

High Country News

Feb. 2, 1987

Vol. 19, No. 2

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

Douglas, Arizona, smelter closes

The West cleans up its act

by Ed Marston

“Smelter and 350 jobs murdered by Green Bigots,” read the story in the mining journal *Paydirt*, announcing the closure of the 80-year-old Phelps Dodge smelter at Douglas, Ariz.

The sentence, which editor Bill Epler suggested should be engraved on a tombstone in front of the closed smelter, was basically correct: 350 employees are out of work, an historic facility is dead, and the town of Douglas must find a new focus for its economic identity.

The media coverage of the Jan. 15 closing was more restrained than *Paydirt*'s, but the approach was the same. Dick Kamp, a southern Arizona activist who spent six years fighting Phelps Dodge, said he went into Jan. 15 knowing “I’d have to go through the dead baby issue with the media. I knew they’d say: ‘Here’s an environmentalist who’s celebrating the loss of all those jobs.’ Even MacNeil-Lehrer counted the dead bodies.”

Kamp and other southern Arizonans who had worked to have the smelter clean or closed did celebrate on Jan. 15; they went to victory parties wearing large buttons that read Green Bigot.

Within the environmental community, at least, the people who forced the closing of the Douglas smelter were heroes. Douglas put out 300,000 tons a year of sulfur dioxide. That’s noticeable even on a U.S.-wide scale -- it is over 1 percent of the nation’s total emissions. And it is very, very large in the lightly industrialized West, where most electric power plants both burn low-sulfur coal and have scrubbers.

Moreover, the closing of Douglas was part of a larger picture. Douglas is on the U.S.-Mexican border. Just 56 miles south, at Nacozari, a Mexican smelter is being brought on line. If Nacozari were to operate as originally intended, it would put another 500,000 tons of SO₂ into the air. Nearby in Mexico is a third uncontrolled smelter -- Cananea. It puts out 125,000 tons a year.

Between them, the three smelters would have emitted almost 1 million tons of SO₂ a year, equal to 4 percent of U.S. emissions. The SO₂ would have devastated the people and vegetation in and near this smelter triangle. And tall stacks would have lofted much of the SO₂ high into the atmosphere. Studies show a significant amount would have fallen out as acid deposition on Wyoming’s spectacular Wind River Mountains. The

smelters were a threat to the unbuffered granitic lakes of the Wind River Range.

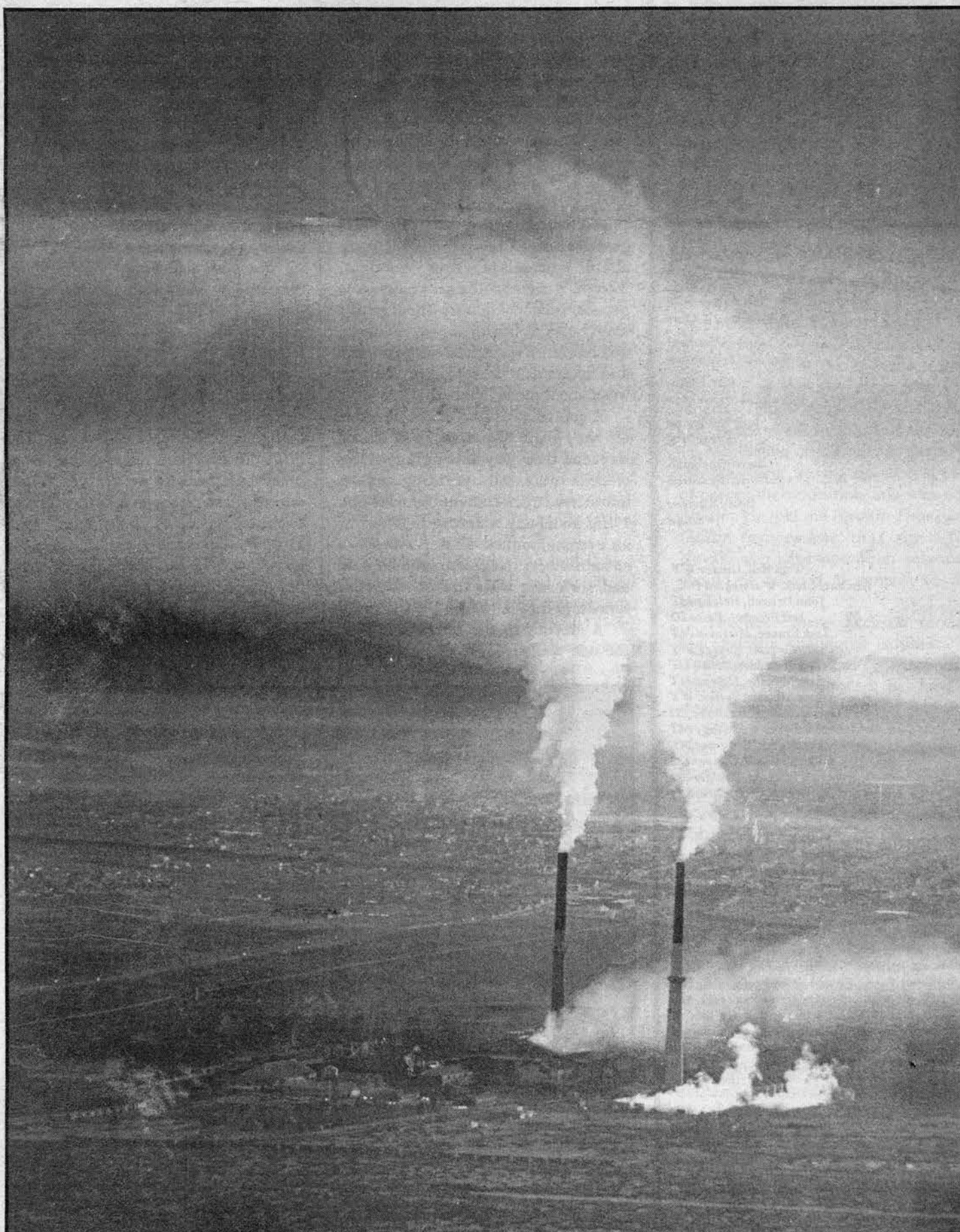
Until recently, that scenario of high local levels of SO₂ and damage to the Winds seemed inevitable. But a series of last-minute legal and political breakthroughs by those fighting the SO₂ led to the death, or murder, of the Douglas smelter on Jan. 15.

More broadly, an agreement between Mexico and the U.S.

guarantees that almost all smelters within 100 kilometers of the border will remove 90 percent of their SO₂. Even prior to the high-level signing of this agreement on Jan. 29, 1987, Mexico had begun adding an acid plant to the Nacozari smelter to remove 90 percent of the SO₂. Nacozari will operate for a year without controls, but should be in compliance in 1988, emitting no more than 50,000 tons of SO₂ annually.

Excepted from the agreement is the 90-year-old smelter at Cananea. It will continue to emit 125,000 tons a year until its natural end, expected within a few years. The smelter triangle, then, will emit 175,000 tons a year, later dropping to 50,000 tons, instead of the 1 million tons expected until recently. Moreover, the entire copper industry in the Southwest has

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Dear friends,



High Country News

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS (ISSN/0191/5657) is published biweekly, except for one issue during July and one issue during January, by the High Country News Foundation, 124 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado 81428. Second-class postage paid at Paonia, Colorado.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

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Articles appearing in *High Country News* are indexed in *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, Environmental Studies Institute, 2074 Alameda Padre Serra, Santa Barbara, California 93103.

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Subscriptions are \$20 per year for individuals, \$28 per year for institutions. Single copies \$1.00 plus \$1.25 postage and handling.

We're grateful to Mardy Murie of Moose, Wyo., for giving us permission to use a drawing by her late husband, the naturalist Olaus Murie. You can see his work in the Research Fund thank-you on page 14. She tells us it was used in her husband's book *Wapiti Wilderness*, a classic that was issued in paperback last year by the University of Colorado Press. To our surprise, she also tells us that Olaus Murie never had a drawing lesson -- just encouragement from an eighth grade teacher.

If you'd like to see more of Mary Back's wonderful drawings that illustrated the Index in the Jan. 19 *HCN*, just pick up her book *Seven Half-Miles from Home*, published by Johnson Books. We featured the book in a centerspread last year.

We heard from former *HCN* intern Jeff Marti, who always sends a few bucks "to buy the current intern a beer... As a former slave I can sympathize." Jeff notes that since his twin brother became engaged this fall it got him thinking seriously about mortality "and the idea that at age 23 maybe I should start dating." He also says he visited Denver for Christmas and although he couldn't visit us here in Paonia, "I got to drink your water."

After spending time with cetaceans in the Pacific and weavers in Vermont, and after wearing out an assortment of backpacks, cardboard boxes and address books, new intern Becky Rumsey is happily sitting at her *HCN* desk surrounded by newspapers. Becky is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

A Colorado native, she says she's glad to be back in the Rockies to learn about journalism. She wonders, though, if her desk doesn't have some peculiar frictional quality about it: She says bulletin board news, hotlines, and reference materials seem to stick and accumulate faster than she can write about them.

A quorum plus one of the directors of the High Country Foundation threaded their way through corridors of clear roads and operating airports into storm-struck Denver-Boulder Jan. 17 for an all-day meeting followed by an evening potluck dinner with 60 or so subscribers. Napoleon should have had such luck with the snow on his foray into Russia.

A meeting of the board that runs the non-profit *HCN* is difficult in the

best of weather; directors must come together from California, Washington, D. C., Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Colorado. But a heavy snow storm a day before the meeting complicated the situation immeasurably.

Fortunately, the up to four feet of snow on Denver's Front Range Thursday and Friday did not halt the meeting. Stapleton Airport, which can close in a drizzle, stayed open, allowing Herman Warsh and Jeff Fereday to fly in from California and Idaho, respectively. Bill Hedden from Castle Valley, Utah, outside of Moab, had a skiddy trip to Paonia, but from there he and the staff had clear driving on Interstate 70 until the Denver foothills.

The Wyoming board members -- Tom Bell, Sally Gordon and Kate Missett -- were blessed with a high pressure center and clear roads into Boulder. Front Rangers Robert Wigington and Garrett Ray had only short distances to travel.

The board meeting itself was almost celebratory. The Research Fund in 1986 brought in \$80,000, up substantially from 1985's \$60,000, which in turn was up from 1984's \$35,000. Grants totalled \$32,000 and subscriptions brought in \$98,000. Interest, t-shirt sales and the like brought total income to \$218,000. That compares with a 1985 income of \$184,000, a 1984 income of \$121,000 and a 1983 income of \$100,000.

Expenditures were also up in 1986. The most satisfying increases were in payments to freelance writers and photographers: They have jumped 2.5 times in three years. Staff and hourly salaries also rose in 1986, and working for *HCN* is now a middle-class activity. There is no retirement plan at the paper (except for Social Security), but all the staff and most of the hourly employees have paid health insurance.

The other major "fringe" is a leased 1986 red Ford Tempo. Staff had been putting 20,000 miles a year on personal cars for *HCN*, turning relatively new clunkers into old clunkers in the space of months. The *HCN* Tempo (indistinguishable from other cars because we are yet to get one of those plastic-magnetic signs to stick to the door) has logged over 12,000 miles since June 11, 1986. It takes 300 miles a month just to haul the paper to and from the printer.

Despite increased expenditures, *HCN* was in the black for the third year in a row. The first year in the



Becky Rumsey

black was seen as a fluke, and the second as pure luck. Now that the paper has spent a third year in the black, the board decided it was time to take another step in the conversion of a still thin operation into something more substantial. The goal of the 1987 budget is to make coverage of all parts of the region more consistent, buy adequate equipment, and provide for adequate operating capital. To do that, the \$270,000 budget calls for the following:

- The formation of up to six "micro bureaus" in *HCN*'s territory. The bureaus will be run (on a very part-time basis) by freelancers who will be paid a modest monthly stipend to talk to staff regularly about issues, to suggest stories and to ensure that their state is adequately covered. The names and telephone numbers of the bureau people will be published in the paper, providing an in-state contact for people who have thoughts on what *HCN* should be covering.

- Produce another series of special issues, along the lines of the four water issues published this fall.

- Buy a push-button telephone system for the Paonia office, with hold buttons and an intercom so staff no longer has to run from room to room to take calls.

- Buy fireproof safes and file cabinets to allow *HCN* to survive a fire. Present "fireproofing" consists of keeping backup subscriber discs at home. The fireproof files and safe will protect the paper's invaluable photo file and the more important records.

- Mail up to 100,000 samples or letters seeking new subscribers. That number will allow *HCN* to replace the 30 to 35 percent of our readers who do not renew each year (that's a very low rate of non-renewing) and to grow by 200 or so beyond the present 5,400 level.

A speculative line in the budget appropriates up to \$20,000 to buy computers to do the paper's typesetting and circulation. At present, *HCN* trades out for typesetters and darkroom equipment. We run subscriber labels for two papers in town and they let us use their typesetters, darkroom and process camera.

Their labels and ours are run out on our 1980-vintage Radio Shack Model II computer -- the only equipment *HCN* owns. The board believes it is time for *HCN* to purchase its own typesetting equipment. It has instructed staff to monitor the evolution of desktop publishing, and to purchase equipment when the typographic quality and cost make it

(Continued on page 13)



At the *HCN* board meeting, from left: Betsy Marston, Garrett Ray, Robert Wigington, Jeff Fereday, Sally

Gordon, Kate Missett, Bill Hedden, Herman Warsh, Tom Bell, Judy Moffatt.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Paul Natanson/bab



A huge Navajo rug behind him, Peter MacDonald speaks at his inauguration

An old pol takes back the reins of the Navajo nation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. -- Amid Indian-style pomp and ceremony that included Navajo gospel songs and medicine-man blessings, Peter MacDonald returned to head the Navajo Nation for an unprecedented fourth term Jan. 13.

Taking his oath of office under a stark blue sky, MacDonald pledged to take the 200,000-member tribe from poverty to the prosperity that "begins across the reservation line."

"Traditional Navajo values do not include poverty," MacDonald told the crowd of 15,000 and a stage full of state, federal and energy officials. "Yet, we still live with housing and health care standards from the last century. We produce more power than any other American community; still thousands of our homes are without electricity," he said.

Surrounding the elaborately decorated rodeo grounds that are usually reserved for bull-riding and steer-wrestling, sat the mundane reminders of everyday Navajo life: abandoned buildings, dilapidated mobile homes and mud-bogged roads.

Beneath the arid 16-million-acre reservation is where Navajo wealth lies, MacDonald said, pledging to further tap the billions of tons of coal, uranium and oil. "The Navajo Nation is one of America's last economic frontiers. It is time we shared in the bounty of America," MacDonald said during a spirited, bilingual Navajo and English speech.

