

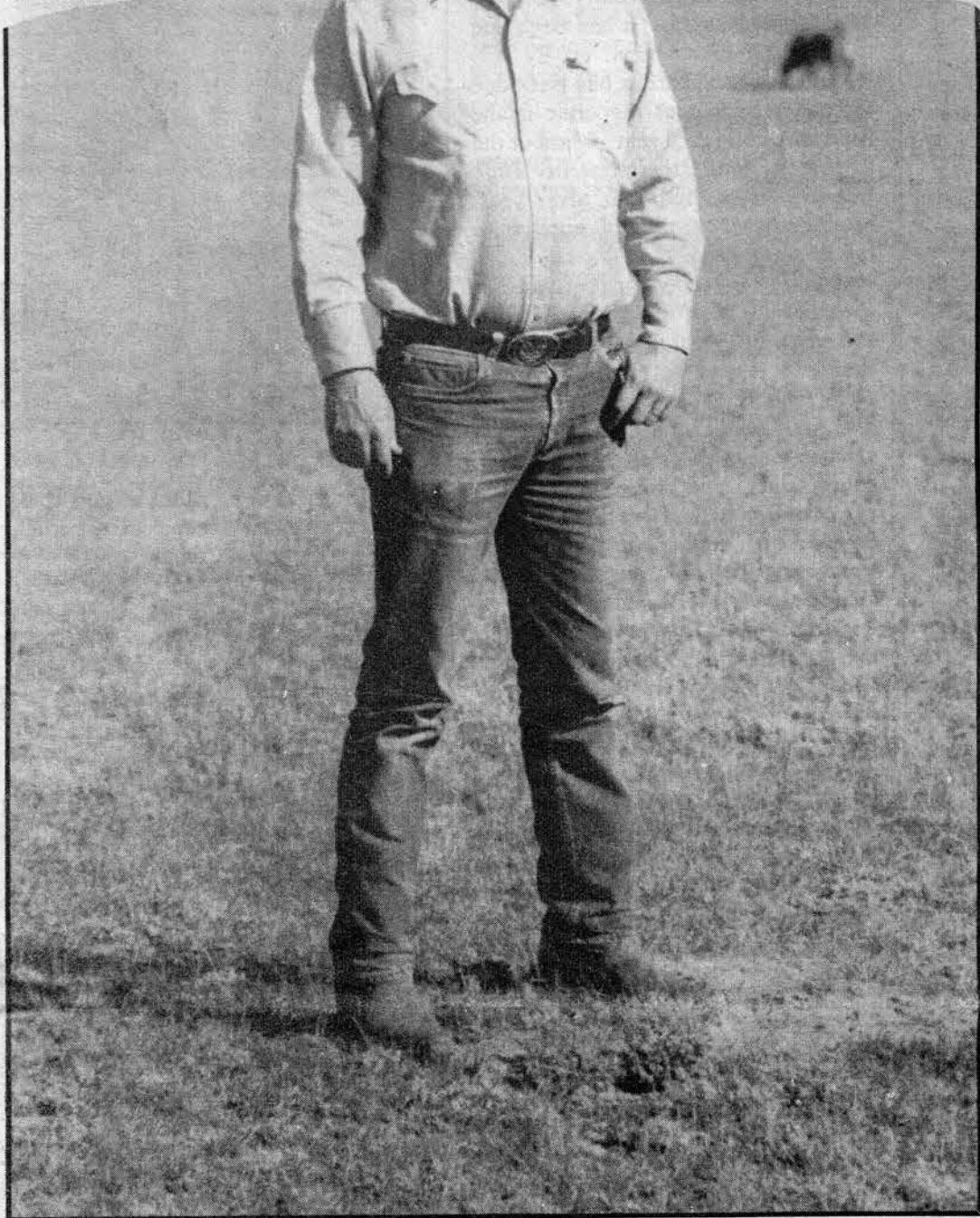
High Country News

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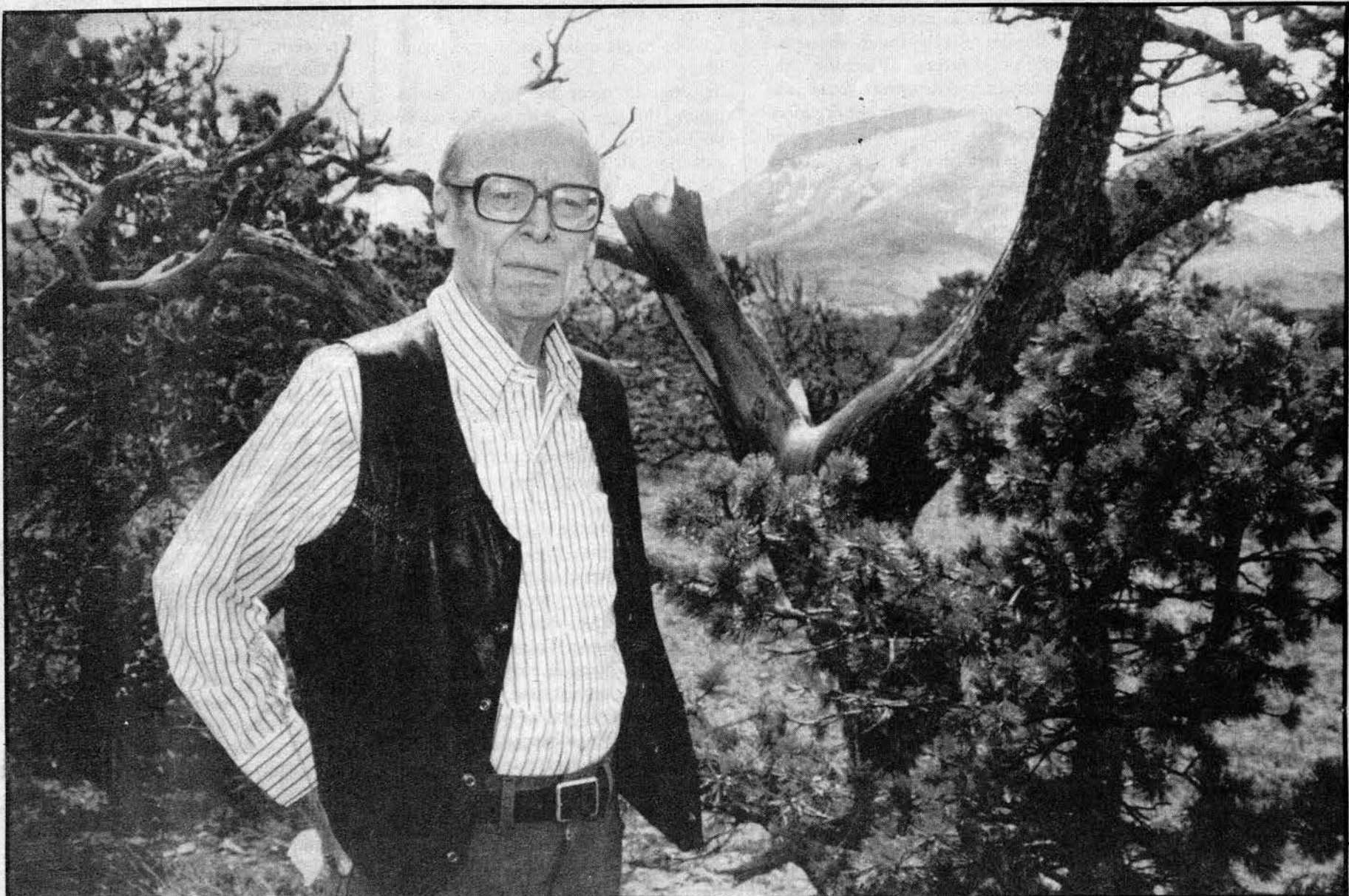
A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



Father and son
in Choteau, Montana

Two views
of the grizzly



David J. Spear

The Guthries of Montana: son Bud and father Bert, directly above

Dear friends,



High Country News

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High Country News is in the back-to-school rhythm in a large way. Our request to readers to sponsor subscriptions to schools in the region hit a responsive chord. Approximately 30 of the 93 available schools have been spoken for; new gifts arrive daily.

Gundars Rudzitis, who teaches geography at the University of Idaho at Moscow, has enrolled students taking his course, Decision Making in Resource Management, in *HCN*. They will find it a field with limitless tasks crying to be done.

Back-to-school coincides each year with the High Country News Research Fund drive. It is a time when our corridor-like string of offices go from clutter to gridlock thanks to boxes of envelopes, letters and cards. It is a time when circulation manager Carol Beth Elliott squeezes the stuffing and addressing of thousands of envelopes into her on-going tasks.

It is also a period of healthy anxiety in the office, not just because you can't get from A to B without going out the front door to enter the side door, but because over the next few weeks *HCN* learns how well it has met the needs of readers over the past year.

'Normal' newspapers get 70 to 80 percent of their income from advertising. *HCN* gets two percent. The rest comes from subscriptions, the Research Fund and foundations. In effect, the Research Fund drive asks readers: Did *HCN* serve you well last year? Are you willing to contribute to the paper, beyond your subscription fee, to provide 16 pages of news and commentary biweekly, uninfluenced by advertising?

Circulation is now close to 5,000, and many of you have joined us in the last year. At the risk of boring long-time readers who know the story, we should give some background on the paper and the Research Fund.

HCN was founded in 1969 by Tom Bell, a rancher near Lander, Wyoming. It was created, along with the Powder River Basin Resource Council in eastern Wyoming, the Northern Plains Resource Council in eastern Montana, and other organizations, because many Westerners and friends of the region feared widespread devastation from rapid energy development.

Bell created *HCN* to serve a community of people concerned about the West; and that community has sustained *HCN* over 17 difficult but exciting years. The paper's goal is to report on and help shape the West. From its beginnings, *HCN* has approached this area from a regional perspective. It has striven to transcend state boundaries and to show what the seemingly unconnected, haphazard flood of events in the Rockies means to residents and to the rest of the nation. *HCN* has set out to make the Rockies intelligible; to find patterns and trends amidst the welter of events.

Through its farflung network of readers, *HCN* focuses national attention on the rural Rockies, while at the same time helping to reassure readers that they are not alone in their concerns and hopes for the future.

Those are immodest goals for a publication which, 17 years after its founding, is still modest in many respects; but they are goals to match the region the paper covers.

HCN has always been well-known for its journalism. Until recently, it

was also famous for its crises -- fiscal crises from which it was rescued again and again by readers. For the past several years, *HCN* has been owned and operated by the non-profit High Country Foundation, whose sole function is to publish the paper. Under the direction of the High Country Foundation Board of Directors, *HCN* has been free of crises. In part that has been due to the strict financial planning and accountability required by the board. In part it has been due to help from foundations.

But in largest part, it has been due to readers' generous response to the Research Fund each year. Without the Research Fund, there is no *High Country News*. And year after year, readers have contributed enough to the Research Fund to enable the paper to do another year's worth of work.

Until last year, the Research Fund raised about \$35,000 a year. Last year, that leapt to over \$60,000. As a result, *HCN* has been able to pay its writers and staff better, and to operate in a stable, solid way, paying bills as they came due, and reserving staff's curiosity for natural resource issues. Prior to that, staff spent a lot of time wondering: Just how long does it take a check to clear a Bozeman bank?

If the paper has served you well, the board of directors and the staff of *High Country News* ask you to contribute to the 1986 Research Fund drive.

Once again, we are offering a series of gifts in appreciation of your tax-deductible contribution to the Research Fund. All donors of \$50 or more will receive a free gift subscription to the paper, to be sent to a new subscriber of your choice. During 1985, *HCN* gained several hundred new readers with this offer.

In addition, those giving \$100 to \$249 will receive a poster by Southwest photographer Dale Schick-etanz, whose photos of Western churches appeared in the Sept. 1 issue. Thanks to a Boulder subscriber, boxes of notecards with scenes of the national parks by Ansel Adams will go to those who contribute \$250 to \$499.

We're grateful to Stuart and Isabel Mace of Ashcroft, Colorado, for helping us recognize larger donors again this year. A mounted color photograph by Stuart, who has galleries at Ashcroft and Aspen -- Toklat I and Toklat II -- will go to donors of \$500 to \$999. And those contributing \$1,000 or more will receive a 31- by 58-inch Zapotec rug from Teotitlan do Valle in Mexico.

Fall intern Steve Hinchman comes to *HCN* fresh from a short stint as a bicycle messenger in New York City -- something he likens to telemark skiing off a cliff into dense woods at top speeds. He also has a snow comparison for his work at *HCN* -- the daily flood of newspapers and press releases reminds him of a blizzard. And he is in charge of the shovelling.

Prior to his few weeks as a messenger, Steve taught at a prep school in Maine; before that the Cincinnati native was a student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He says the living is easy in Paonia. Because it is harvest time, a generous supply of fruits and vegetables are keeping him fit and happy, even on an intern's (non-existent) pay.

Editor Betsy Marston has this report about who reads this paper and why:

We've already passed on some of the Readers' Survey comments that seemed most striking -- stay rooted



Steve Hinchman

and independent, focus on the environment and keep out of the clutches of big advertisers.

Now for the nitty-gritty about the close to 500 people from 26 states who returned surveys. Sixty-seven percent were male, 45 percent were in their 30s and a large 61 percent had gone to graduate school. Less than 1 percent did not finish high school. There were biologists, a folk singer, unidentified consultants, a deputy marshal, foresters, a truck driver, bureaucrats and software engineer, among many others. More than half said they had subscribed to *High Country News* in the last three years, thanks to a friend who introduced them to the paper. One reader told us he had been with the paper "since the Tom Bell days."

Sixty-three percent returning surveys live in the *HCN* states of Colorado, 37 percent; Montana, 9 percent; Utah, 8 percent; Wyoming, 7 percent; Idaho, 2 percent. California and New Mexico were 6 percent each, followed by Arizona, 5 percent, North Carolina, 4 percent and Oregon, 3 percent.

One quarter of those responding live in a rural area with fewer than 10,000 people, but 10 percent said they live in cities with more than 1 million people. Compared to the 1981 *HCN* survey, more had acquired possessions, such as a 35 mm camera.

An overwhelming 97 percent of the 478 people sending back surveys said they considered themselves environmentalists. Almost half said they belong to the Sierra Club, with many naming memberships as well in The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, and local and state organizations. Other groups named were the Nature Conservancy, Earth First!, Friends of the Earth, National Parks and Conservation Association, Natural Resource and Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund and Greenpeace.

