

High Country News

December 8, 1986

Vol. 18 No. 23

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

BREADBASKET WITH THE BLUES



Hugh Bailey

The American Farmer Series

An HCN profile

With isolation and great vats of time

by Linda Hasselstrom

The independent press has always been the strength of literature. Independents or the authors themselves first published writers such as Stephen Crane, Poe, Hawthorne, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Thoreau, Walt Whitman and Carl Sandburg.

Ben Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac*, one of the best sellers in the country's history, was originally self-published. So was Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*.

Several thousand independent presses exist in the United States, although a precise count is difficult since some are short-lived. Much of our finest writing and most cherished ideals might have disappeared without independent publishers -- those hardy souls who hold two or three jobs to keep their business going. It is the business of providing an outlet for writers that considers content first and sales second -- if at all.

Art Cuelho, who operates Seven Buffaloes Press in Montana, wrote to me in sympathy when I abandoned operation of my own press after 14 years. "Now I'm the only press left to publish rural writers," he said. I didn't quite believe it, but since I've spent a year submitting my own mostly rural writing to various presses with small success, I do now.

I had to meet him, but I went looking for Seven Buffaloes Press, and found America. You know, the America whose loss is lamented daily in editorials: the one where men and women worked hard because they loved and believed in what they were doing.

This press operates from a 20-by-24 garage studio in the tiny town of Big Timber in Sweetgrass County, Montana, in sight of the jumbled Crazy Mountains, between the Boulder and Yellowstone Rivers. There's no house number and no telephone. The Yellowstone, three minutes from Cuelho's house, is the

longest undammed river in America.

You could make up metaphors for Art Cuelho all day long and still leave much unsaid: He's like the Yellowstone, untamed. He's like Sweetgrass County, population 3,700 in a space 40 miles square with only 22 miles of paved roads. There aren't many paved roads through Art Cuelho, either. You find your way by listening.

He's six-foot-three with wide shoulders and curly hair, 43 ("Thoreau died at 45."), and his bulk would be intimidating if not for his wide smile and soft voice that begins to boom when he's enthusiastic about something. And he's always excited about the work his press is doing. It's work city presses wouldn't touch; it's downhome, rough, mostly "unprofessional."

Nobody locks doors in Big Timber and carpenters leave their tools on the ground at a job site. "All the cops have to do here

is chase the teenagers around for drinking beer and help the town drunk out of the barpit," he says. He likes "the elk in the Crazy Mountains, the antelope nestled down in the coulees, the coyotes out in the clear cold snowy horizon, the deer coming into town in the winter." As he said in a poem:

"My name could be Utah,
Rainy Hunger, Lost Train;
my initials might be found
on a Great Northern boxcar.
You can just call me Art."

Cuelho prefers isolation; most of his literary business and even friendships are through the mail. He has eight address books to keep tabs on people around the country. "Without isolation and great vats of time I could not even think of getting my press afloat. And here in town and even in the state my friendships seem

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Dear friends,



High Country News

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Approximately 20 years ago, a rancher and native of Lander, Wyoming, named Tom Bell set out to establish a group to speak for the speechless: the land and wildlife of Wyoming. He created the Wyoming Outdoor Council.

Public interest groups tend to come and go, but WOC has survived for two decades. On Tuesday, November 25, two days before Thanksgiving, the organization presented its founder with an award -- an eagle which Tom said is either landing or taking off.

The ceremony was held in Lander, which is the present location of WOC's headquarters. It was presented to him by Donn Kesselheim, who as executive director holds the position first held by Tom. The award was the subject of stories in many Wyoming newspapers, most of which once saw WOC as public enemy number one of a state economy based on mining, logging, drilling and power plant building.

How did Tom Bell come to found a state-wide organization? He said in a telephone conversation last week that his experience in the middle 1960s as president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and as an active member of the Izaak Walton League and National Audubon Society led him to see the need also for a purely state group.

At the time, there was a fierce battle in Wyoming over fencing public lands. The fight aroused the public and gave impetus to the organizing effort. By 1967, WOC was a chartered organization, with Tom at its head.

Tom said he appreciated the award, but he was, characteristically, concerned that WOC's founding board of directors also be remembered: Carroll Noble, Mardie Murie, Clayton Prosper, Burton Marston, Bruce Ward, Charlie Piersall and Les Shoemaker.

The founding of WOC solved only one of the problems environmentalists faced. "The state papers wouldn't touch environmental stories, except for the Wyoming State Journal under Roger Budrow here in Lander."

So Tom did the logical thing: he associated himself with a new paper, Camper News Weekly, and after a while took it over and renamed it High Country News. His immersion in HCN, he said, was so deep he had to

then give up his position with WOC, and Keith Becker and later Colleen Kelly took over from him.

With or without Tom Bell, the local and regional press in the West would today be covering environmental news. But his founding of HCN, and the attention it attracted from all over America, moved forward, perhaps by years, their coverage of an immense story they had done their best to ignore.

The clock at High Country News has ticked again, with the departure of intern Steve Hinchman. But it will not tock for another few weeks; Steve has holed up at home in Paonia to finish a long article on radioactive contamination of New Mexico's uranium belt. In his three months here, Steve discovered that the writing of long articles is incompatible with being in the crowded, corridor-like HCN offices.

Speaking of crowded, the second mailing of Research Fund appeals goes out very soon to those who have not yet contributed to our once-a-year drive.

As everyone in the world by now knows, your contribution will earn you a larger tax break in 1986 than in 1987. At the same time, taxes will be so low in 1987 that people will have huge amounts of disposable income. As a result, non-profits like HCN won't know what to do with all the money that will be showered on them.

Normally, HCN reports on the news, but one staff member, Ed Marston, is now engaged in newsmaking. He is the lone appellant to an Aug. 1986 decision by the Grand Junction, Colorado, office of the BLM closing to the public a bridge that provides sole access to the 75,000-acre Dominguez Wilderness Study Area (HCN, 2/17/86). Stay tuned.

HOTLINE

Court rules: fish first

Conservationists and Native Americans who depend upon the Northwest's annual spring runs of chinook salmon and steelhead scored a victory Sept. 30 when the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned seven permits for hydroelectric projects in Idaho's Salmon River basin. The court



Linda Hasselstrom

From Oxford, Ohio, reader Marcy Powell sent us a poem inspired by John Madson's *Up On the River*:

Of all God's many varied creatures,
Only man can make a verse.
Though one of earth's most salient
features,
He alone has made it worse.

Rancher and poet Linda Hasselstrom's profile of a small town and very independent publisher in Montana finally sees print with this issue. It and several other articles have been cooling their heels in the ready-to-go file while we progressed through the four water issues.

The intrepid cross-country skier is Katherine Collins of Rock Springs, Wyoming, on her way to cover a forest plan meeting on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Katharine tells us the briefcase contained the hefty plan. It may require another briefcase to carry the comments from conservationists and others.

--the staff



Katharine Collins

ruled the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission failed to study cumulative impacts, collect environmental baseline data or develop a comprehensive plan when it issued the permits. At the time of the appeal the regulatory commission had 50 applications for Salmon River hydro projects under consideration. Allen Pinkham, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, said the ruling will force the energy commission to undertake comprehensive planning for the entire river system before licensing any hydro projects. The appeal was filed by the National Wildlife Federation and the Nez Perce Tribe. Pinkham, who is also vice-chairman of the Nez Perce tribal committee, said the decision should "send a clear message (to FERC) that its power first, fish last policy is unacceptable."

BARBS

And to what do you attribute your long life, Mr. Johnson?

LeRoy "Uncle Roy" Johnson, the founder of a polygamist community on the Arizona-Utah border and "husband" to at least 15 "wives," died recently at age 98.

Can you imagine what the losing names sounded like?

The merged Burroughs-Sperry Corp. has renamed itself Unisys. It was chosen from over 31,000 employee suggestions.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Bridger-Teton forest plan is very flexible

It's 10 inches thick, weighs 12 pounds and will do just about anything you want it to. That malleability, according to observers, is the major weakness of the 1,800-page proposed plan for western Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Stuart Thompson is one of many individuals, bureaucrats, environmentalists, mineral and timber industry officials and ranchers engrossed in this season's required reading. The crate-load of maps, appendices, draft plan and draft environmental impact statement, and reactions will determine the future long-term direction of the nation's largest and most important national forest outside Alaska.

Thompson has spent many hours digesting the figures and projections in the document. He lives in the Upper Green River Valley 200 yards from the Forest's border and approaches the plan from a number of vantage points -- neighbor, conservationist, recreationist, log-home builder, and Wyoming Outdoor Council board member. He approves of the plan's preferred alternative -- a 38 percent reduction in scheduled timber harvests, an increased emphasis on wildlife, scenic values and recreation, and reduced oil and gas leasing with more "no surface occupancy restrictions." The plan also provides for less road construction and more road closures and restrictions for wildlife protection.

But Thompson says the problem with the plan "is that you can get it to say anything you want." He points to proposed improvements in the heavily-used Green River Lakes campground. "They say the facilities are below standard and they'll provide improvements -- unless of course they decide not to." He claims such language and loopholes pervade the plan.

"The Union Pass Road language is equally contradictory," he says. "They say they'll close the recently upgraded portion, but if you look elsewhere in the plan they say 'limited concentrated use by heavy vehicles' may require upgrading." B-T Forest Supervisor Brian Stout concedes that the plan contains no solution to the three-year controversy over Louisiana-Pacific's right to haul timber over Union Pass to its mill in Dubois. "I'm not sure what the solution is but I'm sure it can be solved," he said recently.

Thompson's belief that there is a need to clarify the plan's language is shared by national and local conservation groups, whose top officials flocked to a closed meeting in Jackson Nov. 10 and 11 to map out a strategy for dissecting the plan. The consortium includes the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, the Wyoming Outdoor Council, the National Wildlife Federation (executive director Jay Hair was on hand) and its state and local affiliates, The Wilderness Society (represented by executive director George T. Framp-ton, Jr.), the state and national Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy.

Their concern is understandable. Larger than the state of Connecticut, spanning five mountain ranges and varying in micro-climate from near desert to alpine conditions, the B-T is home to diverse plant and animal life,

including the grizzly and several endangered species. Big game herds of elk, mule deer, moose and bighorn sheep abound, providing a livelihood for 242 outfitters. National historic sites, natural landmarks, three wilderness areas, three ski resorts, and hundreds of miles of hiking and groomed snowmobile trails attract 1.6 million visitors a year for 11 million visitor-days. The national forest supports a diversified recreation industry in five Wyoming counties.

Rich mineral deposits in the Overthrust Belt, a million acres of rangeland and forested slopes have traditionally supported commodity and livestock production on the B-T. Finally, B-T is near or borders two of the nation's major parks: Grand Teton and Yellowstone. The management of B-T cannot be separated from those parks.

Commodity production will decrease if the preferred alternative is implemented. The plan decreases the scheduled timber cuts and the amount of land available for cuts. But representatives of the conservation groups meeting in Jackson were worried about what some called a "weasel word" -- unscheduled timber cuts.

According to the plan, "timber harvest may occasionally be used as a tool... to meet the objectives for other resources such as wildlife." That means areas such as Mt. Leidy highlands, near Jackson, though off-limits for "scheduled" cuts could nonetheless undergo extensive timbering for the sake of wildlife management. Habitat guidelines under which "unscheduled" cuts are permitted are not specified in the plan. Another frustrating aspect for conservation groups was that "oil and gas leasing and scheduled timber harvest will not be allowed in essential or Management Situation I Grizzly Bear habitat until the bear reaches recovered population levels." A Wyoming Wildlife Federation spokes-

man noted that next year's cubs could place the grizzly population at that level.

The groups concluded that the plan is "complicated and confusing...less attractive the closer you look" and "a sad hoax." Timbering is the major concern, particularly in the southern end of the forest, where two-thirds of the scheduled cuts are planned. There is also suspicion that intense efforts on the part of the timber industry will result in increased harvests in the final plan. Wyoming Outdoor Council president John Perry Barlow said he is worried that the same forces in Washington, D.C., that earlier forced a lengthy delay in the release of the plan (HCN, 5/12/86), will now attempt to increase timber harvest levels in the final plan.

Barlow said his group would work to assure the economic future of local, non-industrial uses of the forest, such as grazing, outfitting, independent logging operations and individual recreation. Those uses are supported in the draft plan; it states that the L-P mill in Dubois will suffer from "the reduced amount of timber available from their historic supply areas... and the increasing competition for this reduced supply."

But Barlow is suspicious of methods used to arrive at the annual projected timber harvest of 15.9 million board feet (mmbf), even though that number represents a 38 percent cut from present levels. He said the computer program runs show 2.2 mmbf to be the most economically sound harvest level.

An Oregon-based consultant hired by the Jackson Hole Alliance to analyze the plan agreed that large-scale timbering will be a major money loser on the B-T. Randall O'Toole of Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants said, "In general, it's not worth it to protect local communities such as Dubois." He said an analysis he did of the Gallatin National Forest in Montana showed that for every

timber job protected on that forest, the nation's taxpayers lost \$36,000 a year. He estimated that timbering in northwestern Wyoming would produce the same picture.