MacDonald arrived in a white stretch limousine that stopped at a waiting red carpet. He then led a procession of dignitaries and celebrities past wide-eyed school children, parents and grandparents wrapped in blankets; television cameras recorded the scene.

As he began his fourth inaugural address, MacDonald told his people he accepted a return to the chairmanship "with a humble heart and a soaring spirit." The 57-year-old businessman led the country's largest Indian tribe from 1970 until 1982 when he was soundly defeated by Peterson Zah. But this November, MacDonald squeaked by Zah with less than 800 out of 62,000 votes cast. MacDonald stressed unity after the bitterly divided contest.

Promising to find a "whole new arsenal of economic tools," MacDonald said the Department of Defense will be his first target for large-scale industry. "Defense is where the money is going in this country, so it only makes sense to try and capture some of that for the Navajo Nation," said MacDonald, whose Navajo birth-name translates: "he who clasps hands with strength."

MacDonald said his biggest challenge would be curbing the tribe's 40 percent unemployment rate. The reservation's largest employers are the federal and tribal governments, followed closely by three energy companies: Peabody Coal, Utah International and Pittsburgh and Midway Co.

Of the estimated 150,000 Navajos living on the three-state reservation covering parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, about 40,000 are employed on or near the Indian nation. Many Navajos are forced to become "migrant workers," MacDonald said, leaving their families to take jobs in nearby cities. Half of the tribe is under age 18, and at current birth rates, the tribe will double in size in 26 years.

Streamlining tribal red tape for business-site leases and providing investors a package of incentives top

the chairman's list for "a new beginning."

Flanked by his wife, Wanda, his youngest daughters, Faith, Hope and Charity, and a grandson who napped during his speech, MacDonald also called upon America to assist college-bound Navajo students and Native American veterans.

"Every year more than 2,000 Navajo youth graduate from high school, yet only three in 10 can afford college. This is a national disgrace," he said, pledging to triple tribal scholarship funds.

A former Marine who served as a "Navajo Code Talker" during World War II, delivering radio messages in Navajo, a code the Japanese never cracked, MacDonald also said more veteran benefits for Indians are needed. The chairman also promised to find better health care and housing for the 16,000 Navajo veterans.

Another group MacDonald vowed to assist are the estimated 10,000 Navajos forced to relocate under the 1974 Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act. The federal law split 1.8 million acres of disputed land in northeastern Arizona between the Navajo and Hopi tribes. (HCN, 5/12/86).

Though MacDonald promised repeatedly during his campaign to try to repeal the federal relocation legislation, in an interview a few days after taking his oath of office, he labeled repeal impractical.

"Since I left office in 1982 the relocation has essentially been completed. My concern now is for those 6,000 Navajos I call refugees. They have moved, but they have not received their full benefits. While many have received homes, electricity, running water and other benefits, a great majority have not. We have to

make the federal government live up to its end of the bargain so these people can have a full life and economic self-sufficiency."

Later, MacDonald told local newspapers he would continue to support repeal of the relocation law. Referring to the interview with this reporter, MacDonald said: "I don't know where these quotes came from."

MacDonald modified his denial a few days later, saying an amendment of part of the relocation law was now his aim. He told the *Navajo Times* and *Gallup Independent* that the 1,000 Navajo who have not been relocated should be allowed to remain on the land.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson termed MacDonald's inaugural address "a challenge to America." "America's conscience is measured by how it treats its native people," he said.

Jackson had flown to Window Rock from Phoenix with Arizona's new governor, Evan Mecham, in hopes of changing the new governor's decision to rescind the state's observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He did not succeed.

At MacDonald's inaugural ball, all talk of politics, poverty and other problems ceased. Resembling a Navajo prom, formal dresses of sequins, rhinestones and gold lame blended with cowboy boots, turquoise jewelry and traditional dress. The new chairman had traded his red coral necklace for a red bowtie. Slow moving country songs, old '50s rock 'n roll and an occasional waltz filled the air. About the only Navajo decor at this festivity was a bowl of pinon nuts.

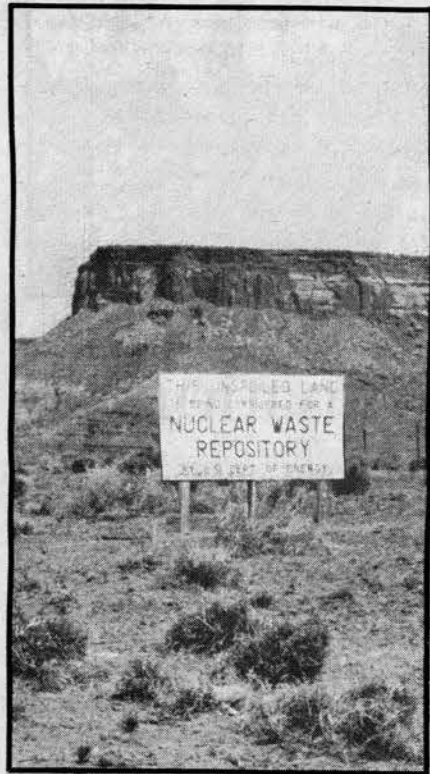
"It was," one Navajo remarked of the ceremonious day, "Peter MacDonald's style every step of the way."

--Patricia Guthrie

HOTLINE

Une menace
au Gran Canyon

The controversy over mining uranium on land adjacent to the Grand Canyon continues to build with the newest mine planned 300 feet from the park boundary. The site where Pathfinders, Inc., a company with ties to the French government, has filed a notice of intent to drill two test holes is along the Toroweap Cliffs, which are clearly visible from within the park. Until now, the company almost exclusively associated with development near the canyon has been Energy Fuels Nuclear of Denver, Colo. Pathfinders owns thousands of claims on public land north of the canyon and has been exploring those claims at a steady rate since the early 1980s. According to Rob Roudabush of the Bureau of Land Management, the agency in charge of public land near the canyon, Pathfinders was scheduled to begin drilling at the Toroweap location in January. He said the firm will know soon whether the deposit is rich enough to justify mining.



Proposed high-level nuclear waste site near Canyonlands National Park

Canyonlands
expansion is dead

Newly elected Salt Lake City Democrat Rep. Wayne Owens is meeting stiff opposition to his plan to enlarge Utah's Canyonlands National Park to prevent the siting of a nuclear waste repository there. Owens' plan would add potential waste sites Davis and Lavender canyons to the park, expanding it by 350,000 acres and, he says, extending its logical boundaries to the canyon rims. Some local officials and Rep. Howard Nielson, R, whose district includes the park, say they are angry because Owens did not consult them, and they add that enlarging the park is unnecessary since the Department of Energy dropped Utah from its list of three finalists. San Juan County Commissioner Calvin Black told the *Deseret News* that Owens' proposal was economically unwise since "every acre that we tie up that can't be explored for natural resources means millions of dollars lost in potential revenues for the state." Owens admits that the planned bill would have almost no hope of passing Congress, especially since the home district representative opposes it, but says the state should continue to oppose the high-level nuclear dump, even if only symbolically.

Jackson Hole News



Farmers and elk lock horns in Idaho

The Bureau of Land Management has made a preliminary decision to grant two Idaho counties right-of-way to build the controversial Egin-Hamer road. There is a condition: that county commissioners agree to, and enforce, a four-month winter closure.

Idaho BLM Director Delmar Vail announced his decision Jan. 5, and it will appear as a new "preferred alternative" in the final environmental impact statement on the road proposal, which is due early February.

The proposed 8.8-mile farm-to-market road has been the center of a bitter struggle between local farmers and hunting and environmental groups. The road would bisect prime winter range crucial to the survival of more than 2,000 head of elk. In fall the elk migrate to the district in southeastern Idaho, called the Sands Habitat Management Area, from Wyoming, Montana and northern Idaho, along with deer, antelope, moose and other species. In 1985 the BLM designated most of the Sands Habitat an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to highlight its importance to wintering wildlife, as well as its unique geologic and plant resources. The ACEC designation also prevents road building.

Vail's decision to grant a right-of-way through the ACEC came as no surprise to those concerned about the issue. Last summer it became public knowledge that high ranking officials in Idaho were pressuring the Interior Department in support of the road. Then Idaho Lt. Gov. David Leroy, who was also a candidate for governor, lobbied for the road in Washington, D.C. Leroy was narrowly defeated by Cecil Andrus.

But the decision to close the road in winter marks a moderation of the BLM's preferred alternative of last summer. That decision was to monitor the road's impact on elk and only close it if adverse effects could be demonstrated.

The new decision is acceptable to the Idaho Fish and Game Department, which manages elk herds in the Sands Habitat. Herb Pollard, the Fish and Game regional manager, says if no traffic is allowed when the elk are present "the impact would be as if there were no road." But Pollard also notes that the set closure dates are not flexible enough to protect the elk when winter conditions speed up or delay migration patterns.

Environmentalists, hunters and the Shoshone-Bannock tribes have attacked the decision as both inadequate protection for elk and a betrayal of the 1983 public planning process. The process resulted in a resource management plan giving near-wilderness designation and

special wildlife habitat consideration to the Sands Habitat.

Arnold Appenay, the Shoshone-Bannock tribal chairman, says one look at a map shows how "honey-combed" this country is with roads. Appenay says a new road would violate their treaty rights granting tribal members hunting privileges on the Sands elk herds, rights Appenay says his people still use for subsistence. "It's a resource we have to take a stand to protect," Appenay says, even if the tribe ultimately has to go to court.

Randall Morris, chair of the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, says the road duplicates paved and gravel roads. He says another possible route for the farm-to-market road -- the county line road -- starts and ends in exactly the same locations as the proposed Egin-Hamer route. But it drops to the south, skirting the ACEC, and is less than a mile longer.

Morris says the "short-cut to market" theme justifying the road proposal might be a smokescreen to cover up intentions to open up the Sands refuge to "potato homesteads" for agri-business.

Vail disagrees. He says the Sands Habitat will retain its ACEC designation because of its crucial importance to the elk herds and will be enlarged by another 10,000 acres through new amendments to the resource management plan. Moreover, Vail says poor soil conditions and lack of available water prevent new homesteading.

Another major criticism of the BLM plan is that few believe a road closure can protect the elk, especially during light winters like this one. "Leaving enforcement of the road closure to the counties is like allowing the foxes to guard the henhouse," Morris says. He points out that county officials were the ones who circumvented the local BLM manager's decision not to grant the right-of-way by pulling strings in the Idaho statehouse and that one county has already illegally upgraded three miles of the route.

For many local farmers and ranchers, the issue has become one of protecting their right to use land in their area as they see fit, rather than watch it be managed for out-of-state hunters and the national environmental community. Jeff Siddoway, who runs the Siddoway Sheep Company, says the road won't have much impact on elk numbers and only a little effect on their movements.

Siddoway has lived all his life close to the elk herds and comes into contact with the animals on a daily basis when working with his sheep. "We think we can co-habitate and get along just

fine," he says. Forty years ago Siddoway's grandfather helped to re-introduce the elk into the area, and according to game manager Pollard, the best and most-used forage areas are on Siddoway's land, leading Siddoway to call the herds a "family heirloom."

But his other inheritance is his land, which he intends to protect. Calling himself a "hard-core multi-use advocate," he has threatened to withdraw 35,000 acres of his land from a cooperative program between ranchers and Idaho Fish and Game if environmentalists or the tribes sue to stop the road approval. Last summer, Siddoway threatened to build a fence across his lands to interrupt the elk migration unless the road was built.

"I guess the fence says (to the environmental community): See how you like it when the land goes to one use and one use only," says Siddoway. And he says he will make good on his threats even if it lands him in court. Siddoway says that damaging the herds would be like throwing out a family heirloom, but that "you gotta make a stand somewhere."

The consensus is that the dispute will go to court. At least two environmental groups, the Committee for Idaho's High Desert and the Idaho Natural Resources Legal Foundation, have indicated they will join the Shoshone-Bannock tribes in an appeal of the final decision if the right-of-way is granted.

Before Vail issues his record of decision there will be a 30-day comment period on the soon-to-be-released final impact statement, with the chance for more negotiating.

--Steve Hinchman

BARBS

Making it official.

If a draft policy is approved, the Bureau of Land Management will drop a phrase that says the BLM encourages mineral development in an "environmentally sound" way. The new policy will make the agency an advocate for mineral development -- period.

Is the West too full of myths, legends and imaginary heroes to make room for the real thing?

Six of the 12 states that declined to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday are located in the West. Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and New Mexico all ignored the holiday, and Arizona's new Gov. Evan Mecham rescinded the state law recognizing the civil rights leader a week before the event.

New powerline could electrocute salmon

The Northwest's energy surplus is the latest battleground in the decades-long trench warfare between salmon and steelhead advocates and the Bonneville Power Administration. In separate actions, the state of Idaho and the National Wildlife Federation have gone to court against BPA's decision to increase its electric transmission capacity to California by 1100 megawatts. Two Indian tribes and several Idaho recreation businesses have also joined the challenge.

The impetus is BPA's August finding that its "Terminal Expansion Project" will have no significant environmental impact, and thus requires no environmental impact statement. A construction contract for the project to upgrade BPA's DC (direct current) intertie between the Dalles, Oregon, and Los Angeles was signed 14 months ago. Idaho has asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to prohibit any construction until an EIS is done.

BPA is the 3300-person federal agency that markets electricity to over 140 utility and industrial customers in the Northwest. Last year, it sold some 92 billion kilowatt-hours -- nearly 90 percent of it from federal dams on the Columbia and Snake river systems -- for over \$1.6 billion. Regional economic woes and past overbuilding have created a Northwest electricity surplus of some 2200 average megawatts. The agency has tried to market that surplus out-of-region. Last year 18 percent of its sales were to California.

The surplus is projected to last a decade or more, so BPA wants to further expand out-of-region sales. It has reached an agreement in principle with Southern California Edison for a 20-year power sale and energy exchange, and plans to increase its transmission capability to California and the Southwest from 5200 to 8000 megawatts. The 1100-megawatt Terminal Expansion Project is one part of that plan. The 1100 megawatts are the equivalent of three relatively large coal-fired plants or one large nuclear plant.

But the 1100 megawatts will be generated by dams, so the increased power sales may threaten fish. "By squeezing the maximum amount of power out of Snake and Columbia river flows for power sales to California, it is very likely that Idaho's wild fish runs will suffer," Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones said in announcing the lawsuit. River flows not used for hydroelectric generation could instead spill ocean-bound salmon and steelhead smolts over or around dams. The more water is used for electricity, the more fish are killed passing through turbines or stalled in sluggish reservoirs during their 30-day migration period in the spring.

Fish advocates have two major objections to BPA's finding of "no significant impact" from the intertie upgrade. The agency wedded two computer models to conclude the project would impact fish survival less than one percent. "But the fish model they used doesn't reflect the real world," says Rob Lothrop of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). "At least five key assumptions in it aren't based in fact." Two of the Indian tribes CRITFC represents, the Umatillas and the Warm Springs, have joined the lawsuit on Idaho's behalf.