More than half the readers responding named the issues they were concerned about and public lands topped the list at 23 percent. Twenty-seven percent also said *HCN* covered that issue best. Ecology-biology, however, is covered the "worst" in *HCN*, said 15 percent of those responding. Forty percent said *HCN* helped them find out what was happening in and to the Rocky Mountain region. One reader called the paper her "reliable link to a place I love."

(Continued on page 16)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

You were warned, court tells hikers

Two hikers who were mauled by a grizzly bear two years ago in Glacier National Park have lost their lawsuit against the National Park Service.

A federal judge ruled that the government had adequately warned Francis Lordan and Robert Hilligoss of the dangers posed by grizzlies before they entered the backcountry in September 1984.

Lordan, from Los Angeles, sustained disfiguring injuries to her shoulder and leg after she was attacked by a bear near Fifty Mountain Campground in the north-central part of Glacier Park. Hilligoss, who now lives in San Francisco, suffered cuts and bruises.

The couple submitted a claim for more than \$1 million each for damages, which was rejected by the government. They then filed suit seeking "in excess of \$10,000" for what they termed governmental negligence.

"The government has gone to extraordinary lengths to warn visitors," said U.S. District Judge Edward Rafeedie in his ruling against the pair in the two-day trial in August. "It's clear the program there (Glacier Park) has succeeded."

Rafeedie ruled that while they

were not negligent, "perhaps the rangers might have been more effective if they pointed out people have been killed (by grizzlies in the past)." Glacier Park Superintendent Gil Lusk said he saw no immediate need for any modification in the park's bear-warning policy based on the case.

Kevin McClean, the couple's attorney, said in his opening statement that he hoped to show that

the park's warnings were "totally inadequate" in describing the danger posed by bears, and claimed that rangers had given the couple a false sense of security.

Lordan admitted under cross-examination by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Silver that she had received several pamphlets stating that bears are dangerous.

--John Holt

BARBED WIRE

A tidy forest is a good forest.

A Forest Service spokesman told the Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel* that he was concerned about the decrease in requests for woodcutting permits. "We count on the woodcutters to get the clutter out of the woods," said Matt Mathes.

Get small, or get out.

Amish farmers in Pennsylvania can clear \$25,000 to \$40,000 a year on an 80-acre farm. A *New York Times* article attributes their financial success in these difficult times to an avoidance of large, expensive machinery and to intensive farming of their small farms.

We have the same kinds of urges, Earl. Could you tell us where your grandparents are buried?

Earl Shumway of Blanding, Utah, convicted of looting Anasazi ruins, told *Science* '86, "I'm not gonna bring up my kid into a world where he can't go out and dig up an old ruin."

Did she call to check?

Margaret Krivec, Montana's Commissioner of Political Practices, reimbursed the state \$2,290 for telephone calls to friends and family that were billed to her office phone. "I would say this (amount) is pretty accurate because we worked on it all day Saturday," she told the *Great Falls Tribune*.

Utah BLM gets contrary wilderness advice

A federal agency and a federal panel took the Utah BLM to task recently -- but for opposite reasons.

The National Public Lands Advisory Council, a federal panel set up to advise Interior Secretary Donald Hodel about Bureau of Land Management operations, recommended against any further wilderness designation in Utah. The panel endorsed a May joint-legislative resolution supported by Gov. Norman Bangert that opposes creating any BLM wilderness in Utah. Bangert later reversed himself, saying that some wilderness was inevitable.

The Environmental Protection Agency took a different tack. In a letter to the BLM's Utah state office, EPA Regional Administrator John Welles said he found the BLM recommendations out of date and inaccurate. He particularly objected to a statewide format that failed to take a close look at areas region by region.

Welles echoed the Utah Wilderness Coalition's contention that the BLM should have made regional surveys from the start. The coalition recently urged the BLM to rewrite its draft in its entirety, while Welles has requested the BLM to supplement its analysis with regional information.

The different viewpoints come after a six-month public comment period ended Aug. 15 on the Utah BLM's 1.9-million-acre wilderness recommendations, which were 10 years in the making.

Utah is the only state singled out by the Advisory Council to be exempt from wilderness designation. The 21-member council, which has two representatives from Utah, said the BLM study inadequately responded to concerns raised by elected Utah officials about "wilderness and the use of public lands as being integral to the vitality and viability of the



Mt. Ellen - Blue Hills Wilderness Study Area

economy, in all its aspects, in Utah."

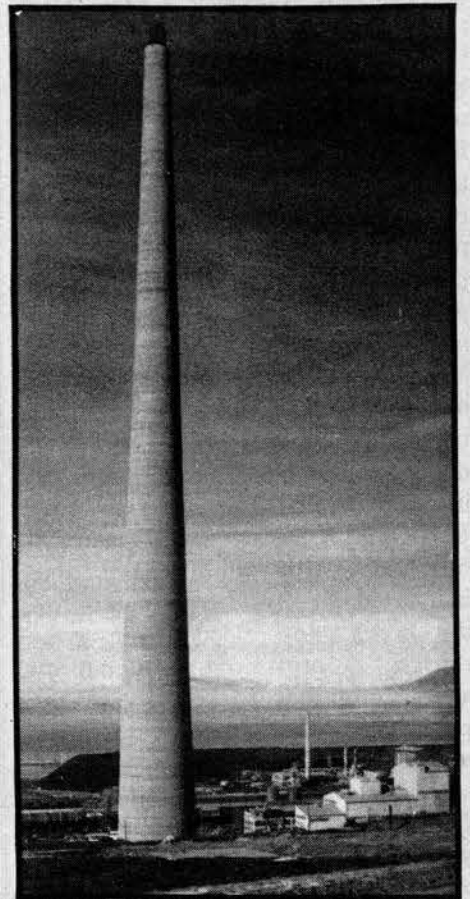
The council's recommendation drew fire from Utah Wilderness Association coordinator Dick Carter. In a letter to Secretary Hodel, Carter called the decision a "slap in the face" to BLM personnel who spent years studying the issue. Carter condemned the council as unqualified to give "informed and objective advice" and said the resolution failed to meet the public mandate for multiple use of federal lands. "Though the (council) may support such a myopic view, the people of Utah and this nation are not so dogmatic and single-use oriented," Carter wrote. The Utah Wilderness Association seeks 3.8 million acres of wilderness.

The EPA, which commented on the

BLM study as part of its responsibility under federal clean air and water laws, found different problems with the BLM recommendations. Those included exclusion without explanation of areas qualified for wilderness study, which is a failure to consider the full range of alternatives as required by the 1976 National Environmental Policy Act; failure to consider wilderness designation in the context of other land use plans or large clusters of wilderness; and inconsistent application of BLM's management capabilities to wilderness study areas -- the agency says it can manage mineral recovery and mining, but not off-road vehicle use.

--Steve Hinchman

HOTLINE



Kennecott's 1,200 foot stack with a portion of its tailings pile in back

Seeping and blowing

The Kennecott copper smelter near Salt Lake City continues to contaminate air and water even though the plant is idle. In 1983, the state found that pollution had spread from Kennecott's 5,000-acre tailings pile toward Salt Lake City's groundwater supply at a rate of 200 feet per year. A new problem that arose after the plant closed in March of 1985 occurs when winds up to 40 mph pick up dirt from the tailings and coat nearby communities. This August, state officials served notice on Kennecott that groundwater pollution had to be cleaned up, but did not make similar demands about tailings. That has prompted angry citizens' groups to threaten suits against both the state and Kennecott to force a cleanup. Kennecott, which is undergoing a \$400 million renovation and plans to reopen early next year, has monitored toxic leaching over the past four years, closing down wells before they became dangerous and supplying alternative sources of water, the *Deseret News* reports. Although the company has installed sprinklers on the tailings pile, Kennecott has been unable to control dust storms.

Hard times for moly

Amax Corp. announced recently it will cut another 300 miners and managers at its Climax molybdenum mine near Leadville, Colorado. That leaves 200 workers producing 6,000 tons of molybdenum a day. Five years ago the open pit mine employed over 3,000 workers and supplied 80 percent of Lake County's tax base, keeping Leadville alive and mining when most other Colorado mining towns had become tourist or ghost towns. By 1982 the steel market had collapsed and reduced the need for molybdenum, which is used to harden steel. Overproduction and competition from foreign markets also forced the price of molybdenum from a 1980-81 high of \$10 per pound to today's price of \$2.90 per pound. Amax said the Climax mine is not scheduled to close, but if economic conditions continue to worsen, mining might again be suspended as it was for three weeks this July.

HOTLINE

Plan for dams dropped

Two large dams have been blocked on North St. Vrain Creek near the city of Longmont, Colorado. Longmont and local farmers, who are represented by a conservancy district, withdrew their request in state court for water rights rather than respond to Sierra Club charges that their proposed \$522 million project would violate senior instream flow rights held by the state. The plan had been to build two dams, one of which would have been the tallest in Colorado at 560 feet. The dams would have stored water to irrigate the St. Vrain and Left Hand Conservancy District's 70,000 acres of farmland, but would have also inundated the "wild trout waters" of the creek and flooded the river canyon, a registered state natural area. Longmont backed out of the proposal in May, passing a resolution asking Congress to consider wild and scenic status for the creek and canyon. The farmers ditched the two-dam system last month, citing financial, technical, political and environmental reasons.



Patty Kluver

Rancher wins coal suit

Montana rancher Patty Kluver will not see her family lands stripmined by the Western Energy Company without her permission. District Judge Bernard Thomas recently ruled against Western's contention that the Montana law requiring the consent of the surface owner before a stripmine can operate is unconstitutional. Kluver has been fighting Western's efforts to expand its Colstrip-area strip mine onto her property since 1981. Western owns the rights to the coal underneath Kluver's Wineglass Ranch, but Kluver, whose family pioneered the area in the 1880s, says any further loss of grazing land or water quality will make her ranch untenable. Western, which plans to appeal the decision, says if it is not allowed to mine the coal it will fail its contractual obligations and suffer substantial losses.

Earth First! acts up at the Grand Canyon

Labor Day weekend visitors to Grand Canyon National Park got a surprise Sunday when "workers" wearing radiation suits and gas masks cordoned off an area in front of the park's visitor center. They dumped a pile of material from two canisters marked with radiation symbols, planted signs urging "Caution: blowing uranium dust," and warned onlookers to stay back for safety.

The demonstration was the work of the radical environmental group Earth First! joined by members of Canyon Under Siege and Friends of the River. Participants said the guerilla theater was meant to draw attention to growing threats to the nation's second most visited national park and the rugged, remote area just outside its borders.

Within the last six years, mining claims have been filed on over a million acres of land adjacent to Grand Canyon, which is this nation's only World Heritage Site. The prospecting boom started in 1979 with the discovery in a remote side canyon of some of the richest uranium ore ever found in the United States. According to Dave Foreman of Earth First!, "The Grand Canyon, one of the largest wild areas in North America and one of the world's premier scenic wonders, is threatened with being surrounded by a huge nuclear industrial zone."

In spite of the richness of the ore involved, low uranium prices have delayed mining development. There are three mines operating now and one proposed north of the canyon, with applications pending for three additional operations south of it. Controversy has continued to heat up since the opening in 1980 of the first



Demonstrators cleanup "radioactive" spill in front of Grand Canyon tourists

mine in Hack Canyon, a remote tributary of the Grand Canyon. Two mining proposals were recently filed for sites on land owned by Arizona in Cataract (Havasupai) Canyon, the home of the Havasupai Indians and one of the Grand Canyon's most popular hiking destinations.

The Aug. 31 demonstration began with the handing-out of leaflets to crowds of tourists outside the park's visitor center and at a nearby shopping complex. This activity was in accordance with a permit issued by the Park Service. But demonstrators said certain provisions in the permit violated their first amendment rights. After a call to the Park Supervisor, who refused to change the permit, 12

of the protestors decided to intentionally violate the provisions that prohibited costumes and limited the number of demonstrators. They then donned the radiation suits (one person added a bighorn sheep mask and horns to his outfit), labeled two cans of oatmeal with radiation symbols, and moved to the visitor's Center to perform the "spill." One member of Earth First! who identified himself as "lone Wolf Circles" gave a running commentary to the crowd and urged tourists to oppose uranium mining. During the entire demonstration, park security forces kept a low profile and made no arrests.

--Dan Daggett

Wyoming cows to sport grass-fed look

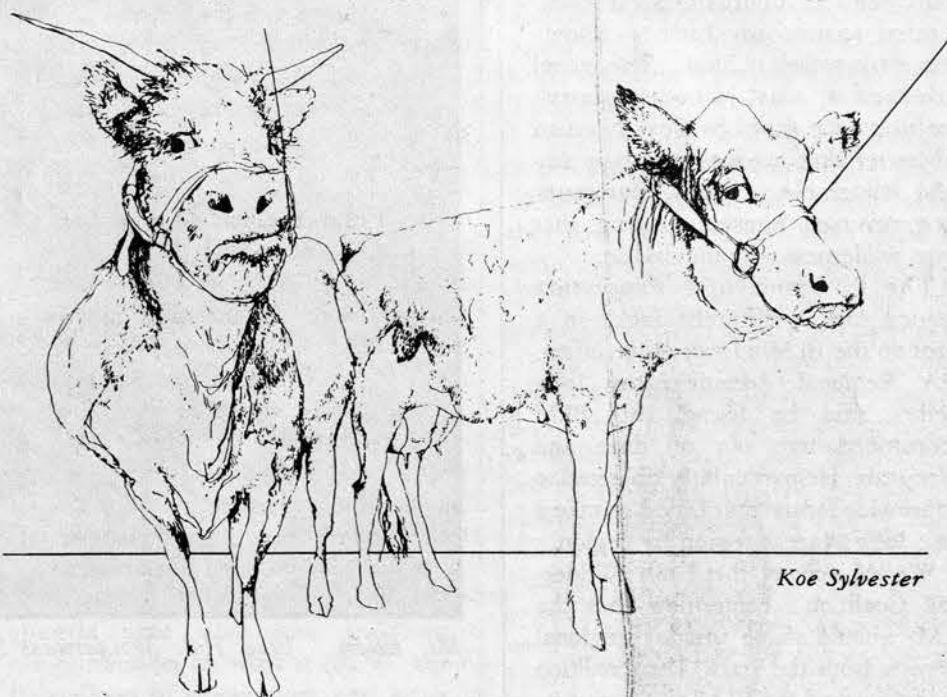
The state of Wyoming has entered the lean-cattle business, registering a Wyoming Lean Beef trademark with the U.S. Patent Office. The advantage of a state-owned trademark and tradename, says state senator and cattle rancher Charles Scott, is that the state will enforce standards and guarantee the customer a natural and lean product.