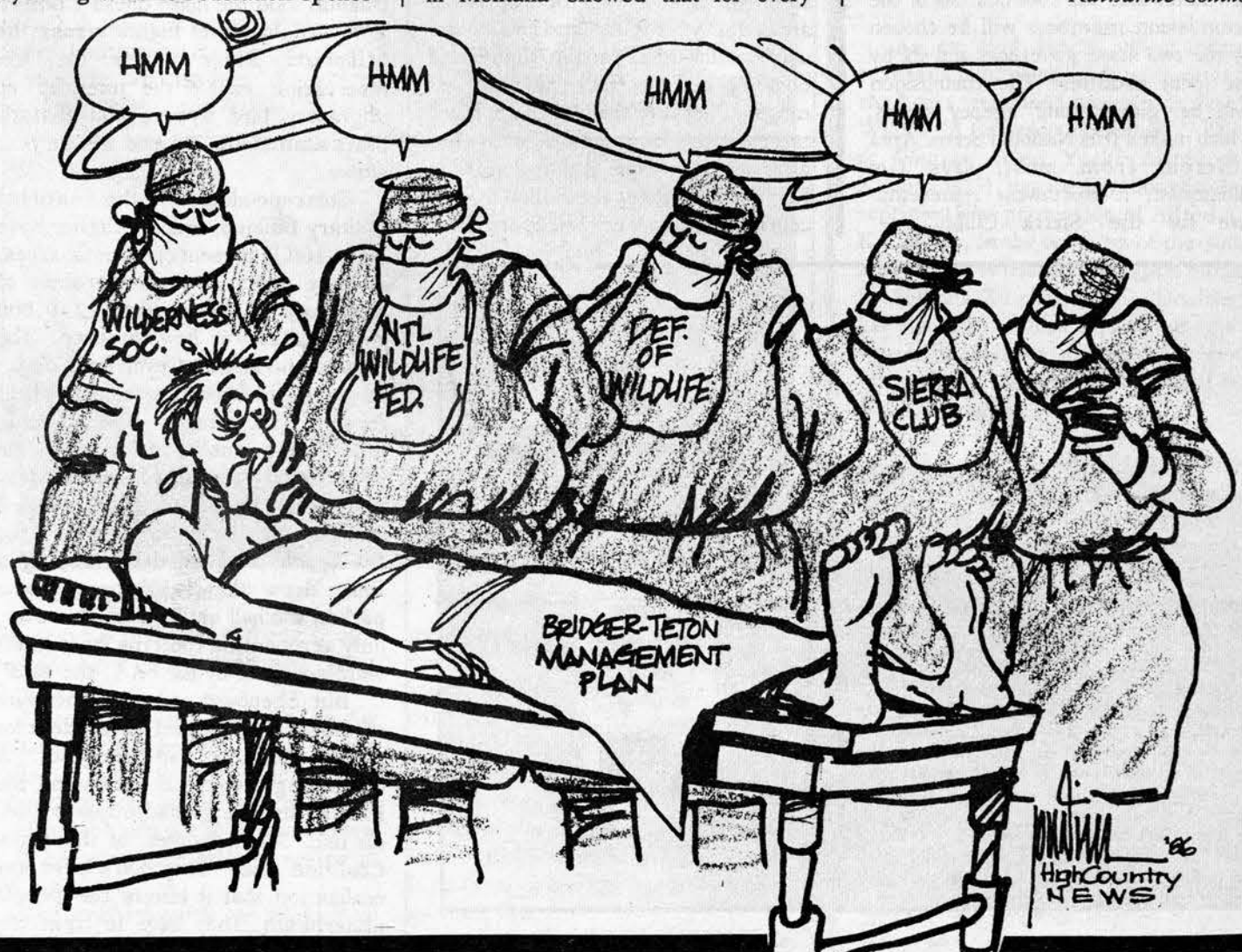
Dubois citizens appear ready to fight for timber jobs. A B-T forest spokesman who conducted a public information meeting on the plan there last week said that the participants in Dubois "were strongly oriented towards commodity production" in their questions and comments. "But they were listening," said Fred Kingwill. "We are not hiding the impacts of our proposed actions on the various communities."

The public information meeting in Dubois was similar in format to meetings held in six other area communities in the past 10 days to thoroughly acquaint the public with the plan. In Jackson, Pinedale, Riverton, Lander, Kemmerer, Moran and Dubois, top B-T officials, including Supervisor Stout and Deputy Forest Supervisor Ernie Nunn, presented a slide show. They then split participants into small groups and rotated them through five "show and tell" sessions with forest experts on silviculture, recreation, wildlife, minerals and range management.

The fate of the plan, and of the B-T, cannot be separated from politics. The recent election has left environmentalists in a stronger position. Two pro-logging senators, Idaho's James McClure and Oregon's Mark Hatfield, have lost clout because the Republicans lost the U.S. Senate (HCN, 11/24/86). On a local level, Bob Baker, a top executive at L-P's Dubois mill, lost his seat in the Wyoming Legislature. Baker used his legislative position earlier this year to attempt to discredit the idea of a Yellowstone ecosystem, and his heavy defeat will be interpreted in part as a judgment on that effort.

Complete copies of the plan or of the 16-page overview are available from the Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001 (307/733-2752). Comments on the plan should be sent to the same address by Feb. 6.

--Katharine Collins



HOTLINE

Rural People organize against air raids

Plowshare into sword

The Department of Energy is proposing to use the unfinished Washington Public Power Supply Plant No. 1 to produce not only commercial electricity but also plutonium for nuclear weapons. The WPPSS (pronounced Whoops) plant would replace an aging plutonium-producing plant at the government's Hanford nuclear reservation near Richland, Washington, where the plutonium would still be processed. The conversion of the WPPSS plant has sparked controversy, with groups such as Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Puget Sound SANE, the Washington Public Interest Research Group and Greenpeace all opposed. They say there is no need for increased amounts of plutonium, that it would add more waste to the already difficult waste-disposal problem and that the conversion would violate a 1968 non-proliferation treaty that bans the use of non-military facilities for the production of nuclear weapons. According to Lane Nothman, legislative advocate for Washington PIRG, breaking the non-proliferation treaty would have historical significance in that it would end the traditional separation of commercial and military power.

Columbia Gorge
National Scenic Area

After years of work by Washington and Oregon environmentalists, 80 miles of the Columbia River Gorge were designated a National Scenic Area during the 1986 congressional session. Federal lands and critically important private lands in the 270,000-acre area will be administered by the Forest Service. The rest of the private lands, 55 percent of the total 270,000-acre area along the Washington-Oregon border, will be administered by the Forest Service. The rest of the private lands, 55 percent of the total area, will be administered by a 12-member commission representing two states and six counties. Six of the commission members will be chosen by the two state governors and six by the local counties. The commission will be given state agency status, which makes this National Scenic Area different from most, says Jim Blomquist, a Northwest representative for the Sierra Club.

There is a movement among isolated rural people in the West that is unifying such unlikely allies as ranchers, Indians, artisans and activists. They are the people who live under military flightpaths where silence is shattered daily by jets on training flights. They say they live as targets of their own military.

Almost 30 people from eight Western states gathered recently in Nevada for the second annual citizen's strategy meeting on military use of the air. They represented several tribal councils and grass-roots groups, such as Citizen Alert. The councils and groups are the core of a loosely organized network put together by the Rural Coalition, based in Washington, D.C., and Western Solidarity, a peace group.

Since World War II the Defense Department has acquired vast chunks of the West to train personnel and test equipment. Most of the land and airspace taken is desert "wasteland" or high prairie populated by rattlesnakes, antelope and some ranching families and Indians living on reservations.

At a ranch outside of Carson City, Nevada, the group talked about how hard it was to fight the Air Force and Navy. They also traded war stories -- tall tales of the West -- although each was documented with photographs and backed by sworn statements.

Ed Robbins, a Nevada rancher from Dixie Valley, told of driving down the highway at 50 mph when a Navy A-6 attack jet pulled into the passing lane at 350 mph, gave him a nod and blasted past. Robbins managed to photograph the departing plane through his car window.

Sophie Sheppard, an artist from Lake City, California, reported two jets in a 20-minute dogfight over their town of 75 people. "Cows were running for 20 miles," Sheppard said. "They've had dogfights where owls fell out of trees dead," she added.

The military currently reserves 50 percent of the nation's airspace for flight corridors, military operation areas (MOA) and supersonic operation areas (SOA). MOAs and SOAs are used for low-level terrain flights and bombing and electronic warfare test ranges. Pilots are trained to approach targets over long distances at low altitudes to escape radar detection. Robbins lives under the Fallon SOA in central Nevada, and Sheppard lives

U.S. Navy



F-14 Tomcat jets on maneuvers over the West

close to the proposed Hart Mountain MOA in northern California and Nevada.

Although Federal Aviation Administration regulations prohibit civilian and military pilots from flying within 500 feet of people or buildings in sparsely populated areas, several at the meeting said military pilots routinely fly within a stone's throw of their homes. Gene Johnson, a sheep and cattle rancher from Belle Fourche, South Dakota, said fighter jets often divebomb his house. Johnson uses a single engine plane to check on his livestock, but said he is wary of flying in the path of military jets and B-52s. "You never see them. They'll knock you out of the sky before you see them," Johnson said. The military flight path is directly above his house and runway.

John Flyinghorse of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, also in South Dakota, said the noise doesn't bother him, but low-level flights across the Missouri River valley on his reservation violate the integrity of migratory bird flyways and disturb other animal life. He said it's getting worse.

Corresponding to the national military buildup, training flights have increased in present operations areas, and the military is in the process of withdrawing more than 250,000 square miles of new airspace. The first public hearings ever held on an airspace withdrawal request were held recently in Oregon and Nevada following a public uproar over the 900-square-mile Hart Mountain MOA proposal. Sheppard, who helped mobilize her neighbors against the MOA, told the group that a hearing in Reno drew almost 300 people who packed the hall until 1 a.m. However, only aeronautical concerns from pilots were accepted by the FAA, she said.

But Sheppard and other network members were pleased a precedent for public comment had been set. A continuing problem is convincing the FAA to include ground impacts from air use. Marla Painter, of the Rural Coalition said, "They don't have any realization that it affects the people underneath. They have to treat the withdrawal of airspace the same as

they treat the withdrawal of land." The network is demanding that the FAA require the military to file environmental impact statements for land beneath airspace withdrawals.

Another problem the group identified is getting the military to admit that its planes cause any damage. Sheppard said after the dogfight over her town the local airport manager called every airbase in three states, but "they" were nobody's planes. They must have been MiGs." Others said they are sent on expensive and futile long distance telephone goose chases when trying to track down a plane's point of origin.

"They claim they don't fly over anyone's buildings, which is an absolute lie," said Johnson. "I've lost trust in 'em. I don't believe their word anymore." Rancher Ed Robbins added, "After four years I can see what (the Indians) have been through for 200 years."

Legally, Native Americans may have more power to stop flights over their lands than ranchers by claiming their treaty right as sovereign nations. George Hiwalker, a representative of the Northern Cheyenne in Montana, said, "First the government wanted our land. Then they took our water, our minerals, our trees, our coal and now they want our air, too."

Toward the end of the conference the group got down to brass tacks: strategy. Network organizers have gathered evidence of the mounting damage caused by military planes. Local groups are using military silhouette flash cards to learn how to identify aircraft. Seismic strips are used to record the exact time and number of sonic booms in any given area. People are taking photographs of aggressive pilots and collecting sworn statements from their neighbors. This evidence will be used in court in damage suits and in Congress to show the extent of the damage.

The Rural Coalition's Western office is located at 6205 Franktown Rd., Carson City, NV 89701 (702/883-5151). Western Solidarity is at 2239 E. Colfax, Number 204, Denver, CO 80206.

--Steve Hinchman



Highway 50, Nevada

Bad news from northern Rockies meeting

As more than 200 bald eagles gathered at their annual fishing grounds in Glacier National Park, some 100 local conservationists met for the first annual Northern Rocky Mountains Rendezvous, Oct. 8-10 at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Sponsored by the Badger chapter of the Glacier/Two Medicine Alliance, the conference offered an overview of threats to wild lands in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Those states share a "uniqueness of wild lands," said Mike Bader, president of the Missoula-based chapter. "We'd like to keep it that way."

Seven Blackfoot Indians, who were all religious leaders, called for tribal control of the 103,000-acre Badger - Two Medicine roadless area to guard the largest undeveloped area on the Rocky Mountain Front from oil and gas development. The Front, that area where the mountains meet the plains, has been called America's Serengeti because of its profusion of wildlife. Blackfoot Indian Gordon Belcourt said, "I appreciate the purity of the air... the animals... the water and the spirits of our ancestors who have been there thousands of years."

Bear researcher Charles Jonkel talked about the grizzly, saying there

is too much focus on numbers. "Although recent bear counts are up, I'm worried about the habitat curve; it's still declining," he said.

Jonkel said from 549 to 813 grizzly bears are estimated to live in the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem, which includes Glacier Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Rocky Mountain Front. Because of encroachments from roads and subdivisions, bears have been running into serious problems on private lands -- lands that once were the bears' natural habitat.

Jonkel said, "A lot of the laws aren't worth a damn below the level of state government," and meanwhile, 60 percent of grizzly habitat and behavioral problems are occurring outside federal and state lands.

Gary Gregory, resource manager for Glacier National Park, agreed. "It's not grizzlies encroaching on people, it's the other way around." He said Glacier National Park is near capacity in the number of bears it can support, and he sees a net out-migration across key corridors such as Morias Pass between the towns of Columbia Falls and Browning.

Gregory said that in the spring bears feed along river corridors, the

same areas that people are moving to. Blocking bears from these areas will mean locking them into a habitat that cannot sustain many bears, he said.

The gathering also heard about pressure from oil and gas exploration and drilling, roads and logging on the nation's largest wintering herd of bighorn sheep, a large elk herd and a small grey wolf population that all share the Rocky Mountain Front.

The big mountain goats in the area already suffer from lower birth rates because of seismic testing, said Gayle Joslin, biologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. She said if the goat population is to recover, it must have a break of silence from helicopters and other gas-exploration activities that began in 1981.

