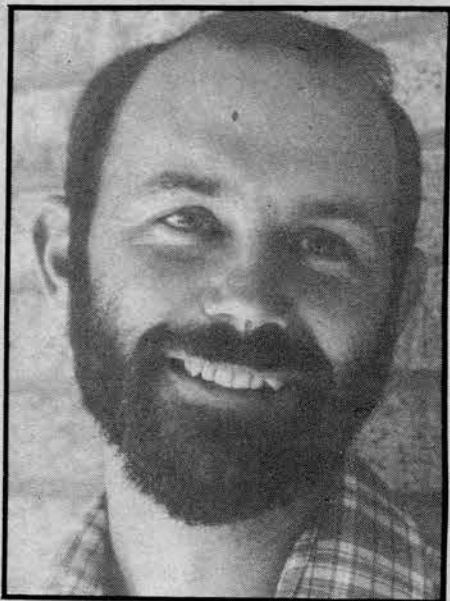
Biologist says black bears in Colorado are in danger

Colorado biologist Tom Beck, who contorts himself into a small package to enter a hibernating black bear's den, will be moving on to something new next March.

But based on his research and other data, Beck hopes the Colorado Wildlife Commission will act to end open hunting seasons for bear at its next meeting Nov. 10. A Task Force appointed by the Commission has already recommended limiting licenses and seasons to ease the pressure on the bears (HCN, 12/24/84).

Since 1978, Beck has studied bears in western Colorado, catching 110 of the elusive animals for examination, tagging or radio-collaring. These "wild bears" are smart and trap-wary, he says, unlike those in national parks, which were the only black bears studied until 15 years ago. Beck says he catches few bears more than once.

But of the bears Beck has caught, half are now dead and one-third of those were killed illegally within his study area. "No one knows how big



Tom Beck

the poaching problem is," he says, "but it's big." He worries that when his study is completed in the Crawford area next year there could be a slaughter. "When I pull their collars off I'm going to whisper in their ear."

Beck says that data compiled by the state Division of Wildlife reveals that 65 percent of black bears in

southwestern Colorado are in "poor shape," and that in the entire western part of the state "it's hard to find a bear over 12." Black bears can live to 24 or 25 years old.

Beck admires the bears, which can be any color from brown to silvertip, and says we have a lot to learn from them. Their hair is more thermally efficient than the wolf's and their hibernation from October to May is a marvel of conservation. Kidney researchers, for example, are now studying how the bear lives without excreting for seven months, he says.

It is also during hibernation that the female bear gives birth to a 10 ounce cub. Yet when the cub emerges in spring it weighs 15 pounds. "If there's been poor food before winter sets in," Beck adds, "the mother will reabsorb the developing egg."

Hunters in October make denning tougher for the black bear, which prefers to tunnel under rocks at elevations that may be higher than 11,000 feet. "They'll prepare two to four dens and keep moving if they have to," Beck says. Other problems

for the animals are roads and any timber cutting that removes aspen and oak. "Bears need aspen, not conifers, to survive."

Bears are extremely difficult to see in the mountains, but Beck has probably seen more than most. He has also encountered them -- with back pain and muscle spasms as a result -- in their dens at the height of winter.

"The first time they're slow. But if you have to try again (to tranquilize them) watch out! It's wise to have somebody along with a strong arm on the rope to pull you out."

--Betsy Marston

BARBS

That's probably because they know voters prefer lightweights.

Denver city councilman Cathy Donohue told a reporter for *Westward*: "You can always tell when somebody's thinking about running for election because they start to lose weight."

Their eyes are almost always level and direct: you stare at them and they, pinioned by stark borders of black and backgrounds of white, stare back.

But who are they? No one is in context. Miners drive no machines, ranchers herd no cows. Each portrait stands alone, severe and mysterious. No one, in fact, is doing anything. Yet their presence, as you turn the pages of "In the American West," can take your breath away. Among the most potent are the portraits of working men mottled by drilling mud or coal dust.

One of those men spotlighted by Avedon is uneasy about the photographer's choices. Looking through Avedon's large-scale and handsomely produced book, coal miner Hansel Burum asks, "Why do so many look like freaks?"

Burum says Avedon shot 15 photos of him at the coal mine in Somerset in western Colorado. He says the one in the exhibit, which is also a frontispiece of the book, is the "worst, the most depressed looking."

Burum, 29, was one of 120 miners just coming off shift at 4 p.m. when Avedon's assistant, Laura Wilson, motioned him aside. "He (Avedon) had this big camera with a bellows and a black cover he'd duck under. He told me he wanted to get my feelings -- to know what the day was like."

"I told him I ran a 50-ton continuous miner pulling pillars, and almost got covered up (by the roof falling). I told him my father and three other miners were killed by a roof fall in 1968 in the same mine. He kept me there a long time."

Looking at his portrait again, Burum says he's proud of it, that he's glad he'll have something to show his grandchildren. "But I ain't gonna hang it up."

The man who arranged Avedon's visit and surprise introduction to the swing shift is Lloyd "Big" Miller, then superintendent of the U.S. Steel coal mine in Somerset.

Miller says he liked the photographer and his crew. "But talking to him, you knew he was a stranger here. He's different than we are; he doesn't think like we do. You could tell he was from New York City."

"I didn't get the gist of him at first and thought it was hocus pocus -- him popping out from under that black cloth. It made me laugh," Miller says. "His pants were baggy and his shirt was wrinkled -- he was a skinny little guy. Who could believe he was somebody famous?"

None of the miners Avedon photographed knew anything about him either. But after he pinned up the pictures in the mine and the miners saw them, Avedon was smothered, Miller says. "Everybody wanted one."

Now retired, Miller, like Burum, lives in Paonia, population 1,400 and the home of *High Country News*, 10 miles down the North Fork Valley from the mine. Miller says, "I got very chummy with him (Avedon) and he came back to take more pictures. The ones he wanted to take again all looked kind of sad -- down and out."

Miller shows the portrait Avedon took of him. Miller is smiling and looks cocky. It isn't in the exhibit.

"One day we were having coffee in the Cave (Cafe) and I asked him why he wanted pictures of such sad-looking guys," Miller says. "Hansel (Burum) at 15 looked 30. (Gary) Polson is the only kid who looked like he was going to live."

Avedon's answer, Miller recalls, was this: "Well, Lloyd, that's why you're a mine superintendent and I'm a photographer."

Another Paonia miner at U.S. Steel who made the final cut to the exhibit is Horace Emmons, misnamed "Homer" in the book. Emmons, a veteran of 30 years underground, is retired now at age 65. He says Avedon took just one picture of him -- "I told him you ain't gonna get another one to put on the post office wall" -- and that unlike Burum, who was asked to pose with shirt on or shirt off, he just stood up straight when Avedon asked him to.

He points to his portrait. "You can see I had my nose broke 30 years ago. You can see coal dust all over me except my eyes."

What the portrait says to Emmons' wife, Doris, mother of his 14 children, is something else.

"I think it's beautiful," she says.

"It's him. He's been the light of my life for 39 years."

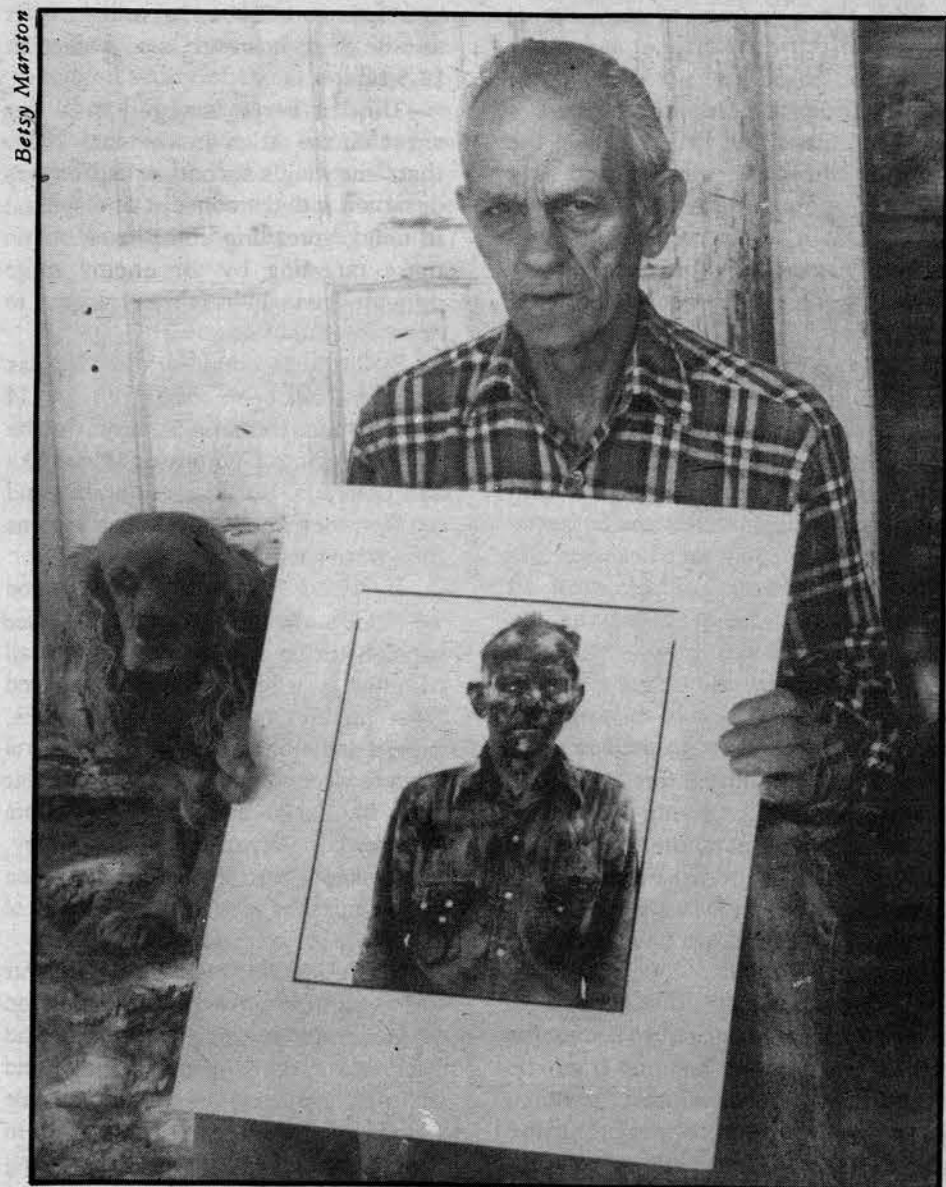
It's not beautiful, it's not flattering, but it's him. The same thing can be said of Avedon's West. Avedon the artist does not see the region in terms of Yellowstone Park grizzlies, or Grand Teton rock climbers, or even Moab businessmen matching coins to see who will pay for morning coffee.