The primary standard is fat content, with no more than 3/10ths of an inch of fat allowed over the ribeye muscle of the 12th rib. The fat standard is the result of University of Wyoming research that was funded with \$79,000 by the state legislature in 1985, and was adopted because it is easily enforceable. Another standard developed by the university prohibits growth hormones or routine doses of antibiotics.

For Scott, the key aspect of Wyoming Lean that makes it different from others is that all cattle must be grass-fed. Unlike some natural and lean beef operations, Wyoming's cattle will never enter a feedlot. The result should be beef as much as 50 percent leaner than grain-fed cattle, after trimmable fat has already been cut off, according to university tests.

Scott says the lean beef sells well, too. In a 1985 market test in San Francisco, Wyoming Lean outsold the control product of marbled, grain-fed beef by as much as two to one.

This summer the Wyoming legislature passed a bill setting up mechanisms for licensing and market-



Koe Sylvester

ing Wyoming Lean Beef. Scott says a license to produce Wyoming Lean will be granted to any cattle rancher who meets the state's qualifications.

Switching the state's cattle industry over from feed lot to prairie will take time, but the real battle is getting the product into the supermarket, Scott says. He estimates it will take anywhere from half a million dollars or more to crack a major market like California.

Although the state will set and enforce standards for raising the cattle, it will rely upon private investors to market the beef. The state lawmakers plan to sell exclusive licenses, much like franchising rights, at \$1,000 each to investors willing to

risk the high costs of promoting a new product. No exclusive marketing rights will be issued in Wyoming, where licenses will only cost \$100.

The move towards lean beef comes at a time when the Wyoming and national cattle industries are in trouble. Five out of 10 of the largest ranches in Scott's Natrona County have gone under. "This is real economic development," says Scott. "We're trying to develop a product that the market wants and doesn't have access to, that is healthy and good for them and we're trying to produce it locally."

--Steve Hinchman

Bears are killed for damaging trees

To deal with bears that had been eating their trees, three Oregon timber companies last spring hired a government trapper. Twelve black bears were caught and shot during the program, which lasted from March through June. Litigation brought against the companies for their actions, however, may last quite a bit longer.

The three timber companies involved -- Willamette Industries, Hull-Oakes, and Starker Forests -- say the bears were doing significant damage to their stands of second-growth trees, stripping trees from five inches to over a foot in diameter. They say just one bear can do as much as \$20,000 damage a year and that the total damage from bears is nearly \$12 million. In three areas they've researched, says Willamette Industries forester Daryl Adams, about 60 percent of the trees were severely damaged.

"What they do," says Adams, "is chew or strip the bark off, and take their teeth and scrape the inner sapwood. Generally speaking, they girdle the tree at least halfway, and in many instances all the way around, which kills the tree. The others without exception get rot, and in the course of 50 years, probably 30 percent of them fall over and die. The rest of them have rot in the most valuable part of the tree."

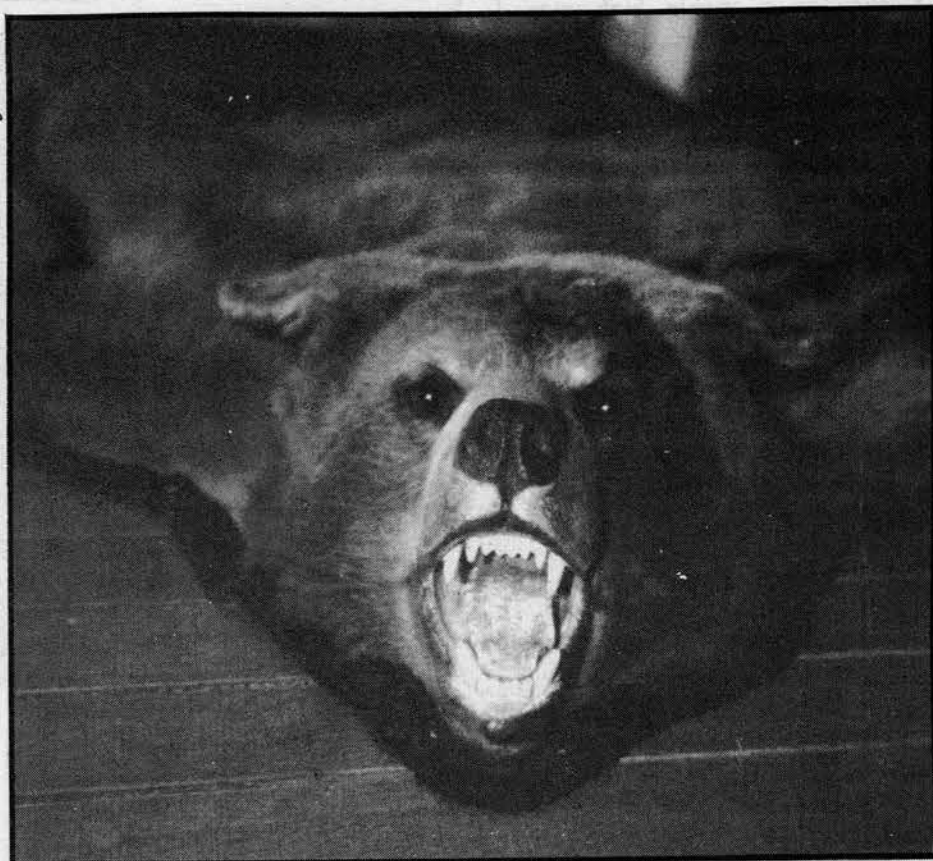
Adams says a single bear can chew on 40 or 50 trees a day, and one that was particularly ravenous -- or spiteful -- damaged 92 trees the night after Weyerhaeuser foresters pruned an area in preparation for a visit by the company's bosses.

"They're eating the sapwood," says Ralph Flowers, researcher with the Washington Forest Protection Association. "It's the odor that attracts them to it. The chemical oil in the tree has a sweet smell, and also apparently a sweet taste, though it tastes like turpentine to me. It causes them to rip the bark off to get at the cambium; then there's a sugar content to the cambium that they like once they get in there."

The timber companies say they'd spent several years seeking other solutions before hiring a trapper. One option was to open up the areas to hunters, as is done in western Washington. That was rejected, says Adams, because of "administrative problems," and because it wouldn't target specific bears. Another idea rejected as unproven was to drop molasses blocks to lure the bears from the trees. Moving the bears wouldn't work, says Mark Gourley of Starker Forests, because their homing instinct will bring them back even over 100 miles of the rugged hills.

After consultation with both state and federal agencies, the companies employed the services of the trapper. Six weeks later, news of his activities reached the ears of a reporter in a local tavern. When local resident Cathy Anunsen, a member of the Fund for Animals, read about it, she asked Cleveland Amory, founder of the national wildlife advocacy organization, to help stop the killings. Amory called a press conference in Portland to report that 1000 bears a year were being killed by timber companies in Oregon. He offered to finance a year's program of feeding the bears with

Jim Stiak



Some bears end up on the floors of Oriental restaurants in Oregon

pellets, developed by Ralph Flowers specifically to keep bears from the trees.

Made of fruit and vegetable fiber, with a lot of sugar, the pellets are fortified with vitamins and minerals, trace elements, and a lot of magnesium. Of 15 bears studied in his experimental program this year, only one returned to the trees, Flowers says.

Barte Starker of Starker Forests says they've been familiar with Flowers' program for a year and a half, but think it's still too experimental to attempt on a large scale. "We're right in the middle of trying to help him out any way we can," he says. "We don't get a kick out of killing bears."

Harold Sturgis, biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, says the law gives the final decision to a lumber company. "Our part is only to require that the carcasses be turned in to us."

The Fund challenged that law, says Cathy Anunsen, only after personal meetings with the timber companies and state officials failed. Her husband Roger, who she calls "one-man law firm in opposition to a firm that has more people in it than the city we live in," had been asking questions to determine if the pellet feeding program was feasible. But the timber companies, says Roger, would answer them only if they were put in writing and were given a "reasonable amount of time" to answer. With just five weeks left in the program, Anunsen and the Fund filed suit in Benton County Circuit Court, seeking an immediate injunction to halt the killings.

Both sides turned out in style for the June 11 court date. The timber companies brought charts, graphs, witnesses, and a 20-year-old Douglas fir log they said had been damaged by bears. Supporters of the plaintiffs sported buttons reading "Protect your right to arm bears." Judge Frank Knight, however, refused to hear the case, saying the Fund should have notified the federal government, who supplied the trapper.

For a re-hearing two weeks later, the Fund dropped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the suit, and

Anunsen argued that the trapper was merely an employee of the timber companies. But Judge Knight again disagreed, saying the trapper should have been summoned. Again he refused to grant an injunction. He did, however, schedule later hearings on two other Fund requests: that the statute that permits the killings be ruled invalid, and that the timber companies can be held liable for damages to the people or Oregon for destruction of public property, namely, the bears.

Such litigation may go on into next year, although Fund members hope the case will be won before next spring's trapping program begins. Meanwhile, they are pushing for state legislation to halt the killings.

The timber companies have countered with a defamation suit against both Cleveland Amory and the Fund, and a request for a permanent injunction against any Fund member trespassing on their land.

Thus far, the Fund has not backed off its claim of 1,000 bears killed a year. For years, some companies have hired hunters to kill bears, a practice that's legal as long as it's done on company land. This is the first year that the state has even required carcasses to be turned in.

If there are some 1,000 bears a year killed legally in the state, there may be an equal number killed illegally. "We consider there to be an active market in bear pelts," says Major Lee Hyder of the Oregon State Police. Bear gall bladders are an extravagantly-priced Korean aphrodisiac, bear paws are used to make soup, and teeth are made into what one biologist calls "pseudo-Indian artifacts." There are an estimated 14,000 black bears in Oregon.

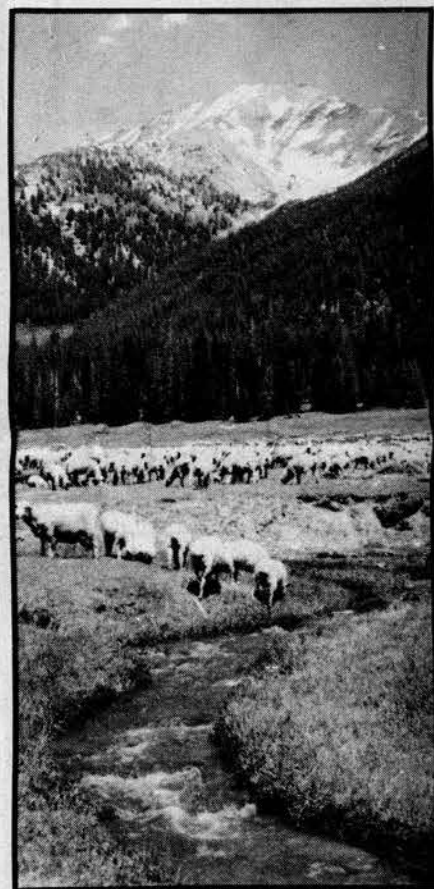
According to E. Charles Meslow, who is a member of the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, "someone could go out and kill a bear, take a little daypack along big enough to carry four claws and a head, and walk out with a pack weighing maybe 15 pounds worth several hundred dollars."

--Jim Stiak

HOTLINE

Radiation roadblock

Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm may make life difficult for the DOE. More than 30 states must agree on highway routes for Department of Energy shipments of radioactive waste headed for the new Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico, and Lamm has blasted the agency's proposed route through Colorado. The route would send 367 annual shipments of radioactive material across Highway 666 in southwestern Colorado, traveling through the main streets of the town of Cortez. The Carlsbad-based waste dump, which is expected to open in two years and run for 25 to 30 more, will receive waste so highly contaminated by plutonium that it can only be handled by machinery. Most of the waste is generated by DOE nuclear reactors in Washington and Idaho, and will travel to New Mexico by federal interstates or alternative routes especially designated by individual states. Lamm says no shipments should travel route 666 in Colorado until safety concerns are properly addressed.



Farmers pollute

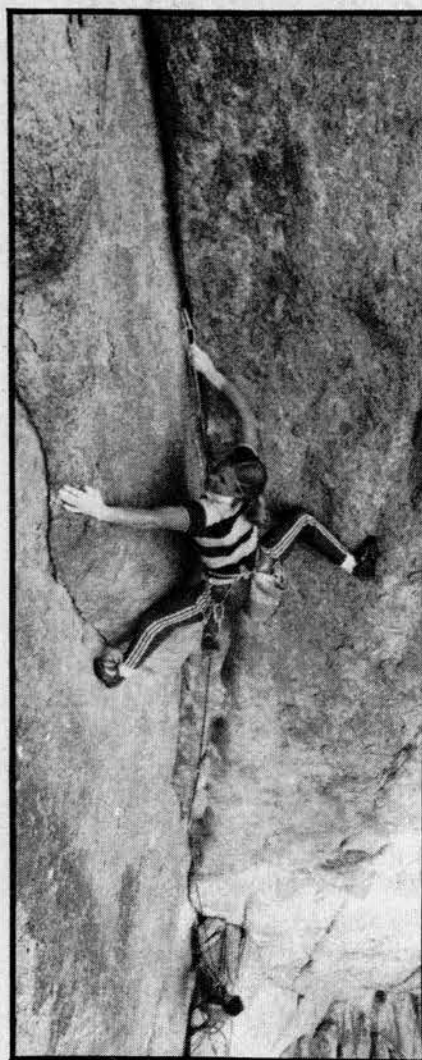
The Montana state Water Quality Bureau reports that man-caused pollution has contaminated one-fifth of Montana's total stream miles and endangers many lakes. The main culprit was agricultural runoff, which polluted 107 river and creek segments covering 5,662 miles. Only 5 percent of polluted surface water came from industrial and urban sources, the study found. Lake pollution was reported to be slightly less, but the bureau warns that continued development pressure on Flathead and other lakes will aggravate the problem unless additional pollution controls are enacted and enforced. Sediment, salinity, fertilizer, pesticides, heavy metals and giardia were found to be the main pollutants of Montana's surface water.

BARBS

No effort is too great when it comes to honoring the pioneers.

One band in a Salt Lake City parade this July honoring Utah's 1847 pioneers carried no instruments. Instead, they 'played' portable radios all tuned to the same station.