Bob Ream, director of a wolf ecology project, stressed the importance of an undisturbed Front both for wolves and for people. Professional photographer and writer George Wuertner had a specific proposal for the Front. He said if the country can raise \$200 million to refurbish the Statue of Liberty, it should also be able to raise money for an ecological preserve along the Rocky Mountain Front.

--Deborah Richie

HOTLINE



What a tangled web

There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of trumpeter swans in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since last year. Barry Reiswig from the Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Montana says there were 107 fewer birds counted this September, for a total of 392. Lead poisoning and the fact that Montana trumpeters no longer migrate caused the population decline, he says. In the Centennial Valley of Montana and the Island Park area of Idaho, 35 percent of the trumpeter swan carcasses found contained lethal levels of lead, Reiswig says. The short-term solution to the problem is to outlaw lead shot, now illegal in many regions of Montana, but lead shot probably won't be banned in Idaho and Wyoming until 1991. The swans' other problem, their failure to migrate to warmer areas, began in 1936 when Red Rocks biologists fed the swans to keep them in the refuge. This protected the birds from being shot in the air by Idaho hunters but the cold winters have decreased the swans' reproduction rates. Reiswig says biologists want the swans to resume their winter migration but haven't figured out how to persuade the flock to do that.

LETTERS

PUBLISHING UPDATE

Dear HCN,

As an avid fan I offer fellow readers a publishing update on one of the books mentioned recently in Peter Wild's "A Colorado Bookshelf." *This is Dinosaur* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1955) has been thoughtfully reprinted with permission of Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of that conservation battle by Roberts Rinehart, Inc., Boulder, CO in 1985. This reprint of that wonderful volume includes all new photographs and a special forward by Wallace Stegner.

Virginia L. Winter
Grand Lake, Colorado

BARBS

In Great Falls, requests for privacy are front-page news.

When "Dallas" star Patrick Duffy's parents were murdered in Boulder, Montana, he asked his fans and well-wishers for privacy. The *Great Falls Tribune* announced his request in a page-one story under the four-column headline: "Duffy asks for respect for privacy."

--Steve Hinchman

Nevada Valley destroyed by friendly fire

Dixie Valley, Nevada, within a supersonic jet training area, has been subjected to more than 400 sonic booms and almost daily strafing from low-flying aircraft during the last four years.

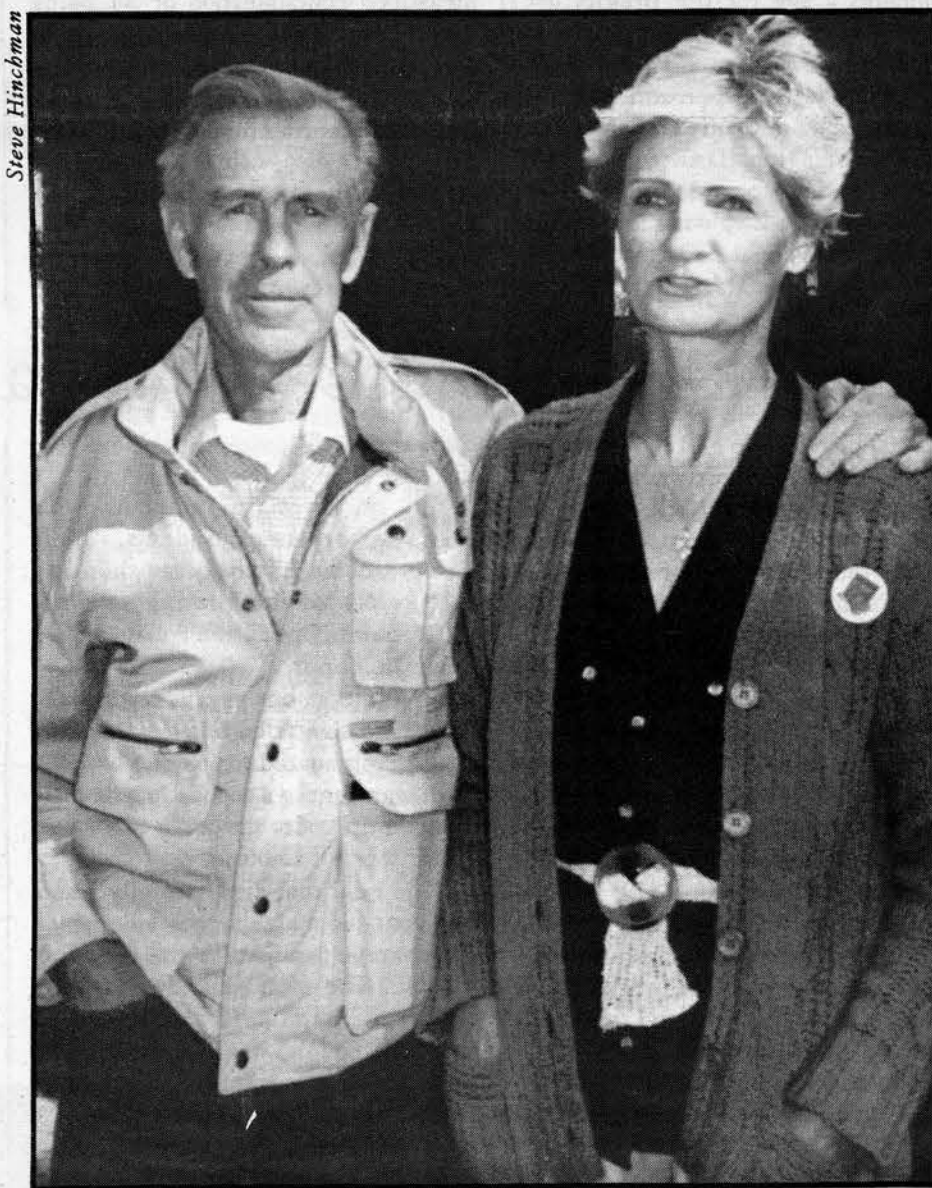
The valley once supported 25-30 ranching families. Today, only 10 families remain and the number is dwindling. The "startle effect" from sonic booms and unseen low-flying aircraft is hard to imagine unless experienced, says valley resident Ed Robbins. He compares life in Dixie Valley to a war zone.

On Jan. 11, 1985, at approximately 9 p.m., he recalls, a fleet of helicopters hovered over several homes in Dixie Valley, flashing spotlights into windows. Robbins says at other times there have been as many as 21 aircraft at treetop level at one time. Sometimes planes fly in so close over his house and corrals that "if you were on a horse you would 'a been sucked up."

Robbins says his wife, Ruth, suffers severe depression and is on medication from the combined stress of the sonic booms and her feeling of powerlessness to change her situation. She says of her mood swings, "One of these days I'm not going to come out of it." In the Robbins' house the sheetrock walls are cracked "all to hell," but rather than continue to repair the walls, Robbins says he now monitors the damage that spreads with each new sonic boom.

Valley residents are trying to fight back. The Robbinses have accumulated 80 pages of evidence, including 28 pages listing incidents such as the helicopter raids. Last spring the women of the valley formed MAMA, Mothers Against Military Arrogance, to get media attention.

However, there is little left to protect. "They've completely destroyed a community," Robbins says. "They've caused four heart attacks,



Ed and Ruth Robbins

two nervous disorders and one death. People have just abandoned their property."

The Navy, based at the Fallon Air Station, is the heaviest user of the Fallon SOA above Dixie Valley. It has offered to buy out Valley residents, but Robbins says the price was too low -- 35 cents on each dollar invested in the land.

The Robbins family has sold off all their cattle and many farm imple-

ments to finance their struggle with the Navy. Soon, Robbins and other valley residents will take the Navy to court, claiming it has already condemned their land, de-facto, and should pay top dollar for it. Robbins says he realizes his valley is already lost, but he wonders how many more Dixie Valleys there will be. With that in mind he says, "At 53, I'm going to go study law."

--Steve Hinchman

6-High Country News -- December 8, 1986

HOTLINE

Then there were eight

The Washington, D.C.-based group Environmental Action found its "Dirty Dozen" this year among candidates for U.S. Senate who accepted the most PAC contributions from nuclear and petrochemical industries. According to a study by Susan Ades, the more money a candidate received from polluting industries the worse a candidate's voting record on environmental issues. All on the Dirty Dozen list voted to bail out nuclear utilities and weaken the Superfund law. James Broyhill, N.C., was first on the list with \$84,325 in political action committee contributions. He was followed by: Steve Symms, Idaho; Bob Dole, Kan.; Don Nickles, Okla.; Frank Murowski, Ark.; Jim Abdnor, S.D.; Arlen Specter, Pa.; Henson Moore, Ia.; Alphonse D'Amato, N.Y.; Dan Quayle, Ind.; Bob Kasten, Wis.; Slade Gorton, Wash. All 12 are Republicans. Of those who had races last month, Symms, Dole, Nickles, Specter, D'Amato, Quayle and Kasten won; Abdnor, Gorton, Broyhill and Moore lost.

Illegal road stopped

Work on a new eight-mile logging road on Montana's Deerlodge National Forest was halted recently when conservationists pointed out the road was illegal. Paul Richards, an activist from Boulder, Montana, and several members of the Skyline Sportsmen's Club of Butte blew the whistle, but have since reached a compromise with the Forest Service. Richards and the sportsmen agreed to drop their opposition to some logging operations in the unroaded Whitetail/Haystack area northeast of Butte if the Forest Service stopped work on the eight-mile road in the same area. The sportsmen said the latter was illegal because there was no environmental analysis or public involvement in the decision to build the road. Both are required by law, pointed out Tony Schoonen of Skyline Sportsmen. The controversy did not end when construction was stopped and the \$300,000 road was closed. Some residents of Boulder, Montana, a town near the road, said they feared losing timber jobs if access is blocked to the Whitetail/Haystack area.

Premature de-listing

Glacier National Park Superintendent H. Gilbert Lusk says the recent effort to de-list the grizzly bear in northern Montana from its threatened species status is too early. The move to start the de-listing process was begun by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials, who say the grizzly population now exceeds the goals of the area's 1982 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. Lusk says the research is still too limited. "We don't understand the dynamics of the bear population. We're not at all at an understanding of how complete that recovery is," Lusk says. While Glacier officials are not ready to support de-listing, Lusk says it is important to know when the bears are recovered and to start asking those questions. Specifically, Lusk wants to see more research on population density, recovery figures and effects on grizzlies from development outside protected areas. But even with such studies, Lusk estimates the de-listing process could take as long as six years.

Congress 'cleans up' Utah ski town by fiat

A ski town in Utah has been granted a respite from Superfund action. But the decision to delete Park City's Prospector Square from the Superfund list came as an act of Congress and not from an Environmental Protection Agency study.

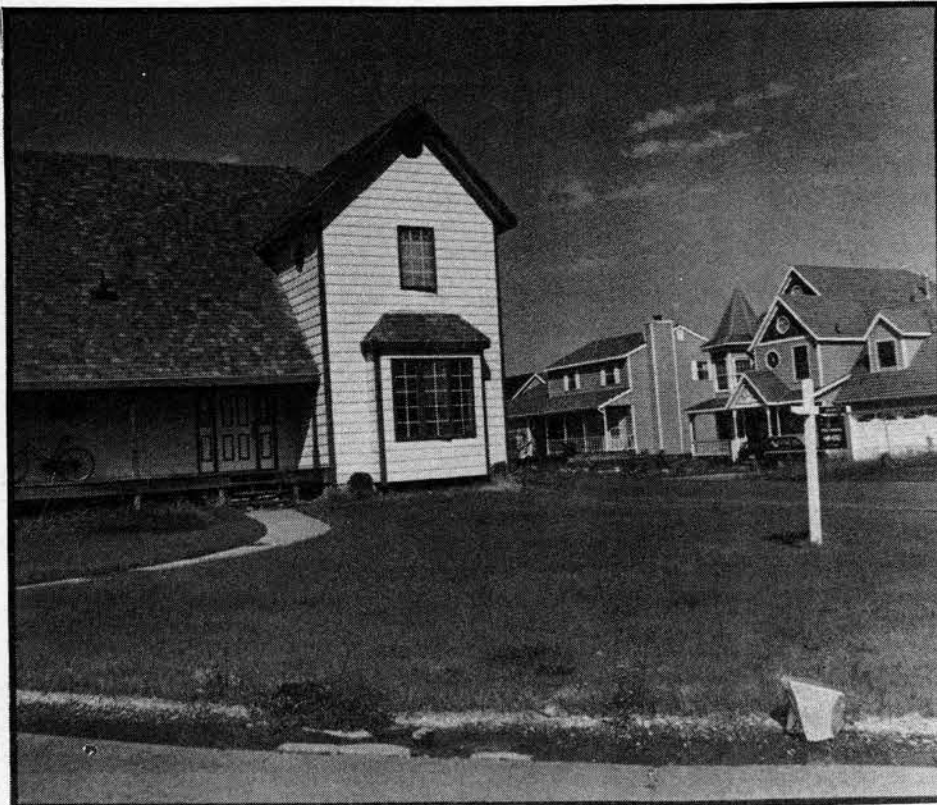
A rider attached to the \$9 billion EPA reauthorization bill recently signed into law by President Reagan called for the EPA to remove Park City from the list unless the agency could provide new data to back up its proposed designation. The rider was sponsored by Utah Republican Sen. Jake Garn. The action is the first time a proposed Superfund site has been removed by legislation. Garn told the *Deseret News* he had been assured by EPA staffers that the agency had already decided to drop Park City.

Kelcey Land, the EPA environmental scientist presently in charge of the site, says Prospector Square is still a valid site. "A legislative mandate does not guarantee that the problem may or may not be there," Land says. The EPA will take another look at Park City within the next few months, Land adds.