Avedon's West is made up of men and women who tear things from the ground or from the carcasses of cattle. They are people who look as if they've been in a life-long struggle with the land, and as if the land has gotten the best of them.

"In the American West" was commissioned by the Amon Carter

Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, to complete their collection which has featured eighteenth, nineteenth and now twentieth century Western portraits. Avedon's exhibit, which shows the portraits blown up to life size, will be at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., from Dec. 7 - Feb. 16, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from March 14 - May 1, the Art Institute of Chicago from May 29 - Aug. 3, the Phoenix Art Museum from Aug. 18 - Oct. 12, the Institute of American Art, Boston, from Feb. 17 - April 26, 1987, and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Sept. 15 - Nov. 15, 1987. The exhibit then travels to Europe and Japan.

--Betsy Marston



Horace Emmons holds his Avedon portrait

Philip White



Cheyenne, Wyoming

Cheyenne mothers nests of deadly missiles

You would have been called crazy if, before 1965, you stood where the gold-domed Wyoming Capitol now stands and predicted that a state capitol, railroad center and a major military post would be built on this undistinguished spot. There are no minerals right here, no navigable waters, no rich farmlands, no forests or lakes.

Logic would have insisted that the site of Cheyenne be bypassed, be left to itself, while the railroad followed the Oregon Trail route through central Wyoming along the North Platte and Sweetwater rivers and then up and easily over South Pass.

But the discovery of surface coal near present-day Hanna and Rock Springs changed all that. The transcontinental railroad followed a southern route and in July 1867, the town of Cheyenne was founded as a division point.

Within a year, Cheyenne was named temporary capitol of the new Wyoming Territory that was broken away from Dakota Territory.

Many of the towns that sprang up overnight along the railroad would disappear almost as quickly. But Cheyenne became the Union Pacific's major outpost between Omaha and Salt Lake. It became a home for cattle barons who put together huge spreads through subversion of the homestead laws. They built mansions in Cheyenne.

The railroad town grew slowly through the first half of this century, expanding northward to the boundary of the town's territorial fort. Though it lacked an airfield, relying instead on the municipal airport, the fort was renamed F.E. Warren Air Force Base in 1947. But by the mid-1950s, the base's mission was nebulous and its future doubtful.

Globe-spanning nuclear bomb deliverers came along just in time to re-prime the city's pipeline from the Pentagon. In 1958, Warren Air Force Base was selected to command the world's first operational intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM),

the Atlas. It was a good thing, because railroad employment had begun to decline.

Only one Cheyenne resident protested, but a handful of pacifists came to town to distribute leaflets and do civil disobedience at the first Atlas site. One suffered pelvic injuries when a construction truck ran over him. Two others refused to pay trespassing fines and served three months in jail.

In the ensuing quarter-century, the locals' welcoming attitude on nuclear weapons has brought four generations of ICBMs to the Cowboy State. In 1984, Warren was an air force base with a total air fleet of seven helicopters worth \$7 million. Its missile fleet, however, was valued at \$2.5 billion.

The Air Force bragged in a fact sheet on the Atlas in the late 1950s that "the wing's second squadron was designed with the concept of dispersal in mind, spreading complexes out to make targeting by an enemy more difficult, giving him three targets to cover instead of one."

By 1963, 24 single-warhead Atlas missiles had been deployed in 14 above-ground cement bunkers in the tri-state region of Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado. But too vulnerable and too few, they were obsolete as soon as they were completed.

By 1965, they had been replaced by 200 Minuteman I missiles in buried silos. Like the Atlas sites, the small Minuteman sites were all acquired from private owners. Missile sites, buried cable lines and launch control centers were placed in a semi-circular area of 12,600 square miles, from Wheatland, Wyoming, to Sidney, Nebraska, to Sterling, Colorado. None of the missiles is within 25 miles of Warren Air Force Base itself.

For a quarter-century, blue Air Force pickups have been a common sight on the region's highways and backroads, carrying command and maintenance personnel to the missile fields. For 25 years, agriculturists in the tri-state region have been plowing and herding around these nuclear

weapons, most hoping for the day when the missiles are gone and things get back to normal.

In 1973, the Air Force began replacing the single-warhead MMI with the three-warhead MMIII. From four original sites and bombs, the base's arsenal had grown to 200 sites with 600 warheads. If 50 MX missiles are deployed here, the warhead total will go up to 950, making Warren the most potent ICBM base, at least in America.

Congress now apparently will limit MX deployment, in what some call "the sitting-duck mode," to 50 missiles. Meanwhile, the Pentagon is researching super-hardening ideas for silos and developing a mobile, single-warhead missile called "Midgetman." A General Accounting Office report to Congress in July said deploying all of the small ICBMs on mobile launchers would probably not "provide the required level of readiness." Additional basing modes, such as hardened silos, may be required. Elements of Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative might also be ground-based.

In late 1979, when the MX racetrack plan ran into widespread opposition in Utah and Nevada (amid the debate over basing modes, one Utahn told the Air Force to try the "com-mode"), a small group of Cheyenne businessmen persuaded Gov. Ed Herschler, D, to ask the Air Force to reconsider Wyoming for the MX. It was an offer the military couldn't refuse.

President Reagan killed the racetrack idea shortly after taking office. As the Pentagon and Congress oscillated from the MX-Minuteman plan through the bizarre "dense-pack" and finally back to the Minuteman idea, Herschler and the state's superhawk Republican congressional delegation rolled a series of red carpets toward the MX.

Thus it seems that Cheyenne could

be in line for more generations of missiles in the 1990s. Many of the agricultural people who actually have to live around the missiles resent Cheyenne's missile boosterism. A fourth-generation Albin, Wyoming, farmer, Theron Anderson, said last spring that the MX push "is mostly from a few businesspeople in Cheyenne who will get rich off this thing and don't care who they burn to do it."

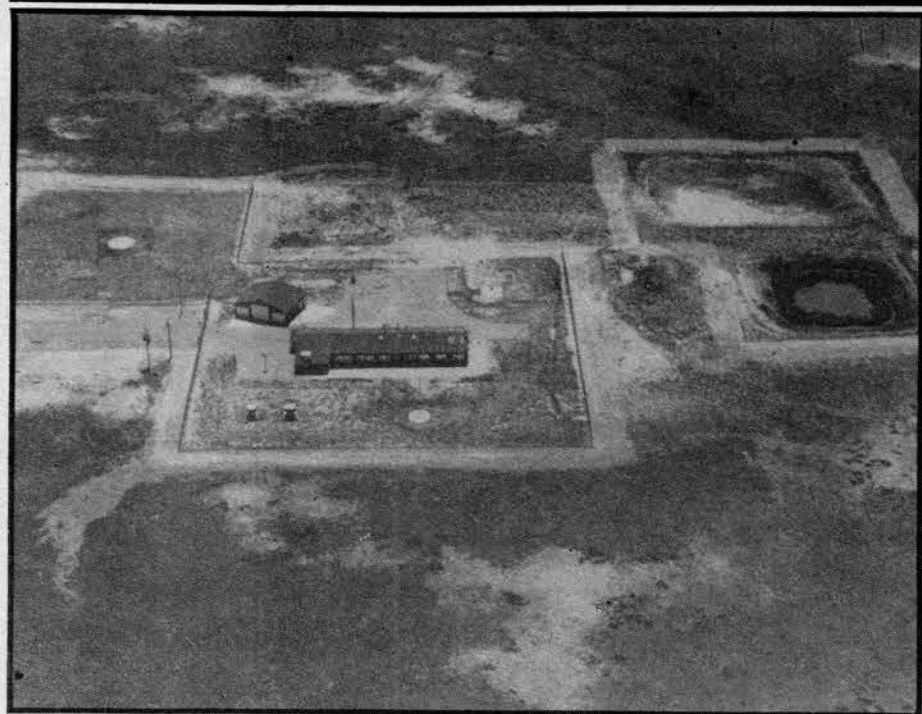
But a survey would almost certainly indicate that a large majority of Cheyenne's 60,000 residents support the MX project, primarily on economic grounds. In one sense, that is a tenuous argument. Almost 99 percent of the \$21.6 billion cost for the original 100 MX deployment would have been spent with major contractors outside of Wyoming. In March, the editor of the *Casper Star-Tribune* concluded that Wyoming people would actually pay more in federal taxes for the MX project than the project would bring back to the state. Also, many residents suspect that the proximity of nuclear weapons deters tourists and private industries from coming here.

There is no question, however, that the continued viability of Warren Air Force Base is critical to Cheyenne's economy. Located just across Interstate 25 from northwest Cheyenne neighborhoods, the base had 4,240 military and civilian employees in 1983, making it the town's biggest primary employer by far. The next largest primary employer, the state government, had 3,000 employees.