The second objection concerns the big picture. BPA is separating this intertie upgrade from the overall surplus power sales program of which it is part, says Idaho Deputy Attorney General Will Whelan. "That's not legal."

But BPA contends the expansion is a construction project independent of the line's use once constructed. And it is moving to build the DC upgrade now, before environmental analysis of the overall intertie expansion is complete. Idaho's suit contends that kind of piecemealing violates the National Environmental Policy Act.

BPA is under heavy financial pressure. The agency faces a budget crunch caused by declining sales, WPPSS nuclear plant costs, a huge staff held over from the boom days of past decades, and the Reagan administration's insistence that BPA accelerate payment on its debt to the U.S. Treasury. BPA is now proposing an 11 percent rate increase for its Northwest customers, and it could be higher if out-of-region sales can't be increased.

CRITFC's Lothrop says the lawsuit is important "because it focuses on a growing problem -- substantial differences between BPA and fish interests over the needs of fish migrating downstream from the upper Columbia Basin. BPA is opposing the water regimes those fish need, and they are unwilling to sit down and talk about it." Jones says Idaho tried to negotiate a settlement with BPA before filing the suit "but they stonewalled us."

The Circuit Court has not scheduled a hearing, but it will likely consolidate the Idaho and NWF suits. The Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, the Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce, two outfitting businesses, and Northwest fish expert Ed Chaney have also intervened to join the suit.

Whatever the court outcome, there may be political consequences. Attorney General Jones, who was

reelected in November, has been very active in salmon and steelhead seasons and quotas. That has usually put him at loggerheads with the downstream fishing tribes represented by CRITFC (HCN, 10/13/86). This case is Jones' first entry into conflicts over hydro system management. Here Idaho and the tribes will be allies against the energy interests led by BPA.

Jones is a Republican. Idaho's top Republicans, Sens. Jim McClure and Steve Symms, are stalwart BPA defenders who do not care much about fish. If Jones continues to challenge BPA, he may find himself contesting the leaders of his party.

But the more basic issue is an old one. Jim Jones versus BPA is the newest phrasing of the old contest: fish versus energy. BPA is the symbol of energy's traditional dominance of that equation. In principle, there is no necessary conflict between out-of-region power sales and fish flows. It is, as Ed Chaney titled his fine study of Northwest salmon and steelhead, "a question of balance." In high-water years, regional energy needs, out-of-region contracts, and necessary fish flows can probably all be satisfied. In low-water years, which 1987 may be, choices must be made. For fish advocates, law, justice and common sense require that fish and regional energy needs share first place. It has yet to work that way.

"All available evidence, experience and logic suggest that the upriver salmon and steelhead runs cannot be preserved without substantially more instream flow protection than presently exists," Chaney says. "Until that exists, we are at risk of Bonneville executing contracts and making investments that will be used politically and legally to thwart that protection. If Bonneville would simply constrain its out-of-region commitments to fish needs, we could have both. Idaho's legal action is a step toward joining that issue."

--Pat Ford

A flap in southern Utah

It may be a tempest in a teapot, or it may mean Utah conservationist Clive Kincaid has to move his unfinished stone house out of a wilderness study area.

The flap began when the Bureau of Land Management requested an official survey of the Steep Creek Wilderness Study Area, which is near the Burr Trail, six miles from Boulder. There had never been an "official" survey, says Tom Hansen, a BLM recreation planner, and the agency was glad to have one done of the area. What the survey revealed, he says, is that Kincaid's house is not only on BLM land, it is also within a wilderness study area. Under interim management protection that is illegal. The BLM sent Kincaid a notice of trespass Dec. 19.

Kincaid, the outspoken director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, says on Jan. 20 he mailed a 15-page "dissertation" to the BLM spelling out agency mistakes on the survey. Kincaid says he has never had a survey done of his land, which is part of a 280-acre homestead completely surrounded by BLM land, but he used a BLM inventory map from 1979-80 and the original survey posts of the homestead.

Although some of his land might actually be public land, Kincaid says none is near the wilderness study area boundary, high up on a bluff. "The state (BLM) director will have an apology to make," he says. "The BLM has gotten over-zealous."

Kincaid says it is common in Utah for ranchers to find out their home or pasture is actually on public land. "The remedy is simple: to buy, lease or trade to clear it up."

BLM policy in Utah is for the agency to do an environmental assessment on any interim management violations in wilderness study areas. That study begins this week and will include a 30-day public review and comment period, says Hansen.

--Betsy Marston

BARBS

It will especially benefit those of us who have lost the will to live.

Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, director of the Strategic Defense Initiative in Colorado Springs, said that SDI "is a new solution that will benefit all of mankind."

HOTLINE



Bruce Babbitt

Babbitt declares

Last month former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt became the first Democrat to file with the Federal Election Committee as a 1988 presidential candidate. Babbitt, who appointed San Francisco lawyer Duane Garrett and former Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Jean Westwood to co-chair the Babbitt for President Committee, said he would formally announce his candidacy in March. Other presidential hopefuls, including former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., and Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., have formed exploratory committees and are recruiting staffers to run their campaigns. The Babbitt campaign, which will be headquartered in Phoenix, has raised \$40,000 so far and hopes to reach \$3.5 million before the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary in February 1988.

A push against pot

The Agriculture Department has stepped up its war on drugs. The recently passed anti-drug abuse law earmarks \$20 million and spells out harsher penalties for marijuana growers caught using public lands. George Dunlop, an assistant secretary in the Department of Agriculture, said the problem has become so serious that the Forest Service has had to place nearly 1 million acres under "constrained management." That means rangers avoid pot farms where growers will use deadly force to protect their crop. The Forest Service says northern California and southern Oregon in the West, and parts of southern Illinois and the Ozark Mountains have the most growers. New penalties for those convicted of growing marijuana on federal lands are a maximum of 10 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

The chief retires

Forest Service Chief Max Peterson, 59, announced he will retire Feb. 2, ending 37 years with the federal agency. His replacement is associate deputy chief George Leonard, 46, who had been forest supervisor for the Mt. Hood and Siuslaw national forests in Oregon. Peterson's tenure as chief was often stormy, with conservationists attacking his emphasis on below-cost timber sales and road-building, which led to legal challenges from national environmental groups.

HOTLINE



Seeking the tourist

The new National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum plans to open its doors in Leadville, Colo., this summer. The Hall of Fame board says it shopped for a site in Butte, Mont., Lead, S.D., and Colorado Springs, but settled on 10,000-foot-high Leadville because of its enthusiastic community support. For Leadville, attracting the museum was part of an effort to draw tourists and ease its depressed economy, largely caused by layoffs at AMAX, Inc.'s molybdenum mines. The National Mining Hall of Fame will include a library and conference center; its creation is the brainchild of Doug Watrous, a lead and silver mine owner in Idaho Springs, Colo. Although Butte lost out on the competition, it is establishing itself in the mining-tourism business with its World Museum of Mining, Montana Tech's museum, and the forthcoming Butte-Anaconda Historical Park.

BARBS

It is possible to do a promotion in good taste.

Continental Airline executives announced the start of a two-for-one ticket promotion from a 15-foot-long podium constructed of \$5 million in \$1, \$5 and \$100 wads of bills.

The space age threatens a biological ark

Seventy miles northeast of Tucson, Ariz., the spruce-covered slopes of 11,000-foot Mt. Graham and its companion peaks rise high above a sea of desert.

Cut off from any similar habitat for perhaps as long as 11,000 years, this alpine island serves as a natural ark for a number of species that exist only on its slopes. Some, such as the Mt. Graham red squirrel, have already been recommended for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The mountain is also home to a population of rare spotted owls and is known as some of the best black-bear habitat in the Southwest. According to Paul Hirt of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon chapter, the unique characteristics of this mountain are just becoming known. "We've just scratched the surface," he says. "This is not an ordinary mountain."

At its meeting last month, the Arizona Game and Fish Department joined a long list of environmental organizations to urge protection for Mt. Graham from development. It is on Mt. Graham that the Steward Observatory of the University of Arizona in Tucson proposed a major astrophysical research center. The Observatory says the center would include some of the world's largest new telescopes, including the proposed NNIT, a 600-inch optical/infrared giant that would be capable of exploring the frontiers of space. According to Steward's assistant director, Lauray Yule, "Mt. Graham is one of the last great sites still available for astrophysical observation."

Environmentalists counter that there are other sites available, such as Hawaii's Mauna Kea, which are also being studied as a possible home for the new telescopes.

The Coronado National Forest, which administers the mountain, has issued a draft environmental impact statement embracing limited development. Their middle-of-the-road proposal has succeeded in satisfying no

David Bremner



Mt. Graham

one. The Observatory says limited development would not allow them to construct the huge instruments necessary to attract financial support for the project. Their position has received the support of the Arizona congressional delegation, which would like to see the new observatory located in their home state.

On the other side, Mark Jecker, a spokesman for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, says his agency objects to the Forest Service compromise because, "there's no way to put a development on top of that mountain without harming the unique

values it has to offer." According to Jecker the controversy boils down to "whether we would rather build another area from which to explore space or save an area that has an awful lot to teach us about our own planet."

The Coronado National Forest expects to make a final decision on the future of Mt. Graham sometime this summer. They are still accepting comments, although the official deadline is past. Write Coronado National Forest, R.B. Tippeconnic, Supervisor, 300 W. Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701.

--Dan Dagget

Miner wants to road the River of No Return Wilderness

Idaho miner James Collord's proposal to build 23 miles of road into the River of No Return Wilderness has some conservationists determined to fight. Collord is seeking patent for his Golden Bear gold claims so that he may begin mining, and he also hopes to increase production of the currently operating Yellow Gem opal mine. Both mines are in headwater drainages of the Middle Fork Salmon River.

"Collord's proposals cannot be allowed," says Rick Johnson, public lands director for the Idaho Conservation League. Building the roads will have a huge impact on water quality and anadromous fish production, and will jeopardize the wild and scenic river recommendation for Big Creek."

Joe Tague, an environmental coordinator on the Payette National Forest, says that Collord's mining proposals do not conflict with the 1964 Wilderness Act. "Mining is allowed on valid claims in the wilderness," Tague says.

According to a Forest Service draft mineral report prepared for use by the Bureau of Land Management, the Golden Bear claims will most likely be mined by tunnelling along a quartz vein, hauling ore to a millsite for crushing, and then recovering the gold by gravity separation.

The millsite would be located either within the wilderness beside Big Creek, or in a town two miles outside the wilderness boundary. The mine would have a lifespan of from 10 to 30 years. Access to the mine would require reconstruction of 9.5 miles of a road along Big Creek, which has been closed to public traffic since 1980, when the wilderness was established. New construction of 1.5 miles of road climbing a steep canyon side is also proposed. All 11 miles of the planned road lie within the wilderness.

"By God, it's inappropriate," says Tom Robinson, intermountain region representative for the Wilderness Society. "The public is outraged by below-cost timber sales and overgrazing, but those don't hold a candle to the hardrock mining giveaway. This issue in the River of No Return area shows us how bad the mining law is."

The Idaho Conservation League and The Wilderness Society have each filed a protest of Collord's patent with the BLM. This action is intended to assure conservationists a voice in future decisions concerning the Golden Bear claims. The draft mineral report proposed that the BLM deny Collord's patent on the basis that "...the applicant would sustain a \$2.8 million loss if he only mined the high-grade ore."

"That's as ridiculous a statement as I've ever heard," Collord says. "I've been in the mining business for 60 years and I know I've got a valuable prospect. We'll fight for the patent as far as we need to, even to the Supreme Court. We want fair treatment."

If the final report echos the draft, the BLM will contest the validity of Collord's claims and allow Collord to respond at a hearing. If the hearing results are contested, the Interior Board of Land Appeals then rules on the matter. The recourse of an aggrieved party there is to the federal courts. A final mineral report is expected by BLM within a month, and will not be made public unless the patent is granted, according to Trudi Olson, public affairs officer for the Idaho State BLM office.

The Yellow Gem opal mine is patented and has been working for over 20 years by prospector Wilbur Wiles. Now in his seventies, he backpacks into the wilderness each summer to work his mine with a jackhammer, pick and shovel. In years past Wiles has packed out a three-pound coffee can full of opals worth \$3,400 on the wholesale market.

"We want to open pit mine it," says Collord, a partner in the Yellow Gem Mine since 1980. Collord asked

the Forest Service for road access to the Yellow Gem mine in a Special Use Permit application Dec. 6, 1987. "It won't be the most sightly thing in the world, but it's about the only way we can get the opal." Collord and Wiles now hope to build 12 miles of "jeep road" along Monumental and Mud creeks to bring heavy equipment to the mine. "All the opal up there could fit into a single pickup truck load," Collord said. He estimated the value of that land at \$12 to \$15 million.

An environmental impact statement will be begun soon by the Forest Service to consider access to the Yellow Gem Mine. While access must be granted to a valid mining claim, the Wilderness Act also stipulates that access must be by "means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated." Whether there are any other currently operating, similarly situated mines within any wilderness area is uncertain.

But the following from Forest Service regulations concerning wilderness mining is clear: "Where alternatives exist, wilderness values shall be dominant over all other considerations in reaching management decisions."

--Mike Medberry

A new town riseth north of Yellowstone

GARDINER, Mont. -- The rural, sparsely settled Paradise Valley just north of Yellowstone Park is aptly named. Snow-shrouded mountains reflect off the meandering Yellowstone River. The valley is fertile ranch country and important, too, as wildlife habitat.

But there's trouble brewing in Paradise these days. At least according to some residents. They fear the slow-paced, land-centered way of life is being disrupted by the creation of world headquarters for the Church Universal and Triumphant, whose acronym is CUT. It is a well-to-do religious cult now moving its headquarters and as many as 1,000 people from Calabasas, a town near Malibu in southern California, to Paradise Valley.

Officials of Yellowstone Park say church developments on the park boundary pose a serious threat to the park's wildness. Among other things, they worry that church projects could disrupt Yellowstone's world-famous geysers.

On the mind of many area residents is the experience of Antelope, Ore., a rural town that was taken over by disciples of Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and renamed Rajneeshpuram.

Church Universal's plan for its holy city includes building a church, school cafeteria, homes, a poultry processing factory and modular housing for employees. Most of the development would be located about 10 miles from Gardiner, a town of about 500 perched on the park's northern boundary.

"Our concern is suddenly the presence of large numbers of people and the attendant development right on the boundary of Yellowstone National Park," said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Robert Barbee. "This is looming on the horizon as a very real, major threat to the park."

However, Ed Francis, vice president of CUT and fourth husband of church leader Elizabeth Clare Prophet, said that the aesthetics and rural nature of the valley attracted the church. "We're not trying to change the character of the area," Francis said during an interview in a rustic cabin that serves as offices for the church and CUT's Royal Teton Ranch. The ranch includes a cattle herd, sheep and a large vegetable garden. "We're trying to keep the character of the area."