HOTLINE



Glenn Randall

Rock Climbing in Eldorado Canyon

Serenity versus gravel

The Conda Company of Boulder, Colorado, is continuing its effort to expand a seven-acre gravel quarry on Eldorado Mountain 20 miles northwest of Denver. Opponents charge that Conda's plans would destroy the serenity of nearby Eldorado Canyon State Park, a favorite climbing area, and threaten golden eagle, prairie falcon, black bear and mountain lion habitat. Conda, which owns a lease to 415 acres on Eldorado Mountain, is currently applying for a 67-acre, 15-year permit from Boulder County to enlarge the present pit and open another. Their first application, for a 203-acre, 70-year permit, was denied by the Colorado state Mined Lands Reclamation Board after the county denied approval. Conda promptly filed suit in state court, claiming that Boulder County has no jurisdiction over state land. The company also returned to the county with its reduced plan. The first, larger plan is still before state court while the second, smaller plan awaits a hearing by the County Planning Commission, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15. Conda is being contested by The People for Eldorado Mountain, P.O. Box 305, Eldorado Springs, CO 80025, 303/499-9697 or 303/499-3009.

Planning in Utah

Utah water officials are drafting the state's first comprehensive water plan, preparing for a growing population while trying to prevent both flooding and drought -- perennial problems that cost the state millions of dollars in damage. Growth along Utah's Wasatch Front is booming and officials estimate that Salt Lake County will need another 50,000 acre-feet of water annually by the turn of the century. Because water from the Central Utah Project is spoken for, increased demand will have to be met by water presently used for agriculture and the still-undeveloped Bear River, which is shared with Idaho and Wyoming, says state planner Paul Summers.

Yet another plan for the Little Bighorn

Starting as a trickle high atop Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains, the Little Bighorn River ambles through alpine meadows, gradually picks up speed, then rushes down steep granite canyons. Before it leaves the mountains it is swelled by the waters of the rugged and densely overgrown Dry Fork Canyon.

Since 1979, the Little Bighorn River and its Dry Fork tributary have been the subject of controversy. Environmentalists have seen potential for Wild and Scenic River designation in the two spectacular canyons. But some engineers view the steep canyon walls as ideal anchors for dams.

Over the years, the Little Horn Water Group of Sheridan, Wyoming, has tried repeatedly to develop the Little Bighorn. Their proposals -- ranging from slurry pipelines to high mountain water storage -- have been soundly defeated. But the water group remains undaunted, and recently announced plans for a new project.

This time it's a 1,000 megawatt pumped-storage hydroelectric plant on the Dry Fork River. The Little Horn Group is counting on Duke Power of North Carolina to participate in the undertaking. The project features two reservoirs, one of 30,000 acre-feet on the Dry Fork itself, and a smaller reservoir above on Dry Fork Ridge.

At times of low electricity demand, such as night or midday, water will be pumped to the upper reservoir. Then during peak demand in early morning and evening, water will be released, plummeting 2,000 feet to generate electricity that power plants can use to cope with increased temporary loads.

At \$800 million, the project has the lowest cost per kilowatt of any similar project in the United States. But there are serious questions about site geology and markets for the electricity. And Duke Power, which promised a commitment in May, has yet to sign on.

The pumped storage facility will be a net power-user, consuming 1.4 units to 1. The plant will make money because electricity rates fluctuate: power will be bought at 2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kwh), for example, and sold for 10 to 25 cents per kwh.

"We're giving the Little Horn Group our water to print money," said Jim Perkins, a member of Sheridan's Bighorn Forest Task Force, which is opposed to the project. The Task Force also claims the power isn't needed.

A feasibility study prepared by the Little Horn Water Group seems to agree. The report said sufficient power exists in the West until at least 1995. But after 1995, the report says, rates are likely to rise, perhaps dramatically, and long-term availability of power is uncertain. The pumped storage facility, scheduled for completion in 1996, might then become practical.

Charlie Orr, a Task Force member, believes one option has been overlooked. "If you offer consumers a rebate to alter their peak power consumption, you could induce people to change their habits," he said.

The pumped-storage facility has been endorsed by the city of Sheridan and the Wyoming Economic Development and Stabilization Board, which recently granted the Little Horn Group's request for a Community Development Block Grant.

Jan Flaharty, of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, calls this a poor use of public funds. "They gave



Kern's cow camp would be just above proposed reservoir at 6400 foot elevation

the Little Horn Group \$25,000 for a power reconnaissance study -- work that's already been done on a project that doesn't appear feasible," he said.

But local and state economies are depressed, and community leaders are grasping at any straw that promises recovery. A study commissioned by the Little Horn Group says the plant will result in the employment of 2,520 workers at the peak of the six-year construction period. Sheridan County's tax base is expected to increase by 60 percent.

Still, there is disagreement about what will best brighten Sheridan's future. Groups like the Sierra Club and Bighorn Audubon Society think the project will adversely affect recreation and tourism. The Dry Fork serves as a buffer zone for the heavily used Cloud Peak Wilderness Area. The pumped storage facility may exclude the Dry Fork from Wild and Scenic designation, and markedly decrease recreation.

The pumped storage facility could

also threaten recreation and tourism in a far more serious way. By using energy when power plants have excess and producing energy when they run short, a pumped-storage facility allows coal-fired power plants to operate at peak efficiency. Thus, it makes it attractive for coal conversion facilities to locate nearby.

One of the requirements of power plants is water, and the Little Horn Group has plans to develop one to two more reservoirs in the Little Bighorn drainage. The pumped-storage facility itself does not consume water, and so 20,000 to 34,000 acre-feet of water could be made available to industrial users.

With the vast resources of coal underlying the adjacent Powder River Basin, the pumped storage plant might just trigger heavy industrialization in northern Wyoming. And that, opponents say, is what they really fear.

--Janelle Grey

New threat to whoopers

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been trying since the 1970s to establish a breeding population of endangered whooping cranes wintering at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge on the Rio Grande in central New Mexico.

The whooping crane population was initiated when biologists placed eggs in sandhill crane nests at Grays Lake Refuge in Idaho. The whoopers follow their sandhill foster parents to migrate to New Mexico for winter.

But the whoopers have yet to breed. Now, the program is being threatened by a rapidly expanding snow goose population that is overrunning the Bosque refuge and surrounding habitat along the Rio Grande.

Mike Spear, regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says, "The biggest threat to the whooping crane right now is the snow goose." In the last four years, the winter snow goose population in the valley has jumped from 18,000 to nearly 70,000. The heavy snow goose concentration overburdens the refuge and raises the threat of avian diseases that can be transmitted to whoopers. It also forces Bosque birds to range up and down the river to feed, damaging crops on private farmlands and undermining public support for the refuge, Spear says.



Whooping crane with sandhill flock

Fish and Wildlife Service officials have been trying to induce snow geese to move farther south, into Mexico. One option for reducing populations is to expand hunting seasons, but that increases the risk that whoopers would also be killed.

--Tom Arrandale

Putting the 'culture' back in agriculture

At first glance it looks like any other of the small farms along the Huerfano River near Gardner, Colorado. But a closer look reveals some big differences. These gardens grow experimental vegetables, and the two people behind horse-drawn equipment will most likely be an instructor and a student.

The Malachite Small Farm School is one of only a handful of working farms across the country that teach small-scale family farming as an alternative to our present high-capital, chemical-intensive agriculture.

The seeds of Malachite were planted in 1978 when Stuart and Isabel Mace of Aspen established a trust to acquire an old 400-acre farm in the eastern foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Range, across the range from the San Luis Valley. Over the next five years, with funds provided by the Mace family, John Denver and other contributors, the land was restored and buildings upgraded. In 1983, the farm began a new life as the Malachite Small Farm School.

"We felt we had to do something about the steady drift away from sustainable agriculture," says Kent Mace, Malachite's director. "Land is too important to just be used. We have to sustain it, improve it, so it will be around tomorrow. Our approach is to emphasize the physical, cultural and spiritual ties between man and the natural world. You might call it restoring the 'culture' to agriculture."

Mace's views may be philosophical, but his programs are on the ground. Twice a year, Malachite's 12-person staff offers a five-week farm introduction course that includes topics such as organic gardening and experimental crops, beekeeping, small animals, dairy, farm horse power, field crops and land management and wood shop. Students may continue as apprentices for one to six

Stephen Voynick



Learning about horse-power at the Malachite Farm School

months. There are also eight-month-long internships and three-day workshops in subjects such as cheese-making and using draft horses.

Mace's goal is to develop Malachite into a self-sustaining entity, just like the farming he promotes. "Between grants, tuitions and income from marketing farm produce we'll not only support ourselves but be able to expand our programs and facilities."

Malachite also participates in an international project to improve the cultivation and processing of quinoa, a cereal grain native to the Peruvian Andes that many agronomists have found to be extraordinarily well-balanced and nutritious. This year's planting at Malachite includes 200 germ-plasm test rows, 15 multiple comparison plantings, and two sizeable areas of a Chilean strain that will make domestic quinoa seed available to the American market for the first time. Malachite's quinoa crop

will be divided between seed stock and health-food store sales. Malachite staffers, citing quinoa prices at health-food stores of well over \$3 per pound, believe the strains now being developed have great potential as a cash crop for small farms in the West.

Construction at Malachite is already well along on a 2,500-square-foot solar adobe building to house a new kitchen, dining area-classroom, and utility areas. The main farmhouse, a large, 100-year-old building, will be used for living space, a student lounge and for expanded office and library facilities.

Mace says one advantage of teaching at Malachite is its location. "We're high, dry and faced with a relatively short growing season," he says. Any student who masters small farm skills there will have little trouble farming anywhere else.

--Steve Voynick

HOTLINE

Tom Treick



Wilderness camps cut

Idaho's outfitters have lost the right to maintain outlying camps and storage areas in the 2.2 million-acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Forest Service Chief Max Peterson upheld the 1985 wilderness management plan that set limits on the privileges outfitters had enjoyed long before the wilderness was designated in 1980. Conservation groups steered clear of the issue, but outdoor enthusiast Howard Spaletta of Idaho Falls intervened and argued against the outfitters' appeal. The Aug. 15 ruling limits use of outlying camps to 14 consecutive days, after which the camps must be dismantled and packed out, but allows outfitters to maintain presently operating base camps and to keep permanent hitchracks and corrals in the wilderness.

HOTLINE

Hart attacks transfer

Colorado Sen. Gary Hart will introduce legislation to prevent the Interior Department from completing its controversial transfer to oil companies and individuals of 82,000 acres of public land in western Colorado (HCN, 9/1/86). Hart's office said the amendment would bar the agency from using any of its funds to pay for the change in ownership. The land transfer was authorized under an Aug. 4 out-of-court settlement of a long-running dispute over oil shale mining claims. Internal Interior Department records, however, revealed that agency lawyers and administrators in Washington, D.C., and Denver, believed a court appeal had merit and would win.

Species brinksmanship

In its annual report on the status of endangered plants and animals, Defenders of Wildlife says the black-footed ferret, California condor and Florida panther have declined to critical levels while 30 other species are close to endangered because of federal neglect. Defenders says inaction has led to a decreasing number of recovering species and an increasing backlog that could qualify endangered, the more serious category. Potential Reagan administration

cuts would eliminate nearly 50 percent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's protection effort, report authors John Fitzgerald and Ginger Merchant Meese. Yet of the native species needing protection, only 58 percent now have recovery programs. Fitzgerald says three things are needed to save endangered species: "The law, the resources and the guts to use them." The 36-page report, *Saving Endangered Species*, was published this July by Defenders of Wildlife, 1224 Nineteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Drugs hurt reservations

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has joined President Reagan's war against drugs. Ross Swimmer, a Cherokee from Oklahoma who is Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the Interior Department, said reservations once free of drugs now suffer from illegal activities that "tear at the very fiber of the Indian communities, destroying traditional Indian values and creating lawlessness." The bureau has thrown its weight behind the campaign -- which seeks to involve social service personnel, community leaders and tribal council-members as well as police in narcotics education, rehabilitation and law enforcement.

Un-channelization

The idea that areas such as Glen Canyon, inundated by federal water projects, might some day be "reclaimed" by dismantling a dam seems farfetched. But just such reclamation is occurring in Florida, according to the Aug. 23 *New York Times*. In the early 1970s, the Army Corps of Engineers converted the meandering, unpredictable 88-mile-long Kissimmee River to an efficient, shorter, straight-as-an-arrow 50-yard-wide ditch. Today, the state of Florida, with some help from the Corps, is blocking the canal in key places and diverting the water back into the old river channels. The hope is to set the river to meandering again, thereby recreating wetlands that will cleanse the polluted water flowing into eutrophying Lake Okeechobee.

Levee raising opposed

There is growing opposition to a Corps of Army Engineers proposal to enlarge a levee on the Rio Grande from the town of Corrales, just above Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Oxbow Wilderness wetlands just below Albuquerque. The three-foot increase along the riverside would severely damage the Corrales Bosque Nature Preserve, says Nat Gifford, a member of the Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission, which joined with the Nature Conservancy eight

years ago to preserve the Bosque's forest of cottonwood trees. The commission, a seven-citizen task force, objects to the construction project because the clearing of a broad expanse of trees and undergrowth would ruin the "finest example of the once-widespread cottonwood forests of the Southwest," says Gifford. The group also objects to the digging of massive "borrow-pits" every two miles along the river's 12.5-mile length, rather than hauling in dirt. Some conservationists also say the levee is no longer needed because of flood control projects upstream. The Senate has authorized \$39.2 million for the levee enlargement; the House has not yet concurred.

From Israel to the Navajo nation

Three small Navajo communities in Arizona's Painted Desert are the site of an experiment in teaching drip irrigation techniques perfected in Israel's Negev Desert. Led by Israeli agronomist David Mazich, 28 Navajo families on 15 acres of land produced yields as much as 40 times that of previous years. Mazich, who spoke no Navajo and little English when he started, also tested over 130 different fruits, grains and vegetables -- many of which the Navajo had never seen before. The two-year-old venture was supported by the Seventh Generation Fund, an organization founded to assist in tribal economic development.



The Shape of the

Photos and Text by Tom Jenkins



e Wind

Growing at the base of 14,142-foot Mt. Cross in the Mosquito Range near Alma, Colorado, is a scattered stand of bristlecone pine. All have survived the savage winds of time, some for almost 1,000 years.