The railroad town has become the "Home of the Peacekeepers," dependent on the Air Force and the nuclear balance of terror. But residents have developed a simple slogan to handle the psychological ramifications of their position. Perhaps it should be etched on the new municipal building:

"If it happens, I'd rather be at ground zero."

--Philip White



Aerial view of a Minuteman III Launch Control Center which directs 10 missiles.

One of the missiles is next to the buried control center (upper left in photo).

The other nine are scattered across perhaps 100 square miles.

Buried cables run from the control center to each missile.

Two officers (who must both turn keys to launch a missile) and support crew are on duty 24 hours a day at each center.

MX...

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, the various stages and components of the MX will begin arriving by rail and truck at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, where a \$100 million construction project has provided 15 new buildings and several remodelled ones for securing the nuclear materials, assembling the missile parts, supporting the silo modification work and training missile launch personnel.

In May or June of next year, Boeing will take a special machine built by Martin-Marietta of Denver, the "emplacer," to site P-7 and will install the MX, stage-by-stage, into the silo. The Air Force will then carefully set the nuclear bombs in place. In September, the site will be turned over to the Air Force Strategic Air Command for "coding up." By December 31, the first 10 MX missiles will be fully operational. Two will be in Papa flight group in Laramie County, six will be in Quebec flight group north of Cheyenne in Laramie and Platte counties. The last two will be in Tango flight group east of Wheatland.

If only 50 MX missiles are deployed, Wyoming will get them all. They will cost about \$200 million apiece.

Five years of debate and congressional waffling on the MX have deeply divided the farmers and ranchers out here near site P-7. The owner of the land around the site says he believes in "peace through strength" and is delighted that the MX is coming.

The two MX sites in the Papa flight group will probably be on land belonging to the vast Warren Livestock Co., a cattle, sheep and wheat-growing operation once owned by the same man for whom the Air Force base was named, Gov. and Sen. Francis E. Warren. Nearly 25 years ago, the ranch was purchased by the Etchepare family from Colorado.

President of the corporation is Paul Etchepare, who lives in an apartment at a Cheyenne motel complex. "(The MX) is really just a modernization of

the Minuteman," Etchepare says. "If we'd just called it Minuteman IV, we wouldn't have had such a fuss."

Etchepare, a member of the Civilian Advisory Council to Warren Air Force Base, actively pushed for deployment of the MX here. Most agriculturists feared the "dense pack" MX basing mode recommended by the Reagan administration after the 1982 election because it would have required 30 square miles of private land near Cheyenne. Etchepare, on the other hand, gladly invited the Air Force to put the dense pack on his land.

But some members of two families living closest to the MX call it a degradation of the land and the people who make food.

Adjoining the Warren ranch near P-7 are rangelands homesteaded nearly 100 years ago by members of the Kirkbride and Harding families. Their descendants are still there today. One of the Kirkbride elders has sided with Etchepare in the MX dispute. But two women who married scions of the early homesteaders have been among the most articulate opponents.

Mae Kirkbride chairs Western Solidarity, an eight-state coalition of MX foes. A Sheridan native, her family moved to Cheyenne during World War II. In 1951, she married Rod Kirkbride, the brother of one of her co-workers at a Cheyenne bank, and moved to the Cattail Ranch about four miles north of what would become P-7.

Nobody lives closer to that site and nobody likes it less than Mae

Kirkbride. "When they built the Minuteman site 20 years ago they put a ditch across the road one day and left it open that night," Kirkbride says. "My mother-in-law was heading for town at 9 p.m., ran into the ditch, and wound up losing a leg."

Mae dreads the MX for broader reasons, too. "As time goes on I get more nervous," she says. "The part about being a target is bad enough, but that isn't as upsetting as the thought of a global conflict creating a nuclear winter, wiping out all culture and the whole ecosystem."

Alan and Lindi Kirkbride live five miles due east of P-7 and only a couple of miles from P flight's launch control center where two Air Force officers are always underground, ready for a launch command.

Lindi is "a real city girl" from Lubbock, Texas, who met Alan at the University of Wyoming and moved to the Kirkbride ranch as his wife about 15 years ago. They are busy rearing three members of the fifth generation of Kirkbrides to work this land. In December 1982, she was one of five ranchers from as many Western states who visited the Soviet Union "for people-to-people peace talks." Her opposition to the MX is based on religious and moral beliefs and an extended study of the arms race.

"My children pass by four missile sites on their way to school every day," she says. "I find it increasingly difficult to tell them what the future is." She says she has a dream that

someday her children or grandchildren will see the dismantling of all nuclear weapons, at the ranch and across the globe.

A few miles south of P-7 is another strange sight, out-of-place with the ranch buildings and sheep camps of the area. There, off the road to the east, looking like some sort of neo-Stonehenge, stand the hulks of three large cement structures.

It is an old Atlas missile site. Installed in above-ground cement housing in 1959, the liquid-fueled Atlas was the world's first ICBM. Unlike the buried, erect Minuteman, the single-warhead Atlas sat prone in its bunker and had to be raised for firing.

"There were three lights there," Mae Kirkbride says. "The green light meant things were cool. The yellow one meant they were preparing for something, either a practice or a launch. The red one you didn't see too often. It meant they were prepared to send it off."

Mae saw the red light in October 1962, during the Cuban missile crisis. "I remember seeing that thing up on end, she recalls. "Everything (was) blacked out except that red warning light."

Philip White writes for the *Casper Star-Tribune* in Laramie, Wyoming.

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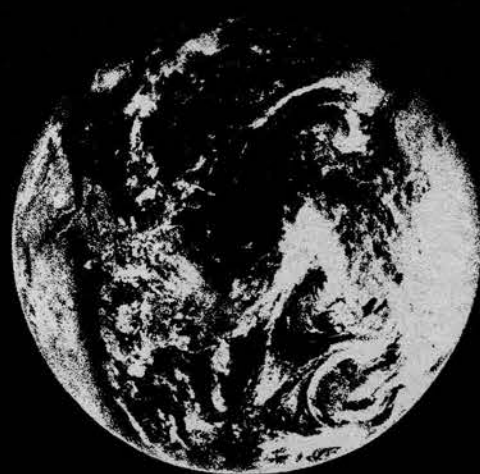
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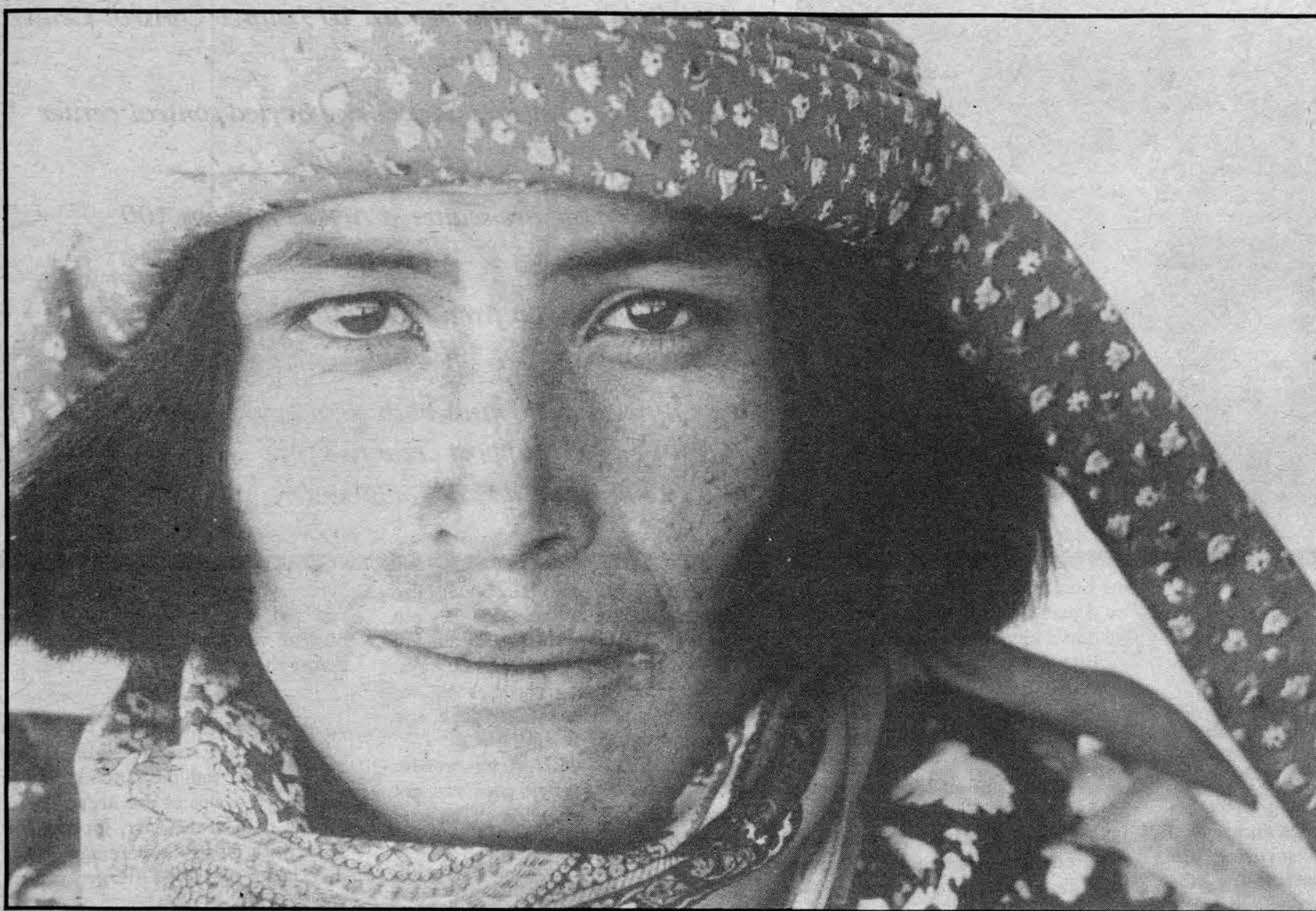
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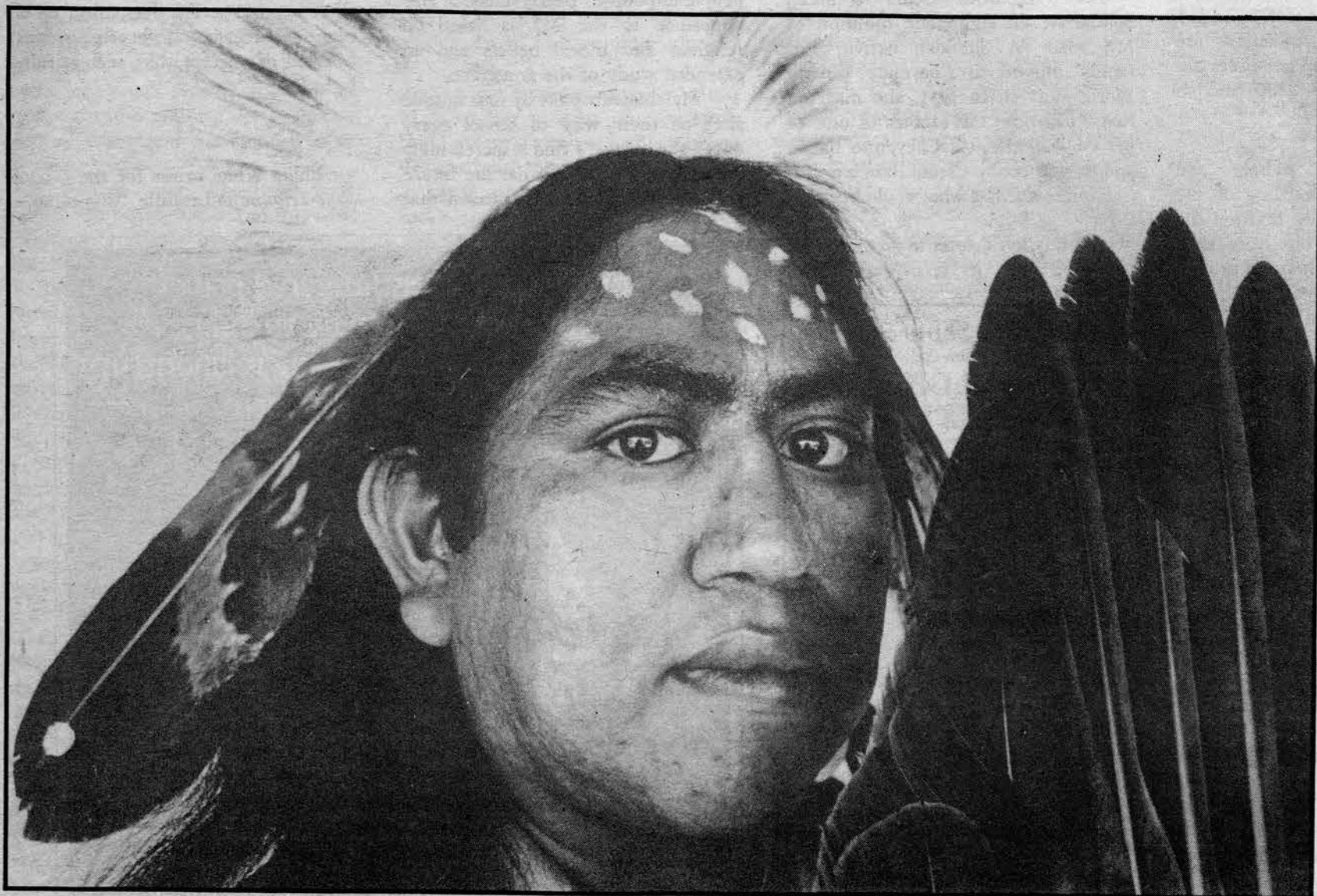
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8-High Country News -- October 28, 1985



