

High Country News

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Vol. 19 No. 14

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



Jim Preston, Denver Post

Denver, Colorado

In Denver, the rule is:

Exhale, but don't inhale

Despite a flurry of action by air-quality planners during the last 18 months, Denver and its suburban neighbors are certain to miss a Dec. 31, 1987, deadline to bring their air into line with the federal Clean Air Act. As a result, the urban region faces the loss of \$30 million a year, mostly in federal highway funds.

The problem is not new. Denver was first told by federal officials in 1972 that it would need to clean up its air, and it dealt with the problem by trying to increase bus ridership, encourage motorists to carpool and asking commuters not to drive one workday a week for six weeks each winter.

What is new in Denver's ongoing battle with air pollution is how Denver officials have stepped up their attack. Now, they seriously are suggesting such strategies as:

- Year-round daylight savings time to "extend" winter days, bringing warmer, pollution-dispersing temperatures to evening rush hours. Carbon monoxide starts to congeal at street level when temperatures plummet on winter evenings.

- Mandatory use during the winter of cleaner-burning, high-oxygen fuels, such as gasohol and an ether-based octane booster called MTBE.

- Computerized auto-emissions testing, with tests required before a car can be registered each year between Fort Collins and Colorado Springs.

- Mandatory bans on woodburning when carbon monoxide pollution is expected to reach high levels.

All the easy steps have been taken," said Brad Beckham, head of the state's Air Pollution Control Division. But that doesn't mean the easy steps came handily, or that the next steps will come without their stumbling blocks, officials said. Cleaning Denver's air has always run afoul of legislators looking out for their constituents and special interest groups protecting their balance sheets.

For example, it took nine years of debate and political arm-wrestling before state health officials and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won an auto-emissions inspection

program for Denver. Many legislators simply felt people shouldn't have to subject their cars to inspections for something like air pollution and the service station industry felt it would cost them more time and effort than the program was worth.

When it eventually was approved, the program was less strict and less enforceable than officials had wanted. Health officials estimate that about one in three of the 1.8 million cars in the "inspection and maintenance" region along the Front Range are out of compliance with the emission standards for any number of reasons, from receiving waivers because the cars can't pass the test, to just not bothering to get the inspections.

The battle to clean up Denver's air has not gotten any easier, despite public surveys that show it to be a major concern and the realization by politicians that Denver's foul air is keeping businesses from moving to the Queen City of the Plains.

Although the new, improved

(Continued on page 10)

by Lou Chapman

In a few short months, Denver faces its annual battle with the unhealthy carbon monoxide pollution for which the city has become infamous.

During the winter, carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that spews from cars, trucks, woodstoves and fireplaces in the Denver area, can exceed three times the federal health standards.

Last year, the Denver metropolitan region violated the federal standard for carbon monoxide pollution 38 times.

Dear friends,



High Country News

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Recovery

In a normal year, the apricot tree behind the *High Country News* office provides only shade. But this has not been a normal year. May was essentially frost-free, and HCN's tree is bright with several thousand ripening apricots.

Once ripe, the apricots don't last long, except perhaps at the very top of the 25-foot-high tree. As quickly as the fruit sheds its greenish tinge, one or another staff member plucks it -- as a snack or to go into an apricot pie, jam or fruit compote.

The scene is repeated throughout the North Fork Valley. Apricots, because they are so vulnerable to May freezes, are rarely grown here in a commercial orchard. But some survive from orchards planted many decades ago, before their delicateness was understood, and as "weed trees" along ditchbanks and roads. In a normal year, they are simply another tree. But this year, thanks to their bright ornaments, it has become apparent that the valley has hundreds of these trees.

The unexpected and colorful ripening of its apricot trees is symbolic of Paonia and its environs in mid-1987. Last summer, some readers will remember, was grim for the town, which has 1,400 residents and perhaps another 2,000 in the "suburbs." Spring 1986 had seen the last of the layoffs and shutdowns that had reduced the coal mining jobs from 1,000 to about 200.

Five youngsters had been killed in an auto accident. A world class mudslide in the spring closed a major road into the valley, diverting tourists. Weed-filled lawns and empty storefronts on the two-block downtown showed even a casual visitor that the town was hurting.

Residents, some of them going back here several generations, left in large numbers, many with bitter feelings. The saying among the departees was: "Happiness is Paonia in the rearview mirror." HCN is not a fat-cat operation, so it is indicative of the state of the town that at times staff felt guilty over the security we had because of support from subscribers outside of the area.

Paonia, like much of the rural West, is accustomed to getting its economic shots from announcements by coal companies, the Bureau of Reclamation, power plant builders and the like. So the recovery this spring snuck up on everyone. By June, however, it was clear that the economy had reversed. Homes were selling at low prices, but they were selling. And the new owners -- retirees, people with independent incomes, regional salespeople, consultants -- were renovating and remodeling the deteriorated housing stock.