The bristlecone pine is often fantastically gnarled and stunted, in some cases bent almost to the ground. In a few instances, its roots are partially exposed, torn from the rocky soil. Despite this apparent deprivation, it remains persistently alive. This irony of survival is due primarily to the constant wind. Living at altitudes ranging from 8,200 to 12,000 feet -- and usually at timberline in the teeth of fierce alpine currents -- the bristlecone pine has evolved a significantly slow growth-rate. There are many contributing factors, including a short growing season, limited accumulation of moisture, erosion-prone slopes, intense alpine sunlight, alkaline soil, extreme temperature changes, tolerance to nutrient deficiency and a low transpiration rate.

But the most important single factor is the wind, which kills and preserves the tree at the same time.

The punishing wind strips the trunk's windward side with centuries of wind-driven sand and ice particles. Eventually the heart of the tree dies, leaving only a narrow strip of living bark on the leeward side to nourish the tree. The tree's smaller living base results in a smaller green crown of foliage. Some trees can be 90 percent dead and still produce seeds.

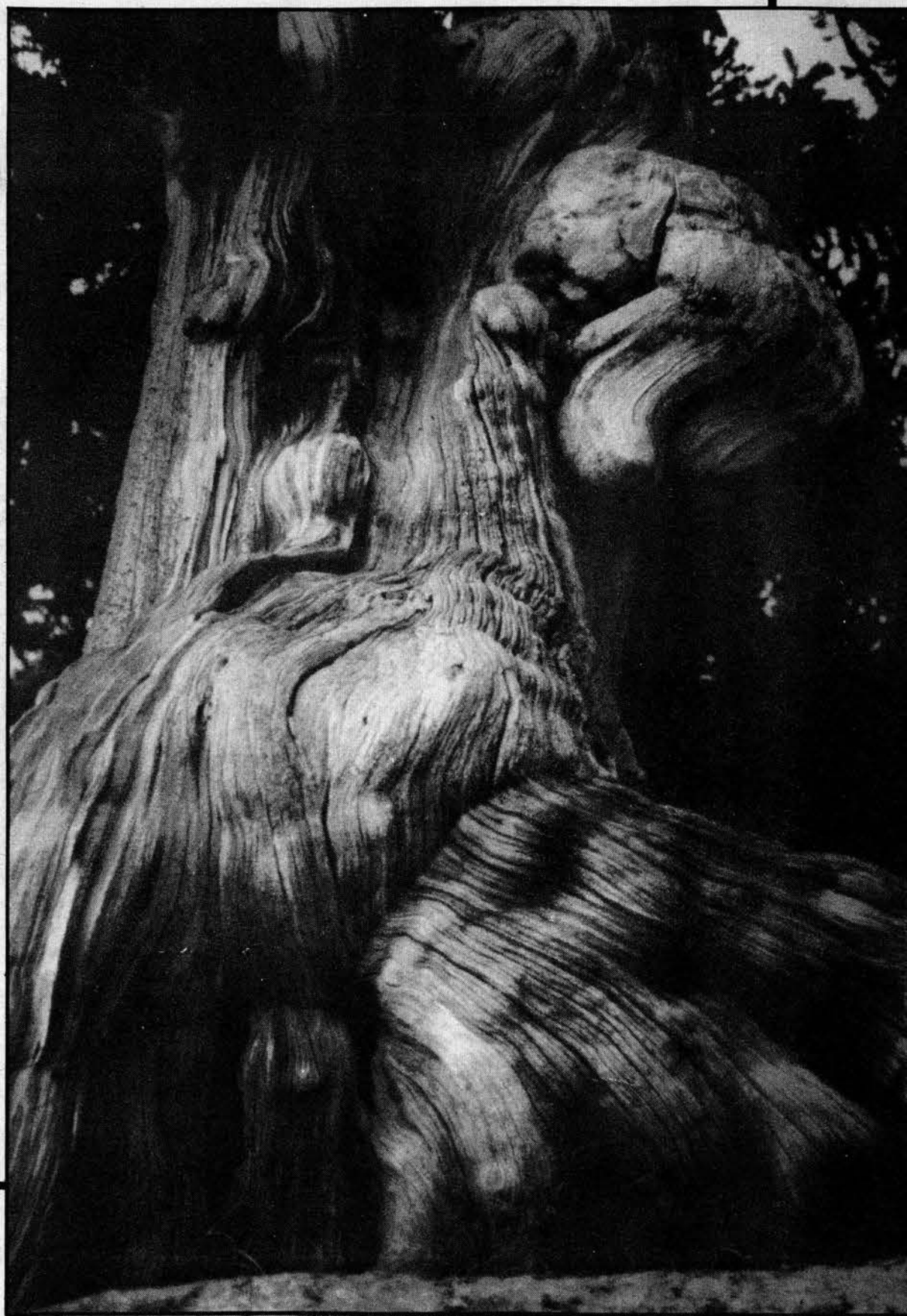
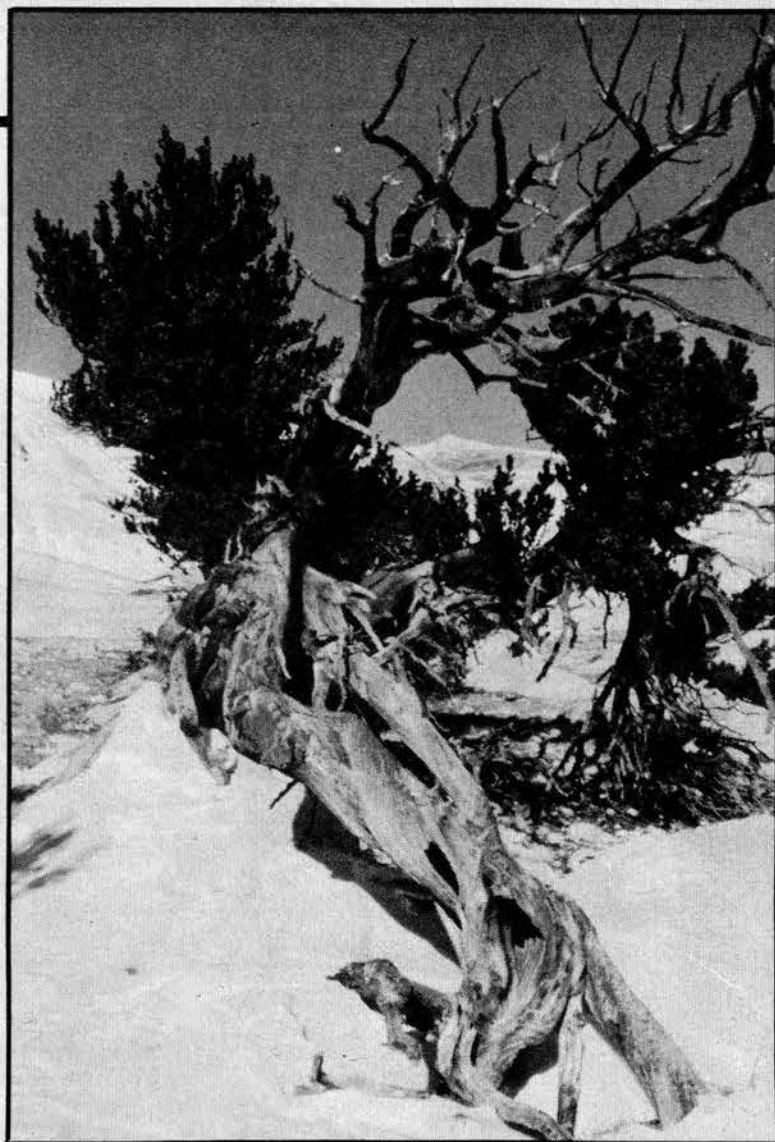
The amount of tissue maintained through photosynthesis is also reduced, which in turn yields smaller needles, lessens loss of moisture through transpiration, and produces a dense, cellular structure of a hard, disease-resistant wood. The resultant slow growth rate assures the bristlecone continued survival. It persists through successive stages of dying, still alive. A tree over 700 years old may be only three feet in height and three inches in diameter.

A bristlecone pine living at a lower altitude under less stressful and more protected conditions grows straighter and faster. But it dies earlier and decays sooner. By contrast, the trees near timberline remain somewhat upright after they die, some in California for as long as 2000 years.

Indigenous to only six Western states, it can be found in San Francisco Peaks in Arizona; Panamint Range and the White Mountains in California; Mt. Evans and Windy Ridge in Colorado; Wheeler Peak in Nevada; and Cedar Breaks National Monument in Utah.

□

Tom Jenkins is a freelance writer and manager of corporate communications at the Kellogg Corporation in Littleton, Colorado.





David J. Spear

Bud Guthrie stands on the edge of a bone pile on his Choteau ranch. The remains of sheep killed on his land by grizzlies were brought to this pile.

Choteau, Montana

Grizzlies stir up a small town

Rockies, a region known as the East Front.

Last year the same two young bears, accompanied by their mother, demolished a dozen bee boxes. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks tranquilized the bears from a helicopter and moved them to public land a couple of hundred miles to the west. The bears returned again, and several other grizzlies made their way during the summer of 1985 to fringes of town where they killed sheep, ate dog food, ripped upholstery in a pickup truck and destroyed apple trees.

Although the grizzlies hurt no one, their presence in Choteau's backyard sparked hysteria. This past summer was quiet on the East Front, but the bear issue is still controversial. The chief topics of discussion in the two cafes in this dusty town of less than 2,000 were once the rain -- or lack of it -- and the fierce wind which howls down the east slope of the Rockies. These days the people of Choteau talk about the grizzly, and the talk is split among those who think the bear threatens livestock and people, and those who think the bear needs protection.

Choteau is kind of a textbook example of the often volatile nature of biology and politics. When the Endangered Species Act is used as a tool to block federal projects,

the result can be a pitched battle. The most famous example was obstruction of the \$137 million Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River to protect an endangered fish called the snail darter. An act of Congress finally overruled the Endangered Species Act and allowed the dam to be built.

At issue in Choteau, as elsewhere, is more than just the fate of the grizzly bear. There is also the question of federal policy versus the rights of both the state and the individual. So divisive has the split become between those who would like to see the bear protected and those who want the right to shoot it, that it has driven a wedge between a father and son. The father is Pulitzer Prize-winning Western novelist Alfred Bertram "Bud" Guthrie, Jr., an outspoken proponent of the bear; his rancher-son is A.B. "Bert" Guthrie III.

"This land was pioneered, it is people's land," said the younger Guthrie, who owns a ranch north of town that was settled by his maternal grandfather in 1895, and who leads the anti-grizzly contingent. "The bears don't belong here. Keep the bears on the public domain up in the mountains."

His father said it's ranchers like his son who need to bend a little to make room for the bear. "If only they would stop thinking so much of their cash registers and project their thinking to the coming years and the importance of what is pristine," the 85-year-old writer said in a deliberate,

gravelly voice. "I wish they could see things in the correct proportion. The scuffle for money imprisons the mind."

Though there has been no trouble this year, the anger and fear that the bears engendered in the town last year is often recalled. Rumors of grizzlies behind a grove of aspen trees or a restaurant made their way around town. Some people started keeping their children indoors and refused to let them play along streams or creeks, a favorite hangout in the hot summer months. Because the bears stayed in the thick brush along streams, irrigators started packing weapons. Said one woman: "I took my son's fishing pole away. I won't let him go near the stream."

"We've had some bear in pretty close," said Teton County Sheriff John Howard. "Almost to the edge of city limits." Some ranchers, including Bert Guthrie, were so frustrated by the bureaucracy's refusal to remove bears, they vow they will take the law into their own hands if problems arise.

Bud Guthrie was brought to Choteau, Montana, in a wagon in 1901, at age six months, by his father, who was principal of the local school. He grew to manhood in Montana where he was deeply etched by the wilderness. In his twenties he made his way east to Kentucky, where he became a newspaper editor in Lexington. It was there in 1947 that he wrote "The Big Sky," a story about the West during the time of the

by Jim Robbins

Late last spring, two young grizzly bears recently out of a winter's sleep wandered down out of the timbered high country of the Rocky Mountains, and onto the prairie. The two wayward bears ambled near Choteau, a small ranching community in central Montana, where they knocked over a half-dozen white, square commercial beehives to feed on the honey and larvae inside.

The bears were on their own turf, for the plains south and east of Glacier National Park were once the domain of the bear. But settlers in Montana killed many of the animals and forced those that survived to retreat into the mountains. Recently, grizzlies have begun to reappear in populated areas along the northeastern edge of the

'It was the realists -- so-called -- that gave us toxic wastes, poisoned our air, tainted our waters, denuded our country'

mountain man. After the novel's success (it has sold some 300,000 copies) he returned to Montana, where he wrote a sequel called "The Way West," which earned him the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for literature. Two other novels, "These Thousand Hills" and "Fair Land, Fair Land" followed. In 1951 he went briefly to Hollywood, and wrote the screenplay for "Shane" starring Alan Ladd. He returned to Montana to stay in 1953.

Though his mind is still sharp these days, Bud Guthrie's face is deeply lined, his step slow and unsure. His isolated home, some 20 miles northeast of Choteau, sits on the prairie, in the shadow of Ear Mountain, among wind-twisted pine trees, about a mile from The Nature Conservancy's 12,000-acre Pine Butte Swamp nature preserve, one of the few remaining places where the grizzly still spends time on the plains. "They've pushed Ephraim far enough," said Bud emphatically, using the name the mountain men once used for the grizzly. "They've

pushed the bear into the mountains until he has nowhere else to go."

Bud Guthrie's situation is ironic. One of the major themes of Guthrie's frontier stories has been how man, by destroying his environment, has been his own undoing. Now he finds himself embroiled in a controversy with his own son about that very theme.

Bert Guthrie was born 53 years ago in Kentucky, where his father worked as a newspaper editor, though he spent each summer with relatives in Montana. He studied agriculture at Iowa State, and then in Montana State University in Bozeman, eventually receiving a graduate business-law degree. In 1958 he moved to Choteau with his wife Peg to operate the ranch founded by Bert's maternal grandfather in 1895.

The younger Guthrie blames the conflict on the fact that bears can't be shot. He argues if a few bears could be plugged, others would learn not to approach town. Instead, bureaucrats and environmentalists have mandated that bears be moved. "The grizzly people are in control," Bert

said. "All we ask is that they give us the right to get rid of the bear if we're having losses."