The strength of faces

Photographs by John Running



I think John Running truly cares about his subjects, and it shows. Running is perhaps best known for his photographs of Indians, but instead of considering himself a specialist, he considers himself to be simply a photographer of *people*. This is an important distinction. The kind of approach this photographer takes in his work is transferable to any part of the world, to any society. He is never just photographing the trappings of religious beliefs or the costumes of ideology; he is always photographing human beings.

—William Albert Allard, from
the Foreword to *Honor Dance*.

John Running's book, *Honor Dance*, features 165 photographs of Native Americans from the western U.S., Mexico and Canada. The book, including comments and photographs in both color and black and white, is being released this month by the University of Nevada Press in Reno.



PART II

Last Stand for the Colorado Plateau

by Ray Wheeler

Consider that rare and endangered species, the Utah Conservationist.

They have been threatened and hung in effigy. Their homes and cars have been vandalized. They live in a state where the word "environmentalist" is often a profanity, a state whose five ultraconservative Republican congressmen have unanimously embraced the environmental policies of Reagan and Watt, and whose congressional voting record on environmental questions is among the worst in the nation. They have been fighting development on the Colorado Plateau for 20 years, and in that time they have witnessed the inundation of Glen Canyon, the strip mining of Black Mesa, the chaining and logging of hundreds of thousands of acres of forest and the systematic reticulation of the Colorado Plateau with a rapidly expanding spiderweb of roads.

On a bitterly cold February morning earlier this year, I observed this species in its remote and exotic habitat. Some 20 conservationists from all over the state had converged upon the old stone lodge at the Pack Creek Ranch near Moab. The setting was poignant, to say the least. Somewhere out there behind the lodge, towering over us, mantled in clouds and snow, were the La Sal

Mountains. Rising to 12,000 feet, covered with forest and surrounded by exquisitely beautiful redrock canyon country for a hundred miles in every direction, the La Sals are a beacon for all of southeastern Utah.

For conservationists, however, they are also a potent symbol of loss.

Since the La Sals are forested, the mountain range fell to the jurisdiction of the Forest Service while the desert lands surrounding it fell to the Bureau of Land Management. Rejected as a wilderness candidate, the La Sals were formally "released" for non-wilderness uses by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Now conservationists were meeting to determine the fate of the BLM roadless lands surrounding the range.

From the outset it was apparent that even among conservationists, the BLM lands skirting the La Sals were imperiled. The problem was not that they were lacking in wilderness characteristics. Indeed, they contain some of the most diverse and charismatic terrain in all of southeastern Utah. The problem was that they lay within the political sphere of Moab, Utah, a town with a history of virulent opposition to wilderness.

It was the residents of Moab who had celebrated the Fourth of July,

1979, by slicing a new road into the heart of a nearby BLM roadless unit. Later that year, a San Juan County road crew pushed a bulldozer through a BLM barrier blocking off-road vehicles from the Negro Bill Canyon roadless unit. BLM sued, then settled out of court. The result? Both units were dropped from the wilderness inventory.

Now conservationists had gathered to discuss a delicate question. Only two of the five BLM roadless units surrounding the La Sal Mountains had been designated wilderness study areas by the BLM -- and those two only as a result of appeals. All of the units were hotly controversial. Should they be included in a conservationist BLM wilderness proposal -- or were they so hot that they would only become a liability?

Most of the conservation leaders attending the meeting felt that at least four of the areas near the La Sals should be promoted for wilderness designation. But representatives of one group -- the Utah Wilderness Association -- disagreed.

Once again, Utah conservationists were deadlocked.

The conflicts between Utah conservation groups began to receive public exposure late in 1984, during the final negotiations on

the Utah Wilderness Bill. When conservationists from neighboring states gathered in November for a two-day "Colorado Plateau Coalition" meeting, they were amazed at the level of hostility among Utahns. "These Coalition meetings are just an excuse for Utah conservationists to kill each other off," one witness said, recalling an encounter that nearly led to blows.

The infighting among Utah conservation groups has its roots in the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. While some view the bill as a victory, other conservationists see it as a debacle. Jim Catlin of the Sierra Club calls it the "Forest Service Development Act." Of the 3 million acres of roadless land identified by the Forest Service, only 750,000 acres were designated wilderness by the act. That was some 50,000 acres less than the agency's recommendation to Congress, and nearly 2 million acres less than the Sierra Club's wilderness proposal for the state.

"I do not believe in the short term perspective that we've got to get it all right now," says Utah Wilderness Association coordinator Dick Carter, whose organization vigorously supported the bill. "Yes, we've gotten half of what we wanted on the Forest Service wilderness bill -- and we're going to get the other half of what we want at some point in time."

Brad Nelson



Environmentalist hanging in effigy, Escalante, Utah, 1984

One man's "half" is another man's "quarter." While the Utah Wilderness Association proposed designation for 1.6 million acres, the Sierra Club's proposal was nearly twice as large. The huge difference in the size of the two proposals created tensions between the two groups from the very beginning.

If there is one thing that all Utah conservationists might agree to, it is that their state's congressional delegation is hostile to wilderness. A 1984 study by the League of Conservation Voters rated the environmental voting record of the state's three representatives as the second worst in the nation. All five are conservative Republicans, supporters of the Sagebrush Rebellion and the policies of James Watt. For a delegation hostile to wilderness, the million-acre gap between the two different proposals proved more than convenient. "The delegation had worked very effectively to exclude all other organizations and work solely with the Utah Wilderness Association," says one conservationist.

Tensions climaxed last fall in a dispute over "Box-Death Hollow," an area that all parties -- including the Utah delegation -- had supported from the beginning. After draft legislation including the area was introduced in both houses, a coalition of oil and gas exploration companies unveiled a plan to develop a huge carbon dioxide recovery facility in the heart of the unit.