The owner of the drugstore and variety store remodelled his lengthy store front, tearing off aluminum siding and restoring the original brick and cloth awning appearance. An outdoor restaurant, Biggs, expanded. And over coffee or at Rotary, business people told each other in surprise that they were having their best months in years.

Even the weather cooperated. All of the fruit -- apricots, sweet and sour cherries, pears, peaches, plums and apples -- survived, although sour cherry prices are low, some fruit

suffered hail damage, and the Mexican nationals who usually pick the fruit, and who are twice as fast as us locals, are in short supply. On another agricultural front, for the first time in years, cattle prices are up.

There are, of course, all sorts of economies. But this one seems healthy and sustainable. It is based on fertile soil, water from the nearby mountains, coal and beauty. Thanks to the balance, orchards and ranches are again valued for their productivity, rather than as a potential subdivision.

Covering the Dakotas

For the most part, HCN covers the West's mountain and canyon country. But interesting events also occur in the flat lands of the Dakotas.

And that is where Pete Carrels, our Dakota micro-bureau chief, comes in. Several issues ago, he wrote on gold mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Coming up is an article on a range war in the National Grasslands in Nebraska. Here is his story:

Like many *High Country News* contributors, my interest in writing about environmental topics was preceded by full-time involvement as an activist and organizer. Much of my work concerned water issues.

Living in eastern South Dakota provides me with a good vantage both eastward and westward. My home, Aberdeen, is situated in a geographic transition zone: West of Aberdeen one begins to see ranching dominate the land; east is cash-crop ground. On the sidewalks you see a mix of cowboy boots and sturdy leather work boots.

I am a native of Aberdeen. Following high school I attended college in St. Paul, Minnesota, Vermillion, South Dakota and Ithaca, New York. In between "formal" schooling I kept house in Idaho, Florida and Nebraska. I've also lived in South Dakota's Black Hills. Wanderlust has been part of my educational intentions. It may seem odd to some folks that I've ended where I started -- on the remote and rural northern plains -- but I feel very comfortable calling South Dakota my home.

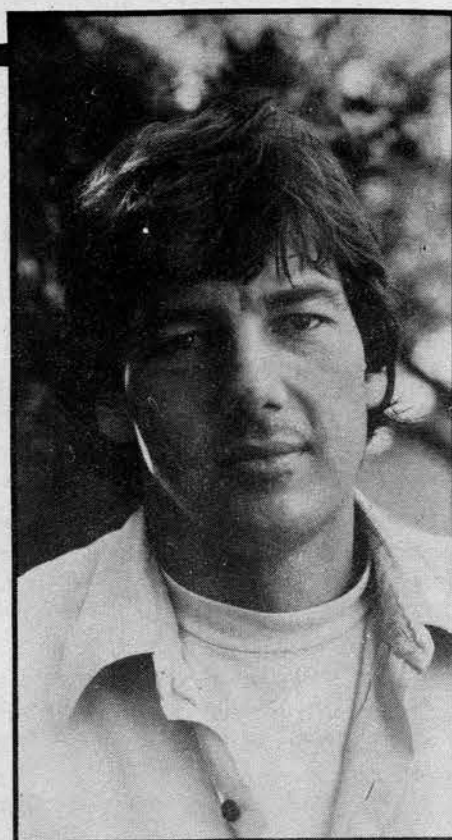
I hope to continue refining my writing and photographic abilities and use these tools not only to document environmental issues but also to portray the people and natural resources of my home region.

The fortnight's visitors

Among the visitors to our office in the last fortnight were subscribers John Vail and Alison Fields and their daughter, Megan, all from Albuquerque. John, after a walk through the facility, said, "This will give me a much better feel when you write next about the clutter in your office."

We were also visited by Kurt and Rosemary Hohenemser, subscribers from St. Louis, Missouri, and annual summer travellers to the Rockies. Kurt, a retired aeronautics engineer, complained that at age 82 he is slowing down and can only hike and climb for a few hours at a time.

Finally, an HCN writer, Dennis Brownridge, and Alyce Brownridge, stopped by. Dennis, an Arizona resident, has written for us on the Grand Canyon aircraft debate. The pair had just come from the Earth



Peter Carrels

First! gathering at Parissiwampitts Point on the north rim of the Grand Canyon, in Kaibab National Forest.

The meeting, they said, was both great fun, and well run and informative. But they were most struck by the law enforcement -- National Park Service police, the sheriff and private police, possibly working for Kaibab Industries, which has logged the Kaibab National Forest, were all very much in evidence.