Guthrie and fellow rancher Ira Perkins formed a group with other residents called "Organization in Defense of Grizzly Menace" to work together toward changes in management of the grizzly bear. The group's letterhead pictures a small, frightened child being chased by a grizzly bear. "If some young child gets mauled," said Guthrie angrily, thumping a thick finger down on a cafe table, "there will be an awakening."

Bert and Bud Guthrie are reluctant to talk about the difference of opinion within the family, and they play the controversy down. "I get along with dad all right," said Bert Guthrie. "We just don't talk about bears." But earlier this year in an interview with a Texas reporter, Bert claimed his father was a romanticist and out of touch with reality. "He sits in his house and writes books," he said. "He's not a realist."

That statement raised the elder Guthrie's ire. "It was the realists --

so-called -- that gave us toxic wastes, tainted our waters, poisoned our air, denuded our country," he said in an interview. "All in the name of good private enterprise. That's realism at work." The voice of Bud and his wife Carol are often heard alone on the grizzly issue, for ranchers who have co-existed peacefully with the bear and privately deplore the acts of others are reluctant to speak out. "We've got to live in this community," said one who refused to be identified.

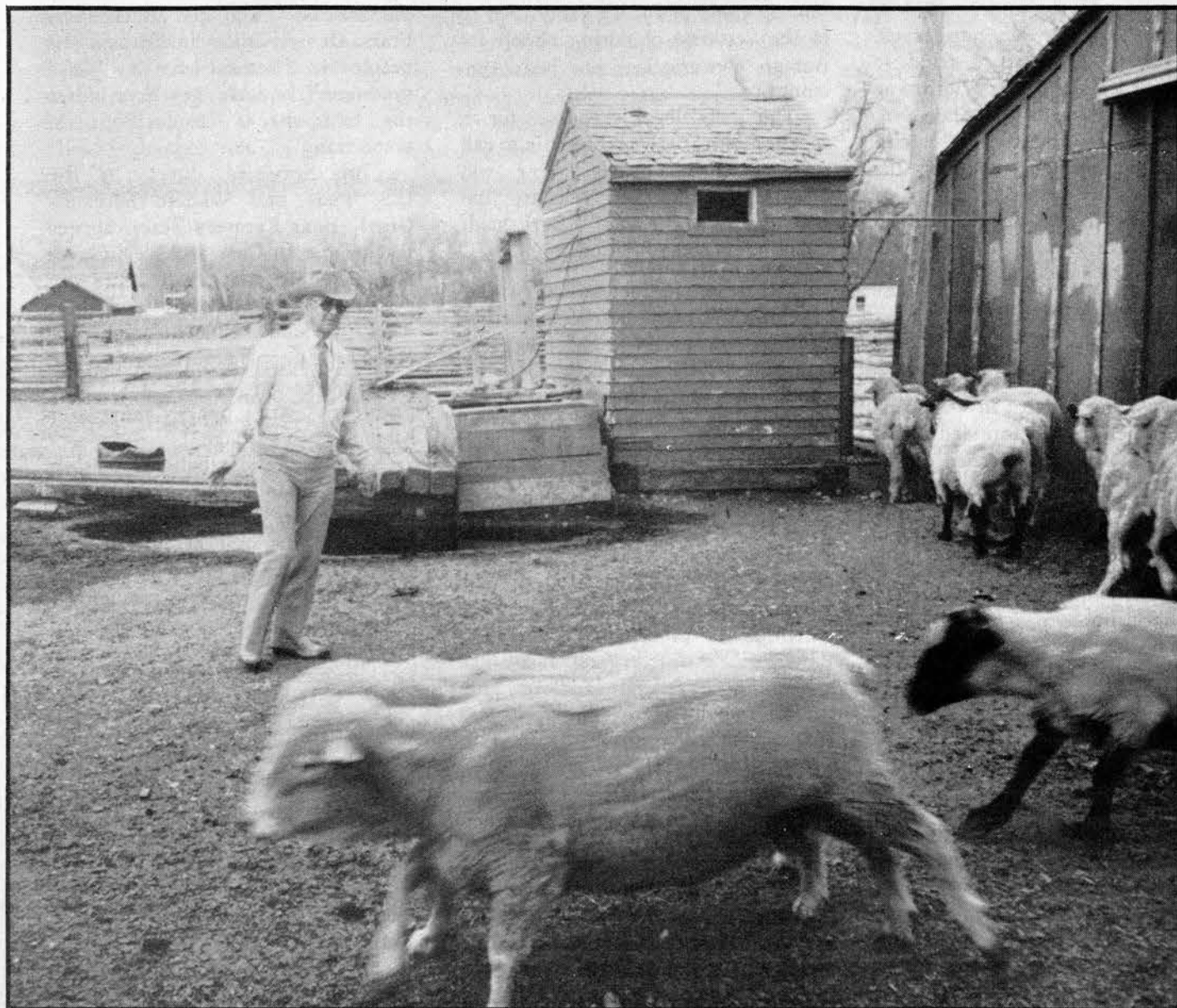
The difference of opinion over the grizzly bear has been a difficult burden for a small community like Choteau, where everyone knows everyone else. At one meeting with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, supporters of the bear were angrily shouted down. The front page and the editorial page of the Choteau *Acantha*, a weekly newspaper, has been dominated by bear news and letters. Bud Guthrie excoriated Ira Perkins in a letter that accused him of wanting to "pasteurize Montana."

The 73-year-old Bynum sheep rancher, who also taught grades five through eight in a one-room school for 53 years until retiring this year, responded the following week by implying that Guthrie was a "window Westerner" who knew nothing about "wresting an exiguous existence from the land." Guthrie says Perkins' characterization is off base. "I'm one of the few who know how to hitch a team of horses," he said firmly. "I've herded sheep, I've been a lamb licker. I've done as much hard work as Ira Perkins."

The tense mood over Choteau was summed up by a reporter who has written about the controversy and has asked not to be identified. He compared his task to "covering the civil rights movement in the South in the 1960s. I have to be very careful when I write about grizzlies."

Choteau sits on a windy, treeless prairie where it commands a panoramic view of the distant Rocky Mountains. The town's modest homes are well kept; towering cottonwoods line the streets. The surrounding grassland here is not flat; instead it swells and rolls as it meets the mountains, like a frozen wave crashing against a mountainous seawall. To the west of town flows the Teton River, which originates in the mountains and flows near town; to the east flows a small spring creek. The

(Continued on page 12)



Ira Perkins on his ranch near Vallier, Montana

David J. Shear

Choteau...

(Continued from page 11)

streams are a lifeline to the people here. Diverted, they irrigate crops and water livestock. To a bear coming down out of the mountains, the thick brush along these streams makes them ideal travel corridors.

The grizzly bear is a powerful and fearsome animal. It is characterized by a hump of muscles on its back, a large head, dished-in face and long, curved claws. Its pelage varies from a dark brown to a light cinnamon color, or a silver-frosted coat. In spite of its size and musculature (they average between 300 and 500 pounds in Montana), it moves with grace and can outrun a horse. It is an extraordinarily beautiful animal.

At one time *ursus arctos horribilis* was a creature of the plains, and inhabited almost all of western North America extending as far east as Minnesota and as far south as Mexico. But as the white settlers pushed westward, bears that weren't killed retreated into the security of the mountains. Sixty years after the white man began to colonize the West, the bear was all but gone from everywhere in the lower 48, except in Montana and Wyoming.

The only two viable populations of grizzly bears in the lower 48 are in and around Yellowstone National Park, where the population is some 200, and in and around Glacier National Park, where the population is anywhere from 550 to 800. There are thousands of grizzly bears in Canada and Alaska.

Why the grizzly is moving down onto the Choteau prairie is a mystery. Keith Aune, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Park's grizzly bear biologist in Choteau, believes the bear may be trying to move back onto his former domain. Some 70 years ago, the biologist said, a number of forest fires stripped areas in the mountains of old growth timber. In its place huckleberries and other bear foods took over. Now, however, "that land has revegetated and become unsuitable," Aune said, "and that has reduced food sources common in the mountains." A policy of fire-suppression in the intervening years has meant that new open areas teeming with huckleberries have not been created.

Meanwhile, a change in the hydrology of East Front has made the area more moist and bear habitat on the prairie better. Finally, the bear is finding fewer people and less resistance on the prairies. People who settled and homesteaded small farms after the century's turn found the arid land unable to support them; they simply left. That also means that land cleared for farms has grown over, providing more cover on the flatlands. "The bears are trying to recolonize the area," Aune said, "and they're stretching it right to the limit with people. They're establishing residency in this area."

Of all endangered species, the grizzly bear is most fierce. Since 1967 grizzlies have killed nine people in Glacier and Yellowstone national parks, and injured many more.

That makes some people nervous. Because endangered species require special management, some also see

David J. Spear



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Christy on their ranch near Fairfield. They refused to pay a fine for killing grizzly.

the bear as an obstruction to resource development in a state already suffering from ailing timber and mining industries. There is also the frontier ethic that still flourishes here. Pioneers traditionally viewed the wilderness as being in the way; an obstacle to be subdued. Nature, especially the grizzly bear, was an enemy, a notion in strong conflict to one that views the grizzly as worthy of protection.

That controversy was played out when, in 1983, Montana schoolchildren around the state voted to designate the grizzly the state animal. Conservative legislators tried to prevent the legislature from affirming the children's choice, and State Sen. Roger Elliot, R-Columbia Falls, tried to substitute the elk, claiming the "mere presence of the grizzly is stopping growth and development in our state." The grizzly, however, was adopted as the state animal.

Occasional bear problems are nothing new in Choteau. When it was founded in the 1880s, the town was perched on the edge of the wilderness and bears were a part of frontier life. What has changed in the last two decades is that the wilderness and the grizzly bear are now federally protected. The Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973 to assure protection for those animals threatened with extinction, prohibits the 'taking' -- directly or indirectly causing the death -- of species considered imperiled. The only exception to the law is if the animal directly threatens a human life.

The biggest fear among townspeople is that someone is going to get mauled by a grizzly bear, something that has never happened in the Choteau area. The more immediate problem posed by the presence of the

bear is an economic one. In 1984, Bert claims bears killed 30 of his sheep, which he values at about \$50 each. One night last year, he said, seven bears got into his flock and killed five sheep. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, which is the lead agency in charge of the grizzly bear, was notified. They tracked the animals in hopes of trapping them, but none were found. Bears returned to the ranch several times. "The bears chased the sheep and they never put on weight," Bert said. "I had to pen 'em up every night. It's crazy. We're in the business of raising sheep for human consumption, not bear consumption."

The only legal recourse for a rancher with grizzly problems is to call state wildlife officials, who will attempt to trap and relocate the animal. "It's a circus," Bert said. "The bears come right back."

The debate in Choteau has stoked arguments about the cost of protecting endangered species, which is often figured in more than dollars. Some people in Choteau are anguished by their inability to deal with the grizzly on their own terms, and by the perceived loss in freedom. Some ranchers argue that a way of life is in jeopardy. "Government involvement in the lives of individuals has been the cause of this," said Bert Guthrie. "It's a human rights issue -- the right of an individual to protect his property." Bert Guthrie reserves much of his anger for a federal landlord and Eastern environmental interests -- such as The Nature Conservancy -- which he considers to be heavy-handed and insensitive. He also believes the Endangered Species Act is imposed unfairly by Easterners.

"That's where you have the most pollution," Bert said. "They're saying, 'we screwed up our environment, so we're gonna make sure you

don't screw up yours.' " Ira Perkins said the problem stems from a conflict of perspective. "What they believe is idealism," he said. "If they were here where the bear could grab them by the ass, they'd be just like us."

Writer Bud Guthrie claims the people in Choteau are "hysterical" over the presence of bears. There have been no people/bear incidents here, and there will not be if the bears are left alone, he said. "Mostly it's the people's fault. Not always, but mostly. It's usually the foolhardy or the thoughtless," who get attacked by bears. One environmentalist said the people in Choteau have a "Jaws syndrome" because they have blown the bear-threat so far out of proportion.

Chris Servheen, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Grizzly Bear Recovery Team, agrees that people in Choteau have little to fear. "People and grizzly bears get close to each other on a regular basis," he said. "Ninety-nine percent of the time people never know it -- the bear moves away. The only real problems are bears that get habituated to garbage."

Keith Aune also believes that a primary reason for the bears' appearance in populated areas is the haphazard disposal of animal carcasses and because of the presence of a cattle feedlot, which, as it happens, is next door to Bert's ranch. Aune said his agency is working on a plan to help ranchers clean those up. And they are using "scare-guns" near area beehives -- propane-driven guns that explode with a loud bang every two minutes. "So far the bears have stayed away," said Mike Madel, a bear management specialist for Montana.