Claiming that the CO2 deposit was worth billions of dollars in tertiary oil recovery, the oil companies asked Congress to drop the entire area from the bill -- or, failing that, to mandate

development of the portion of the unit thought to contain CO2.

The Utah delegation unanimously supported the oil company proposal. Conservationists, supported by John Seiberling, fought the proposal, and threatened to withdraw their support from the bill. In the end, the unit was kept in the bill -- with a specific provision that CO2 development would be allowed to proceed within a defined area.

Although the Sierra Club and other conservation groups ultimately endorsed the compromise, some conservation leaders felt that a compromise need never have been made.

"Box-Death Hollow is perhaps one of the most extraordinary, beautiful, outrageous, scenic areas anywhere," says Clive Kincaid. Headwaters for the Escalante River, a complicated maze of narrow winding canyons, clear streams, and forested slickrock terraces, the area provides winter range for elk, deer, cougar, and a small herd of pronghorn antelope. The antelope are most often seen on Antone Ridge -- the area targeted for CO2 development. If the CO2 development proceeds as planned, says Kincaid, "You're talking about nothing short of massive, full-scale industrial development of the ridge."

Like BLM lands, Forest Service lands under study for wilderness designation were largely protected from development. With the passage of the Utah Wilderness Bill, though, more than three-quarters of Utah's roadless Forest Service lands were released from that moratorium on development.

"Our goal was to have a bill within a period (of time), and then that time

period came up and we had to give up more because the time period was nearing an end -- that's what happened on the Forest Service process," says Jim Catlin. "We should have said, 'No. We'll do it on our own time period. We have 4 million acres protected. Come back to us with a better bill.' ...And when we didn't -- we rode it out -- and that was a serious mistake."

Within months after the Utah Wilderness Bill was signed into law, developers were moving in on areas "released" by the bill. On Antone Ridge, Mid-Continent Oil Company -- the leader in the carbon dioxide development project -- cut in two miles of new road, blasted a stadium-sized clearing amid virgin ponderosa, and drilled a new exploratory well. To supply electrical power for the project, developers are expected to push for new hydroelectric plants or new powerline rights of way -- or both -- on adjacent roadless Forest Service lands. Across the state, on the rim of spectacular Arch Canyon, the Forest Service has proposed to chain down 1,000 acres of pinon-juniper forest in the heart of an area known for its archaeological sites.

When BLM released its draft "wilderness suitability" recommendation for just 1.9 million acres in Utah, some conservationists recalled what for them were the bitter lessons of the Forest Service bill. Would this bill, too, mandate development for areas like Box-Death Hollow and Arch Canyon?

"The reason that the (Utah) delegation now is all of a sudden, after 20 years, hot on the idea of wilderness, says Clive Kincaid, "Is

that they have gained insight, through this last bill, and through what happened on Box-Death Hollow -- that wilderness legislation can be the single quickest answer to what they have always wanted to do about southern Utah."

The Utah Delegation sees BLM wilderness legislation as an "industrial development bill," says Kincaid. "Every area that we have fought for for years -- the Kaiparowits, the Henry Mountains, the Orange Cliffs, you name it -- where there has been vital wilderness resources and an energy resources conflict -- we are suddenly going to lose a large part of the potential to protect them. Because we are going to have designated wilderness in areas that have little or no conflict... a wilderness bill of 700,000 or 800,000 acres, and then what do you do to fight off tar sands, coal, uranium, oil and gas, and every other frigging thing that they can develop?"

Carter sees that as a negative approach. "The classic argument, I think, was the argument over the Box-Death Hollow area, where we couldn't get one particular region into the wilderness bill -- the Antone Ridge -- and on that basis let us not support a wilderness bill" although 11 other regions did get included.

Carter's view is that conservationists should focus their energies on areas of highest priority, seeking wilderness designation for as many areas as can realistically be expected to receive the support of the Utah delegation -- and come back for the

(Continued on page 12)

Jim Catlin



No Man Mesa in foreground, Henry Mountains in background

Last stand...

(Continued from page 11)

rest later. He points out that by introducing new wilderness areas in gradual increments, "it gets people to understand that this is not an evil thing, and you can designate wilderness and nothing happens."

Carter believes that, even after being formally "released" from interim management protection, areas not designated wilderness can be protected from development during the BLM's 10 or 15-year planning cycle until they would again be studied for possible wilderness designation.

Jim Catlin disagrees. Once IMP protection is removed, and roadless lands are formally "released," they are far more vulnerable to development, he says. "What motivated our congressmen in the first place was the ability to release a lot of lands from wilderness protection," says Catlin. "After they've released them, there's no more motivation for them to come back."

In an effort to smooth over such disagreements, and to build a united front, a dozen local and national conservation groups embarked on a series of five meetings early this year. The goal of the meetings was to draft a common BLM wilderness proposal for Utah which could be unanimously supported by all of the groups. The meetings were attended by representatives of the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the National Parks and Conservation Association and 10 Utah conservation groups, including the Utah Wilderness Association, the Wasatch Mountain Club and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

At first the process seemed likely to succeed. Conservationists from all over the state pooled their knowledge, poring over maps and sharing information. One by one, they evaluated nearly 200 roadless units, eliminating some, and carefully adjusting their boundaries for others so as to eliminate human impacts. But by the fifth meeting, it became apparent that on some areas there could never be agreement.

One of those areas was Negro Bill Canyon at the base of the La Sal. "This is an area that is one of the most outrageous examples of wilderness opposition and agency abuse," says Jim Catlin. "It's a prime candidate -- riparian habitat, perennial streams, beautiful cliffs -- a magnificent place."

When the BLM dropped the area from its inventory, Catlin filed an appeal with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, charging that Moab District Wilderness Coordinator Dianna Webb had "removed field reports favorable to wilderness study for the unit, and substituted unfavorable documents which she signed." Webb had a conflict of interest, Catlin claimed, because her husband, George Schultz, was a regional representative for Cotter Corporation, which holds mining claims on numerous candidate wilderness areas.

The appeal was successful. IBLA directed BLM to reexamine Negro Bill Canyon, and BLM, after reconsidering, designated Negro Bill Canyon a wilderness study area. "Ms. Webb's failure to disqualify herself is highly

'You've got to start the political process saying this is what deserves wilderness, this is what we care about. And you may have to back down from that proposal... But there is absolutely no reason not to start out with what you want.'

questionable at best," the IBLA judge concluded.

A half-dozen conservation organizations, including the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and the Wasatch Mountain Club, were willing to endorse Negro Bill Canyon. The Utah Wilderness Association, however, was not.

"It's another one of those areas that we've felt all along could be protected better through another land management tool, and take away some of the political pressure that would then be exerted against us in Grand County in southern Utah," explains Dick Carter.

At the close of the fifth and final meeting, the groups had reached agreement on all but 18 of the 172 areas they had discussed. A majority of the groups supported the 18 areas; UWA opposed them. In a final bid at consensus, the groups supporting the 18 areas agreed to drop 12 of them if UWA would agree to support the other six.

The answer was no.

Five days later the Utah Wilderness Association announced a 3.8 million-acre BLM wilderness proposal. The UWA proposal was endorsed by the Utah Audubon Society, the Slickrock Outdoor Society and Southern Utah Residents Concerned About the Environment.

It took four months for the second shoe to drop. In July, a coalition of 18 conservation groups, including the

Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth and four Utah conservation groups, announced a 5 million-acre proposal under the banner of the "Utah Wilderness Coalition."

Once again, conservationists would go to Capitol Hill with two vastly different wilderness proposals for Utah.

"I wish the conservation groups would have stayed together," says Dick Carter. "I am equally impressed, though, with the need for diversity."

While diversity is an asset for wilderness candidates, it may be less so for conservationist wilderness proposals. "One of the theories of any principle is divide and conquer," says Andy Wiessner, former top staff aide to Seiberling's Public Lands Subcommittee and midwife to numerous wilderness bills. During negotiations on the Utah Wilderness bill, says Wiessner, Utah legislators "all the time trotted out the UWA proposal and said, 'the conservationists aren't even asking for this area you're asking for.'"

"The person who comes in with the smaller proposal has to be conscious of the fact that -- regardless of their motivation -- it will undercut the larger proposal," says the Sierra Club's Debbie Sease.

Dick Carter disagrees. "What will influence the decision will be the political support for each individual area," he says. "Not the size of our

proposal. So I don't think the proposal differences are even worth talking about." Indeed, Carter suggests, a proposal that attempts to include every qualifying area, no matter how small, may present a risk. "The problem is, the large areas will end up being traded off for the small areas if we have too many small areas in our proposal."

That statement illustrates the fundamental difference of approach between the two camps.

"To make compromises prior to the political process starting is ridiculous," says Sease. "You've got to start the political process saying this is what deserves wilderness, this is what we care about, this is our proposal. And you may have to back down from that proposal... But there is, as far as I can see, absolutely no reason not to start out with what it is you want and what it is you care about."

For areas like Negro Bill Canyon, sometimes even being cared about isn't enough. While the merits of the area were being debated, word spread through the environmental community that Edward Abbey, the celebrated author of *Desert Solitaire* and *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, and a longtime member and supporter of the Utah Wilderness Association, had written Dick Carter a letter specifically

Dick Carter: realistic and reasonable

For Dick Carter, the August 29, 1985 dedication of the new High Uintas Wilderness was a hard-earned victory and a fitting culmination for eight years of unremitting hard work.

After graduating from Utah State University with a B.S. in forestry, Carter spent five years working as a Forest Service backcountry ranger and recreation specialist in Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Utah's High Uintas.

In 1977 he became regional representative for the Wilderness Society in Utah. Three years later, when the society reorganized its regional offices, Carter broke away to form his own organization -- a much-needed grassroots alternative, he says, to the large, centralized, national conservation groups.