Oliver Pilat

The staff extends its condolences to editor Betsy Marston on the death of her father, Oliver Pilat, 83, in New York City on July 21. Ollie, a retired political reporter for the pre-Rupert Murdoch *New York Post*, also found time to write some seven books. They include a biography of Coney Island, *Sodom by the Sea*, a biography of journalist Westbrook Pegler, *Pegler: Angry Man of the Press*, and an account of John Lindsay's successful run in the 1960s for the New York City mayoralty, *Lindsay's Campaign*.

--the staff

HOTLINE

Governors nuke DOE

The Western Governors' Association, at its recent annual meeting in Snowbird, Utah, July 5-7, asked Congress to suspend the Department of Energy's search for a national nuclear waste repository. The governors said that politics have superseded safety in the search for the nation's first high-level nuclear waste dump. The group charged that the DOE has withheld information regarding dump sites from states and has blocked attempts to get federal funding for independent analyses of potential sites. Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt told AP, "I believe (they) are lying, just plain lying. I think we've got to send these guys back to the beginning." The governors recommended forming a problem-solving panel composed of federal, state, tribal and local government officials, as well as representatives from nuclear utilities, public interest groups and environmental organizations. All the governors favored the resolution except Utah Gov. Norman Bangert, whose state barely escaped being named to the list the first time around.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Has Jackson, Wyo., been Californicated?

JACKSON, Wyo. -- Two Rocky Mountain states are in a tug-of-war for a sporting goods manufacturer, and the federal government is providing the stakes for both sides.

Last January, Wyoming's Economic Development and Stabilization Board awarded federal funds to a Jackson-based company whose 82 employees manufacture "Croakies" (neoprene straps for holding on sunglasses) and other outdoor equipment. The \$100,000 low-interest loan was to allow the firm, Life-Link International, to build up its inventory.

But as Wyoming officials soon learned from a newspaper account, the company was contemplating relocation and expansion in Bozeman, Mont. The move was contingent upon a \$250,000 low-interest loan from the Montana agency that distributes federal block grants.

In the same article, Life-Link officials said Jackson's "California life-style" contributed to an unfavorable work climate. By comparison, near-minimum-wage pay would secure a willing work force in Bozeman.

When the \$250,000 loan came through at the end of June, it raised some questions about the scramble among neighboring states for economic development. Dan Purdue, a



Croakies -- this one of a subdued design

Wyoming loan officer said, "I have a philosophical problem with Montana using federal money to entice business from a neighboring state. There is an unwritten agreement not to do that."

Life-Link President John Krisik and other company officials refused comment, but a Jackson Chamber of Commerce spokeswoman said company officials had complained of an uncooperative attitude on the part of Wyoming officials. Suzanne Young said the Wyoming officials "just showed them what hoops to jump through, and said 'jump.'"

In contrast, the Life-Link officials apparently did not even have to do the paper work to apply for the Montana loan. The Gallatin Development Corporation, funded by the Bozeman business community, pulled together its block grant application, according to that agency's program officer. Tim Border said his group worked on the project's rationale and, drawing on federal funds, pulled together the hiring and training plan for low- and moderate-income workers. "Life-Link just had to supply some financial information and projections," Border said.

Jackson businessman Dick Albrecht cited statewide banking practices in Wyoming as unfavorable to light industry, and commented on the state's role in economic development. "The state agencies are floundering, they have no centralized, clear-cut point of view." He said although it was too late to do anything about Life-Link, he has formed a local light-industry council to encourage entrepreneurs to come to Jackson to stay.

"There's not much we can do to influence the state, but perhaps we can do something in the community."

--Katharine Collins

An oil firm closes in on a roadless area

While Idaho political leaders put together wilderness plans, Anschutz Corp. moves ahead with plans for an oil well in the Palisades backcountry, on the Idaho side of the Teton Range.

The Denver-based oil and gas exploration company is aimed toward an August 1 drilling date on a proposed well that will overlook Swan Valley. It would be the fourth well drilled by Anschutz in or around the 202,600-acre tract that has been under consideration for wilderness designation.

No commercial quantities of oil and gas were discovered in previous holes in Mike Spencer Canyon on the west, Teton Valley to the north or Moose Gulch on the east in Wy-

oming. Anschutz recently asked Targhee National Forest officials for permission to drill its exploratory well inside steep Oaken Canyon, north of Swan Valley.

The company has proposed to drill to a depth of 15,000 feet during operations expected to last 300 days.

The Forest Service requires an environmental assessment before drilling. A draft is near completion said Kim Marshall, Targhee Palisades district minerals specialist.

The assessment says the main threat of the well is to elk and deer that winter in the vicinity. While monitoring will be necessary, Marshall said he does not think the effects will be serious.