Bud believes much of the controversy over the threat to people

(Continued on page 13)

Ranchers fear the wolf at their door

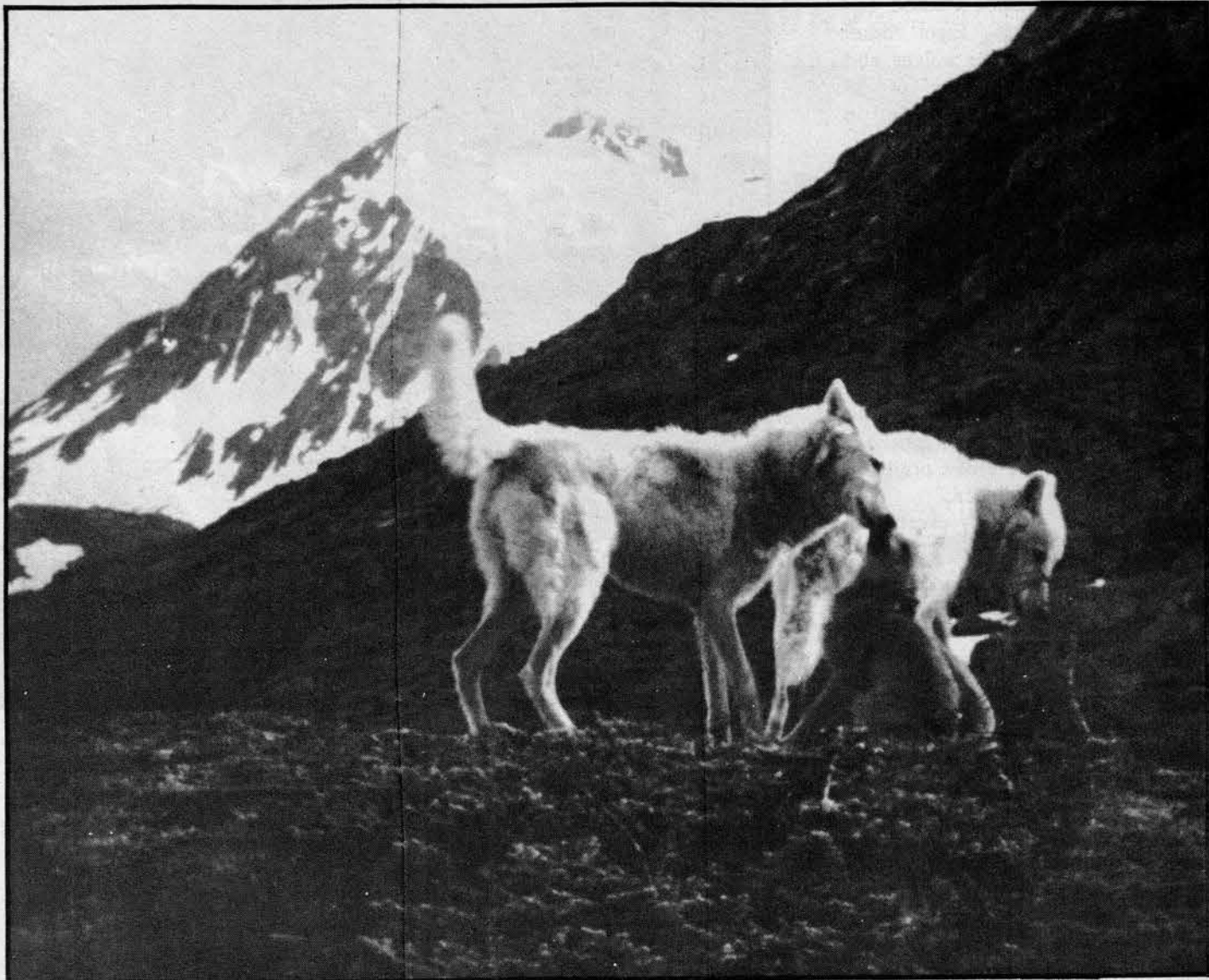
by George Wuerthner

“This country is just not affluent enough for me to raise livestock to feed predators,” says Montana sheepgrower Joe Helle. Helle refers to the proposed reintroduction of wolves into the Northern Rockies and what he perceives will be an inevitable conflict between livestock and the predators.

Helle raises 5,000 sheep on a ranch outside Dillon, Montana. It is only a two-day journey for a roving wolf from Yellowstone National Park -- one of the sites where wolf reintroduction is proposed. The Dillon area is as rich in beauty as any you'll find in Montana, with wide-open valleys spilling out from mountains that rim every horizon. It is also frugal land that only grudgingly grants a meager living to those in agriculture.

The empty, vacant cabins of settlers who found the living too hard dot the hills and hunker down in the folds of the mountains. It is country rich in character, but poor in the financial rewards it provides a rancher.

And in Helle's opinion there isn't room for both ranchers and wolves. “There's no ecological niche for the wolf left in this area,” he says. “The prey base is changed from big game to



Wolf pair with cubs

livestock, and it's totally absurd to think that once wolves are reintroduced into Yellowstone or anyplace else, they'll stay there.”

For Helle and most other Montana livestock growers, the prospect of wolves roaming the countryside after 50 or more years of absence is something they'd rather avoid. Wolves were numerous in Montana, but by the 1930s were trapped, poisoned and hunted to extinction, primarily to protect livestock interests. Then in 1982, a pair of wolves dened near Glacier National Park on the Canadian border and successfully raised young that gave rise to the present natural recolonization of the

Northern Rockies occurring in and around Glacier National Park (HCN, 2/7/86). In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to reintroduce the wolf into the Yellowstone and Selway-Bitterroot -- River of No Return Wilderness ecosystems. Ranchers intend to block those plans.

Historically, wolves were major problems for livestock growers. A famous wolf known as Snowdrift ranged in Montana's Highwood Mountains and is credited with killing over \$30,000 worth of stock, and this was at the turn of the century when the dollar was worth considerably more than today. More recently, between 1974 and 1980, 365

wolf-livestock depreciation claims were filed in Alberta, Canada.

Wolves are designed to kill; in the wild, they test many animals before they find one susceptible. If the prey resists, it nearly always escapes unscathed. Rolf Peterson studied wolves on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, and observed 38 wolf-moose encounters. Of six moose that adopted an aggressive behavior, none were touched and the wolves left immediately. Fourteen others ran

(Continued on page 14)

Choteau...

(Continued from page 12)

is whipped up by ranchers who would like to see the bear shot -- his son foremost among them. “Let them clean up the feedlots and boneyards first,” he said. “Let them try that. If the bears insist on coming down -- they won't once the free lunch is over -- then there's nothing to do but get rid of those.”

In Bert Guthrie's view, boneyards are not the problem. “We've had them for years. What do you do with dead animals?”

Bert said he and other ranchers have been forced to take the law into their own hands, usually with the three 's' method of shoot, shovel and shut up. “I wouldn't want to be quoted on saying I shot a bear. But we don't jump through the hoops set up for us, because that doesn't get us anywhere. We've gone underground. I know there has been some taken illegally and there's going to be more.”

Aune doesn't agree that there have

been a large number of bears killed illegally. “Mortality rates are not excessive,” he said.

The controversy took on new dimensions last fall. After an area rancher was fined \$2,500 for illegally shooting a grizzly that had killed some of his sheep, Bert Guthrie, Perkins and the rancher filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Great Falls, seeking to have the Endangered Species Act declared unconstitutional because, they claimed, it violates the Fifth Amendment by forbidding ranchers to protect their property. The suit, which Perkins admits is more symbolic than practical, has yet to go to trial.

Bud Guthrie disputes the ranchers' claims of livestock losses as inflated. “Most of these people -- the ones raising the biggest fuss -- are doing it out of economic self-interest,” he said. “I have no economic interest either way. It's no money to me if the bears are killed off or if they're allowed to roam. I bring an unbiased view to this.”

Some argue that the fact that the grizzly bear brings dollars into the state is often overlooked. “There's an

undeniable attraction for Montana's wildlands, of which the grizzly bear is the most obvious symbol,” said Bob Kiesling, of The Nature Conservancy's Helena, Montana, office. “That those quality wildlands exist in Montana and are diminishing elsewhere means they'll be of increasing economic importance.”

Wayne Brewster, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species in Helena, says that by protecting a predator at the top of the food chain such as the grizzly, “it protects the ecosystem on which they depend. Animals like the grizzly bear and the eagle are a litmus test” for the health of the habitat. It shows the system is working.

Bud Guthrie vows to continue to speak out in favor of the bear, for he fears grizzlies may soon disappear from the lower 48. “He belongs to our history, and is part of our heritage,” Guthrie said. “The bear adds relish and flavor to life.” It is a subject he touched on in his novel “Fair Land, Fair Land,” which was published in 1982. Set in the early 1800s in the American West, the following conver-

sation occurs between two mountain men who happen on an injured grizzly.

Dick Summers “called to mind old days with the beaver traps, and young men, the trap lifted, sitting around campfires, and they would speak of Old Ephraim, the great white bear, and their tones held respect and awe and a sort of love, as if Ephraim was somehow a part of them, a living marker of the wild life they lived.”

Summers went on. “That Lewis and Clark party, now they kilt 10 of them by the great falls of the Missouri. Why? Why in hell? It ain't right. Why don't they leave him alone?”

“I never heard you take on over a critter and him nigh on to dead.”

“It's not just one I'm thinking on. It's the whole breed, the whole goddamn family. What can you say later on? ‘Yep, there was grizzlies in them days? There was Ephraim? You should have seen him.’”

□

Jim Robbins is a freelance writer in Helena, Montana. This article appeared in different form in the “New York Times Magazine.”

Wolves...

(Continued from page 13)

initially, but then made a stand and rebuffed the wolves. Eight other moose simply outran the wolves and escaped. In the end, out of 38 encounters, the wolves succeeded in killing two moose.

But when a wolf comes upon a herd of sheep and tries the same tactic, the sheep, bred for thousands of years to be docile, do not fight back. The wolf may kill one or it may kill more. There are numerous documented cases where a single wolf has rampaged through a herd of sheep or cattle, slashing and killing dozens of animals without bothering to eat any -- simply because it can. The fears of ranchers that wolves may pose a new predator problem are not unfounded.

Wolves were probably exceptionally abundant in Montana in the late 1800s because of the massive slaughter of bison. That provided a rich food-base for wolves that learned to follow hunters. But by the 1930s, the bison were gone, extinct except for a few small protected herds. Antelope, which once rivaled the bison for sheer numbers, were reduced to a few thousand animals. Elk were exterminated or reduced to a small number in nearly all the mountains of Montana. And even the deer, common everywhere today, were all but wiped out. The wolf, if it wanted to eat, dined on lambchops and veal. It had no choice. And the rancher, who felt he had no choice but to eliminate the wolf, did.

With the development of hunting seasons, game management and reintroduction of extirpated species, wildlife populations have rebounded. Almost as rapidly as wildlife numbers have recovered, livestock numbers -- in particular sheep -- have decreased. In 1903 there were 5.7 million sheep in Montana alone. (Today there are only 9.9 million in the entire U.S.)

By 1934, about the time the last wolves were being eliminated from Montana, only 4 million sheep remained; in 1972, 1 million. In January 1985, Montana was home to less than 520,000 sheep and perhaps 10 to 12 wolves. Less than a year later, in January 1986, the number of sheep had reached an all-time low of the century: 423,000 animals.

According to Bob Gilbert of the Montana Wool Growers Association, in 1984, Montana sheepmen lost an estimated \$1.6 million to predators -- in an industry with a total value of only \$20 million. "Clearly livestock owners have enough problems with coyotes without adding to them with the wolf," he says.

Gilbert says some sheep owners lose 25-30 percent of their lambs to predators, primarily coyotes. "A sheepman who lives on the fringes of some protected wildlife area like Yellowstone Park will have greater predator problems than an operator who lives in the midst of other ranchers, and is buffered by his neighbors who may be suffering much higher predator losses," he says. Lack of a herder can also increase predator kills, although Gilbert is quick to point out that ranchers who use herders also suffer losses. The largest sheep ranch in Montana, which is owned by the father of Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mt., uses herders but still reports yearly predation losses of 8-15 percent.

Rancher Joe Helle says his concern is protection of his property. "You would want to defend your property if,

John P. George



Sheep grazing on summer pasture

say, someone was stealing your household possessions, and it's no different to a rancher when a coyote or a wolf takes one of our lambs. We need the flexibility to be able to deal with these predators."

What ranchers like Helle fear is that the Endangered Species Act will make such protection impossible. It is a federal offense to kill a wolf -- even a wolf that has its mouth around the neck of a lamb.

John Weaver, the Forest Service representative for the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Team, believes that the proposed recovery plan has the flexibility to deal with wolf-livestock conflicts built into it. According to Weaver, "Most livestock growers are not fully aware of the provisions we have included in our proposal." Because the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone is considered experimental, section 10 of the Endangered Species Act allows "control activity" to occur on an endangered species, he says. "If a wolf wandered out of Yellowstone and into an area that we recognize cannot realistically support wolves, provisions allow federal or state agents to either trap and relocate the animal, or kill it."

At first, Weaver believes, the huge elk herds in Yellowstone will provide such a large prey base there will be little incentive for wolves to leave the park. "Eventually," he adds, "as the wolf population expands, dispersing individuals could pose a problem for area ranchers. Having the funds available to deal with these wolves is critical to the success of the recovery program."

The proposed wolf recovery plan has been under review by the Fish and Wildlife Service for three years. The plan calls for reintroduction of wolves into three major Northern Rockies ecosystems: Yellowstone National Park and surrounding wildernesses, the Selway-Bitterroot -- River of No Return Wilderness complex of central Idaho, and the Glacier Park-Lob Marshall Wilderness complex in Montana. When 10 or more breeding pairs have been documented for each of the three recovery ecosystems for more than three consecutive years, the wolf would be "delisted" as an endangered species. In addition, if any single ecosystem has 10 or more

breeding pairs, that segment could be downlisted to threatened, allowing greater management flexibility within that population.

Wolves are already naturally recolonizing the Glacier-Bob area, but because of the distance from breeding population centers, Weaver says it's highly improbable that wolves will naturally recolonize Yellowstone Park unless breeding-age individuals are transplanted there. The plan calls for the designation of three zones. Zone I would be the core of each ecosystem where all management efforts would be directed towards favoring the recovery of wolves. Zone II would be a buffer area where wolves would get consideration, but would be placed on an equal footing with other resource considerations. Zone III would be areas where wolves are considered inappropriate; if found, they would be removed immediately.

Ron Marcoux, the associate director of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, thinks the zone system has merit. But Marcoux says the state will not participate in wolf recovery until two conditions are met.

"First there has to be greater flexibility to manage and control endangered species. We're having problems with the grizzly where basically you can't kill the animal no matter where it goes. Second, we feel there needs to be adequate funding to the state, so that it can carry out the necessary studies and documentation of wolf ecology and its effects upon wildlife populations as well as livestock." Marcoux says it costs \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year to fund the present wolf study at Glacier National Park. Much more funding will be needed if wolf re-introductions are actually carried out in all three ecosystems.

To Stuart Doggett of the Montana Stock Growers Association there are a host of reasons to oppose reintroduction of wolves. "I don't see how it would help the industry. We already have enough problems with grizzly bears. You can't shoot an endangered species and your management options are very limited." Doggett foresees

other problems, too, involving forest plans and environmental assessments. "It really changes what the agency can do with the public lands when you have an endangered species occurring on a national forest."

Doggett wants to see the Endangered Species Act amended to allow ranchers the option of protecting their stock. But John Weaver says amending the act is unnecessary. He says the act allows the Secretary of the Interior to adopt a conservation plan that allows the killing of an endangered species by permit. But these control actions would only be done by trained and authorized personnel, Weaver says. "We can't just open the door for any citizen to kill wildlife anytime or anyplace they feel like it. Ranchers can't shoot a wolf just because it's a threat to their livestock, any more than they can shoot an elk that is feeding in their pasture outside the regular hunting season." Weaver says there are also federal trappers from Animal Damage Control in the field or flying in helicopters and airplanes doing control work, usually against coyotes. "These people, if additional funds were provided, could also control wolves where and when necessary," he says.