Today that organization, the Utah Wilderness Association, has 700

Ray Wheeler, c. 1985



Dick Carter

members, an annual budget of \$30,000, two full-time employees, and a reputation for leadership on numerous conservation issues, including the MX missile basing plan, the Forest Service planning process and, of course, wilderness legislation.

It was UWA that coordinated the largely successful 1981 BLM wilderness inventory appeals to IBLA.

Carter has long emphasized the need for conservationists to be realistic and reasonable, building credibility in their own state by demonstrating a willingness to make short-term compromises, when necessary, in the interest of attaining long-term goals.

"I believe, so firmly, that the environmental movement is a movement -- and it is here to stay," says Carter. "We don't take losses. We take victories."

--R.W.

October 28, 1985 -- High Country News-13

Last stand...

(Continued from page 12)

requesting that UWA include the area in its BLM wilderness proposal.

Abbey's *Monkey Wrench Gang*, a fantasy in which environmental commandos launch a guerilla war against development in southern Utah, has become a symbol of solidarity and defiance for Utah's beleaguered conservationists. Surely Edward Abbey's support would win UWA's support. It didn't.

Abbey did send the letter, says Carter -- and with it, a generous donation to UWA. Carter filed the letter, and deposited the check. "I respect Edward Abbey's opinion on Negro Bill Canyon," says Carter. "I just disagree with him."

Carter has strong notions about what should and should not be wilderness, and has never been timid about expressing them. During negotiations on the Utah wilderness bill, Carter argued against wilderness candidacy for Mt. Timpanogous, a 12,000-foot Wasatch Front massif sculpted by glaciers and dotted with lakes.

"We were not convinced that Mt. Timpanogous, at 10,750 acres, was and is a great addition to the wilderness system," Carter says. Mt. Timpanogous was added to the bill, in part, as compensation for the reduction in acreage on Box-Death Hollow. It would have been better, says Carter, to add acreage on the north slope of the much larger High Uintas Wilderness.

While it may seem incredible that conservation groups would oppose wilderness candidacy for an area, one has to remember that the political climate of Utah is as harsh as some of its deserts. Faced with a hostile delegation, limited resources and an avalanche of development threats, some conservationists seem to believe that what is necessary is a kind of triage.

If Utah had even one legislator willing to introduce a more generous BLM wilderness bill, things might be different. But since the Utah delegation is solidly Republican, and solidly in favor of developing Utah's public lands, the chances of that seem remote. "We are not going to pass wilderness legislation across the five members of the Utah delegation, and the Western Republican bloc, right now, unless they want it passed," says Dick Carter.

Jim Catlin seems to agree. "In order to get the right kind of wilderness in Utah," he says, "we're going to have to change the Utah delegation, and we're going to have to change the Reagan administration." In the meantime, he suggests, why not have the BLM go back and correct its inventory errors?

Dick Carter is less optimistic about the value of pursuing the inventory. "I think they have gotten it about as right as they are going to get it," says Carter. "I don't think that the inventory would be any 'righter' the next time around." The difference between UWA's approach and that of some other groups, says Carter, "is that we want to get on with the designation process, to protect wilderness, and not to simply inventory and inventory and inventory."

Other conservation leaders, how-

ever, seem willing to wait for the right moment.

"If you're doing something that builds with strength and sets you in a good bargaining position, then haste is a sort of foolish thing to choose," says Debbie Sease.

"You shouldn't fall into the trap that somehow or other someone else is controlling the political agenda," says Clive Kincaid. "Once you do that, you sacrifice, to a certain extent, your will."

But how does one "control the political agenda" when the political agenda consists of the Utah delegation? "What we look at," says Dick Carter, "is to try and define a proposal that we feel that we can gain some degree of support for."

But Kincaid and others believe that a groundswell of public support from around the nation could force the Utah delegation to be more generous toward wilderness in Utah. "The question is whether you deal with them from a position of strength... or acquiescence," says Kincaid.

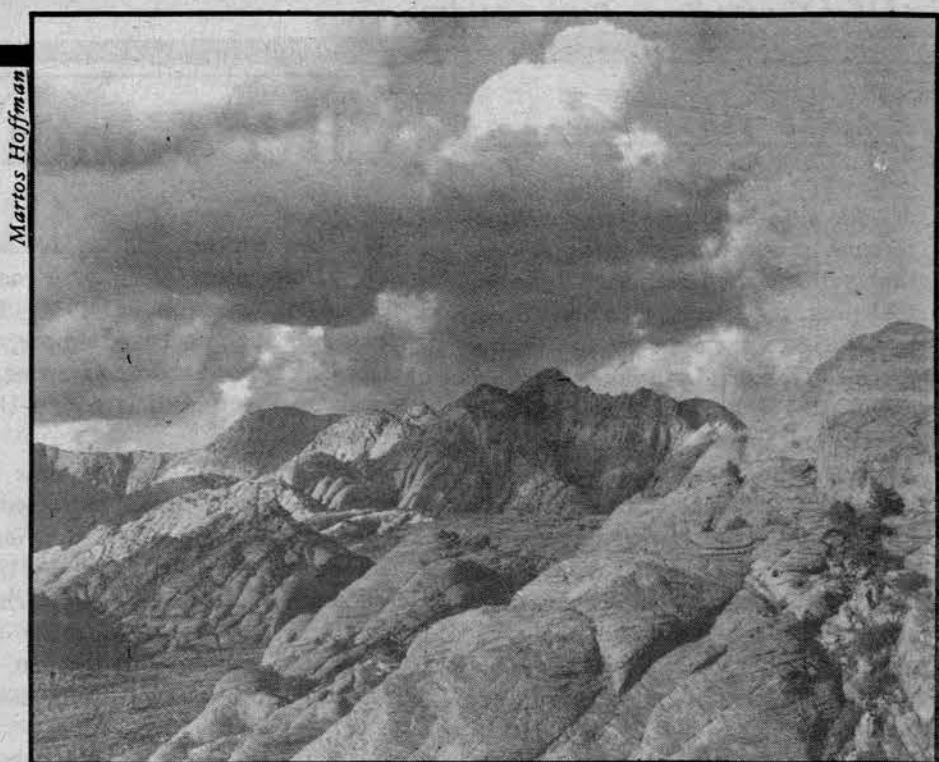
"The majority of people who use public lands in Utah come from outside Utah," says Jim Catlin. "The Colorado Plateau is of national importance."

But how much does the nation know about the Colorado Plateau? And how much does it care?

After appearing on a televised talk show, says Dick Carter, he discovered that "a number of those people who called simply failed to understand what Canyonlands National Park looks like, and when they saw Canyonlands in a bus or car tour of Utah, they were not impressed. They were impressed by its aridness, by its ruggedness -- not by its aesthetics. And the same holds true for a lot of the population of this country when it looks at our deserts."

To a large degree, differences of opinion between Utah conservation groups mirror the ambiguities of the concept "wilderness" in society as a whole.

For Jim Catlin, the land itself has an inherent right to exist undisturbed by man. "You should protect it because it deserves the right to live,



Snow Canyon State Park and BLM wilderness study area near St. George

on its own," says Catlin. Given that perspective, one can understand why some conservationists insist that every wild area in the state should receive equal consideration by conservationists. How can one area be a "better" wilderness candidate than another, if all have an "inherent right to exist?"

Dick Carter's emphasis is more pragmatic. "I don't think that man ever speaks in anything but his own self interest," he says. "But that self interest can be exceedingly broad." By providing a "sanctuary for non-human entities," says Carter, wilderness protection "protects the gene pool," and so benefits both humans and non-humans.

"It's obvious that we had better protect our natural gene pools, and our natural viewscape, and our natural aircapes, and our natural waterscapes, for the sake of our own survival," says Carter. "It's not just a spiritual thing."

For Carter, there are clear priorities among candidate areas, since some are better reservoirs of genetic diversity than others. "What I'm looking at," he says, "are large areas that are as close to complete ecosystems as possible." For Carter, such areas -- particularly

where threatened with development -- should take priority over areas that are merely "aesthetic." "The least important reason I see to designating wilderness," he says, "is because of its aesthetics."

Clive Kincaid sees wilderness as a spiritual and psychic asset for man. "That's my religion out there," he told me one cool, clear evening, pointing out the window at the jumble of slickrock and forest surrounding the town of Boulder, Utah. "Just like these people's religion in that building up the street is somewhere else."

The second reference is to the town's Mormon temple.

Yes, I'm thinking... how like the Mormons these conservationists are. Visionaries, zealots, proselytizing a new faith. Drawn to this country because only here -- in this wilderness fastness -- can they cultivate the values they hold most dear.

"There's a grotesque, international, worldwide change," Kincaid is saying, "that has in large measure to do with the fact that man has become over-organized."

Outside the window -- beyond the sprinklers, beyond the pasture, beyond the two horses and the barbed wire fence -- a hundred square miles

(Continued on page 14)

Jim Catlin aims to 'outlive the bastards'

Soft-spoken, bespectacled Jim Catlin looks more like an electrical engineer than one of the most determined conservationists in Utah. He is both. By day, Catlin troubleshoots flight simulators. By night, he is the wizard behind the curtain of the Utah Wilderness Coalition's massive 5 million-acre BLM wilderness proposal.

Catlin is mystified by the notion that the Sierra Club is not a grassroots organization. The club has 1,600 members in Utah, he points out. Lacking any paid professional staff, the club's Utah chapter relies entirely upon a pool of dedicated volunteers, many of whom, like Catlin, spend virtually all of their free time working on conservation issues.

A Utah native, Catlin has served as the Utah chapter's BLM wilderness coordinator for nearly eight years, and he has brought to the task three rare and exceedingly valuable characteristics: a penchant for detail, Buddha-like patience -- and stamina. Year after year, while other conservation



Jim Catlin

leaders "burned out" from frustration or fatigue, Catlin has spent four nights a week hunched over his little Z-90 computer, pounding out letters, protests and appeals.