Anschutz holds portions of leases on 180,000 acres of the Palisades backcountry. Rep. Peter Kostmayer, D-Pa., has proposed that 111,250 acres in the area be designated as wilderness in his 3.9 million acre Idaho wilderness bill.

Foutch said Anschutz was not working its way around the boundaries of the area, as its drilling pattern suggests.

"If the hole we wanted to drill was right in the middle, we'd drill there," he said. Anschutz would face the threat of lawsuits if it decides to enter the interior of the proposed wilderness.

"I think we'd be willing to do that without a doubt," he said. "We have a legal right to drill."

But it is too early to say whether the company would do any more drilling in the Palisades area if this well turns up dry. Oil explorers average one discovery in 17 wildcat holes on the Overthrust Belt that underlies an area that runs from Canada to Mexico.

--Rocky Barker

BARBS

They should also force him to eat lots of fatty steak.

Dr. Charles J. Glueck of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine has been barred from receiving any federal grants for two years. The National Institute of Health found that he falsified scientific data purporting to show that drugs and a low-cholesterol diet were both safe and effective in treating children who might develop heart disease.

HOTLINE

Timothy Ballard



Olga Roth unfurls a banner to protest old-growth cuts in Oregon

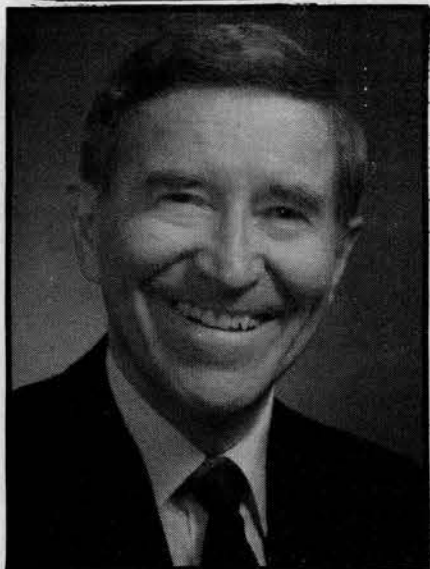
Trees first!

Tree-sitting in Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest has reached new heights. For over a month, Earth Firsters have maintained vigils atop some of the oldest unprotected sugar pine and Douglas fir trees in the Northwest. During that time, 29 protesters were arrested in five separate confrontations with the timber industry. That has not deterred the Kalmiopsis chapter of the environmental group, which offers workshops in the art of tree-climbing, to encourage more protests against timber sales in the North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area. Randy Prince, Olga Roth and Ron Huber have spent days at a time 80 feet above the ground. Prince hoped to spend over a month in his tree, but was forced down after a week by an irate logger who sawed through the tree's trunk. He is back atop another perch. Prince and others want the area made into a federal wilderness for protection against timber harvesting and road building. Julie Norman, speaking for the activists said, "people are moving and visiting here because of the area's pristine beauty. we can't jeopardize that."



Anschutz workers in potential wilderness in Idaho

HOTLINE



Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham

An interesting governor

Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham, R, is the target of a recall effort. A citizen's group, the Mecham Recall Committee, charges that he has embarrassed Arizona nationally with his statements to the press, among them that working women cause divorce and that he sees nothing wrong with calling black children "pickaninnies." One of Mecham's first actions upon taking office early this year was to cancel plans to celebrate Martin Luther King Day as a state holiday. In protest, many national organizations, including the National Basketball Association, cancelled conventions in Arizona. Mecham says he saved the state \$3 million in wages by cancelling the King holiday and instituting a non-paid holiday, King Civil Rights Day, on a Sunday. Supporters of Mecham say the controversies have less to do with issues than with the Governor's outspoken style. Mecham told Associated Press that his opponents are "homosexuals and a few dissident Democrats," and says he won't campaign against the recall drive. To succeed, 216,746 signatures must be collected by Nov. 3, and the petitions must then pass a rigorous county validation review. March 1988 is the earliest a recall election could be held. The recall is given little chance of success.



Wolf is collared

A wolf captured on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana has been fitted with a radio collar and released to rejoin the pack. The collar will enable scientists to monitor the actions of the wolves and determine the damage they cause livestock. The recent emergence of the wolf, now recolonizing south of the Canadian border, has sparked considerable debate between ranchers and environmentalists. (HCN, 5/11/87). The wolves' future on the reservation depends on whether any livestock is harmed, Dale Harms of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told the Great Falls Tribune.

Earth First! warriors meet at Grand Canyon

Some 200 radical eco-activists from all over the country gathered at Parissiwampitts Points on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon last week for Earth First!'s annual Round River Rendezvous. They camped in Kaibab National Forest, just outside Grand Canyon National Park.

Local organizer Michael Robinson said, "This is the largest group of hardcore environmentalists northern Arizona has ever seen."