Weaver points out that the plan is designed to keep wolves away from trouble. The first time wolves wander into Zone III they will be live-trapped if possible and relocated; the second time wolves will be killed, Weaver says. In Zones I and II, coyotes would be controlled by regulating the size and spring-tension of traps used. Weaver says that small traps will usually hold a coyote, but the larger wolf can pull out, usually with little damage. There would also be a new program of compensation for documented predator-damage. Weaver stresses that for the plan's success and acceptance, all three components must be implemented and funded.

Bob Gilbert of the Wool Growers Association is skeptical of compensation programs. Referring to the program privately instituted by the Great Bear Foundation to compensate ranchers for grizzly losses, Gilbert says, "There are many qualifiers attached to any claim you file. You

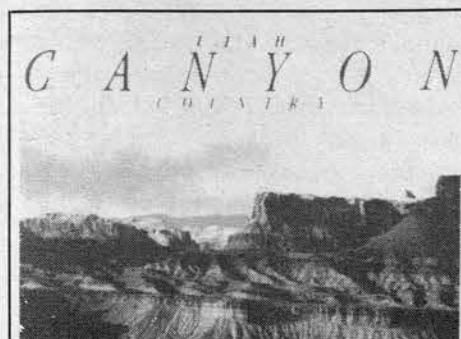
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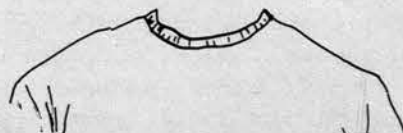
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Wolves...

(Continued from page 14)

have to be practicing certain kinds of animal husbandry or your claim is rejected. You have to live in a certain area.

"We had one rancher from Big Timber who filed a claim on grizzly bear losses, but it was rejected because it was outside the area the Bear Foundation covers with its compensation program." Gilbert adds, "You just don't find all the sheep you lose to predators. In the summer a carcass disappears in 3-5 days. If you can't document the loss was caused by predators, you can't file a claim for reimbursement."

Helle says compensation wouldn't cover future sheep losses. "Here you are spending a year gearing up a female for giving birth and raising her young, then she loses it to a coyote or other predator. It's a traumatic experience and sometimes she fails to bear a lamb the next year. So you not only lose a lamb this year, but the next as well."

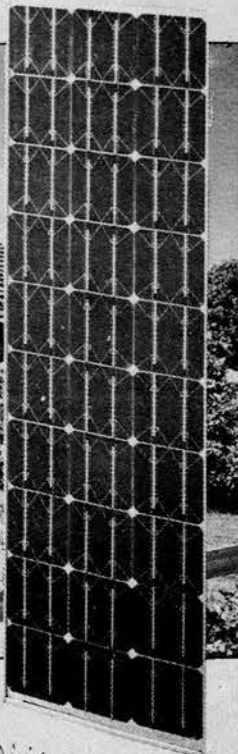
Doggett of the Montana Stock Growers Association also fears that once wolves enter an area, any other predator control will be made more difficult. "You won't be able to shoot coyotes because you might mistake it for a wolf." The Wool Growers' Gilbert worries, "Even if the law allows wolf control, animal-rights groups like the Fund for Animals will interfere with any control efforts as they are now trying to do with the bison hunts at Yellowstone."

Montana livestock owners are already in trouble, Gilbert says, as imports of meat and wool from New Zealand and Australia continue to hurt U.S. sheep growers. "The governments of those countries feel it's important to keep people working, while here we seem to favor wildlife over people. We can't tolerate any further erosion of our profit margin," Gilbert says.

George Wuerthner is a biologist and freelance writer in Missoula, Montana.

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edited by Thomas N. Bethell, Deborah E. Tuck and Mike Clark
with an introduction by William Kittredge and photographs by Mike McClure

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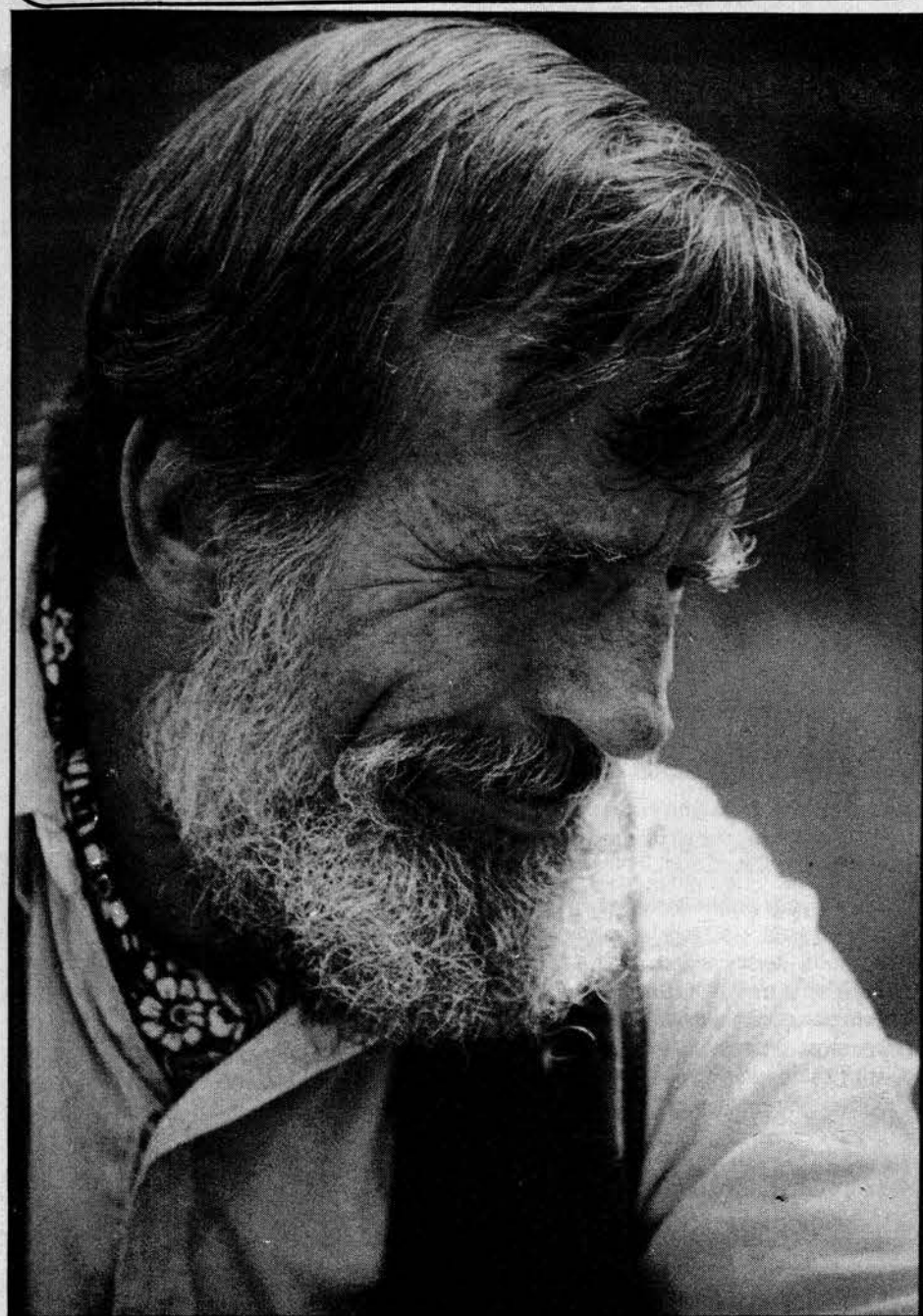
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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK



Edward Abbey at the Telluride Ideas Festival

Abbey is an optimist

by Betsy Marston

There was a great deal of earnest talk about the future of the West at a

gathering recently in Telluride, a high-altitude resort town in western Colorado. It was the second Ideas Festival sponsored by the two-year-old

Telluride Institute, which features on its board of directors John Naisbitt and Patricia Aburdene, Amory and Hunter Lovins and Pamela Lifton-Zoline.

People from all over the country met in a striped tent on the grass close to a mining tailings pile to hear speakers such as Tom Hayden, former '60s radical and now California legislator, Newt Gingrich, an articulate and thoroughly engaging Georgia Congressman -- one of the "new" Republicans, Shirley Williams, a thoughtful and always articulate British politician, and on the last day, a somewhat unwieldy panel of regional thinkers.

The star presence was the writer Edward Abbey, a self-proclaimed "no-growther" whose sly smile and seeming lust for an ice age made the audience of several hundred people hang on every word.

Abbey was not kind to the state of Utah. He reported that "the Mormon effort to lower Great Salt Lake by unified prayer was pronounced a failure on the day there was a heavy rainfall." Abbey, who splits his time between Oracle, Arizona, and Moab, Utah, dubbed the latter the "sheet-metal warehouse capital" of the country, and said its town dads had hoped to become a drug rehabilitation center for football players from the National Football League. They were "dreaming about building Superman beds" until they realized most of the clients would be very large American Negroes. "Then they weasled backwards." Moab, he said, was one of the world's ugliest towns in one of the world's most beautiful settings.

An essayist who has become best known for his novel, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, Abbey said our "homocentric view is self-destructive and infantile. The world is older, bigger and more interesting than we are. Growth is the enemy. Every organism grows to optimum space, then stops." If it doesn't, he said, it's

a freak, which means our overblown and overdone technological civilization is headed for a great explosion, followed by collapse.

"That's why I'm an optimist."

Abbey said later that things were so out of kilter he rejected the belief that small acts can make large changes. "Each of us doing our little bit won't change history... Jesus tried and ended up in a good bit of trouble." National policy isn't affected by individual acts either, he added. "Didn't we try that in the '60s?"

Abbey said his yearning for catastrophe was actually not the "ultimate" kind. "An ice age would be very nice," since some humans would survive to rebuild among the ruins, again living as hunters and gatherers. Abbey said he had little faith left in common sense and reason. Because our lust for having more and more of more and more is unbridled, "Everything I care about is being whittled away... It is better to have 10 more grizzly in Yellowstone National Park than 10 million more Winnebagoes trundling through."

Other voices heard at the festival: Myles Rademan, Crested Butte, Colorado, planner: "Bitching and moaning is what we export. In Crested Butte, we decided on tourism and skiing and that's what we emphasize."

Peter Decker, rancher-historian: "Cowboys and Indians have the same vision; neither wants to be a bus boy."

Jim Austin: Montrose, Colorado, consultant: "To make a living you have to leave this area; it won't support life."

Edward Abbey: "As a species we act no better than a mule deer or rabbits. We're rabbits with briefcases."

Marla Painter, Rural Coalition organizer: "At the next Ideas Festival, let's see more rural people, more cowboys, more people of color, more people from towns of lower elevation."

Dear friends,

(Continued from page 2)

Readers take the newspaper seriously. Only 2 percent skim the paper, as opposed to 32 percent who said they read it cover to cover. Barbed Wire was most popular, as 70 percent of those surveyed always read it. Four percent said they never look at centerspread features. More read shorter stories first and many reported a generous nature: *HCN* is passed on to friends or a library.

If *HCN* ever gets caught in a financial crunch, 41 percent told us to raise the subscription price. The next option, 35 percent said, is to decrease the number of issues.

Comments were almost always helpful, even the ones that exhorted us to shape up: "More balanced reporting would be a greater service to the environmental community." Is "Is New Mexico part of your region? If not, I'm sure to lose interest and drop." We were cautioned to "watch the lingo" and "don't write for insiders only." "Why don't you stop publishing?" one reader asked. Two people said they were sick of grizzlies. One reader cautioned: "Your grammar is sometimes incorrect."

On the positive side, *HCN* was told to keep plugging and to retain its commitment despite the vast area it

Judy Heideman and a chunk of *HCN*'s logo

covers. "Most important to me is that you exist at all. The rest is up to you."

How can we thank all of you who filled out surveys? We promise not to run another one for at least a year.

Finally, a member of the *HCN* staff, typesetter Judy Heideman, will attend Mesa College in Grand Junction in pursuit of a masters degree in counseling. Her evening courses will still leave Judy time to typeset *HCN* every other week. Judy is spouse to Bernie Heideman, whose apple juice, we learned recently from some Boulder relatives, is (justly) famous on the other side of the hill.

--the staff

BULLETIN BOARD

DESIGNING WITH NATURE

The Native American Permaculture Design Seminar is scheduled for Sept. 20 - Oct. 5 at the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation and the James Ranch in Nevada, 30 miles north of Reno. Australian Bill Mollison will focus on solar energy, windmills, drip irrigation and arid-lands water catchment among other topics. The course is intended for Indian tribes; land, water and natural resource directors; range conservationists; housing authorities and ranchers and farmers. The \$500 tuition includes three meals per day; a limited number of scholarships are available for Native Americans. Send a letter of introduction and tuition to Permaculture Institute of North America, c/o Tribal Survival Ecosystems, Box 27, Wadsworth, NV 89442 (702/575-2688).

MISSOURI HEADWATERS PROJECT

Boundaries Carved In Water, A Symposium on the Future of the Missouri River Headwaters will take place Oct. 8-9 at the Northern Lights Hotel in Billings, Montana. Discussion will center around the historical and future use of the Missouri River basin, which includes every major water issue in the West. The symposium is part of the Missouri Headwaters Project and is presented by the Northern Lights Institute. Registration is \$100 for professionals, \$75 for federal, state, local or tribal employees and \$40 for non-profit organizations and unaffiliated individuals. Make checks payable to the Northern Lights Institute, P.O. Box 8084, Missoula, MT 59807.



ROCK ART

Rock paintings and petroglyphs are examined as both art and anthropology in the new book, *Indian Rock Art of the Southwest*. Polly Schaafsma's survey covers the hunter-gatherer period to the 19th century, including the Hohokam, Mogollon, Fremont, Anasazi and Athabaskan cultures, and nearly 300 illustrations highlight rock art research that studies form, regional style and chronological development.

School of American Research, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Paper: \$24.95. 379 pages, illustrated.

PLAINS INDIANS SEMINAR

Reflections of the People: The Plains Indians and Their Photographers, will be the topic of the tenth annual Plains Indians Seminar Oct. 17-19 at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. Photographs of the Plains Indians will be examined for their role as historic and cultural documents and as art. The seminar will feature author Dee Brown and Cody artist James Bama. The registration fee is \$55, but partial and full scholarships can be obtained from the Richard A. Pohrt Indian Art Scholarship Fund by writing the Buffalo Bill Historic Center, P.O. Box 1000, Cody, WY 82414 (307/587-4771).