Park City's Prospector Square is a subdivision built on and around the remains of an 80-acre tailings pond from an old silver mine. It was nominated for the Superfund's National Priorities List in early 1985 and rated 38.4 on the agency's Hazard Ranking System. That is 10 points above a cut-off line that automatically nominates a site for the priority list (HCN, 12/23/85). Areas nominated are reviewed again before final acceptance as a Superfund priority site. According to Scott Parrish of the EPA's Washington, D.C., office, the EPA was due to make the final decision on Park City within a month of the Congressional delisting.

Park City's initial nomination was

Neal Palumbo



Park City, Utah

hotly contested by town residents who saw it as a threat to tourism. The town's City Manager, Arlene Loble, called the EPA study "superficial and sloppy" and told the *Deseret News* that the EPA had "inaccurate and insufficient information on which to make a decision."

The EPA uses a computer model to evaluate and rank potential Superfund sites. According to Land, a decision can be reached by using actual data of measured contamination or by using data evaluating potential pathways -- air, surface water and groundwater -- by which toxins could reach "receptors." Receptors are primarily people, but also include animals and critical habitat.

The model used for the first Park City evaluation used data based on potential pathways as there were no

data on actual contamination. Prospector Square has many potential pathways, including two aquifers below the tailings pile and one almost at the surface. Silver Creek runs along the edge of the site. Land says EPA staffers will look for contamination when they go back to the subdivision to do their second study.

Little has changed at the site, Land adds. Last year the town covered portions of the tailings pile with topsoil to try to reduce the hazards of windblown dust, but Land says that is not a final solution. Once the EPA begins its new study, she says, it will take three months or more before a final report and new ranking are issued.

--Steve Hinchman, Neal Palumbo

Illegal kills deplete Montana's grizzlies

A 500-pound male grizzly bear was shot and left to rot shortly after it was moved to Blackleaf Wildlife Management Area on Oct. 9, said Harley Yeager, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' information officer in Great Falls.

The bear had been trapped at a feedlot north of the town of Choteau, where it was feeding on cattle carcasses. The bear, which was not known to have caused problems before, was radio-collared. When the radio signals indicated the bear hadn't moved, department biologist Keith Aune found the dead bear.

This bear is the sixth grizzly known to have been lost along the Rocky Mountain Front this year and the third known to have been killed illegally, Aune said.

"If the illegal kill continues to remain strong, we have a serious problem," he said.

The grizzly bear is protected as a threatened species in the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem, which includes Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall wilderness complex and surrounding lands. However, because the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks thinks the grizzly population may have recovered to relatively healthy levels, it is considering asking the federal government to end Endangered Species Act protection for the grizzly there.

"Every time they shoot one of

these bears illegally, they're making the case a lot harder," Aune said.

In northwestern Montana this year, in separate incidents, radio collars of two grizzly bears that had been relocated after preying on cattle were found. One of the collars had a bullet hole in it.

In addition, one grizzly is known to have died naturally, one died shortly after being snared for research and a third was sent to a zoo in Detroit after it ended up under the porch of a ranch house west of Choteau.

The bear that died naturally was a two-year-old male that was killed by a larger male bear during the breeding season. The bear that died during research had been snared and tranquilized. It was found dead a half-mile away after it had been released. That bear was the first to have died from research during the six years of study along the Front, Aune said.

Two of the bears known to have died were females, he added. Most of the bears lost in recent years have been young bears. Since young bears aren't reproducing, their loss isn't as serious as that of older bears.

"Adult mortality has generally been low," Aune said. "It's probably what's sustaining us now. As long as we can save that adult population, we're not in an emergency situation."

However, Aune added, "we definitely have to be concerned at the

number and kind of mortality we're experiencing now compared to earlier."

From 1977 to 1983, the losses were much smaller than they have been in the past three years. The losses were also more likely to have been kills by hunters rather than illegal kills or losses due to management action.

Sixteen grizzlies are known to have died from 1984 to 1986, exactly the same as from 1977 to 1983. Half of the bears known to have died from 1977 to 1983 were killed by hunters. Only two were illegally killed.

Nearly half (seven) of the bears known to have died from 1984 to 1986 were illegally killed. Only two were taken by hunters. No grizzlies have been taken by hunters along the Front in the past two years. In 1985, there was no season on the Front and this year the grizzly season was just 11 days long in the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem.

--Bert Lindler

BARBS

The Mt. Vesuvius eruption aside, Pompeii was a very pleasant city.

Despite its Brown Cloud, almost total lack of mass transit and surrounding sprawl, the national civic organization, Partners for Livable Places, recently named Denver the top city in the "Energy Belt."

BULLETIN BOARD

WHISTLEBLOWERS' DIRECTORY

The Izaak Walton League recently published a state-by-state resource guide called *A Citizen's Directory For Water Quality Abuses*. Part of the group's Save Our Streams program, the booklet covers the entire U.S. and contains telephone numbers for reporting pollution emissions, as well as numbers for obtaining information on streams and water quality. Numbers are given for problems ranging from erosion and runoff to toxic chemicals. The Save Our Streams program was founded over a decade ago to encourage individuals or groups to "adopt" a stream and monitor its water quality for a year or more. The directory is available for \$1 from the Izaak Walton League of America at 1701 N. Fort Myer Dr., Suite 1100, Arlington, VA 22209 (703/528-1818).

STUDY IN CANYONLANDS

The Canyonlands Field Institute, a nonprofit educational organization, is offering field study sessions for schools or organizations beginning in January. Programs will be offered in photography, astronomy, animal life, archaeology, orienteering, watercolor painting and desert, river and mountain ecology. Students will hike, bike, canoe or backpack during the sessions, which will include both informal and structured activities. CFI provides all food and equipment. Contact Canyonlands Field Institute, P.O. Box 68, Moab, UT 84532. (801/259-7750).

WINTER STUDIES

What could be better than spending some time in one of the country's coldest and most beautiful spots this winter? The Yellowstone Institute, a nonprofit, educational organization, is sponsoring its twelfth series of winter courses in Yellowstone this January and February. Topics include photography, winter skills and survival techniques, winter ecology and the 1887 Schwatka-Haynes expedition in the park. Courses will headquarter at Mammoth Hot Springs, south of Livingston, Montana. For more information, write Box 117, Yellowstone Park, WY 82190 or call 307/344-7381, ext. 2384.

GREG MACE PEAK

Last summer, Greg Mace was killed in a climbing accident in the Maroon Bells in Colorado. Greg, the son of Stuart and Isabel Mace, was the founder, owner and operator of Ashcroft Ski Touring Center near Aspen. He was also a long-time leader of the local Mountain Rescue chapter. To honor Greg, the Pitkin County commissioners are sponsoring the designation of an unnamed 12,528-foot peak in the Castle Creek Valley as Greg Mace Peak. To achieve this, brief letters of support to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names are necessary. Its address is: National Center Stop 523, Reston, VA 22092; attention Donald J. Orth. Please send a copy of your letter to: Mark Fuller, Pitkin County, 506 East Main St., Aspen, CO 81611.

WYOMING'S GEOLOGICAL CLASSROOM

A county development group based in Greybull, in northern Wyoming, has revived an economic development proposal first made 24 years ago. It is to push for national monument designation for Sheep Mountain, a colorful and dramatically faulted mountain, so that local and out-of-state tourists will have a "geological classroom" to visit. Big Horn

COLORADO ASSEMBLY SCOOP

A *Legislative Analysis*, written by Jo Evans for the Colorado Environmental Lobby, provides a succinct review of the major environmental legislation proposed in Colorado's 1986 General Assembly. Performances by legislators on important environmental issues are also listed and ranked with western Colorado Sen. Mike Callihan, D, among the top seven, and Boulder-area Rep. Dale Erickson, R, at the bottom of the "black hat" list. CEL, a non-partisan nonprofit organization, also ranked its own performance. It found that none of the 12 bills it opposed passed, and five of the eight bills it supported did pass. To obtain a copy of the *Legislative Analysis*, send \$5.00 plus \$1.75 postage to: CEL, 1725 Gilpin St., Denver, CO 80218 (303/320-0329).

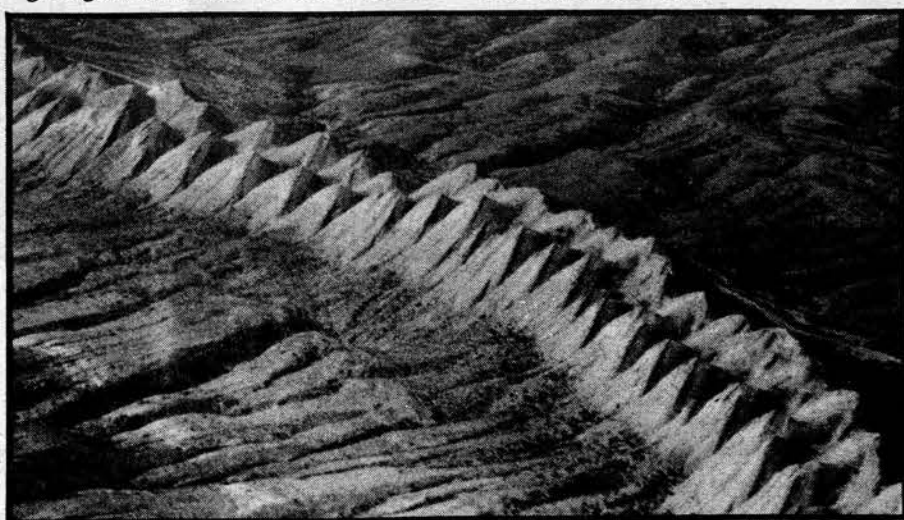
SUCCESSES AND FRUSTRATIONS

County Government and Wildlife Management: A Guide to Cooperative Habitat Development is designed primarily for Colorado Division of Wildlife field officers who work with county governments, but its case histories of local successes and failures make it interesting to others as well. The authors, Steven J. Bissell and Linda Sikorowski, use humor to make their points, suggesting that animals can help people decide how to best use the land. "Pheasants nest in nesting habitat, and bats hang by their toes in bat habitat. Human beings, on the other hand, build for unknown reasons. Cape Cod houses in the San Luis Valley..." A limited number of guidebooks are available for government agencies, especially local governments, from Steven Bissell at the Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216. Local libraries can request loans from the division.

RAINFOREST CONFERENCE

Rainforest experts will gather Feb. 5-8, 1987, at the University of Colorado in Boulder for a three-day conference, *Tropical Rainforests: Strategies for Wise Management*. Keynote speakers are David Brower, founder of Earth Island Institute, and Catherine Caulfield, author of *In the Rainforest*. The conference plans to cover topics such as biological diversity, indigenous peoples, international consumerism, climatic effects, cattle ranching in the Amazon and international lending policies. Speakers will represent the Rainforest Action Network, the Global Tomorrow Coalition, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Center for Human Ecology, the New York Botanical Gardens, among other groups. Registration is \$12 per day or \$30 for the whole conference for individuals, and \$20 per day or \$60 for the entire conference for representatives of organizations. Checks should be made payable to the University of Colorado Rainforest Conference, Environmental Center, Campus Box 207, UMC 331, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309. The registration deadline is Feb. 1, 1987. For more information call 303/492-8308.

County backers of the proposal also say that if the Park Service were to build a tourist information center and campsites, the new facilities could attract 200,000 people a year and generate some revenue for the area, which is east of Yellowstone National Park. For more information, contact Jack Kvale, chairman, Sheep Mountain National Monument Committee, P.O. Box 872, Greybull, WY 82426 (307/765-4601).



Sheep Mountain in Wyoming

George Mielke

A 28TH ANNIVERSARY

The Montana Wilderness Association will hold its annual convention in Bozeman, Montana, on Dec. 5 and 6. Workshop topics include the roots of the wilderness movement, wilderness and the 100th congress, and how to organize local efforts in support of wilderness. The convention is being held in Bozeman to honor the conservation organization's first organizers who met there 28 years ago. Registration is \$10; the convention takes place at the Holiday Inn just off the I-90 exit on North 7th. Contact MWA, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624 (406/443-7350).



Frank Zullo photo from the Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar

CALENDARS

The Sierra Club's 1987 calendars are out, and there is a new pocket appointment calendar in addition to the traditional series. The pocket calendar is 3 1/2-by-6 inches and features 38 color photos of "nature in close-up." It sells for \$5.95 (less for Sierra Club members). Also available are the Trail Calendar, Wildlife Calendar and Wilderness Calendar for \$6.95 each; and the Wilderness Engagement Calendar sells for \$8.95. Write the Sierra Club or Random House, 201 East 50th St., New York, NY 10022.

TESTING THE WATERS

Colorado may have a new community health service next year. Colorado resident Paul Mariner, who has an environmental sciences degree, hopes to set up a privately-funded Colorado Student Environmental Health Project to help communities test their water for contaminants. In return for providing room and board, communities would receive fulltime technical assistance from two interns for nine weeks during the summer. The interns would sample and analyze stream and well water, research state and local files and write a final report. After the interns left, the project would continue to analyze water samples and offer advice. A similar project already exists in Virginia, Mariner says. Colorado State University is willing to host the project if he obtains funding, Mariner adds. For more information, contact Paul Mariner, Fountain Valley School, Colorado Springs, CO 80911 (303/392-6884).