Workshops on various aspects of deep ecology, "Monkeywrenching," bioregionalism, tropical forest preservation, and dozens of related topics occupied several days before the gathering's finale -- a day-long rally of music, talks, poetry and skits.

Australian John Seed and his three "Canyon Pygmies" sang an anti-nuclear piece, Californian Darryl Cherney and his Frothing Moths Band performed their parody, "I'm a Whiteman," and Texans Bill Oliver and Glen Waldech did their eco-classic, "You have to have a habitat."

Mike Roselle, better known under his EF! pseudonym, Nagasaki Johnson, led the Spiketees in a dramatization of tree-spiking while singing "Burn that dozer."

But it was EF!'s founder Dave Foreman who capped the event. "We are a warrior society," roared Foreman. "We aren't an environmental group. You can't be a couch potato earthfirster. We aren't interested in legitimacy or credibility with the thugs that run this planet. People are trying to destroy all that's right, that's beautiful, that's wild."

Wearing a black t-shirt emblazoned with a sketch of a monkeywrench and the logo -- "Defend the Wilderness," Foreman said earthfirsters believe that in every decision, consideration for the earth must come first -- "Not people first, not General Motors first, not America first. Not power to the people first, but earth first."

Foreman defended emotional and intuitive thinking -- modes not usually associated with Western ways. "Linear logic and rationality aren't the only ways to think," he noted. "We must get back in touch with the mind in the whole earth. It's sky, it's the clouds, it's the trees that are thinking."

In warning of the dangers of overpopulation, Foreman touched on a recurring theme of many EF! thinkers. "There are still too damn many of us on this planet," he insisted.

Foreman warned against the glorification of the rural proletariat, whom some tag as "rednecks," as somehow more in tune with the real world than urban masses or others. "We can't put any group up on a pedestal," he said. "It's racist and classist to expect more out of any group, to see more beauty in any group."

If any belief could be recognized as dogma to EF!, biocentrism would be foremost, according to Foreman. "Biocentrism is the recognition of the intrinsic value in all things," he stated. "All things are important for themselves, and humans aren't the measure of all things. Things exist for themselves and not for human beings. That's the motivation for all of us."

As for wilderness, Foreman said, "Wilderness is the real world. The



Dana Lyons and the Dozettes at the Earth First! rendezvous

cities, the rural areas, your job in Los Angeles or New York City or Bozeman isn't the real world," he told the assembled crowd. "It's out here in the arena of evolution."

"While earthfirsters don't all monkeywrench or advocate it," Foreman pointed out, "we do not condemn it. Rather, we recognize it as a legitimate tool of self-defense for some people within EF!"

Foreman ended his speech with a

quote from Martin Luther King Jr., "If you don't have something to die for, life's not worth living."

Earth First! is not a formal organization: It has no dues, no offices and no staff. Admission to its annual meeting was free. It's only "structure" is its newspaper, *Earth First!*, which is based at Box 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703.

--Art Goodtimes

A 'hit list' dam is completed

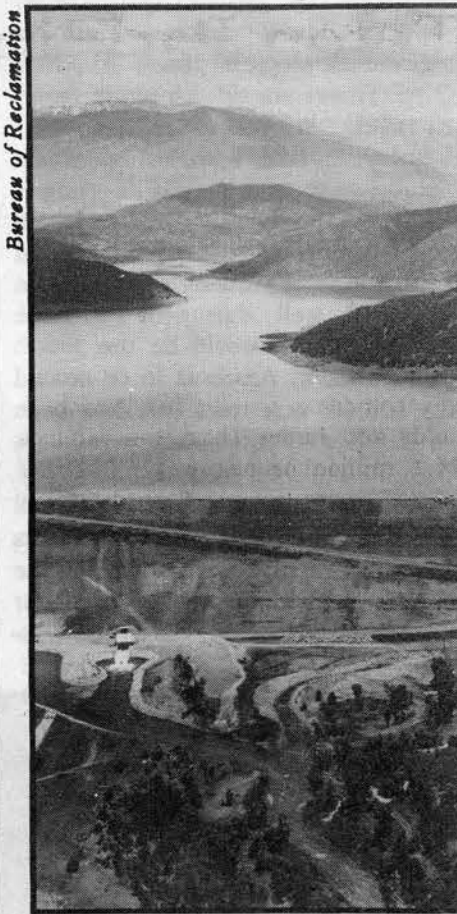
After 30 years of struggle, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Tri-County Water Conservancy District will dedicate Ridgway Dam in western Colorado in a public ceremony Aug. 22.

The dam on Dallas Creek near Ridgway, Colo., was one of 10 on Carter's 1977 hit list, and faced opposition from economists and local environmentalists. Costing approximately \$125 million, the dam is the principal unit of the Dallas Creek Project, and has had to contend with heavy metal contamination, landslides and cost-overruns.