But Hank Rate, 55, a land surveyor whose property is adjacent to church land, disagrees. "We've seen monstrous holes dug in the ground, and the creek banks stripped for gravel" on church property, said Rate, who has lived on the Yellowstone River since the 1960s.

Rate said that there has been so much dirt moved that on windy days clouds of dust billow hundreds of feet into the sky and blow across the road. And large trucks have been carting modular housing into the property on a daily basis. "Changes in the land are very troubling to one who came to live with the land," Rate said. "They want our beauty but they want it on their terms. They want to make our country over with the amenities of urban living."

The Church Universal and Triumphant was founded in the late 1950s by Elizabeth Prophet and her

then husband, Mark L. Prophet, in Washington, D.C. Mark Prophet died in 1973. In 1976 his widow, known to followers as Guru Ma, moved CUT to an estate near Malibu, Calif., which they named Camelot. In 1981, the church bought a 12,000-acre ranch owned by Malcolm Forbes in the Paradise Valley for \$7 million. Since then they have purchased a number of other properties in the area, bringing the total to around 30,000 acres.

Guru Ma, who still lives in California, claims to be able to ascend to a Christ consciousness, and then return with "dictations" for the faithful. The church also studies the wisdom from the "Ascended Masters," which includes, among others, St. Germain, an 18th century French alchemist, as well as Jesus Christ.

For the most part church members do not appear much different than other residents of the valley. Francis, for example, was dressed in faded blue jeans, a blue flannel shirt and royal blue farm-hand hat.

A number of ex-members and critics of the church claim CUT practices mind-control techniques similar to other cults. One church member left CUT and sued, winning a \$1.5 million judgment against the church, for claims that he had been victimized by the church leaders. Ex-member Anne Trowbridge, who left CUT with her husband Donald in 1983 and now lives in the Bay area, said the church is politically right-wing and survival-oriented. She claims CUT maintains large caches of weapons and gold. During her 10 years as a member, she said, people were controlled through a regimen of fasting, frequent enemas, long, exhaustive days and hypnotic chanting -- called decrees. "People are treated like dirt," she said.

Francis said such claims are preposterous. "Disaffected believers are being convinced by attorneys looking for big damages to claim that they were being brainwashed," Francis said. "And I just think it's a bunch of baloney. Nobody -- short of physical restraint -- can be brainwashed just by reading books and being exposed to ideas."

This fall, the church began the placement of 24 modular homes for 160 employees on the shore of the Yellowstone River, but were stopped by Park County officials. They said CUT had not complied with local subdivision laws. County review was ruled out, however, because the church made changes to qualify the development as a "work camp" instead of a subdivision.

Church critics believe such a distinction is only a technicality. "I've heard of loopholes big enough to drive

a truck through," said Richard Parks, an official in the Fisherman and Floaters Outfitting Association of Montana, and an opponent of the development. "This is the first one I've seen big enough to drive a town through."

Several critics also claim the church has been building what is a major development on their Paradise Valley land in a piecemeal way, in hopes of escaping governmental review. Some locals fear the church may someday have more than 1,000 people at its holy city; they point to a CUT festival on the property two years ago that they claim attracted 5,000.

In late November, after several environmental groups, the Forest Service, Park Service and local citizens became involved in the issue, the state Water Quality Bureau ordered the church to prepare an environmental impact statement on the development.

Among the most serious concerns of Yellowstone National Park officials is the geothermal development that has gotten underway. "They're drilling hot wells -- tapping the thermal resources of that area, which is just a few miles from Norris geyser basins," Yellowstone Superintendent Barbee said. "Just a very few miles from Mammoth Geyser Basin. They (the geysers) are what Yellowstone is all about. We've got a real concern."

Francis said, however, that the area that has been drilled was studied by a geologist before any drilling was undertaken. "It will not impact the park," he maintains. The hot water will be used for heating church buildings.

Those opposing development are also worried about church projects underway that surround an important bighorn sheep wintering and lambing area along the Yellowstone River. "Those bighorn are like a grape in a vise," Parks said. "It's a critical area."

And Barbee said he had concerns about how development would affect grizzly bears, deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope, which all frequent the area. Because the area receives little snow it's especially critical as winter range for Yellowstone's ungulates. Environmentalists are also concerned that sewage from the church's septic systems for 1,000 people, as well as a poultry processing factory, may find its way into the river.

In spite of the opposition to their project, Ed Francis said the church feels at home in the Paradise Valley. "Most of the people I know in the Paradise Valley are friendly and warm and make good neighbors," he said. "There's always going to be a few people who make noise."

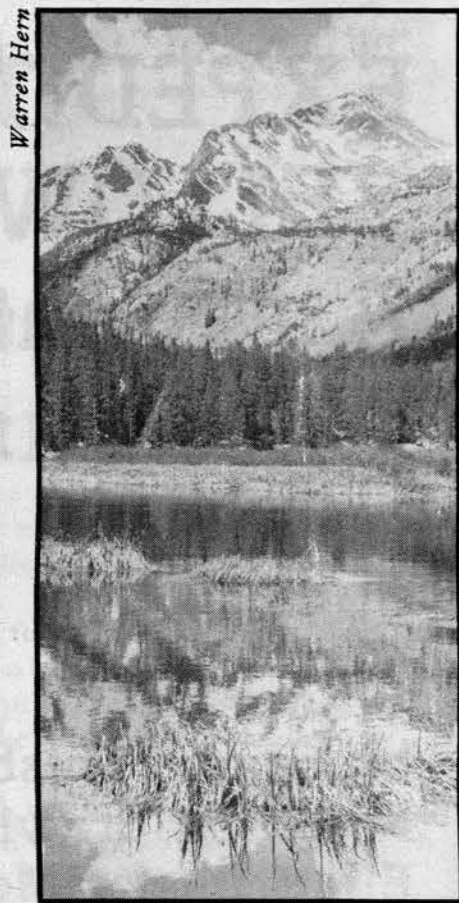
--Jim Robbins

A signal to Colorado

The Colorado Division of Wildlife received some surprising opinions from sportsmen in a recent market-research poll. Although 90 percent of hunters and 80 percent of fishermen rated their Colorado experiences favorably, one out of five hunters expected to hunt less in the future. Of the two sports, the study concluded that only fishing has future growth potential, as four out of 10 said they would fish more often over the next 10 years. Because hunting provides 75 percent of the DOW's revenue, the agency says it may need to consider

new ways to pay for managing wildlife. Many of the 1,400 resident and non-resident sportspeople polled assumed that state taxes helped pay for wildlife management. Agency funding, however, comes from either the sale of licenses to hunt and fish or from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. The poll also found that fishermen want to catch fish but not necessarily keep them; the bigger the fish the better, and hunters noted that crowding marred their experience. In general, all rated Colorado highly for its natural beauty.

HOTLINE



Holy Cross Wilderness

Water project advances

A recent Colorado Supreme Court case has moved forward the development of the Homestake II water diversion project in the Holy Cross Wilderness. The court upheld a water court decision granting water rights to Colorado Springs and Aurora, the cities seeking to build a controversial \$142 million project transferring water from the Western Slope to the two Front Range cities. In a related action, the environmental group, Holy Cross Wilderness Defense Fund, called a \$750,000 impact report issued by the two cities a cover-up and a whitewash. The report concluded that diverting water from the wilderness would have no effect on high-mountain wetlands. Defense Fund Chairman Warren Hern, however, charged that water levels could drop as much as two feet, endangering rare plants, if water is piped out of the wilderness.



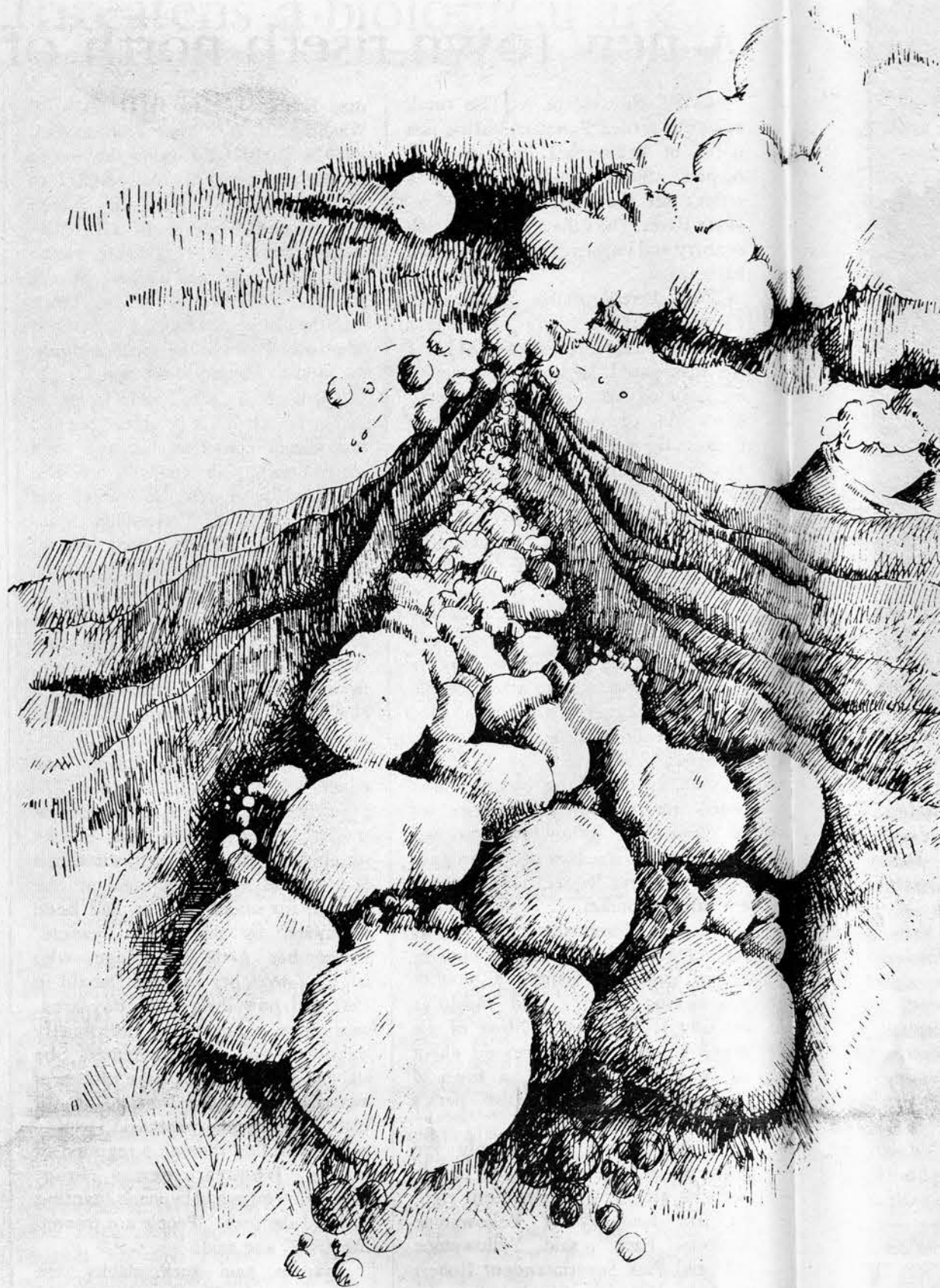
Corn in the desert

According to the new newspaper, the *Stinking Desert Gazette*, the town of Moab, Utah, is rapidly becoming the mattressing capital of the world. Nearby canyons are filling up with two-man race teams hoisting their feather-filled loads, and local entrepreneurs are offering cut-rate tours of the "most scenic dump." The monthly also refers to Arches National Park as the largest collection of naturally occurring erections, and sprinkles its pages with generic underwear ads. The *Stinking Desert Gazette* is edited and published by Robert Dudek of Moab, who hopes that broad humor will keep people reading. But in addition to news items about vegetation abused by local tree-huggers, the *Gazette* regularly features interviews with old-timers, local poetry and cartoons and real ads. The publication is \$9 for 12 issues from the *Stinking Desert Gazette*, Box F, Moab, UT 84532.

8-High Country News -- February 2, 1987

EXPEDITION YELLOWSTONE: A Mountain Adventure

a book
by Sandra Chisholm
Robinson, drawings by
Ellen Ditzler Meloy



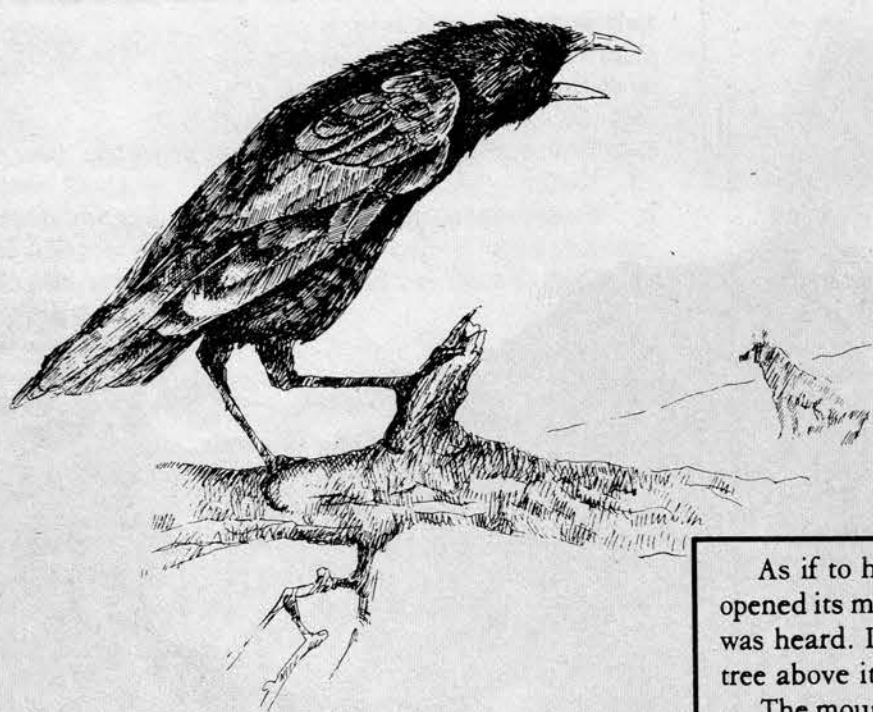
Suddenly the ground begins to shake beneath his feet. He hears a great roaring sound in the distance. The mountain man looks up. A once quiet mountain is exploding. Flames and rock melted to a fiery brilliance are spewed from the volcano's vent. Rock bombs and ash are thrown far and wide. Magma flows down the mountain side.

Josh escapes to the safety of dreamless sleep. But the rocks of the Dream Cave remember.