CATTLE, ELK AND FIRE

Two recent rangeland management projects by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks show that well-managed cattle grazing and controlled burns can improve elk habitat. A six-year study at the Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area near Anaconda, using badly overgrazed and damaged range, found that shuttling cattle between lots on a rest/rotation system left elk room to graze on two-thirds of the same range. A second project, at the Sun River Wildlife Management Area near Choteau, set controlled burns in overgrown and ungrazed areas. In the following seasons these areas were favored by elk, and vegetation had a higher nutrient content than in control plots. For more information on the Mt. Haggin project, contact Arnie Foss at the department's Bozeman office (406/586-5410). Craig Jourdonnais at the Kalispell office has information on the Sun River project (406/755-5505).

SOUTHWESTERN VOICES

Our Voices, Our Land combining photographs by Stephan Trimble and Harvey Lloyd with words by Indians of the Southwest, is based on an audio-visual show created by Trimble for the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme is individual and cultural endurance and pride in one's identity. Through more than 200 color photographs and succinct words, the book paints a vivid picture of Native American people. In his introduction, Trimble explains that listening to the Indians and taking pictures of them has caused him to "pay more attention to the earth, to always note such easily taken-for-granted miracles as sunrises and moonsets," an effect the book may also have on anyone who reads it.

Northland Press, P.O. Box N, Flagstaff, AZ 86002 (602/774-5251). 176 pages, 234 photographs. Paper: \$19.95, hardcover: \$35.00.

COLORADO ANASAZIS

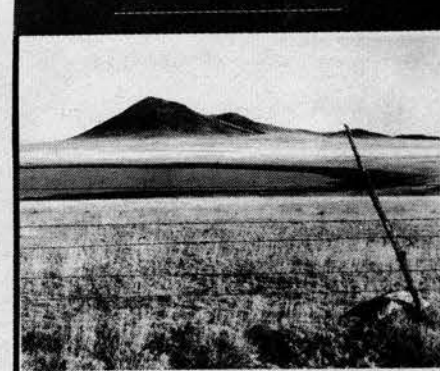
Yellow Jacket: A Four Corners Anasazi Ceremonial Center describes research on a little-known regional center of the prehistoric Anasazi Indians in southwestern Colorado. The Anasazis occupied the site, located northwest of the town of Cortez, from about A.D. 500 to 1300, except for a period from A.D. 700 to 900. Authors Frederick Lange, Nancy Mahaney, Joe Ben Wheat and Mark L. Chenault speculate that a temporary climate change forced them out of the relatively cold, high area during that period. Yellow Jacket and other sites in the area, including Chimney Rock and Lowry, were previously considered to be outliers of the major Anasazi center at Chaco Canyon, 100 miles to the south in New Mexico. But excavations at Yellow Jacket have come up with very few Chaco-type ceramics or other artifacts, and have suggested more frequent contact with the Kayenta region of northeastern Arizona. This brief book is about archaeologists as much as archaeology. The University of Colorado Museum has been researching the area for 30 years, and has developed a travelling exhibit that will be first in Colorado and later in other parts of the country. The book is an outgrowth of the exhibit.

Johnson Books, 1880 South 57th Ct., Boulder, CO 80301. Paper: \$5.95. 62 pages. Illustrated with maps and photos.

RIVER CALENDAR

The 10-by-14 inch 1987 River Runner's Calendar is out and filled with river-running lore, trivia, astronomical data and even some facts. The photos are in color and fine. Order for \$9.70 postpaid from Sandpiper Press, Box 5143, Stateline, NV 89449.

ALONG THE Santa Fe Trail



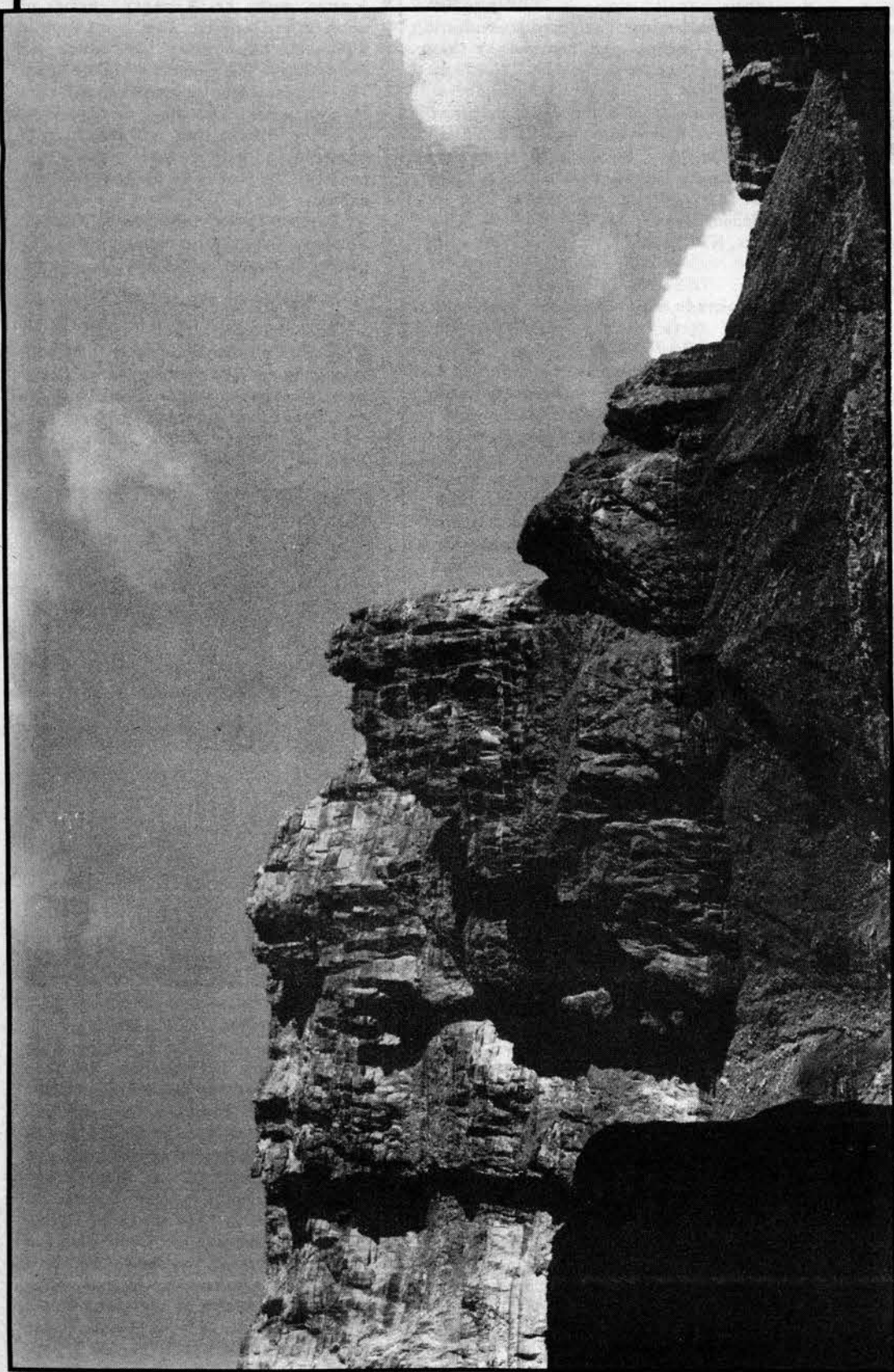
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
Joan Meyers

ESSAY BY
Marc Simmons

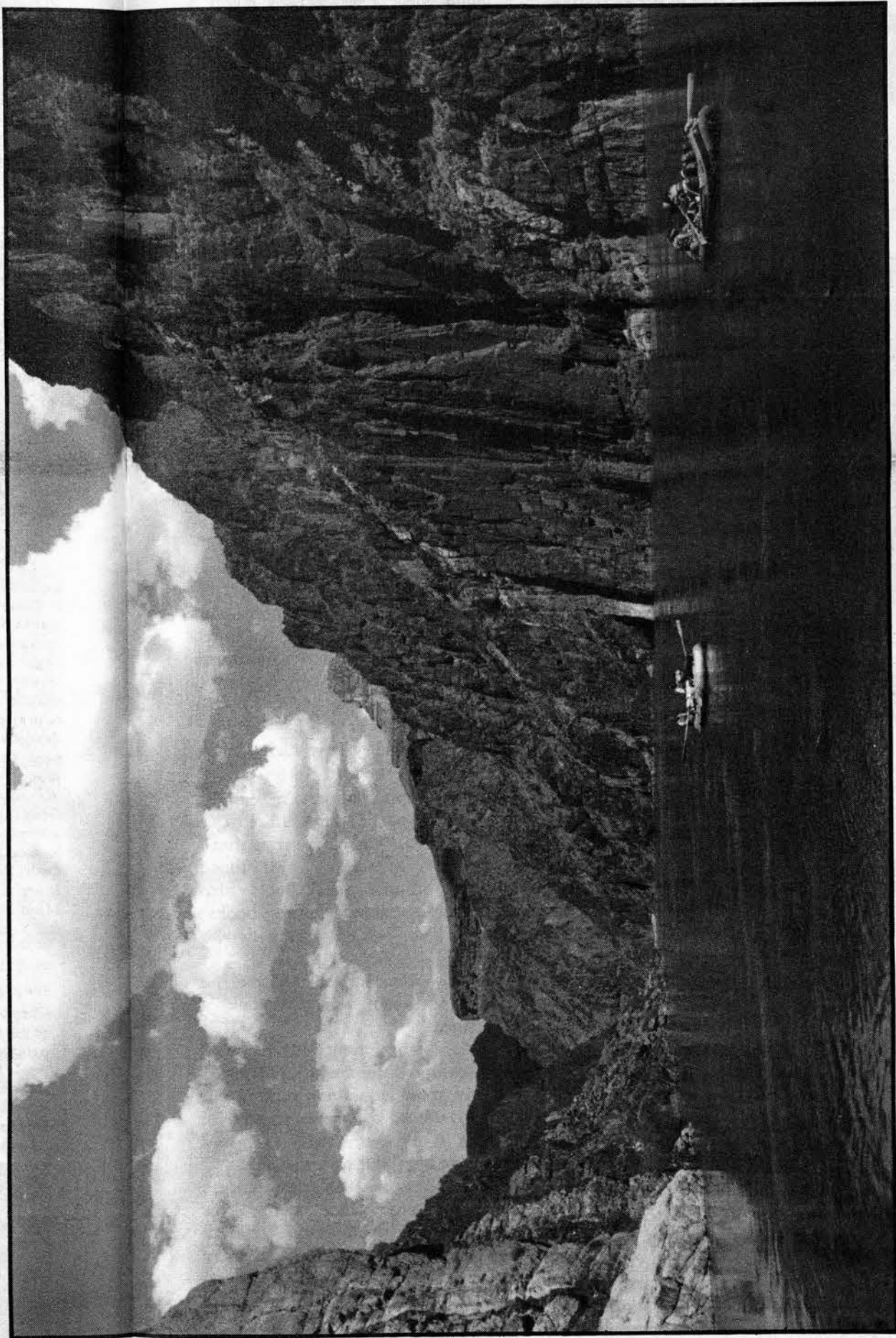
THE TRAIL REVISITED

Along the Santa Fe Trail, by Marc Simmons with photographs by Joan Meyers, is more than just a history of the 900-mile trail. Both the essayist and photographer traveled the trail, and with the help of 19th century journals and newspaper accounts, combined past and present experiences to draw a picture of pioneer life from 1822 to 1880. During those years, the trail stretched from Old Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico and was used by traders, army troops, and pioneers on their way West.

The University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Paper: \$19.95, cloth: \$39.95. 184 pages.



*The Grand Canyon --
water, rock and time*



'Like all great things, the Canyon takes time to appreciate. So be wary of your companion's instant rhapsody of applause. Be more wary of that sacred hush affected by others. Simply take your look, turn on your heel and leave. The Canyon will be there if you ever return.'