Ruth Siemer, a chemist and Ouray, Colo., resident who testified against the dam 10 years ago, says the project is still plagued by problems. "I don't think they'll ever have decent fishing there. The heavy metals are just pouring in. And I've heard griping from Montrose farmers that their water bills have gone up," she said. The metals flow in from lead mines in the San Juan Mountains just upriver from Dallas Creek.

Art Cannon, manager of the water conservancy district, says the water will be used for irrigation and industrial use, and not for drinking.

The dam stands 227 feet high, 2,430 feet long at the crest, and its reservoir will contain 80,000 acre-feet of water by 1990. Recreation facilities are being developed for the Bureau



Ridgway Dam and Reservoir, Colorado

of Reclamation by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and will be completed in late 1989, when the reservoir will be opened to fishing.

BARBED WIRE

Freedom to smash into one's fellow man on the West's highways suffers another tragic setback at the hands of the Supreme Court.

Rejecting appeals by South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado,

Louisiana and Ohio, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government can withhold highway funds from states that lack a minimum drinking age of 21.

Brower chides and exhorts his old group

In a chilly hockey stadium filled with about 600 Sierra Clubbers, David Brower recently celebrated his 75th birthday by giving a keynote talk to the group's annual meeting in Vail, Colo.

One of the best known leaders of the environmental movement, Brower was director of the Sierra Club from 1952 to 1969, and now serves on the club's board. He called for a "green century" without war or impoverishment: "We must find alternatives to our destructive and energy-using habits... and make peace economically feasible." The audience, largely in their 50's and 60's, gave Brower a standing ovation and sang "Happy Birthday."

The assembly was called "Shaping the Environmental Future," and it attracted staff and members from all over the country who led workshops on dozens of aspects of conservation. Strong themes running throughout the conference were world peace and the club's grassroots effectiveness.

The Sierra Club's three national priorities for lobbying this year are reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, including acid rain legislation; protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and passage of the California Desert Protection Act, said club president Larry Downing. These were determined by a national ballot sent to 2,000 club leaders. The nuclear arms race, a pet cause of David Brower's, was considered too controversial by most of the board members, who feared alienating the

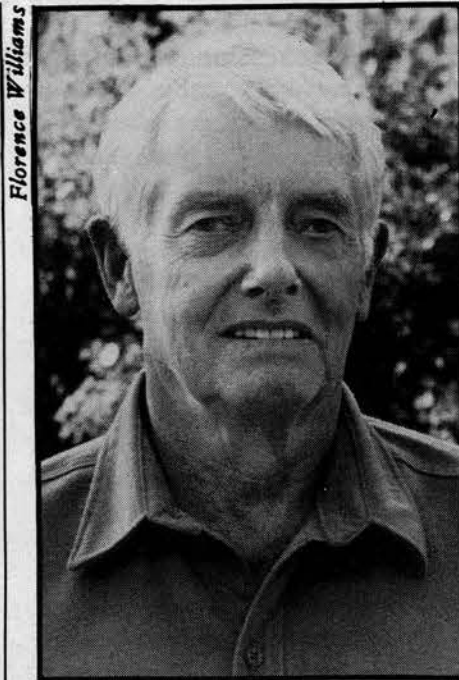
"great American public involved with weaponry," Brower said. Nevertheless the peace issue dominated much of the assembly's debate.

In a workshop on "The Fate of the Earth," Brower said, "I'm outraged, but I've been outraged before -- I'm getting used to it. Conservation and global security are joined together. We spend a trillion dollars on arms; why don't we have a contest to see where we can spend a trillion for peace and prosperity?"

Military disarmament was a theme for many speakers, including Dr. Norman Myers, a British specialist on tropical rain forests. One of his workshops, "American National Security and the Global Environment," stressed that the U.S. would "get a better bang for its buck" if it invested in environmental recovery and not in the military.

On the grassroots theme, many of the more than 90 workshops addressed such topics as "The Volunteering Network," "Media and Your Issue," "Grassroots Involvement in International Conservation," "Lobbying at the State Level," and "Bringing the Clean Water Act Home." Often recited was a quote from Edmund Burke: "There was never anyone worse than he who did nothing because he thought he couldn't do anything."

Michael Fischer, the newly appointed executive director of the club, talked at length about the power of the almost 100-year-old organization. With 410,000 members, 57 chapters, 3,500 officers and



David Brower

75,000 letter-writers, the club's strength is in its grass-roots base, he said. "No one else can come close to that sort of active, knowledgeable membership."

Fischer's "we are the best" attitude seemed to put off some people, many of whom belong to several environmental organizations. Brower may have best expressed that sentiment during his workshop: "We're a voice in the chorus, and we can sure sing good together. I would like to see a little more humility in the Sierra Club." He added, "We are still primarily an elite, white group. We can be a lot better than that."