Through the ten million years that the mountain man sleeps, two mountain chains of volcanoes separated by a wide valley erupt and rest time and time again. They fill the Yellowstone region to the mountain tops with debris.

Over time, wind, rain, snow, ice, and gravity wear away at the land. The country becomes a gently rolling plateau drained by slow, wandering streams. In places, volcanic peaks still dominate the scene.

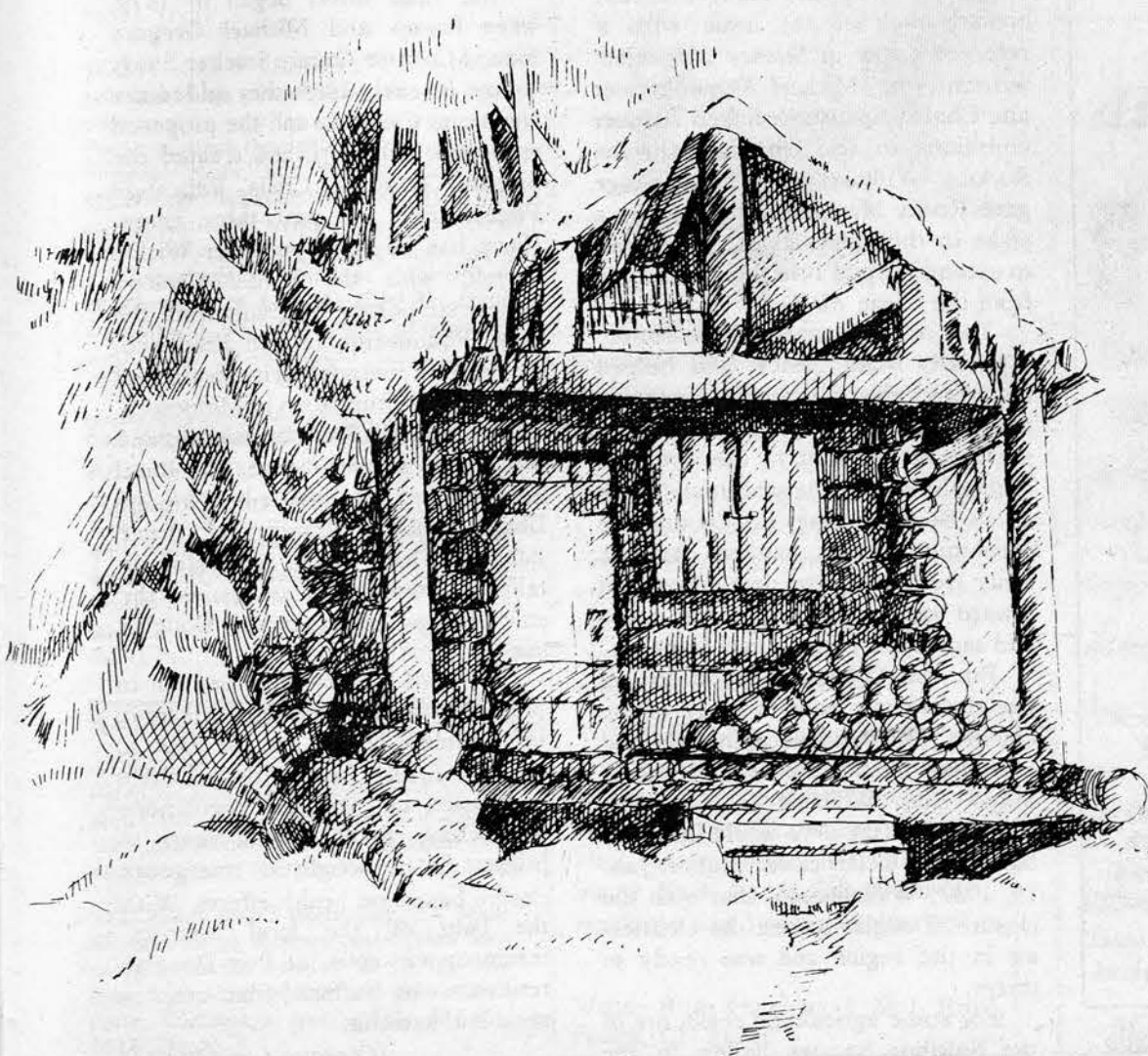
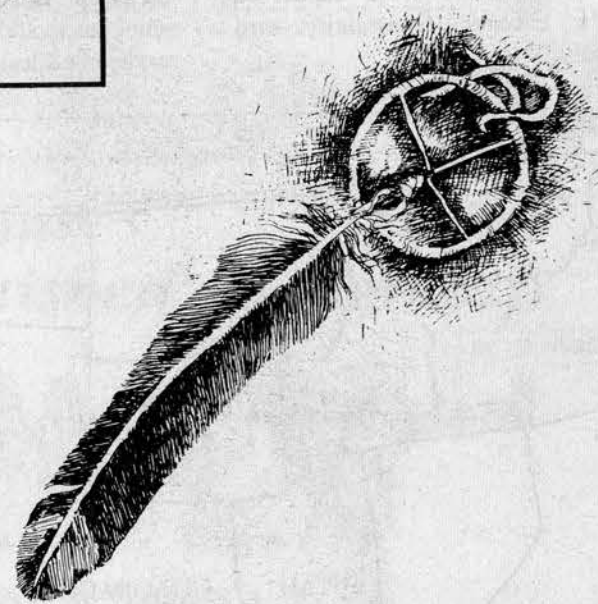
Yet, buried beneath all the debris are trees -- trees that over millions of years will turn to stone. One day mountain men will discover these marvelous rock-trees, uncovered by the forces of erosion, and will tell tall tales of the "petrified forests of Yallerstone with petrified birds singin' petrified songs in petrified trees."



As if to howl, the coyote pointed its nose to the sky and opened its mouth. Its sharp, white teeth flashed, but no sound was heard. It was as if it spoke quietly to something in the tree above it.

The mountain man edged slowly forward. On a low branch of the tree he made out the shape of a large bird. He crept two more steps and then stopped in surprise. Perched just above the nose of the coyote was Raven. The two creatures appeared to be talking to each other.

Joshua knew that coyotes and ravens frequently kept company. In winter coyotes scanned the sky for signs of the large, black birds. Ravens meant food. The birds themselves were not eaten, but the rotting carcasses that they spotted from their outlook in the sky were. Meeting at the carrion, the dogs and birds ate together -- the ravens eagerly snatching the morsels that the coyotes dropped. In addition, the ravens acted as sentinels. When danger approached, they warned the feeding coyotes with their raucous "caw, caw." In summer, the ravens followed the coyotes and gleaned the scraps that the dogs left behind in their hunting of rabbits, voles, and grasshoppers.



Expedition Yellowstone: A Mountain Adventure is a children's story about an aging mountain man who roamed the Yellowstone Plateau in the 1870s. Through his eyes, his dreams, and from the mountain men and Indians he meets, we learn about the rich history of the area -- its age of dinosaurs, volcanic eruptions, the founding of Yellowstone National Park -- and about its wildlife and lore. The book was developed as part of an environmental education program at Yellowstone National Park and published this summer by Roberts Rinehart Inc., P.O. Box 3161, Boulder, CO 80303. Illustrations are by Ellen Ditzler Meloy; copyright 1986 by the Yellowstone Association. Text excerpts are copyright 1986 by Sandra Chisholm Robinson.

Smelters...

(continued from page 1)

cleaned up by building modern smelters that can be controlled. Old smelters like Douglas, that were uneconomic to convert, were closed.

And while *Paydirt* holds the environmentalists responsible for killing Douglas, the environmentalists claim credit for saving the copper industry. They say that if they had not confronted the industry with the necessity to clean up or shut down, industry would have drifted along with aging, low productivity plants. In the end, they suggest, those plants would have been closed by foreign competition, just as happened in the steel industry. By modernizing, they say, the copper industry has ended up with 70 percent of the capacity it had early in the decade. But the new smelters are capable of competing with foreign smelters.

Without doubt, *Paydirt* would put a different interpretation on the cleanup. What is true is that the regional threat to Rocky Mountain lakes has been removed. That removal has been hailed as the biggest environmental victory since the stoppage of Kaiparowits powerplant in southern Utah.

The fight over the Douglas smelter involved titans: Phelps Dodge, the U.S. and Mexican federal governments, states on both sides of the border. But in the end, the struggle depended on a few people:

Robert Yuhnke -- an attorney-scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, Colo.

Richard Kamp -- founder of the Border Ecology Project, and the person who helped change the southern Arizona political situation.

Robert Wick -- owner of a chain of 37 newspapers, including several in southern Arizona. Wick supported Kamp's efforts financially and editorially.

Del Owens



Storm clouds over Mitchell Peak, the Temple Peaks and War Bonnet in the Wind River Range.

John Barlow -- a Wyoming rancher and head of the Wyoming Outdoor Council. He saw the threat the smelters represented to the Wind River Mountains and helped rally Wyoming against them.

Richard Cheney -- the Wyoming Republican congressman. He saw acid rain as both a threat to Wyoming's lakes and as an opportunity to sell low-sulfur Wyoming coal. Cheney helped block the copper industry's attempt to extend the shut-down deadline beyond 1988.

The list of helpful figures should be much longer. For example, Yuhnke says the United Steelworkers Union saw the importance of forcing the copper industry to modernize, and so did not use its Washington, D.C., clout to block the 1988 Clean Air Act cleanup deadline. (The copper smelters should have been cleaned up, under the Clean Air Act, in the 1970s,

but the copper-state senators had obtained an extension to 1988, and pushed in the 1980s for a further extension to 1992.)

There were plenty of villains, the smelter's opponents say. Phelps Dodge, of course, and its senatorial allies -- Arizona Sen. Dennis DeConcini and New Mexico's Peter Domenici. The EPA, Yuhnke says, illegally suspended Arizona's clean air regulations, which would have shut down the smelter earlier. Wyoming Sens. Allen Simpson and Malcolm Wallop ignored the acid rain threat to Wyoming and gave the smelter states' senators free rein in the Senate. Colorado Sen. Gary Hart was chameleon-like on the issue, Yuhnke says.

At the center of the smelter control effort was Yuhnke. John Barlow of the Wyoming Outdoor Council hails him as "the hero" of the effort. "He tied us all together."

Yuhnke did more than lobby, litigate and network. He turned scientist and in 1983 made the first breakthrough on the issue with a refereed paper in *Science* magazine, written with Michael Oppenheimer and Chales Epstein. It linked smelter emissions to acid deposition in the Rockies. Yuhnke said that linkage gave Rocky Mountain congressmen a stake in the copper industry's efforts to extend beyond 1988 their immunity from the Clean Air Act.

The *Science* paper got attention, especially from Cheney, and helped block the industry's cleanup extension option. At that point, Yuhnke said, the activists could turn to the smelters themselves. Local organizations such as the Border Ecology Project and the economic trend in southern Arizona away from extractive industries and toward retirement, high-value crops and recreation became important.

But the 15,000-population city of Douglas wasn't ready to let go of the smelter. The business community and town dads fought hard for the smelter. Mayor Ben Williams Jr. said this summer that the town would be badly hurt if the smelter closed. But on Jan. 15, 1987, Williams said that with the closure, Douglas gained the cleanest air in the region and was ready to thrive.

For some agricultural residents of the Sulphur Springs Valley to the

north and for descendants of copper workers abused by Phelps Dodge, Kamp said, the closure may represent long overdue revenge. The hard feelings go way back. In 1917, at the instigation of Phelps Dodge, the Bisbee Deportation occurred. About 1,200 labor 'dissidents' were loaded on railroad cars at gunpoint and dumped in the New Mexico desert.

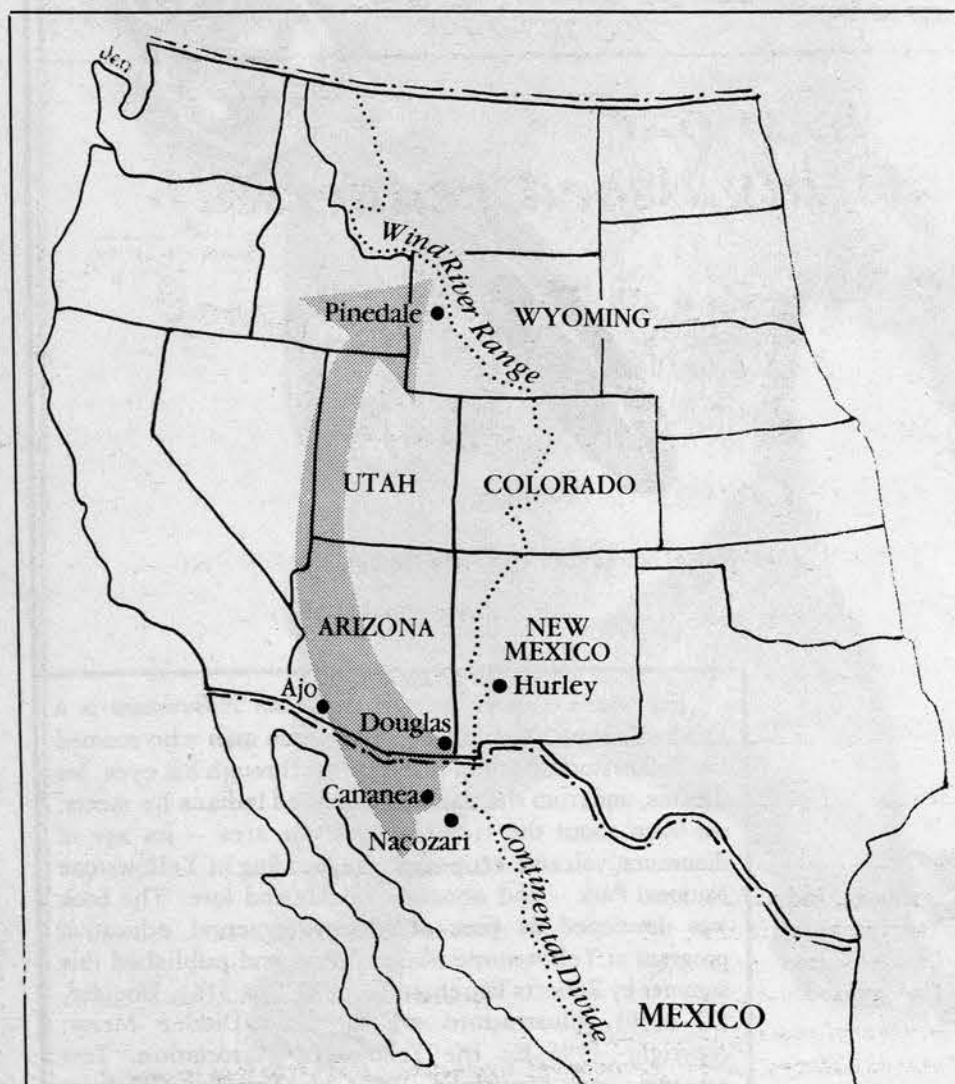
In 1927, a less violent dispute occurred when agricultural interests formed the Sulphur Spring Valley Protection Association to close the Douglas smelter because of SO₂ damage to crops. Phelps Dodge instead bought up 'smoke rights,' giving it perpetual right to blot out the sun and emit oxidizing fumes.