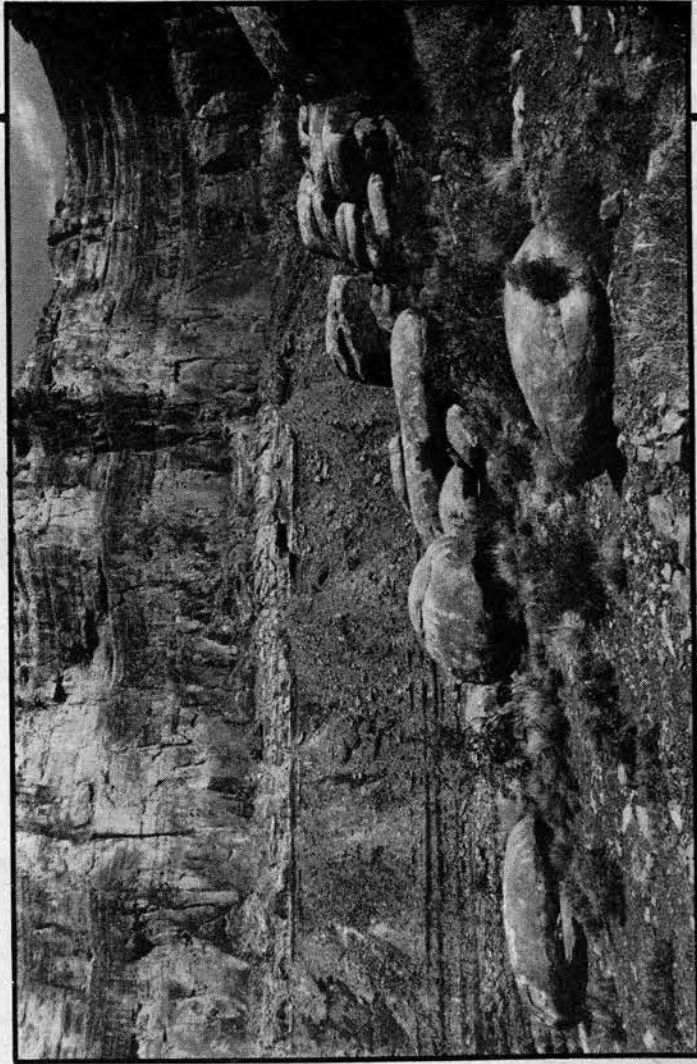
--Frank Waters

Photos by Allen Wilson

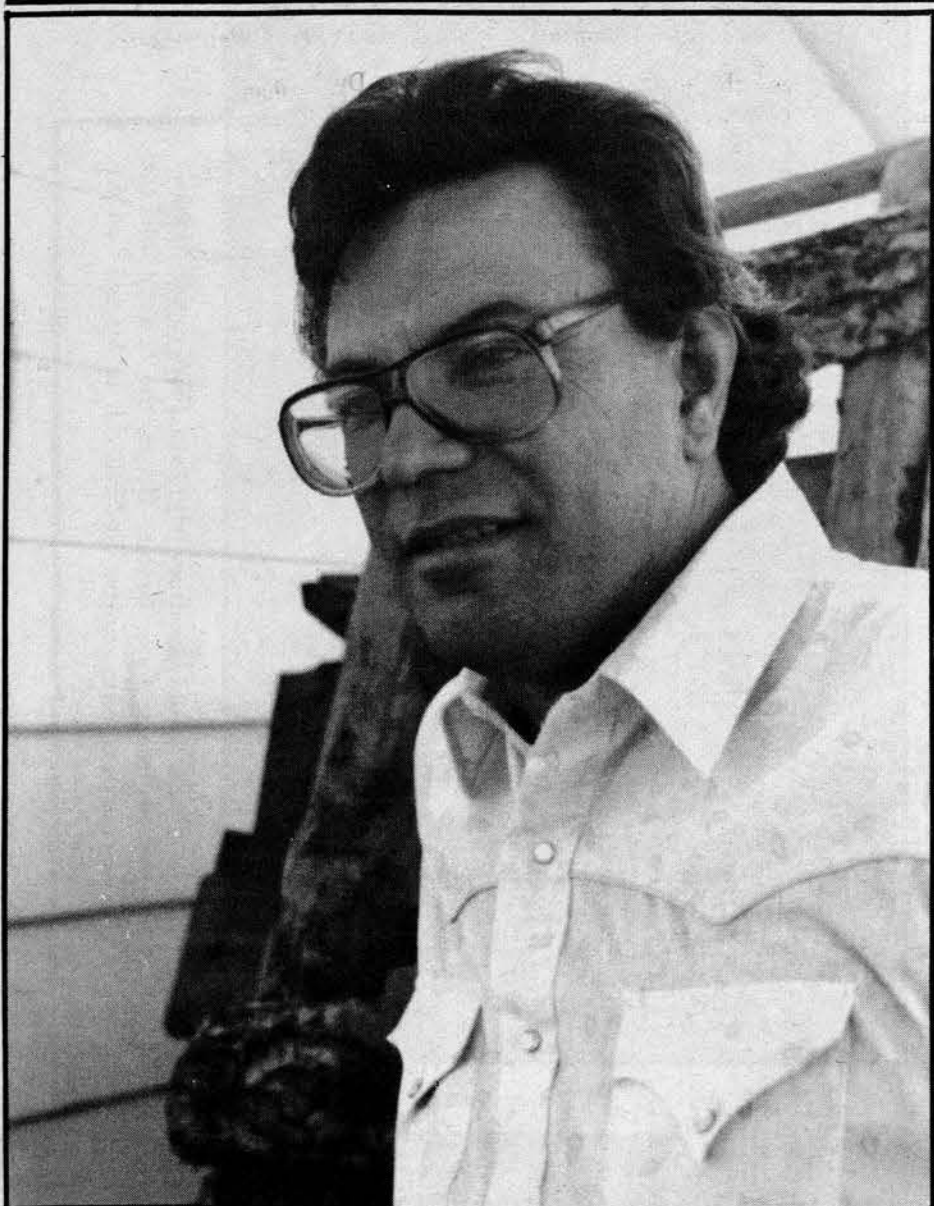


Once a commercial boatman in the Grand Canyon, Allen Wilson made a return trip there in April of this year, when he shot these photographs. He now regularly plies the waters of the Rogue River near his home in Gold Beach, Oregon, where he is a carpenter and freelance photographer.

High Country News -- December 8, 1986



Photos, clockwise from left: Lava Falls rapid; Mohawk Canyon rocks; Inner Granite Gorge; the cowboy and the cactus in Marble Canyon; Redwall cliff in Marble Canyon; and round rocks.



Linda Hasselstrom

Art Cuelbo

Press...

(Continued from page 1)

to lean more towards ranchers and farmers than poets and writers. There are exceptions to this, of course. And a good example is Dean Phelps, a native poet and short story writer from Fromberg. I have for a long time tried to figure out a way to answer personal letters without taking up loads of time, but I have come up with no solutions."

As the operator of Seven Buffaloes, which he calls the only rural independent press left in America, he has a lot of territory to cover. He has appointed himself to document the dwindling cultures of American migrants, farmers, Dust Bowl Okies, residents of southern Appalachia, the Azores, the San Joaquin Valley. He's published "about 60" books -- he's not sure of the number -- and was publishing seven periodicals until recently. He dropped two because they weren't paying their way.

"I like to think of myself as a kind of Alan Lomax. He collected folk songs. I collect Rural America, which is almost like saying I collect American heritage." Many people have told him that their stories and poems would not have been published without Seven Buffaloes.

Art also wants to find the great Happy Medium all artists seek: a point where he spends half his time on the press and the other half revising his 10 unpublished novels. He also paints, and his work crowds the walls and is stacked on shelves in his studio office. Some echo Van Gogh and Gauguin, two of the artists he most admires. One huge, vivid work simply "poured out after a long winter of publishing when I couldn't paint."

He also admires Van Gogh's philosophy of "being a workman and getting paid for what we do. My press has succeeded because I believe in hard work. I once made a comment about Gauguin to a successful artist friend of mine. He said Gauguin was

not organized. It made me think -- I wasn't organized either. I never once gave the media a second thought, and now the media is one of my prime targets. I give review copies away like hotcakes; before, I was stingy with them."

His studio is tidily arranged for work, with a press in one corner, a copy machine, walls of books, a comfortable couch and two easy chairs, tables with stacks of flyers to be mailed out as soon as he can afford it. But he seldom sits still -- leaping up to hand the visitor copies of his own and other publishers' books, reviews, articles.

After 13 years as one of the most independent of the country's thousands of independent presses, he's learned how much support the average writer gives to even his own publisher. "About 96 percent of the people you publish will never buy a single sample copy of your publication," he says.

He doesn't fit any mold, even that of the independent publisher, which is pretty independent. He's never even met another independent publisher, in a field where exchange and cooperation is the rule. "I never have felt comfortable in literary scenes. John Steinbeck, one of my favorite authors, would not allow his photo to be taken. He didn't want to be recognized as he walked among the people," he says.

Since no one else publishes the rural material he's interested in, he can't benefit from an exchange of mailing lists, for example, but he constantly corresponds with other publishers, swapping books and periodicals. And while others wait for material to come to them, Art is "on the hunt" for rural writers.

"When I began to publish, the financial end of it loomed like a bear claw over my soul," he says. He's never been satisfied with the small press maxim that if you broke even you were a success; he wanted to make a living for himself and his family.

He stays busy all the time, clearing

a rancher's pasture of cottonwoods for firewood, taking care of his garden, fishing. He likes the rural pace for his kids. As he talks, two of his sons appear, to take a can of worms out of the studio refrigerator, pausing for a little advice on using grasshoppers if the fish aren't biting on worms.

Walking the financial tightrope of jobs and publishing hasn't been easy. He has worked for a carpenter family and the county road department to make ends meet, but he has a fear of routine employment similar to some folks' fear of snakes. "It sidetracks my visions. It gives my spirit a bowel movement."

Measuring the success of an independent press is tricky. Art printed 600 copies of *From Seedbed to Harvest: The American Farmer*, his first farm anthology, and sold 540 the first year. He's gathered material for a second edition, to be titled *Breadbasket with the Blues*, and has opened negotiations with operators of a national monument to farming, where he hopes to sell books and help in the establishment of an archive of farm writing.

"On the other hand, a real success for me will probably mean that my wife would no longer have to cook at the hospital, and that I wouldn't have to do laborer jobs. I like manual labor, but my back seems to be losing ground."

So why doesn't he publish Big Names? "A professional writer may have a better grip on an individual style, but he has taken all the juice out of the narrative and made it tame. And if you can explain everything about your art, then you have passed over into the realm of a philosopher, and are no longer a working artist."

Art likes his published authors to push their own books, both because they sell better that way, and because he doesn't want the personal publicity. "I've never read in public. I've never taken a course in literature. I've never taken a workshop. I'm self-taught in every field of endeavor." He doesn't want to waste time debating rhyme schemes; he wants to get on with the publishing. Certain writers have influenced his choice of subject matter and the visionary aspect of an artist's viewpoint of himself: Jack London, Sherwood Anderson, John Steinbeck, Carl Sandburg, Walt Whitman and Thomas Wolfe.

He's not impressed by a writer's credentials. "They get off on the wrong foot with me as soon as I see those massive-attack three-page single-space sheets that list everything under the sun, including the fact that they talked to God personally last Tuesday on the telephone."

Art often publishes people who may not know as much about grammar as they know about fixing a Massey-Ferguson, and that's just the way he wants it.

"I don't have much respect for non-creative critics. They send down proclamations from their ivory towers. They're afraid to take risks, spill the blood, fling the wild juices. You want to be an important literary figure? Go out in the American Letters Swamp and wrestle with live alligators who haven't made a fresh kill lately."

Much attention is being paid to farmers by the national media now, with some attention being given to rural people who write. There have

been cowboy poetry gatherings and a number of conferences on rural writing. Art doesn't think this trend will expand or benefit his press.

"In order for something to be a trend it has to be bastardized in some way. And I don't think that rural poetry or short stories will ever be bastardized because I don't think that America as a whole will identify with it."

Why not? Because he believes the nation still has no national consciousness of what is happening to the American farmer. "When I did *From Seedbed to Harvest* some tried to pass themselves off as people of the soil because they had a garden, or tended bees, or had a goat."

One well-known poet from New York City who had moved West to join a literary community sent him a poem about a farmwife's struggle. Art recalls she "whipped the 'f' word on me for not taking her self-styled brilliant work. I had already taken a similar and better poem. The point is, this lady poet had only one poem to offer. If she had been a real rural poet, she would have sent me five to 10 poems. Most of the others did."

Once he's chosen to publish an author's work, he may publish a book in as little as a month, and he never signs a contract with an author. "I do it the same way the old cattle buyers did it over 100 years ago. Do it all by my word. I believe in trust, and if friendship does not supply it then I can do without those kind of so-called friends."

Then comes the hard part: distribution, always the bottle-neck for independent presses. Bookstores want invoices in triplicate, return privileges and usually take at least 40 percent of a book's price, so most of his effort has been toward mail order sales. Because of the diversity of Seven Buffaloes, Art has to devise a new distribution plan for each book; he doesn't get much overlap in sales. In one four-month period, he released a book a month, but didn't have time to bind all the copies. If he'd taken time to bind them, he wouldn't have had time to sell them, he says.

"In practical terms, I'm caught between the past and the future. The past is all those anthology series that I have yet to sell, plus all those individual author titles. But I also can't forget about future books, because I've learned what and who will sell."

So how does he sell the stuff he publishes? Same way you milk a rattlesnake.

"It's a slow, meticulous process, this milking of the media. And that's why my press is just now coming out of the Dark Ages. I never catered to reviews in the past. I never even had stamps to send out review copies."

Now he has an anonymous supporter who sends money for stamps to mail flyers describing each book, and the New York Public Library buys everything he prints. But even with that and other library sales, he still does not sustain a great cash flow. He did get several grants from the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines, but CCLM funding dried up around 1983. Another problem was his part-time county job; now that he's been laid off, he sees a brighter future for Seven Buffaloes' being solidly

(Continued on page 12)

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Press...

(Continued from page 10)

established within the next year or two.

Art conducts vigorous correspondence with dozens of writers he's published over the years. They tell their friends about Seven Buffaloes and some of them write reviews. The farm anthology, *Seedbed*, was published a year before Farm Aid attracted national media attention and had wide sales. But "one disturbing fact stuck in my craw. Over 50 percent of the farmer-poets did not bother to buy one copy of this one-of-a-kind tribute."

Art's idea of success, aside from wanting to support his family, isn't definable in ordinary terms. "Once I saw this hobo reading *Of Mice and Men* and I thought: that would be my idea of a readership, someday. The simple act of a common man reading me while he is at work tend-heading on a pull-harvester rig while harvesting grain."

Recently, a Tennessee woman took 20 bucks of her grocery money and bought books from Art's press; that pleased him. "When truth gains importance over what you put in your belly, the highest form of compliment has been paid."

His "compulsive" publishing has, he admits, at times given him too little time to properly finish each project. If

hard work were the only answer, he'd have no problem. Up at six, he often works in his studio until 10 at night.

"No doubt in my mind that it is my rural background that allows me to work long hours. I never had a concept of working eight to five. My father got up at three every morning and went to bed around eight or nine at night. Did this seven days a week. Never even took time out to go to church but twice a year. It took us four to six weeks to harvest the 2,000 acres of barley my father planted every year, with not one day off until harvest was done. In order to be closer to the work, we kids moved out to the farm to save the time it took to drive 13 miles from the home place."