--Florence Williams

Teton Park inholding brings top dollar

JACKSON, Wyo. -- A courtroom battle last month settled a decade-long dispute between two Jackson families and the National Park Service. The settlement illustrated the high costs the agency faces when it must buy land whose high value the Park Service itself has created.

A federal jury ordered the U.S. government to pay the Mary Reynolds and James Thompson families \$4.2 million or nearly \$26,000 per acre for 164 acres of land within Teton National Park. The high price could influence negotiations for acquisition of 131 other private tracts in the park, said a Wyoming state official.

"What little private land there is in the Jackson area sells for a premium," said Dick Young, lands division director in Denver. He also said the 90 percent federal ownership of land there drives up the price of all private land. "And the parcels inside the park are the most attractive."

The federal jury made its decision after hearing comparisons of the condemned acreage to recently sold tracts in the Jackson area. They were apparently convinced that "improvements such as trees, water, roads and electricity can be added to any piece of land, but you can't move the Grand Teton," Young said. They awarded top dollar for the spectacular, close-up views of the mountain range.

Young noted that the federal government has no money appropriated to pay the amount awarded by the federal jury in Jackson. He said that the Park Service budget for acquiring inholdings is normally only

\$5 or \$6 million a year, "and we're pretty well wiped out for this year already." The agency will have to wait until next year's appropriation to pay, he said.

Young thinks the impact of the jury award will be limited to Teton Park inholdings and will not affect negotiations for land within other national parks. He said most negotiations for settlement of non-federally owned lands within the park will involve land exchanges.

Even though the implications of the jury award in Jackson may have little impact outside that area, a Wyoming state official said that there could be a major reassessment of land values of remaining inholdings in Teton National Park. State

Land Commissioner Howard Schrinar said that Wyoming's 1,320 acres within park boundaries appraised not long ago at \$6 to \$8 million, or \$4,500 to \$6,000 per acre.

"A jury award will force up the appraised value of our land," Schrinar said, adding that he thought all properties within the park "should be appraised in the same way."

Schrinar said that during 20 years of negotiating, "the ball's been picked up and dropped three or four times," leaving Wyoming still at step one of the 20-step land exchange process for its three tracts within Teton Park.

--Katharine Collins

HOTLINE

Ultimatum backfires

Colorado Gov. Roy Romer fired his director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources July 14 after the director, Clyde O. Martz, a water lawyer, gave Romer an ultimatum over a bill. House Bill 1158 would use tax revenues to pay some of the cost of mitigating damage caused by water projects. Martz warned the governor that unless he signed the bill, Martz would resign. Romer signed the bill, and then asked Martz for his resignation "because I felt Clyde and I could no longer work together." The water development community was upset at the loss of Martz; environmentalists were pleased. Steve Blomeke of the Colorado Wildlife Federation told the

Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel*, "The director of Natural Resources must act as a caretaker of natural resources rather than as a cheerleader" for water development interests.

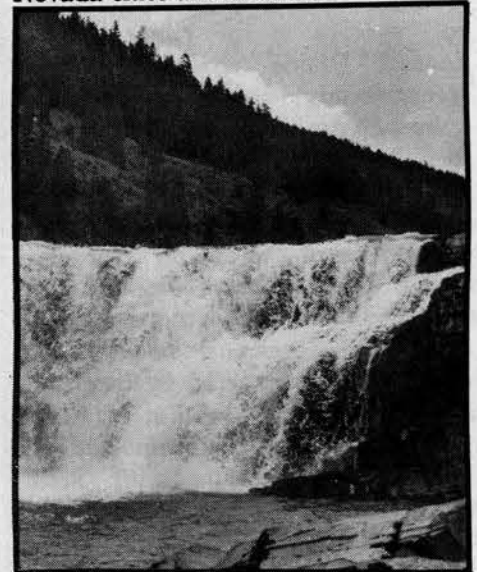
Audubon is appalled

The National Audubon Society has charged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with grossly underestimating the effect the proposed Two Forks Dam in Colorado would have on endangered species of birds nesting on the Platte River in Nebraska. In a letter to the agency's director, Audubon President Peter Berle said he was appalled at the Fish and Wildlife Service's recent preliminary ruling that Two Forks would have no impacts to wildlife on the Platte, reports the *Denver Post*.

HOTLINE

Nuclear county, Nevada

Nevada has created a new county named Bullfrog to reap tax benefits if the federal government decides to base a nuclear waste dump in the state. The new county is a small, uninhabited patch of land, 12 miles square in area, that is one of three proposed waste sites under consideration by the Department of Energy. If the site is chosen for the dump, the federal government will have to compensate the county for lost property taxes. Under the Bullfrog bill, now signed into law, dump revenues estimated between \$8 and \$25 million would be distributed to Nevada cities and counties.