In 1954, in *Pinkner vs. Phelps Dodge*, 360 ranchers and others went to court, and lost. The judge ruled that the 700 smelter jobs were more important than agriculture. In the early 1970s, there was another unsuccessful move against the corporation.

The final effort began in 1979, when Kamp and Michael Gregory formed Cochise County Smelter Study Group. In early 1983, they added the smelter at Cananea and the proposed smelter at Nacozari, and created the Smelter Triangle Crisis Education Project. For the past three years, Kamp has been on publisher Wick's payroll, with the Border Ecology Project supported by grants from the Tides Foundation in San Francisco, the Kendall Foundation in Boston and the Carolyn Foundation in Minnesota. The southern Arizona groups worked on state government, on local congressmen, on the cities around Douglas and on former Gov. Bruce Babbitt. They were successful in rallying almost everyone against the smelter's pollution except Douglas itself.

The local political activities ran in parallel with Yuhnke's legal efforts to bring Phelps Dodge and the EPA to bay. Yuhnke said the EPA's suspension of Arizona's regulations would have taken several years to litigate. So he sought an emergency closure based on health effects. With the help of the local activists, testimony was collected from Douglas residents who suffered from emphysema and asthma.

(Continued on page 11)



The arrow shows movement of SO₂ from smelters to the Wind River Range.

Smelters...

(Continued from page 10)

The EPA relented, he said, and let Arizona's regulations close Douglas this summer (HCN, 8/4/86), the day before EDF was to go into court for an emergency closure. EDF was armed with a 350-page brief showing that the smelter's emissions made the lives of many residents miserable and dangerous. The closure turned out to be only temporary (HCN, 8/18/86), as Phelps Dodge, Arizona and the EPA negotiated a Jan. 15, 1987, closure. The additional few months gave the company time to smelt its stockpile of ore and buy Kennecott's Chino Mines Division at Hurley, N.M. That mine and smelter replace the operation at Douglas.

During his five-year smelter effort, Yuhnke said his hardest job was to keep concentrating on acid rain in the face of other demands. "I stopped trying to convince people that my agenda was more important than their agenda. I'd just say 'no' when they asked for help."

Yuhnke will celebrate the victory with a six-month leave to visit Costa Rica and China. Kamp is turning his attention to other border-area environmental problems, including those caused by U.S. factories, or *maquiladoras*, located in Mexican border towns.

It is possible that the smelter fight may show the way to solution of the continent's larger acid rain deposition problem -- the SO₂ that flows into Canada and New England from power plants in the Midwest.

The closure of the Douglas smelter and the Mexican-U.S. agreement was closely watched by the Canadians, who accuse President Ronald Reagan of reneging on his pledge to clean up U.S. acid emissions. The Southwest

ACCESS

WORK

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Experienced person to coordinate Staff for the Future Project, a research and development project to strengthen staffing in Northern Rockies public interest organizations. Full time: \$18,000. Send resume: NRAG, 9 Placer, Helena, MT 59601 (406/422-6615). (1xp)

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PERSONALS

SINGLE? ENVIRONMENTALIST? PEACE-ORIENTED? Concerned Singles Newsletter links unattached like-minded men and women, all areas, all ages. Free sample. Box 7737-B, Berkeley, CA 94707.

STRONG willing Eastern boy, 17, seeks summer job on Western ranch. Has been camp counselor in boys' camp last two summers. Matthew Bird, 66 Fresh Pond Lane, Cambridge, MA 02138, 617-864-2521. (2x1b)

acid rain dispute appears to show that acid rain is too abstract a problem to influence policy or politicians or even the courts. Yuhnke says Douglas wasn't closed by acid rain -- it was closed by health issues. Similarly, the Mexican-U.S. agreement speaks of the need to protect health in the border area rather than to stop acid rain.

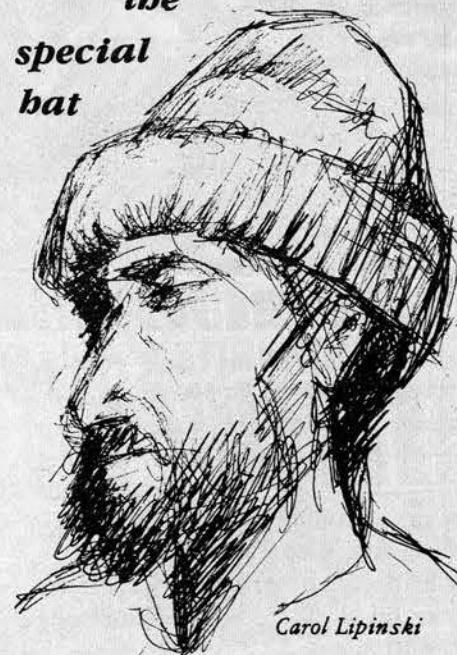
The power plant control bills before Congress are driven by acid rain and pressure from New England and Canada. But a lawsuit pending in federal district court in New York, also brought by the Environmental Defense Fund, tackles emissions from the health point of view. EDF is asking the court to force the EPA to impose SO₂ limits on Midwest power plants to protect those who live near the plants.

Such limits would force many Midwest power plants to close, to switch to low-sulfur coal, or to install controls. The effect of such health-based limits would be to cut U.S. SO₂ emissions by 30 to 50 percent, from 24 million tons to 12 to 17 million tons a year.

The reduction would come in the name of health, but would have an enormous effect on acid rain. The case is fully argued and awaiting decision. Yuhnke says he expects to be back at work in time to handle possible appeals from the decision. He also says settlement of the acid rain problem is a horseshoe between the courts and the Congress.

Meanwhile, back in the West, the EPA has found that no lakes in the Rockies are currently polluted by acid rain. The closure of Douglas and the controls on other smelters means that those lakes may be safe for quite a while.

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Write: Ruth Hutchins, 1574 L Road, Fruita, CO 81521.



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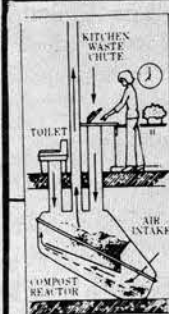
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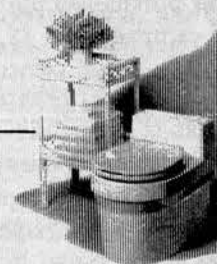


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12-High Country News -- February 2, 1987

L-P turns up the heat in Wyoming

The Louisiana-Pacific Corp. has mounted a controversial media campaign to win public support for increased timber sales in Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest before the public comment period runs out on the B-T forest management plan.

Bob Baker, L-P's chief forester, says: "We're just providing information. The community itself is taking up the campaign." Part of L-P's information service is a full page ad placed in every newspaper in the B-T area and in some of the state's larger dailies. The ad shows an embittered family in front of an empty shopping cart, and describes them as Wyoming's real "endangered species." The ad suggests the "endangered species" can be saved if the B-T forest plan is changed by enough people speaking out during the public comment period that ends Feb. 28.

L-P also bought 600 six-week subscriptions to the *Riverton Ranger* for residents of Dubois, enough to fill every box in the town's post office. Baker says the *Ranger*, as the county's only daily, gives L-P the opportunity "to provide more information to the community." A letter from *Ranger* publisher Peck that accompanied the first free issues said communities in Fremont County needed to work out a compromise on the B-T plan or they would all be hurt badly.

Neither the letter nor following editorials mentioned that L-P had purchased the subscriptions for residents of Dubois. That fact came out three weeks later, when *Ranger* associate managing editor Steve Peck told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that L-P had purchased the subscriptions and ad campaign for \$3,800.

The move coincided with the sale of the *Dubois Frontier* from Tom Bell, Geoff O'Gara and others to Audrey Cotherman. O'Gara said sending free issues of the *Ranger* to Dubois at a time when his paper was vulnerable was a low blow, but that he doesn't think it was an attempt to steal the *Frontier's* readership. O'Gara believes Peck is sincere in his crusade to keep the mills open for the good of the county.

The *Frontier's* new owner, Cotherman, was less philosophical. She described the deal as an obvious attempt to put her paper out of business. She told the *Casper Star-Tribune*: "It would appear to be a move by Louisiana-Pacific to be sure that the people of Dubois have only one view: the company view."

The problem for the region is the Dubois mill's voracious appetite for trees. According to Baker, L-P needs 21 million board feet of timber a year to operate at a profit. The mill has had to shut down several times over the past few years for lack of timber.

Historically, L-P has gotten equal volumes of timber from the Shoshone and B-T national forests. The recent Shoshone forest management plan, now being appealed by L-P, limited timber harvests to 5.5 million board feet; to stay alive, L-P needs 16 million board feet from the Bridger-Teton. But of the 15.9 million board feet that would be made available under the draft B-T plan, Baker estimates L-P will only be able to purchase 10 percent. He says the

majority of the timber allotments are in the southern, Bridger, half of the forest, and at 100-plus miles are out of economic range of L-P's timber trucks.

The Fremont County timber supply, which includes only 500 acres of the B-T and is mostly located on the Wind River side of the Continental Divide, has already been heavily logged. Recently, L-P has tried to extend its reach over the Divide and into Sublette and Teton counties, where the forest lies thick at the headwaters of the Green and Snake river drainages. That sparked the Union Pass controversy (*HCN*, 9/1/86), with environmental groups and, finally, two residents who lived

on the Green River side of the pass, unsuccessfully trying to prevent L-P trucks from using the road.

The B-T dispute pits whole communities against each other. On one side is L-P and the timber-dependent communities of Dubois and Riverton in Fremont County. On the other side of the issue, and of the Continental Divide, are Jackson and Pinedale, which are dependent on tourism and recreation industry. They are backed by local and national environmental groups.

Each side has its own version of an economic domino theory. Editor Peck says that if the Dubois mill shuts down, a chain reaction will turn

Fremont County into another Appalachia. In his theory, when the L-P mill in Dubois closes, the L-P finishing plant in Riverton will follow. That in turn will cost the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad its biggest contract, and it will then end service to the Wind River Valley. And that, Peck says, will hurt every business in the county.

Over the Divide, in Sublette and Teton counties (which house the towns of Pinedale and Jackson, respectively), some view L-P's expansion attempts as economic imperialism. John Barlow, a Green

(Continued on page 13)



ENDANGERED SPECIES

The jobs of 151 men and women depend on the two Louisiana-Pacific lumber mills in Fremont County.

In Dubois alone their incomes account for half the economy.

Total payroll is \$3.0 million a year. Timber and property taxes are \$627,000. Without the mills, Fremont County's economy would be further devastated.

Unfortunately, the continuing operation of the mills is threatened.

Putting it simply, they require a minimum of 21 million board feet of timber a year from the Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests to keep running. This timber comes from managed forest land, not from National Park or Wilderness areas.

This supply of timber is now threatened. Until last year, carefully planned and approved Forest Service timber sales have kept the mill running. But the proposed new Forest Plan cur-

rently in the public review stage reverses decades of environmentally sound timber harvest programs.

The new plan allows for only 15.9 million board feet to be harvested each year. Which means the Louisiana-Pacific mills will close for lack of timber. If that happens the Chicago and Northwestern railroad could follow. And Dubois will become another Western ghost town like Jeffery City.

Those are the hard facts. Fortunately, the new Forest Plan is subject to public review and comment. And this means you can speak your piece.

We urge you to study the issues. Attend the meetings. Listen to all sides. Make up your own mind.

The National Forests are for everyone. They provide beauty and recreation. And also the lumber to build America's homes.

Our considered opinion at Louisiana-Pacific

is that the proposed Forest Plan favors a handful of extremists at the expense of the citizens of Fremont County.

We're not asking for favors, just fairness and common sense.

KEEP THE FOREST WORKING

Take part in the public review process. Voice your opinion.

Make your feelings known by dropping a letter to: Brian Stout, Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, Wyoming 83001.

If you feel threatened, send for an "Endangered Species" bumper sticker.

Thanks,

The men and women of L-P.

LP Louisiana-Pacific
P.O. Box 787, Dubois, WY
82513 455-2239

L-P ad that ran in Wyoming newspapers

L-P...

(Continued from page 12)

River rancher and president of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, says, "L-P want Dubois' resource base to extend into Pinedale and Jackson's (base). But they operate in direct competition with our users. If they are allowed to continue their plunder, a great many jobs will be lost in ranching, tourism and outfitting..." Those jobs, he says, will be lost a few at a time over a widely scattered area, and won't be as dramatic as a mill closure.

Because, Barlow says, a 20 million board foot annual timber harvest would destroy both L-P's and the rancher-small logger-outfitter resource base, he suggests that L-P change its economic approach. "A great many more jobs will be lost if L-P continues to cut at a high level. But they're not willing to discuss reorganizing their mill to do roof trusses, pre-fab walls and other things with a higher value added." Barlow estimates a 1 million board-foot cut in his area supports 35 workers. The same cut at the L-P mill, where they

mainly turn logs into two-by-fours, supports no more than eight, he says.

Barlow draws an analogy between the L-P workers in Dubois and the Phelps Dodge copper workers who just lost their jobs in the closure of the Douglas, Ariz., smelter. "They were exploited -- they weren't given any options," he says. Under the stark terms portrayed by L-P, the mill workers must either support big-cut timber harvest in the B-T or lose their jobs, their community and their lifestyle. As a result of workers and the dependent communities being between a rock and a hard place, Barlow says L-P's media campaign is working: Pro-big-cut comments are running ahead in the public review process.

Comments on the B-T forest management plan can be sent to the B-T headquarters in Jackson, with another copy addressed to Wyoming's Gov. Mike Sullivan. The addresses are: Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001; and Mike Sullivan, Governor, State Capitol, Cheyenne 82002.

--Steve Hinchman

LETTERS

PREFERS POLITICS TO TECHNOLOGY

Dear HCN,

In the Dec. 12 HCN story, "Foresters foresee trouble in Idaho forests," former Nez Perce National Forest supervisors Robert Rehfeld and Donald Biddison criticize the management of the Nez Perce forest. They blame both the timber industry and environmentalists for perpetuating a conflict concerning logging in the Nez Perce, a conflict they claim will eventually be bogged down in the courts. Rather than impose this solution to the conflict, Rehfeld and Biddison suggest that a settlement be arrived at based on land-use planning, which balances the needs of conservation, wildlife and aesthetics with resource development.

Rehfeld and Biddison believe an objective solution to the conflict is possible if scientific judgments are unobstructed by the political process. Unfortunately, it is not clear how they

would have us address questions concerning the social values inherent in the end use of the timber logged, and the aesthetic and ecological consequences of building logging roads. Who, for instance, is to make the decisions about what is aesthetic and what is not, how much wildlife is enough, and how much habitat will be sacrificed in the name of progress?