That kind of devotion is what farming too often takes; the farming life can leave little room or money for other interests. Art insists he's "not political" -- that opinions about and solutions to the American farm crisis should come from the farmers, and despite his farm upbringing, he doesn't feel he's had enough experience to speak out except through his publishing.

But he does think we need fact-finding missions on the American farmer and rancher. Knowledge is the key to change. "The government has never had a plan for the farmer except for subsidy. After all, we're talking about cancer, not some paper cut."

"We dropped bombs on Japan, and they have come back strong with our help. Farmers have to be treated as if they have been in a war zone."

Linda Hasselstrom



Art Cuelho

A printing cornucopia



Some publications from Seven Buffaloes Press

"At times," Art Cuelho admits in classic understatement, "I feel I have founded too many things."

Art's periodicals include *Black Jack*, 1973 until 1984, and *Valley Grapevine*, 1978-1982, highlighting work from the San Joaquin valley.

In 1982 he began *Hard Row to Hoe*, which reviews regional books and magazines on rural America; he plans an Alaska issue soon. The *Hill and Holler* series began in 1983 and features work from the Southern Appalachian region. *The Bread and Butter Chronicles* is devoted to rural essays, articles and a special feature tribute called "Rural America Hall of Fame" honoring writers, poets, and artists. *The Azorean Express*, just expanded from eight to 32 pages, accepts more experimental work featuring rural poetry and poems with some non-rural work.

All the anthologies and periodicals are somewhat intertwined: #12 of *Black Jack* featured the Southern Appalachians, and its success led to his establishment of *Hill and Holler*, including *Step Around the Mountain*, *Harvest from the Hills*, and *Mountain Ways*. He plans #4 in the Appalachian series in 1987.

Almost all back issues of the periodicals are still available.

Apart from his anthology series, Art has published 26 books. Among those still available: *Lullabies From Cochiti*, *Song of the Rose and the Phoenix*, and *The Shadow of Wings* by Marine Robert Warden; and *Hokum*, *Visions of a Gringa* by Laurel Speer, all poems of the Southwest; *Vein of Words* and *Nostalgia for 70*, poems by Jim Wayne Miller; *Here's to High Heels*, poetry by Saskatchewan farm girl Patricia Elliott; *Hawk Flights: Visions of the West*, stories by Gerald Haslam.

From *Seedbed to Harvest*, a

collection of farm poetry featuring seven farming regions in the U.S. and Canada; volume two, *Breadbasket With the Blues*, including prose, was just published in October;

From the San Joaquin Valley: *Birthright* and *Sundown*, Richard Dokey, short stories; *Roustabout* and *Rig Nine* by William Rintoul, short stories; *The Fish Hook*, Wilma McDaniel, poems.

A new venture is the Pan Size series, 4-inch by 7-inch books published in editions of 200-300. "I can do one of them in two days, and I expect to have 10 of the little critters out soon," Cuelho says. Titles include Art's own *Gems of a Dog-Eared Soul*, *Reminders*, 19 Vietnam War poems by Frank A. Cross, Jr., *Sideswipes*, humorous short prose by Jim Wayne Miller and *At Play in the Lord's Fields* by Roxy Gordon.

Cuelho's own published work includes six books of poetry: *Evening Comes Slow to a Fieldhand*; *Say Shoshoni Winds*; *Death's Legacy*; *My Okie Rose*; *Gems of a Dog-Eared Soul*; *A Caged Bird in Spring*. His prose titles: *Road Ghost Lament*; *Fresno County Tales* and *Charley Buffalo Moon*.

Other of his books are *Faces of San Joaquin* and *Some Magic in the Blues*, poetry and prose, and *The Brothers Cuelho*, with paintings by Art and drawings by his brother Mike, whose pen name is Badger Stone.

For information and a booklist send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Seven Buffaloes Press, Box 249, Big Timber, MT 59011. If you like Art's vision, include a few dollars for stamps to help spread the word to others. After all, if people order \$15 or \$20 worth of books from him, he "throws in a few free copies of something."

--Linda Hasselstrom

Number Our Days

by

Jim Wayne Miller

I do not know how many future generations we can count on before the Lord returns.—Secretary of the Interior, James Watt

I

Today is Thursday, May 28, the 148th day of the year. There are 217 days left in the year—maybe.

Let not your heart be troubled. John 14:1

On this date in 1379 B.C. Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaton ordered the worship of a single god.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: We are but the instruments of heaven; our work is not design, but destiny. —Owen Meredith, Eng. poet.

II

Today is Friday, May 29, the 149th day of the year.

Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die. First Cor., 15:30

Thank God it's Friday. —Anon.
On this date, according to some historians, the Dark Ages ended.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Another life, if it were not better than this, would be less a promise than a threat. —J.P. Senn

III

Today is Saturday, May 30, the 150th day of the year.

The night cometh, when no man can work. John 9:4



IV

In 1969 astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth. Bulwer-Lytton, Eng. novelist.

Today is Sunday, May 31, the 151st day of the year.

Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Proverbs 27:1

In 1909 the first inventory of U.S. natural resources was submitted to President Theodore Roosevelt by the National Conservation Commission.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Flower in the crannied wall, I pluck you out of the crannies, I hold you here, root and all, in my hand.—Tennyson, Eng. poet

V

Today is Monday, June 1, the 152nd day of the year.

So the last error shall be worse than the first. Matt. 27:65

In politics, an absurdity is not a handicap.—Napoleon Bonaparte, French general-statesman.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: I have no parting sigh to give, so take my parting smile.—L.E. Landon, Eng. poet

Reprinted from Art Cuelho's *Rural American Archives* July 1986

When a man is about to commit suicide, you don't hand him an extra bullet or quote scripture to him. Give him a hand to hold; give him some hope. Keep his dignity alive."

He sees his own job as preservation. "I'm preserving heritage that each year becomes more memory as the small family farm is phased out of the American mainstream. It has become a rural trickle."

If he becomes known, he says it will be "because I give voice to someone who does not have one in American literature. I mean the American public knows only what is said about the farm program from the politicians. They represent the law side of the farmer; I represent the man in the fields, the one who sweats, struggles, sheds real tears, and who has hopes and dreams, not only for himself, but for his family. In a sense my rural press, those rural friendships, are my family."

Art says he knew he wanted to be a writer at 20. He left the family farm to spend 10 years on the road, traveling America in search of experiences to write about. Only later did he realize that what he felt most deeply about was the farming life; and he began to see similarities between farmers and other workers of America.

"Overall, I believe it was the best experience, as important as the farm to me, because it gave me further depth into the underbelly of American Society. You must be naked to see America's raw power, the wonder and shame of it." One of the people who inspired him is remembered in "Wendover" from his book *Say Shoshini Winds*:

And this one cat from Chicago
with a heavy beard
saw a broken line of poetry
nailed across my face,
and bought me a big helping
of roast beef and potatoes.

Now, perhaps remembering the people who helped him on the road, Art Cuelho sits in his garage studio in the broad Yellowstone Valley with the Crazy Mountains brooding overhead and the roar of the river reminding him how long it's been since he's been fishing. He's got two years' supply of wood in the backyard; outside town the hay is being harvested; winter's coming on, and he's a little anxious for summer work to be finished so he can get back to publishing.

On Montana's high, bare hills, bushes distance themselves from each other, so each can get enough sunlight and water. In the same way, Art is happy to be alone as a publisher and an artist, able to draw the inspiration

he needs from the countryside around him, and from eight fat address books linking him with the rest of the world.

Linda M. Hasselstrom operated Lane Johnny Press (later Independent

LETTERS

MORE ABOUT FONTENELLE DAM

Dear HCN,

Water in the West was a remarkable set of articles; I have never seen anything in book form to compare to these articles taken as a group. Water policy in the West has produced many projects that serve small groups of people, but actually have negative economic effects on our country as a whole. Too often environmentalists have overlooked the pivotal importance of water and thus must bear part of the blame for our water development disasters. Hopefully, your articles will help with this problem.

I found the article dealing with Fontenelle to be particularly interesting although the description of this unfortunate dam was incomplete. From the point of view of water supply Fontenelle is a failure, but from a recreational point of view it has been a remarkable success. It has produced a blue-ribbon, class one trout stream below the dam for 30 to 40 miles to Green River, Wyoming. The Bureau of Reclamation has made a major investment in improving the habitat in this river section by placing literally thousands of large boulders in this river channel. This section is very popular for both floating and camping and the lake at Fontenelle is attractive and produces spawning runs upstream into the Green and its tributaries. Fontenelle has become an important asset to southwestern Wyoming not because it provides water, but because it helps provide a more diverse life for the people of this area.

Fred Reimherr
Salt Lake City, Utah

GET A PICTURE BOOK

Dear HCN,

Regarding your article, "Canyon flights attract a comment blitz," and the Reporters Notebook in the Sept. 1, 1986 issue, I feel a need to add my comments. I have hiked from the North Rim to the river on the North Kaibab Trail every summer since 1983, and this summer I hiked from rim-to-rim-to-rim. The airplane noise is growing steadily worse. The argument that foreign visitors don't have the time for more than an overflight or that the elderly and handicapped or those lacking the desire or stamina for a hike can only fly over the canyon doesn't make much sense to me.

You can't experience the Grand Canyon from the rim or by flying over it. If that is all people have time for I suggest they get a picture book.

As for the argument that keeps popping up about hikers leaving trash, it is plain that people saying this have never hiked into the canyon. I'm impressed each time I go into the canyon by the lack of garbage and trash. Sure, an orange peel or a gum wrapper shows up here or there, but compared to a public campground it is spotless.

I expect there will have to be a compromise, but I hope we can regulate the number of flights so the average hiker in the canyon will not be flown over by more than one or two planes during the course of a day's hiking. The quiet would be so much more awesome -- just the sound of silence, soft breezes, the canyon wren, Bright Angel Creek, and good friends enjoying the grandest of canyons.

Mrs. Carma Sherman
Huntington, Utah

For the new writer

Called the 1984-1985 "Bible of the business," the 20th edition of *The International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses* lists over 4,000 markets for writers. It's the best resource for the beginning writer in search of a market for his or her work, and the 21st edition can be ordered from Dustbooks, P.O. Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969.

Besides its completeness, the directory is valuable because magazines and presses are listed in alphabetical order, as well as in indexes categorizing entries by state and by subject of primary interest. The subject index includes such categories as Adirondacks, drugs, Bob

Dylan, labor, outdoors, politics and weaving. There is no "rural" or "farming" category, but "agriculture," "labor" and "worker" are listed. Readers, in examining the magazines and presses listed under each category, can decide for themselves if Art Cuelho's particular emphasis on rural literature is unique.

I believe it is, and I surprise myself in saying so, because the interests of independent publishers are so broad. If other independent publishers are concentrating on the publication of writing from working rural dwellers, contact Art Cuelho; perhaps you can help each other.

--L.H.

14-High Country News -- December 8, 1986

ACCESS



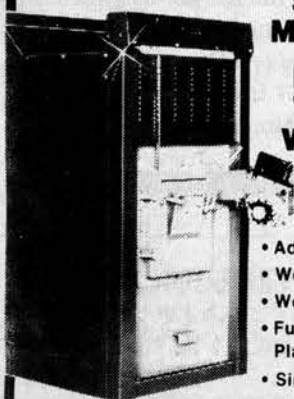
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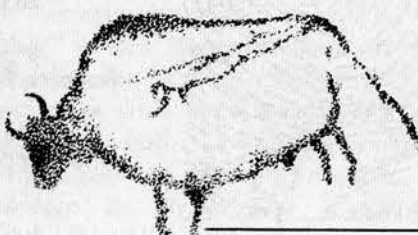
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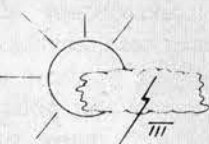
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WORK

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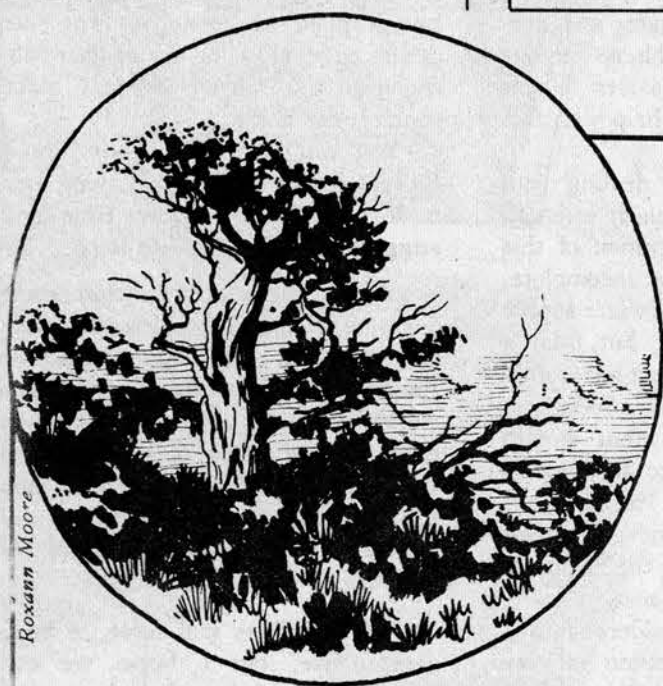
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And, if you do decide to include HIGH COUNTRY NEWS in your will, won't you let us know?



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HIGH COUNTRY NEWS t-shirts are white with black mountain goat design or red with white mountain goat. 100 percent cotton, small, medium and large (sorry, no large left in red.) Send your check for \$8.50 to HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

OFF THE WALL

Not with bangs or whimpers, but with luxuries

by Peter Shelton

The new *Early Winters* catalogue features an item so decadent it stuns the imagination.