Catlin's idea of vacation is a visit to one of the 980 BLM roadless areas in Utah. He makes a dozen field trips a year. Thundering over jeep trails in a tiny pickup truck named "Lust," Catlin has inspected more than 90 of the roadless units in the Utah Wilderness Coalition's proposal.

After all of the losses to development, and all of the setbacks in the BLM wilderness inventory, what keeps him going?

"I think that if you start with the perspective that you're going to outlive the bastards, and it's going to be 20 or 30 years, anyway, a battle that long; then that sort of makes it easier to realize that, yes, you've lost today, and you lost some big ones," he says. "I hope it bothers (Utah Rep.) Jim Hansen that I'm going to be there."

--R.W.

Last stand...

(Continued from page 13)

of Navajo Sandstone are sinking through a spectrum of dying colors: first yellow, then red, then orange, then pink, then violet, then blue. Soon I will have to get in my car and return to the city, so that I can write all of this down. And what, what does it mean?

"I think there's a need to keep the 'wild' in wilderness, and to keep the 'terror' in our lives," says Kincaid. "It's the absence of that terror, it's the absence of dealing with the elements, it's the absence of worrying about whether it's going to rain this week, whether there's going to be enough snowfall... that defines humanity."

There's a painful irony somewhere in that statement, but with the whole world turning colors out there, and stars beginning to twinkle and now blaze in that India ink sky...

"It was that receding frontier that was really significant in forming the unique sense in the American psyche of the idea of freedom and independence. That nobody pushes you around. That's produced -- for better or worse, and I'm not sure which -- a unique personality on the face of the earth... And I would feel more comfortable preserving that, as a repository of something for the future... that independence..."

I'm thinking of my friends Emma and Greg in Washington, D.C. Emma is a physical therapist in a Baltimore Hospital. The hospital is in the inner city, and Emma spends much of her time treating drug addicts and mental patients. Greg, now in medical school,

Clive Kincaid takes on southern Utah

Clive Kincaid fell in love with Utah after visiting it on a fact-finding mission in 1981. Two years later, he purchased property on Deer Creek, on the headwaters of the Escalante River, and is now a Utah resident.

Believing that it was time for southern Utah's resident environmentalists to come out of the closet, Kincaid formed the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance in 1984. Within one year, the organization has acquired a membership of 400, an income of \$16,000 and a mailing list of 5,000.

From the outset, SUWA made its mark as a conservation group willing to fight for what it believes in with no holds barred. After SUWA members filed a protest of a proposed timber sale on nearby Boulder Mountain, a local sawmill operator stuffed employee paycheck envelopes with a notice charging that the protest would

shut the mill down. Shortly after, SUWA members were hung in effigy in nearby Escalante, and one member's home and car were vandalized.

But that didn't stop SUWA from taking on the single most controversial development project in southern Utah: the paving of the Burr Trail. In March 1985, Kincaid made a personal visit to House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Sidney Yates and returned with a commitment from Yates to block funding for the project.

Such outspoken behavior may make enemies, but it also elicits a modicum of respect. "Me and Clive have a difference of opinion on a few things," says a Boulder resident who also happens to be the county road grader, "but the thing that's got me impressed is, hey, he'll go and take on the big boys. And I like that. I'm sorry -- I like that."

--R.W.



Clive Kincaid

told me that he is certain that nuclear holocaust will come in his lifetime.

"Why bother with medical school, then?" I asked. And I was thinking: Why not come out West? Why not hike to the top of the Waterpocket Fold, or the Henry Mountains, or the La Sals. Why not sit beside the thunder of water at Lava Falls, or climb to the summit of Vulcan's Throne, or sit with your feet dangling over 3,000 feet of cool canyon air at Toroweap overlook? Why not?

There's something about this canyon country, something that makes you willing to believe in the future. Wallace Stegner called it the "geography of hope." These conservationist quarrels, I'm thinking, are a tempest in a teapot. They are also quintessentially American. Full of the pain and the promise of democracy.

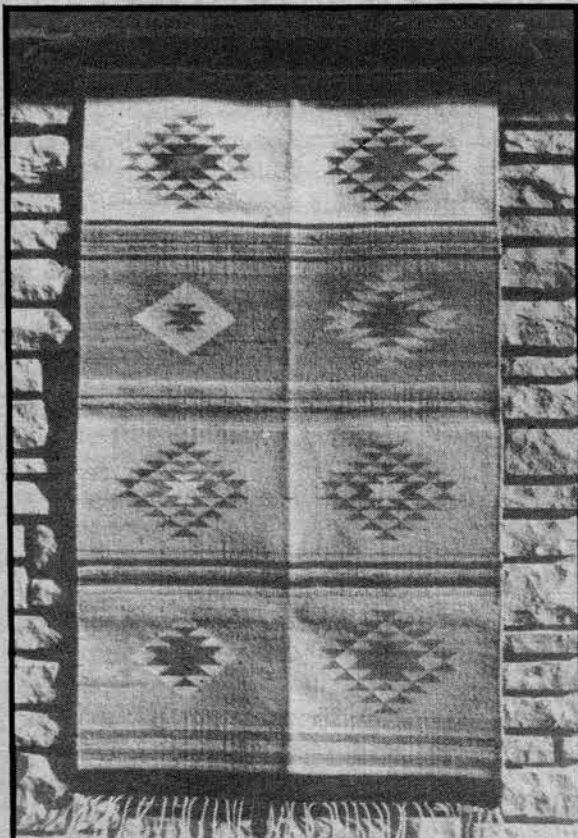
There's a full moon tonight. A hundred square miles of milk-white

Navajo sandstone are reflecting moonlight back into the night air.

"The land," Kincaid is saying, "is our thread back from where we're at."

□

Ray Wheeler is a freelance writer in Salt Lake City, Utah. His two-part series on the Colorado Plateau was made possible by the High Country News Research Fund. Article copyright 1985 by Ray Wheeler.



Top: Fresh Snow, Yosemite Valley, California, c. 1947, 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 Teotitlan 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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GUEST EDITORIAL

A BLM employee's cry of rage

Recent hearings on the proposed interchange between Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands revealed that the public has a deep distrust of the BLM. When asked what people think of the BLM, the words "professional" and "integrity" were seldom used in a positive sense. The words "political" and "special interest" were often used. Upper level managers within BLM expressed shock and disbelief, then went back to employees with their latest edict: "You shall now have a good public image!" But that image may be hard to change overnight, especially if the root cause is not challenged.

The BLM has many things going for it. Natural resource management agencies such as the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and state park and wildlife agencies all draw their professional people from the same colleges and universities as the BLM does. So there is no basic difference in the quality of employees between BLM and other agencies.

Public land administered by the BLM is more vast and diverse than any other agencies' lands. BLM land often provides critical winter range for big game species in the Western states. BLM has provided the high quality landscapes found in most of the Western national parks and national recreation areas. Park expansion plans usually involve additions of more BLM land. Recreational use of BLM land is usually growing faster than other nearby agencies' land; in many places BLM offers the only available open space for public recreational activities.

Other natural resource management agencies have guiding policies that require a basic stewardship responsibility and commitment to

fostering public trust. Similarly, BLM's organic act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, also sounds good. Because it is comparatively new, it is probably the most comprehensive and least naive of all agency organic acts.

With good people, an enormous land base and state-of-the-art policies, why has the BLM failed to gain public support and respect? The answer is unpleasantly simple. Narrow special interests -- particularly livestock, minerals and logging -- have a stranglehold on the agency.

How do the Big Three control the BLM? Very belligerently, if not violently. As any BLM employee can tell you, they come stomping and yelling into our offices. They can do that because they spend a lot of money and influence to get their people elected to everything from county commissioner to president. They control BLM funding. They can cause 'problem' BLM employees to be neutralized. They are narrow, focused, well-organized interests with two things in common: They profit enormously from exploitation of public resources, and they dread the public scrutiny that would evolve if the BLM were allowed its own professional integrity. If the broad and diverse public interests had hope that the BLM would seriously consider their concerns, it would open the floodgate of public involvement, and work to the detriment of the special interests. But there is no present danger of that. In the BLM now, public involvement is window dressing.

BLM employees at all levels soon learn that the competition for climbing the agency's career ladder involves how enthusiastically they can support the desires of the Big Three. Internal competition takes on a ghastly rhythm, as

employees try to outdo each other in bizarre reasoning and methods to reinterpret, subvert or totally ignore policy. Personnel who won't enter the game are given trivial programs and planning projects and are not allowed to be involved in the real agenda. There are worse sanctions for those who insist on working professionally against the sham.

The 'exotic' programs, such as recreation, wildlife, archaeology, endangered species, hydrology, wilderness, landscape architecture and paleontology, are used as a facade to legitimize the sham. These programs are held up like puppets in a show whenever there is a serious attack on the BLM, as occurred in the interchange hearings. But the wordy policies which accompany each of these exotic programs are light-years away from field practice. These policies and programs exist for public consumption, and are implemented only in a few high visibility showcases.

Sometimes it seems that the BLM purposely chooses the worst possible field management, or no management whatsoever, in an attempt to attract public attention. This is something like a small child messing his pants in order to get some attention, any attention. Perhaps that is the only desperate option presently available. But this approach to public land management has and will continue to destroy BLM integrity. And, you know what? Even the Big Three have little respect for the integrity of their sniveling, butt-kissing civil servants.

□

The above piece was written by a 10-year career employee of the BLM serving in a Rocky Mountain state (not Utah). In the signed letter which accompanied the article, the BLM staffer asked that the article be published anonymously so that he could keep his job:

"The BLM is running out of people who have the option or motivation to quit in protest of the B.S."