Decisions concerning these and other environmental problems cannot be made by scientists alone; nor should the responsibility rest with technocrats who believe their solutions to be grounded on neutral and universal fact. Solutions to our environmental dilemmas require a process in which decisions are made by citizens participating in a democratic process of public debate. To assume otherwise is to rely on a class of elites.

Don Smith
Denver, Colorado

REMEMBERING AN ACHIEVEMENT

Dear HCN,

There was one omission in your excellent water series, and it surfaced in the closing story on the Colorado basin written by Peter Wild.

Wild's bibliography mentioned the collection of essays edited by Wallace Stegner titled *This is Dinosaur*. Wild mentioned DeVoto, Brower, and Zahniser as saviors of Dinosaur's Echo Park. In the Stegner book there was a chapter written by Joseph W. Penfold and Olaus Murie. Each -- Penfold especially, as Mardy Murie will I am sure agree -- had key roles in keeping BuRec dams out of Dinosaur. So did Ira N. Gabrielson, longtime head of the Wildlife Management Institute. Joe and Gabe were present at that famous meeting of basin governors and congressmen at a Denver hotel in the fall of 1956 when agreement was reached that Dino and the rest of the National Park System would thenceforth be inviolate, while the conservation community would no longer oppose the rest of the upper

basin development program. Since then only the partial inundation of Rainbow Bridge by an arm of Lake Powell has violated the agreement.

And there was still an earlier action that further nails down the Izaak Walton League and Joe Penfold's key role in the saving of Echo Park and Dinosaur. In the report of the Dinosaur Superintendent for August, 1953, you will find this passage:

Special Activities and Inspections. Aug. 12-13. Congressman John Saylor and son of Pennsylvania, Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, and Joe Penfold, western representative of the Izaak Walton League of America, Inc., and his son made an inspection of Dinosaur National Monument.

Penfold arranged that trip, and it takes little imagination to visualize the conversations that went on as that group drifted through quiet reaches and around the campfire the night of Aug. 12, 1953. In addition to what that

Dear friends...

(Continued from page 2)

feasible to abandon the present cheap but labor intensive operation.

The board did more than appropriate dollars. Kate Missett presented her annual geographic analysis of HCN articles. In 1986 stories broke down as follows: Western -- 17 percent, National -- 15 percent, Colorado -- 15 percent, Wyoming -- 15 percent, Montana -- 9 percent, Utah -- 7 percent, Idaho -- 7 percent, Arizona -- 4 percent, Yellowstone -- 4 percent, New Mexico -- 2 percent.

The board also got to welcome two new board members and elect a third. Jeff Fereday, an attorney from Boise, and Bill Hedden, a Utah furniture maker and staff member with Robert Redford's Resources Management Institute, attended their first meeting. The board also elected Andy Weissner to fill the third Colorado seat. Andy helped former Ohio Congressman John Seiberling turn millions of acres of wilderness into Wilderness. He is now a consultant with former Congressman Ray Kogovsek's firm in Denver.

Another new board member was elected to represent Montana. He is John Driscoll, a member of the Montana Public Service Commission.

In other internal matters, Boulder attorney Robert Wigington stepped down after two years as board president. He was replaced by Adam McLane, a Helena resident and CPA who is with the Montana Environmental Information Center. Two vice presidents were elected -- Kate Missett for editorial matters, and Mike Clark, the director of the Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., for fund-raising. Jeff Fereday was elected secretary and Robert Wigington treasurer.

On the Monday following the board meeting, former HCN intern Steve Hinchman joined the staff. The Colorado College graduate and Ohio native fills the position left vacant when Mary Moran resigned several months ago. The job has not been left open by choice. Most young, single people are glad to spend a three-month internship in Paonia, but

they blanch at the thought of a longer apprenticeship in a place that far off the beaten track.

The board discussed the paper's recruitment problem at the meeting. It would be easier to produce HCN in a Boulder, Missoula or Jackson, where writers and graphics people abound, but board and staff believe the paper belongs in an isolated, rural, working community like Lander, or Paonia, or Moab.

HCN wishes to thank Chris Meyer for allowing us to use his offices at the law clinic of the National Wildlife Federation at Colorado University. We would also like to thank Chris and all the other people who braved the frigid temperatures to join us for potluck in the Mennonite Church in Boulder. The high points of the evening were meeting so many people who formerly had been known only through their letters to the editor or telephone calls, the food, introducing founder Tom Bell, and holding a brief drawing for a dozen or so HCN t-shirts.

Potlucks are staples of board meetings. The last one was in October in Kate Missett's home in Buffalo, Wyoming. The next will be in May somewhere in western Colorado, followed by a late September board meeting and potluck in Boise, Idaho. A year from now, the board will return again to the Front Range to see how January 17's numerology turned out.

--the staff

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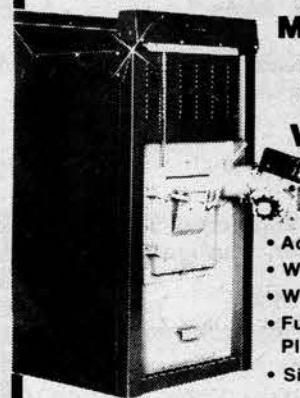
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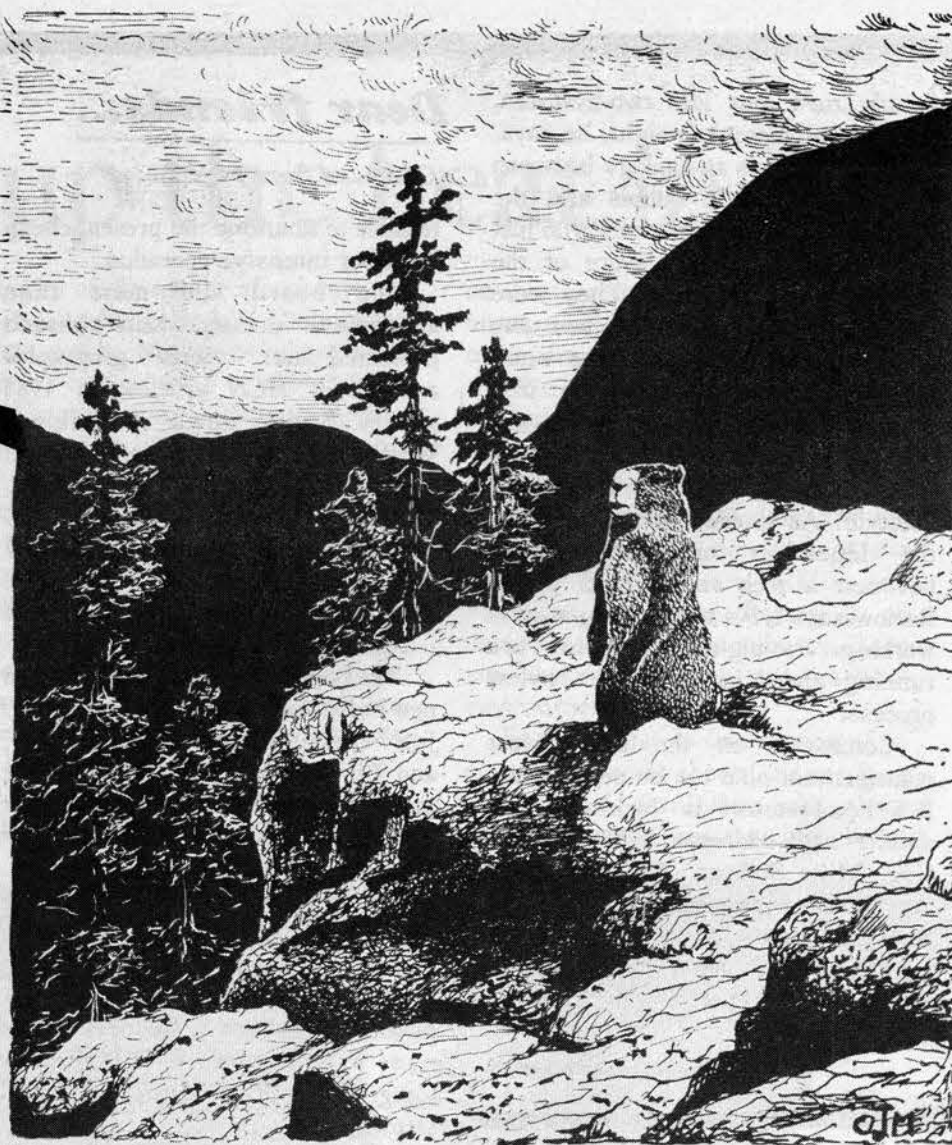
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BULLETIN BOARD

TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS WASTES

State rules for the transportation of nuclear materials within Colorado will be the subject of public hearings in Denver. Proposed regulations include inspection procedures, permit requirements and fees. Representatives of the Colorado departments of health, highways, disaster emergency service and State Patrol will attend the final meeting scheduled by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission Feb. 4 at 1580 Logan St., beginning at 10 a.m. Rules hearings will be held at 1580 Logan St., March 30-31, at 9 a.m. For information call the Public Utilities Commission at 303/866-3156.

MINING CONFERENCE

"Meeting the challenge" is the theme of the Colorado Mining Association's 90th National Western Mining Conference and Exhibition at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center, Feb. 11-13. In addition to coal mining, session topics will cover precious metals -- particularly gold -- industrial metals and exploration, financing options and new processing techniques. Speakers include representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Western mining and research industries. Registration is \$40 for members, \$80 for non-members. Contact the Sheraton Denver Tech Center, 4900 DTC Parkway, Denver, CO 80237 (303/799-1100 or 800/552-7030).

LAND STEWARDSHIP AND FOOD

A symposium titled "Land Stewardship and Our Food Source" will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Sunrise Ranch in Loveland, Colo. The thesis of the conference is that the present approach to raising food has "disrupted the delicate fabric and generative cycles of the earth." Among those speaking about alternatives will be Lynn Miller, editor of the *Small Farmer's Journal*; John Kimmey, founder of the Talavaya Center in Santa Fe; and Sue Reinhardt, organic produce manager for Alfalfa's Market in Boulder. Workshops will be held on genetic diversity, organic farming and marketing, farming with horses, bioshelters, etc. A buffet luncheon is included for the cost of \$25. For information: Director, Stewardship Farms, 5569 No. County Rd. 29, Loveland, CO 80537, 303/667-4675.

ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE

AERO, the Helena-based Alternative Energy Resources Organization, hosts a conference this weekend on innovative agricultural products and marketing strategies at Montana State University in Bozeman. The conference will look at specialty markets and crops suited to the Rockies and Plains regions, while focusing on farm profitability and changes in consumer preferences. Montana organizations such as the Department of Agriculture, Cattlewomen's Association, Farm Bureau and the Mussellsell Ag Alliance are among the sponsors of "Shaping Our Future," Feb. 5-7. Daycare is available and registration fees are \$30 for AERO members, \$35 for others or \$60 for two. Contact AERO, 324 Fuller C-4, Helena, MT 59601 (406/443-7272).

GETTING TOUGH ON LOOTERS

The Bureau of Land Management in Las Cruces, N.M., is cracking down on pot hunters to save the remaining 10 percent of Indian artifacts in New Mexico that have not been damaged or stolen. BLM staffer Mel Ingeroi says his agency and five other state and federal agencies are cooperating to educate the public about laws protecting artifacts from theft. They plan slide shows, posters and brochures to convey the message that artifacts are part of New Mexico's cultural heritage, and people damaging or stealing them will be punished with stiff fines and jail sentences. He urges people to report offenders but to be careful at the scene -- some thieves are armed. For more information, contact Mel Ingeroi, BLM, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

MANAGING WASTES

A waste management forum aimed primarily at industry and government representatives will be held March 1-5 in Tucson, Arizona. Sponsors include the University of Arizona, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Symposium topics will range from regulation, transportation and environmental surveillance of low- and high-level radioactive waste management, to tribal concerns regarding nuclear waste. In addition, both "industry" and "anti" films will be shown throughout the symposium, and a communications expert provided by the American Nuclear Society will discuss the ways in which the films communicate information to the public. The \$300 registration fee includes lunches and a copy of the proceedings if sent before Feb. 20. For information, write University of Arizona, Waste Management '87, Special Professional Education Harvill Bldg., Box 9, College of Engineering and Mines, Tucson, AZ 85721.

4TH WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS

The United States will host the 4th World Wilderness Congress Sept. 11-18 when 3,000 people are expected to attend in Colorado. The congress includes a three-day forum in Denver followed by a five-day convention of delegates in Rocky Mountain National Park. Politicians, businessmen and scientists will discuss critical environmental challenges such as biological diversity, wilderness and wildlife management, the role of multinational corporations and conservation science and education. Colorado State University's International School of Forestry and Natural Resources will coordinate special courses and seminars, and invited speakers include Jane Goodall, David Rockefeller and Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, who is chairman of the U.N.'s Commission on Environment and Development. First hosted by South Africa in 1977, the congress was held in Australia in 1980 and in Scotland in 1983. Funds for the 1987 congress were raised by the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation from individual and corporate sponsors, including the Gulf Oil Foundation, the Adolf Coors Co., the International Fur Trade Federation and the Zoological Society of San Diego. For information write The 4th World Wilderness Congress, International Wilderness Leadership Foundation, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. Early registration is \$200 before July 1 for the entire congress.

NATIVE SELF SUFFICIENCY

Now in its eighth year, the journal *Native Self Sufficiency* is a quarterly forum for an expanding network of Native Americans and others working to re-establish tribal sovereignty. Published by the Seventh Generation Fund, a nonprofit foundation, the journal covers Indian and women's rights, health, appropriate technologies and alternative economies. The paper received three awards from the Native American Press Association this year, two for in-depth reporting and one for original graphics. Subscriptions are \$8 a year for individuals, \$15 for contributing members and \$25 for institutions and foreign countries. Write Seventh Generation Fund, P.O. Box 10, Forestville CA 95436.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CONFERENCE

A call for papers has been issued for a second international conference on *The Development of Alternative Energy Sources and the Lessons Learned Since the Oil Embargo*, to be held Sept. 16-18 at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. The conference will focus on alternative energy sources such as hydro, oceanic, solar, coal, nuclear, geothermal and wind. The U.S. Department of Energy is sponsoring the gathering along with the University and the state of North Dakota. Papers must be submitted by Feb. 15 and sent to Sundar S. Saluja, Chairman, Second International Energy Conference, Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, University of North Dakota, Box 8068, University Station, Grand Forks, ND 58202.