"Perfect skipping stones. You don't drive in anything less than a Rolls Royce, so why don't you demand the best for your skipping stones? Our World Class Skipping Stones are laboratory designed and tested, and have our trademark 'dimple' in the center design... Can of 40." And so on.

Success has led cataloguing into ever more arcane realms, but this is the strongest single piece of evidence yet that Western civilization is collapsing on itself like a dwarf star. Get beyond the notion of disposable income for a second and imagine the premeditation involved in bringing your can of manufactured stones with you to the beach. And then, assuming the actual throwing is cathartic, you have to deal with the "scorecard" provided. Not to mention the confusion you cause among bottom-dwelling creatures who read *WORLD CLASS SKIPPING STONE U.S. PATENT PENDING* stamped on the side of what appears to be an oversized Alka-Seltzer.

The whole concept is antithetical to the ancient therapy of walking, preferably barefoot, along the water's edge, searching and occasionally finding a wild stone smooth enough to jump its magic across the water's surface. And what of the art of adjusting each throw to the vagaries of the rock and the thrill (and pleasure) of finding the rare perfect skimmer? All of which becomes just so much working class minutiae in the world according to *Early Winters*.

Well, if this is the direction we're headed, I've got a few indispensable offerings of my own.

World Class Watermelon Spitting Seeds. Why sully yourself with messy juices and unwanted calories next time your host suggests a round of distance spitting? Our aerodynamically superior, computer designed projectiles are teflon coated for perfect mouth feel. Official size and weight. What better way to spend a lazy summer afternoon?! Can of 80.

No. 57-CWCWSS...\$6.95

Stuck in the Sunbelt? Our *Can O'Fall* brings a touch of the seasons to any home. Remember the days when you had nothing better to do than scuffle through the crunchy leaves of fall?

Remember when your dad set the curb ablaze with piles of colorful burning leaves? Now relive



those happy memories with the Can O'Fall assortment. Hundreds of maple and/or sycamore and/or oak droppings naturally brighten any patio, rock garden or window sill. You can even rake 'em! (Rake not included.)

No. 395-COF...\$4.95 Save! 2 or more...\$4.50 each.

Bird Watching Video Glasses bring adventure home. Slept late? Rather be enjoying cocktails during evening songbird hours? The answer is here with our new Stereo Video Bird Watching Glasses. Any time -- at your convenience, not the birds' -- just sit back, flick on the program for your area (cassettes available for East, Midwest, West, Texas and Florida) and enjoy the thrill of stalking our elusive winged friends. Without moving a

muscle! Miniature speakers in frames let you listen to their calls in stereo!

No. 437-BWVG...\$99.95

Our finest *Executive Fallen Log*. You're tired of office rowing machines and jogging tracks on the roof. The answer is here with this entirely synthetic Fallen Log. Grippy Realbark texture means no need to take off the wingtips. Develops balance and coordination. Set it up between pieces of office furniture and live out that smoldering desire to be Little John knocking Robin Hood into the creek! Folds away in seconds. You and your secretary will love it!

No. 91-EFL...\$105.95

Now there's help for one of life's toughest problems. *Complete Snow Man Kit* has everything you need to make those design and construction decisions. Kit includes raisins, carrots, lumps of coal, even broken oak twigs and a fedora guaranteed to have belonged to somebody's grandfather! Complete instructions and plans for eight different Frosties.

No. 64-CCSMK...\$11.95

Electric Camp Fire saves time, frustration. You've had a long day, and the prospect of finding wood and getting it to light does not amuse. Instead, switch on our battery powered Electric Camp Fire and enjoy the warm glow within its ring of oh-so-real-looking acrylic rocks. Optional sound track crackles with delight. No smoke to blow in your eyes either! Sets up anywhere, outdoors or in. Try it on the floor of the Winnebago! Uses 84 AA batteries. (Batteries not included.)

No. 12-ECF...\$39.95 Fire tape No. 12-ft...\$9.95

The ultimate gift for today's man (or woman!) *Your Own Look-alike, Stand-in Double* does everything you always wanted to do! Pick up girls. Ski that double black diamond you've always been afraid to try. Now, you can watch as your very own stand-in double performs your wildest fantasies. And we'll tape every breathtaking moment so you can relive them on the VCR forever! The perfect gift for your busy lifestyle!

No. 69-YOLSD...\$15,995.

Who know, Next thing they'll be telling me somebody's making artificial snow! Where will it end?

□

Peter Shelton writes a column for the *San Miguel Journal*, a weekly newspaper that covers the resort town of Telluride and surrounding areas.

LETTERS

DAMAGED PUEBLO SITES

Dear HCN,

Jim Robbins' article on the looting of cultural resource sites in the Southwest is excellent. He overlooked some important, revealing details.

When the Anasazi abandoned the San Juan Basin country where Robbins' story focused, they sought moister, high country for new settlements. Many migrated to northern New Mexico and resettled in the Jemez Mountains and the Rio Grande Valley where their direct descendants today are the Pueblo and Zuni Indians. Today, all the Pueblo people once again live at lower elevations but their ancestors left what is probably the greatest concentration of archaeological sites in the United States in the high country of the Jemez Mountains.

The lawsuit brought against the Forest Service's Region III by the state of New Mexico and a coalition of public interest groups gained momentum as a result of Forest Service abuse of cultural resource sites in the Jemez

Mountains. Here, hundreds of archaeological sites were destroyed by "site preparation" work done prior to replanting of clearcut areas. The Forest Service routinely bulldozed major Pueblo ruins. The lawsuit Robbins mentions eventually included the 13 forests in Region III when similar abuses were found beyond the Jemez.

In the Jemez Mountains, Forest Service efforts to "protect" cultural resource sites involve painting broad stripes on trees surrounding the remains. Needless to say, this measure advertises the sites to pothunters while logging contractors are allowed to thoroughly disrupt the surrounding area. And the painted areas are the result of inadequate, hasty archaeological surveys done prior to timber sales, according to archaeologists who have worked within the program. The Forest Service has turned out to be the main enemy of cultural resources and contemporary Indian religious sites in northern New Mexico.

Thomas Ribe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

STILL AN OPTIMIST

Dear HCN,

Sorry to intrude upon your columns once again, but I would like to correct a few errors in the account of my remarks at the Telluride "Ideas Festival." About growth, I said that "growth is the enemy of progress." (Figure that out for yourselves.) I said, furthermore, that "every normal, healthy organism -- plant or animal, human or otherwise -- grows to a certain optimum size (not "space," a meaningless notion) and then, having reached maturity, stops growing physically."

As to reason and common sense, I believe in both. What I said at Telluride was that, judging from human history so far, I have little hope that reason and common sense will be applied in our attempts to resolve our ever-growing problems. (One more example of the self-contradicting nature of "healthy growth.") What will probably happen, I said, is that nature will solve our troubles for us in the traditional manner: through plague, famine, civil war, earthquake,

flood and climatic changes. Since we humans choose to breed and multiply like rabbits, mule deer, fruit flies or bacteria in a culture dish, we must expect to enjoy a similar fate -- over and over again, as in the past.

Nothing to regret here, it's simply one aspect of the grand pageant of life. I merely wish to insist that we must stop pretending that we are somehow different from or in some fashion superior to the other animals on this planet.

Did I really say that "an ice age would be nice?" Actually I'm in favor of expanding desertification. I'd like to see North America become a dry, sunny, sandy region inhabited mainly by lizards, buzzards, and a modest human population -- about 25 million would be plenty -- of pastoralists and prospectors (prospecting for truth), who gather once a year in the ruins of ancient, mysterious cities for great ceremonies of music, art, dance, poetry, joy, faith and renewal. That's my dream of the American future. Like most such dreams, it will probably come true. That is why I'm still an optimist.

Edward Abbey
Moab, Utah

16-High Country News -- December 8, 1986

LETTERS

THICKER THAN SHALE

Dear HCN,

Your hotline (HCN, 10/13/86) report on Unocal's oil shale operation missed two critical points: The plant will be closed when federal subsidies run out unless world oil prices have risen dramatically; a \$25 per barrel import tax on oil would be welcomed by Unocal.

Unocal wants more than \$900 million in tax subsidy: \$400 million of price supports at \$42.50 per barrel and \$500 million at \$62.50 per barrel. If that same \$900 million were invested in energy conservation and efficiency improvements, it would produce far more energy at far less cost, both in dollars and environmental destruction. For instance, actual practice shows that for each \$100,000 invested in building weatherization, the energy equivalent to 170,000 barrels of crude oil is saved. If the \$900 million were used in this kind of energy production, the energy saved over 10 years would be 1,530,000,000 barrels of crude oil equivalent at a cost of 60 cents a barrel! That's about 42 times Unocal's production at 1/87th of Unocal's average subsidized price, assuming the plant actually operated at total capacity. A large assumption indeed.

Additionally, Unocal's operation uses vast amounts of high quality natural gas, electrical, and crude oil derived energy to create a low grade tar-like kerogen, which takes more energy to become syncrude for refining. To believe that this process is an energy gain for the nation is to believe that Ronald Reagan has spent the last six years "balancing the budget." As my rancher neighbor says, "The only thing thicker than the shale beds around here is all the bullshit about the shale beds put out by the oil companies."

Chester McQueary
Parachute, Colorado

SUING TO DESTROY RIVERS

Dear HCN,

Have you ever walked along the banks of a Flathead Reservation river in August and noticed the tiny pebble bulges glued to dried rocks exposed by low water?

These are cases made by caddis fly larvae earlier in the summer when the stream flows were normal. These tiny insects, which are vitally important to the biology of the stream, were trusting in a biological promise that the streams would maintain enough water to protect and feed them through their larval stage.

But now, in the early fall, that promise has been broken and millions of the beneficial insects lie dead in the tombstones they had unwittingly made for themselves. Dead also from the low water are countless stoneflies and mayflies and fish that have been displaced or stressed by the low water.

It wasn't the river that broke the promise to these creatures. It was a time-dishonored practice of diverting and pumping too much water from the rivers and short-sighted manipulation of their banks and beds.

Recently, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council has sought to end this wasteful carnage and depletion of one of the most valuable resources on the reservation.

A year ago, the tribes were successful in establishing a minimum flow level for all reservation streams. Minimum flow means exactly what it sounds like: the very least amount of water a stream can carry without damaging the aquatic life in the river.

This August, however, the Joint Board of Control of the Flathead Irrigation Project began legal proceedings to lift minimum flow regulations.

The board wants a federal court to reduce the already summer-depleted flow of the Jocko River by one-third on the premise, one has to guess, that any water used to sustain stream fisheries is water wasted.

Richard Eggert



Jocko River

As anybody who makes a living from the land, as the members of the Joint Board presumably do, ought to know, you can't destroy one resource to enhance another. Nature just doesn't work that way.

Stable, vital rivers such as the Jocko are as important to the farmers who earn their living on their banks as they are to the creatures that live in them.

When the integrity of a river is abused, it reacts by destructive flooding. When you steal water from it, its relationship to groundwater and springs is upset. In either case, productive lands are eroded or left dry and barren.

Anybody who has walked along the banks of the Jocko between Arlee and Ravalli can easily see the result of these forces in action. Much of the river has braided and rechanneled around bulldozed levies and gouged-out diversions. Abandoned old channels and flood-scarped banks stand out like scars while sediment consisting of what used to be productive topsoil chokes new channels.

These conditions not only rob trout of habitat and spawning grounds but also cost farmers acres of productive land.

The Flathead Irrigation Project Joint Board of Control and its farmer-irrigator constituents should be supporting reasonable instream flow regulations instead of spending scarce money on a legal battle that they will lose no matter how the court rules.

Richard Eggert
Dixon, Montana

A freelance writer, Richard Eggert also teaches at the Salish Kootenai College.

A FLEXIBLE ACT

Dear HCN,

While your September 15 articles on the grizzly bear and the wolf were of considerable interest, both contained a similar misconception concerning the Endangered Species Act.

First, in the grizzly bear article, author Jim Robbins states, "The Endangered Species Act... 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."

Next, in the wolf article, George

Wuerthner quotes Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Associate Director Ron Marcoux as saying, "We're having problems with the grizzly where you basically can't kill the animal no matter where it goes."

Both of these statements are clearly wrong. While it's correct that *private citizens* cannot kill threatened or endangered species (with the possible exception of specially designated "experimental" populations), listed species can be killed by authorized government agents when they threaten livestock or other human property.

More to the point, listed species have routinely been killed, when necessary, since the Endangered Species Act was passed. In Minnesota, for instance, an average of 20-30 wolves are killed each year in response to livestock depredations. The philosophy of the program is to minimize both the number of livestock depredations and the number of wolves killed. It's been a successful program on both counts; livestock losses to wolves are less than 1 percent of all animals grazed. In an average year, less than 5 cows and 13 sheep are lost to wolves for every 10,000 animals grazed.

The killing of grizzly bears has been even more liberal. Control actions typically result in the deaths of several grizzly bears each year (both in northwestern Montana and Yellowstone); these are typically in response to livestock depredations or bears threatening humans. Perhaps even more striking, hunters have killed at least 112 grizzlies since the species was first listed in 1975.

In sum, the Endangered Species Act is an extremely flexible piece of legislation that attempts to balance a need for controlling individual problem animals with a national policy of recovering endangered species. While the demand from the livestock industry for unrestrained killing of large, endangered predators like the grizzly and wolf may be understandable, it was precisely such an unmoderated approach that placed these animals on the endangered species list in the first place. For such animals to survive and recover, we must be willing to make some concessions.

Hank Fischer
Missoula, Montana

The writer is Northern Rockies representative for the national organization, Defenders of Wildlife.

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