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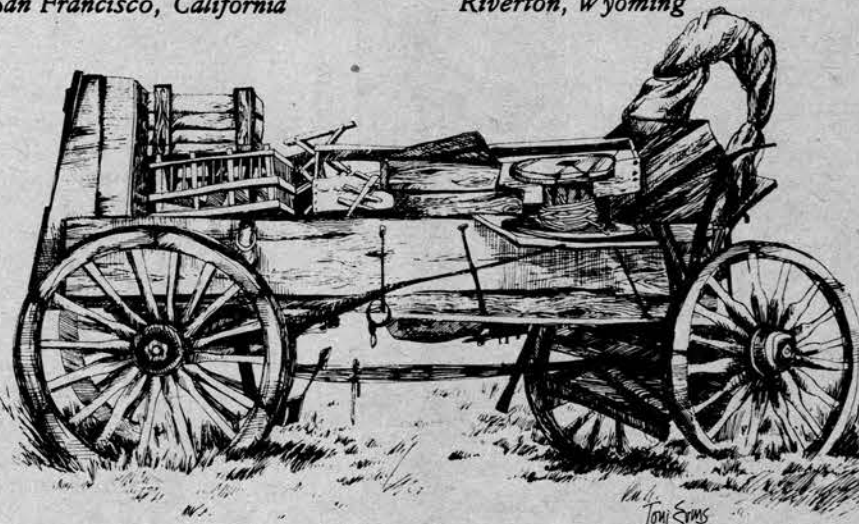
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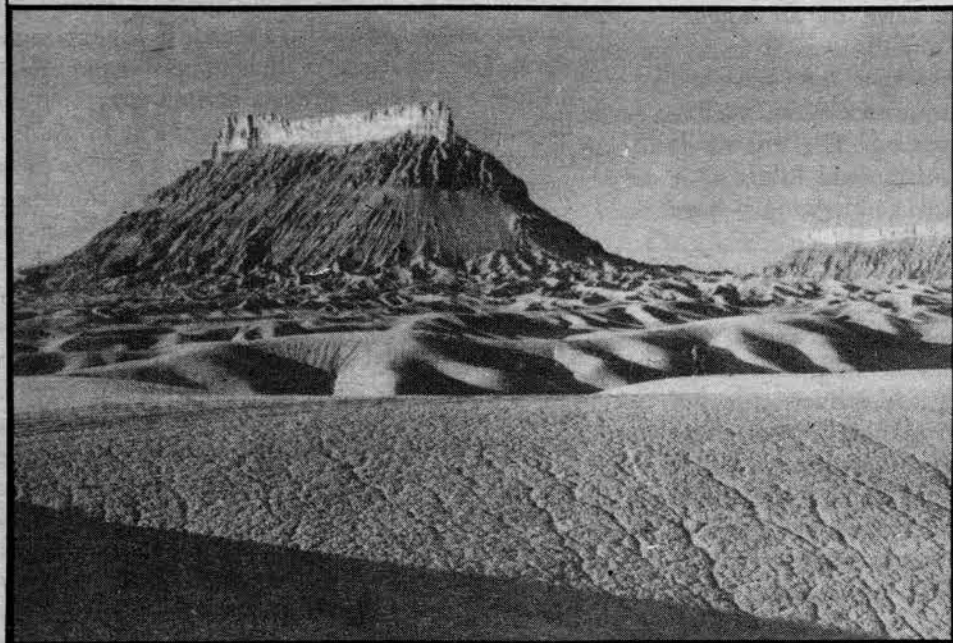
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Five million acres of Utah wildlands



Factory Butte in the Muddy Creek Unit. Photo by Eldon Byland

THAT'S WHAT THE UTAH WILDERNESS COALITION IS FIGHTING TO PROTECT WITH WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. We need your moral, political and financial help to save that land from destructive development and the BLM's poor stewardship.

Yes, I want to help the grassroots and national organizations fighting for 5 million acres of wilderness on the Colorado Plateau. Enclosed is my donation.

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MAIL TO:

The Utah Wilderness Coalition, 1120 S. Windsor,
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Members of the Utah Wilderness Coalition are: The Escalante Wilderness Coalition, The Wasatch Mountain Club, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Slick Rock Country Council, The Wilderness Society, The Sierra Club, The National Parks and Conservation Association, Friends of the Earth, Defenders of Wildlife, Four Corners Wilderness Workshop, Friends of the River - Colorado Plateau, The Arizona Wilderness Coalition, The Colorado Open Space Council, The Arizona Whitewater Association, The Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, The New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition, and The Desert Tortoise Council (supporting the Joshua Tree and Beaver Dam units).

BARGAIN WILDERNESS WORKSHOP

Wilderness supporters are invited to the annual Wilderness Leader's Meeting Nov. 16-17 in Leadville at the Colorado Outward Bound School. Participants will learn about federal reserved water rights and the effects of timbering, mining, acid rain and over-use on popular areas, as well as the status of a Colorado wilderness bill and wild and scenic rivers proposals. The weekend's five meals and two nights' lodging are a bargain-basement \$10. Call the Colorado Open Space Council in Denver at 303/393-0466 to register or for details.

SOUNDING BOARD

Those interested in the aural threat confronting some national parks from sightseers' fixed wing and helicopter flights may wish to interest themselves in the current public process centered on Grand Canyon National Park (HCN, 7/8/85). Although the problem seems most serious in the Grand Canyon, where rafters and hikers in the backcountry have complained of incessant aircraft noise, there is also evidence that aircraft noise affects many national parks, and that the Grand Canyon may be a test case. The last in a series of public hearings on the problem is scheduled for Phoenix on Wednesday, Oct. 30. For information on that hearing and for an information packet prepared by the Park Service, call Butch Farabee at 602/638-7708. Comments on the problem should be sent to Supt. Dick Marks, U.S. Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park, Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

COMMENT ON ARCHES

The 7,035 acres of land in southern Utah's Arches National Park that are not federally owned have been addressed in the Park Service's recently released draft Land Protection Plan and Environmental Assessment. A planning team will now study the best uses for the land, which is either county or state-owned, during preparations for a 1986 general management plan. One of the county-owned parcels is currently used as a public boat launching ramp. The draft is available at the Moab or Monticello, Utah, public libraries. Send comments (by Nov. 1) or draft copy requests to Superintendent, Canyonlands National Park, 125 West 200 South, Moab, UT 84532 (801/259-7164).

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

The U.S. Forest Service has released a draft environmental impact statement recommending the creation of a major ski area in southern Colorado. In its Wolf Creek Valley Ski Area draft EIS, the San Juan National Forest has as its preferred alternative the permitting of 2,700 acres of public land to accommodate 11,750 skiers, using 14 lifts and one gondola. The project is proposed by Westfork Investment, Ltd., headed by Harvey Doerr, for an area east of Pagosa Springs and west of Wolf Creek Pass. Formal public meetings have been scheduled for Nov. 13, 7 p.m. at the county courthouse annex in Creede, and for Nov. 14, 7 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Motor Inn in Pagosa Springs. For a copy of the DEIS, call Forest Supervisor John R. Kirkpatrick at 303/247-4874 or write: 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81301.

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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)

ASCENSION, Reembodiment (reincarnation). I AM that I AM (Exodus 3:11-15). Three missing links in Christianity. Free info, Box 251-HX, Germantown, MD 20874. (2x19)

BOTTLED WATER QUALITY FROM YOUR KITCHEN FAUCET! Great tasting, guaranteed 3 years, 3 cents/gallon, chlorine, pesticides, other harmful chemicals removed. CLEARWATER, 2586W 4700S, SLC, UT 84118. (4x18)

NATIONAL GRIZZLY GROWERS T-SHIRTS: N.G.G. logo, mother bear with cubs, 4 colors. All adult sizes. Proceeds to protect and extend grizzly habitat. \$9.50 postpaid. From Gary Lawless, Box 687, South Harpswell, Maine 04079. (2x20)

A one-hour SOUND PORTRAIT by Connie Goldman, called *In the American West, Photographs by Richard Avedon*, is available for \$8.95 from Audio Forum, Dept. HC, 96 Broad St., Guilford, CN 06437. Call toll free 1/800-243-1234 to order audiotape.

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.

WORK

WORK AVAILABLE: #1 Treeplanting company is now taking applications for fall and winter planting in the South. We offer the highest seasonal earnings and production bonuses. You must have a vehicle and a camper and be a hard worker. Contact: Superior Forestry Service, Route 85-Box 286, Leslie, AR 72645 (501/745-8393). (3x20)

NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE TRAINEE WANTED: *High Country News* has an opening in January, 1986 for a person wishing to work in the field of newspaper layout, production and design. Duties would include darkroom work, acquisition, keeping up files, design of photo centerspreads and layout assistance. Applicants need not be capable of undertaking full responsibility immediately. But he or she should have training in the field and some experience, plus a strong desire to be immersed in the area. HCN is a flexible workplace, with the small staff expected to bring an array of talents to the job. Ability to draw maps and other illustrations is welcome, but if the applicant is interested in writing as well as in layout and design, that could also be accommodated. But the major responsibility will be in photos, graphics and layout. An absolute requirement is a knowledge of the Rockies. The job pays approximately \$600 per month, plus medical insurance, has flexible hours, and is intended to last about 18 months. That period is chosen to give the trainee enough time to learn the work, and for HCN to then gain some benefits from the training. Paonia, Colorado is a small and beautiful rural community in western Colorado and outdoor recreation opportunities abound. Our production year has two two-week breaks built into it, but otherwise the work is intense, and anyone applying should assume that it will occupy much of their time. Cost of living is very reasonable, but an urban social life is lacking. Please send resume, samples of your work, and references to Betsy Marston, *High Country News*, P.O. Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.



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FOREWORD BY WILLIAM ALBERT ALLARD

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