Long-tailed weasel

WINTER ECOLOGY COURSE

Cloud Ridge Naturalists in Ward, Colo., will offer a winter ecology seminar Feb. 13-15 with biologist James Halfpenny and plant ecologist James Ebersole. Both are teachers and mountaineers associated with the University of Colorado's Institute of Alpine and Arctic Research. The seminar will focus on the special adaptations of plants and animals that allow them to survive in extremes of winter, and participants will also examine animal tracks and snow crystals. The price of \$175 includes instruction, one night at the Skiot Lodge in Montezuma, Colo., breakfasts and dinner. Bring your cross-country skis and snowshoes. Cloud Ridge Naturalists is an eight-year-old non-profit group specializing in natural science instruction combined with comfort and good food. 1987 seminars coming up include Close-up Photography, May 8-9, and Images of the Canyon: Arches National Park, May 14-17. For information write Cloud Ridge Naturalists, Overland Star Route, Ward, CO 80481 (303/459-3248).

HIGH COUNTRY HUTS

In *Alpine Huts of the Rockies, Selkirk, and Purcell*, Herb and Pat Kariel have put together a history of 57 alpine huts and backcountry shelters of Canada. Their accounts are based on articles written by old-timers and expanded by original research. Each chronicle combines stories, documentation, maps, floorplans and photos to illustrate the character and history of the particular hut and surrounding area. The book also provides guidelines for hut use, and information on access and current status. The huts were originally built by the Canadian Pacific Railway, early loggers, trappers, outfitters or ski/mountaineering clubs, and most are now operated by clubs or national and provincial parks. They range from luxurious cabins to "structures resembling oversized packing crates" and are open to the public free or at nominal charge. More than a guide, this book is a high-country trek, full of the insights and achievements of early adventurers -- not to mention the appearance of a ghost or two.

Alpine Club of Canada, Kayspring Enterprises, 615 Seymour Ave. SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2W ON5. Paper, \$17.95, plus \$3 outside of Canada, 184 pages. Illustrated.

CLUB 20

Club 20, an association of western Colorado counties, will hold its annual meeting Feb. 13-14 in Grand Junction, Colo. Economic development is the topic, with talks on tourism, water development and conservation, agriculture and the renewal of small communities. Advance registration is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. For information, contact Club 20, Box 550, Grand Junction, Colo. 81502 (303/242-3264).

THE BENEFITS OF STEEL SHOT

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has printed a brochure called *Why Not Shoot Steel? A Non-Toxic Solution*. It explains that two to three million ducks and geese die of lead poisoning every year and explains how hunters can put an end to the disease by using steel shot. According to the brochure, hunters have some valid concerns about steel such as gun damage, crippling rates and the cost of shells. But benefits to birds, through a decline in lead poisoning, outweigh the inconveniences. To obtain a brochure or more information, contact Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 N. Broadway, Denver, CO 80216 (303/297-1192).

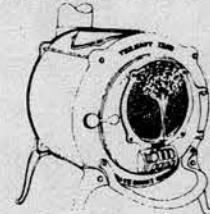
FISHING VS. FORESTRY

The National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited teamed up recently to publish a report, *Forest Plans and Fisheries: Threat or Promise*, that examines the future of fisheries in the national forests of the northern Rockies. The future does not look bright. Authors Jack Tuholske and Chris Kronberg discuss how current forest plans to increase road construction, timber harvests and livestock grazing will degrade fish habitat, limit fish populations and damage local economies dependent upon tourism and recreation. They charge that the Forest Service is using faulty economic assumptions and inadequate data to justify its management plans. For a copy of the report, which includes a regional overview, send \$15 to Jack Tuholske, Photographic Services, Box 7458, Missoula, MT 59807 (406/549-3506).

FOR WOOL GROWERS

Western producers of high quality and specialty wools may want to join a new political action group lobbying for the 5,000 - 10,000 small producers. WOOL FORUM formed after the Department of Agriculture jolted small wool producers last spring by deciding to reduce incentive payments and demand return of payments already made. In general, the incentive program pays producers for high-quality wool. Working with the National Wool Growers, WOOL FORUM says it will urge Congress to make free market prices the basis for incentive payments rather than the recently established federal ceiling on wool value. WOOL FORUM's director Ron Parker says duties on imported wool more than cover the cost of the incentive program, which is not tax supported. For more information contact Ron Parker, WOOL FORUM, Rt. 1 Box 153, Henning, MN 56551 (218/583-2419).

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16-High Country News -- February 2, 1987

afield

That empty beauty

by Peter Shelton

The best part of our trip to California over the holidays was Nevada.

Don't get me wrong. It was wonderful to be with family: We ate like royalty, laughed a lot, and Santa found the right chimney even though we were not at home. But California itself seemed under a pall.

The Sacramento Valley shivered beneath a combination of fog and low clouds. Occasionally the fog sagged and sprinkled rain. High temperature 47, low temperature 39. We played tennis bundled up like snowmen. Our inveterate croquet team was forced indoors after a single round.

One drove with lights on during the day. It wasn't that the visibility was so bad. But you didn't want to be overlooked on the freeways where Mercedes and GTOs darted between lanes like salmon jockeying just downstream from the big leap. Then too, not to light your lamps would have been tantamount to contributing to the grayness. We all need all the light we can get. But the weather -- certainly one can't blame the weather -- was more like a strange side show to the larger drone, the discordant buzzing of too many human bees in one place.

My sister lives at the edge of the valley proper in the first ripples of Sierran foothills. It's lovely, grassy country with ridgetop orchards and hollows filled with oak trees. But it is filling up fast with people. Subdivisions and shopping malls advanced at us with frightening momentum. (They say California will spurt from 22

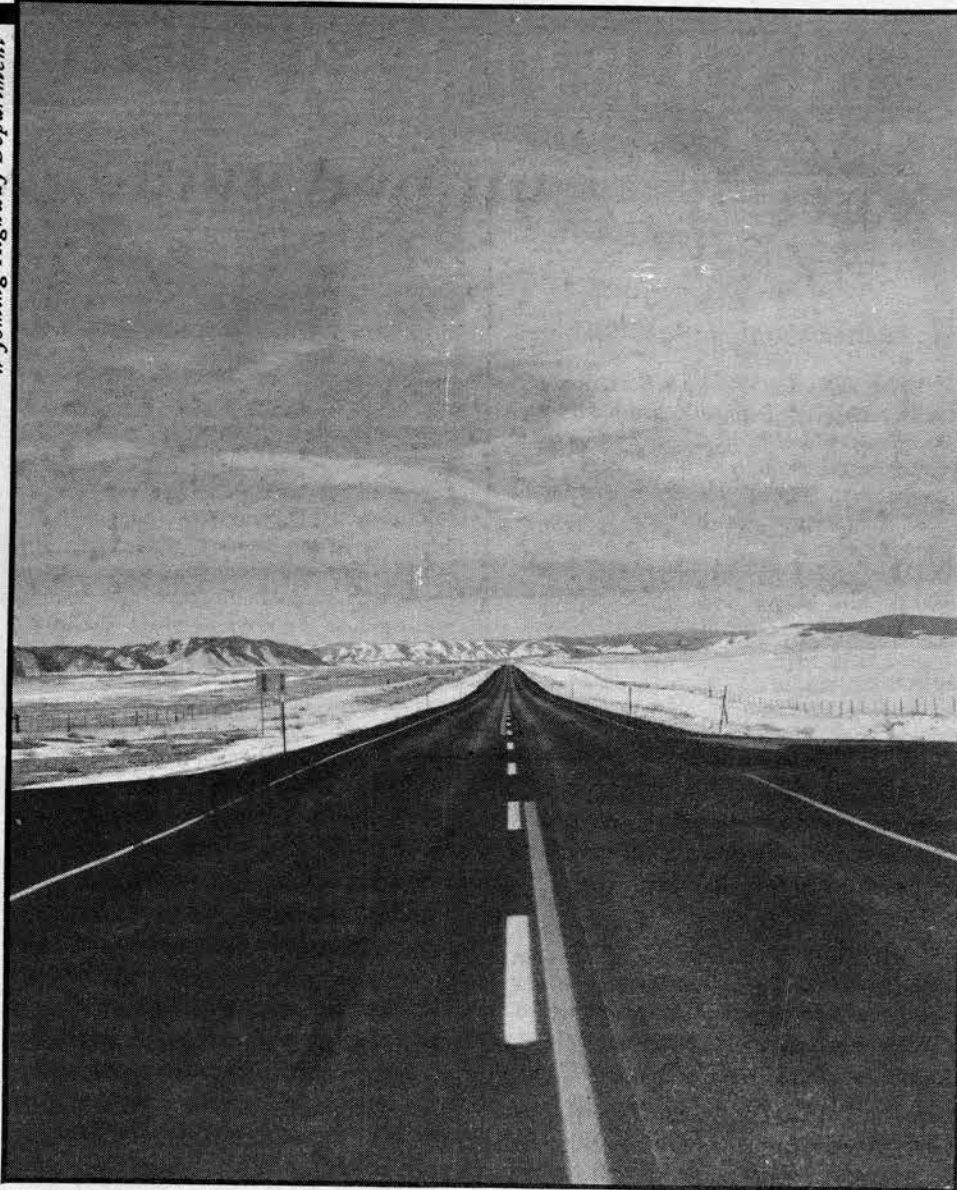
million to 30 million people by the turn of the century.) Out in the fog, earth-movers leveled the swales and vanished the oak groves with the speed of a magic trick. The traffic bore us along, quickly past the changing scene. No time for long looks. Toward the freeway, away from the freeway, Seven-Eleven to Circle K. Where were we? Didn't matter. Could have been Anywhere, California, U.S.A.

After this, Nevada was a breath of pure air, the last great unwanted chunk of America. There are 236 uninhabited mountain ranges in Nevada including the Diamond Mountains, the Pancake Range, the Rubies, the Goshutes and the Snake Range. U.S. Highway 50 rollercoasters about 15 of them on route from Fernly and Baker. In between summits the north-south valleys (Spring Valley, Cave Valley, Antelope Valley, Long Valley) stretched like lounge cats, single, hundred-mile scoops of earth. Coming down into the Reese River Valley west of Austin, we all tried to guess how long the road ran straight. I guessed 10 miles. Ellen said 15. Cloe and Cecily were between us. Ellen won, and she had underestimated.

I didn't so much drive as ride the ribbon down the late afternoon light, copper on the sagebrush to either side and golden on the defunct turquoise mines above the hill town. We were the only car in sight.

We spent the night in Ely, a crossroads town with a locomotive in the park, a Jerry's pancake house where waitresses swish by in white nylon, and a scrub-pine KOA bathed

Wyoming Highway Department



in first sun by 7:30 a.m. We rose, ate, and zoomed off into all that empty beauty with all the other travellers. No one, save the poor gamblers, it seems, come to Nevada to be in Nevada. The population is less than 800,000 souls. Most of those are lost in Las Vegas. There's one telephone book. For the state.

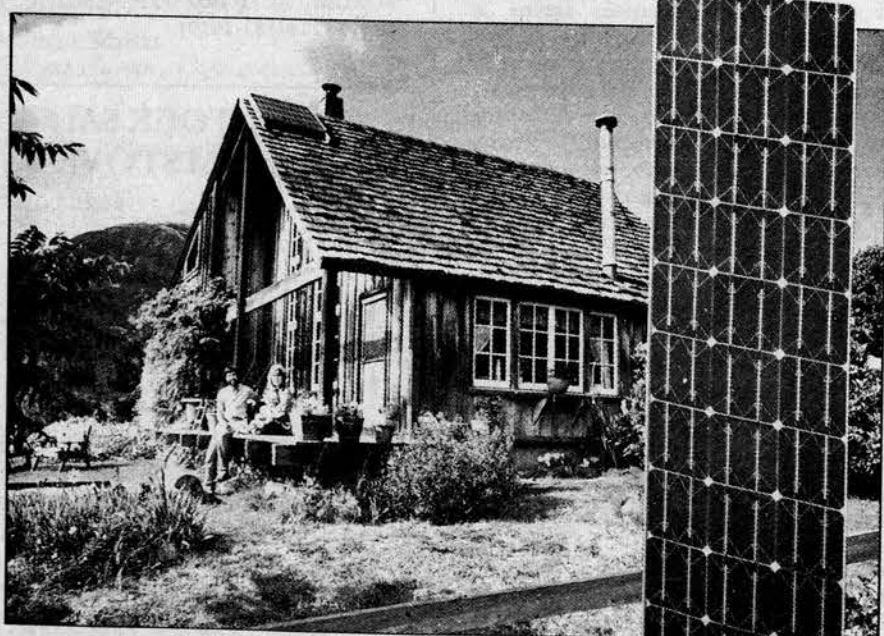
We were only passing through. On our way to and from the glittering edges of the Great Basin: California, Colorado. A coyote trotted daintily

across our path just as we passed an historical marker on the Pony Express trail. Time slipped out of hours and into sage-rock horizons, coming up, drifting back.

The myth of the West -- cloudless skies, purple lines of unfenced distance, a place where you can see a man coming for 30 miles by the dust from his pickup -- it's still out there preserved in the dryness like an (as yet) unplundered tomb.

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LETTERS

PLANNED OVERCUTTING

Dear HCN,

George Sibley's well written "An America that did not happen" (HCN, 12/22/86) seems to suggest that cooperative sustained yield agreements, like the one between Simpson Timber Co. and the Olympic National Forest, in spirit would have been good practice for all national forests.

The fly in the ointment, Sibley says, was that the Forest Service caved in to industry pressure to increase the allowable cut. Sibley misreads the spirit, however. It was the underlying Forest Service philosophy to plan not just access to the national forests, but to plan the overcutting of them under these cooperative agreements. Overcutting the national forests was to go on until the individual company's own second-growth forests reached merchantable size, according to an internal Forest Service report by its forest industry specialist, B. Frank Heintzleman, dated March 17, 1936. Thus, the overcutting of the national forest was not Simpson's idea but was proposed by Heintzleman "...in order that some well planned control should be established as soon as possible over the whole Grays Harbor (western Washington) timber situation."

Consequently, the Shelton Ranger

District of the Olympic Forest became probably the most intensively roaded and overcut district in the national forest system. This appears to have been a part of the Forest Service's new plan for national sustained yield that came about after sustained yield rules under the NRA were ruled unconstitutional in 1935.

I doubt that author Sibley would like to have had that same level of cutting carried out on every national forest in exchange for what Heintzleman termed an "ironclad" agreement for obtaining "...the reforestation and proper handling... of private timberlands." But the Forest Service, after the failure of national regulation under the NRA, seems to have been willing to give the industry this new kind of cartel in return for their accepting federal standards for private forests. Now, of course, since the Simpson Co. has cut off the old growth timber and gotten out of the Shelton District, what happens to their side of the bargain?

The reader can follow the general history of this further in William G. Robbins' new book, *American Forestry*, and his account of Forest Service and industry "cooperation" in that period.

Ben. W. Twilight
University Park, Pennsylvania

The writer is the author of *Organizational Values and Political Power: The Forest Service vs. The Olympic National Park*.