Kootenai Falls, Montana

River - 1, dam - 0

Backers of a proposed dam near Kootenai Falls on the Kootenai River in Montana have abandoned the project following failure to receive a license for the controversial structure. Northern Lights, Inc., head of a consortium of cooperative utilities hoping to construct the \$225 million dam, voted not to appeal the negative ruling by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The commission rejected a license for the 144-megawatt hydroelectric dam after strong opposition from Indians and environmentalists. The 30-foot-high, 925-foot-wide dam could have saved electricity consumers up to \$700 million, according to the utilities. The federal commission, however, decided the cultural and recreational factors outweighed electric benefits. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, with help from the Native American Rights Fund, fought the dam because it would have flooded an important Indian religious site. Environmentalists, including the National Wildlife Federation and the Montana Wildlife Federation, objected to damming the last free-flowing waterfall on a major river in the Northwest. Emily Sorenson from the Montana group calls the decision "a final chapter in a long battle over whether to develop the Kootenai as a hydropower source or let it stay in its natural state."

BARBS

Not only can you lead a horse to water, but sometimes you can even get it to take a sip.

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, a fervent supporter of the Reagan administration at the Iran-Contra hearings, on learning that \$13,900 in arms sales money had been spent to install a security system for Col. Oliver North, said, "I find it a little difficult to avoid the feeling of being let down..."

HOTLINE



Roxann Moore

A question of survival

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks believes that the grizzly bear is no longer a "threatened" species in the northern Continental Divide ecosystem. In a recent study, the state asks for public comment to determine whether Montana should petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the grizzly, or await further guarantees of the species' recovery. This is a first since no state has ever proposed that the federal agency remove a species from protection under the Endangered Species Act. Comments should be sent by Sept. 30 to Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620. The grizzly study is available at the same address.

Farmers flee water

A group of Colorado farmers announced plans to file a lawsuit after the Dolores Water Conservancy District unanimously rejected their requests to withdraw water contracts. With the Dolores River already dammed, the conservancy district board refuses to allow 41 farmers to get out of irrigation contracts they signed ten years ago. The dissenting farmers are due to take about one-third of the project's irrigation water (HCN, 3/20/87 and subsequent letters 4/27, 5/23 and 6/22). Faced with a declining farm economy and tripled costs of irrigation systems, the farmers say they can no longer afford the water, and that they will lose their land if forced to pay the increased costs. "We've got no other recourse but to sue," said bean farmer Junior Hollen. "If we don't, we'll have to kiss everything we've ever worked for goodbye."

Only \$2 million

In response to a study commissioned by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Gallatin National Forest admitted that it loses money on timber sales. But a spokesperson also said the coalition's figure of over \$4 million per year in losses was based on old data, and that the true loss was around \$2 million. The coalition's report used 1978 statistics found in the draft forest plan because new data have not been released to the public. Forest spokesperson Bob Dennee told the *Great Falls Tribune* that national forests are not intended to make profits. "Almost all our programs, from a strict cash-flow basis, are not cost efficient. You have to understand what national forests are all about," he said. Many forest critics have complained about the Gallatin Forest's extensive road building practices.

Crater Lake could be loved to death

When the top of a massive volcano in Oregon's southern Cascades collapsed some 66 centuries ago, it spread 15 cubic miles of mountainside over the land and created a caldera 32 miles around.

As the rocks slowly cooled over the next 5,000 years, the immense caldera filled with water, forming the deepest and clearest lake on the continent. The Klamath Indians held it sacred and protected their secret jewel until 1853, when a prospector searching for a lost gold mine stumbled over the rim and nearly into the lake. Through his startled eyes the rest of the world learned of the crystalline waters, and 49 years later, Crater Lake became Oregon's first and only national park.

In 1967, a graduate student named Douglas Larson began studying the 1,932 foot deep Crater Lake. Among the tests he conducted was one with a secchi disc, a white wooden platter used to measure water clarity. On July 16, 1969, he lowered a disc 44 meters into the water before it disappeared, thus, he says, establishing a world's record secchi reading for a lake.

Ten years later Larson returned to the lake only to find secchi readings some 25 percent less than those of the '60s. The change was not visible to the naked eye, but something was clouding the lake, he realized. To find out what, Larson teamed up with Clifford Dahm, an aquatic ecologist from the University of New Mexico, and checked the 60 springs around the caldera. It didn't take them long to round up a likely suspect: sewage.

"We think it is saturating the ground and seeping into an aquifer which flows into the lake," Larson says. In the water of spring No. 42, which is near the National Park's buildings, the two researchers found nitrate levels 10 to 20 times those of the other springs.

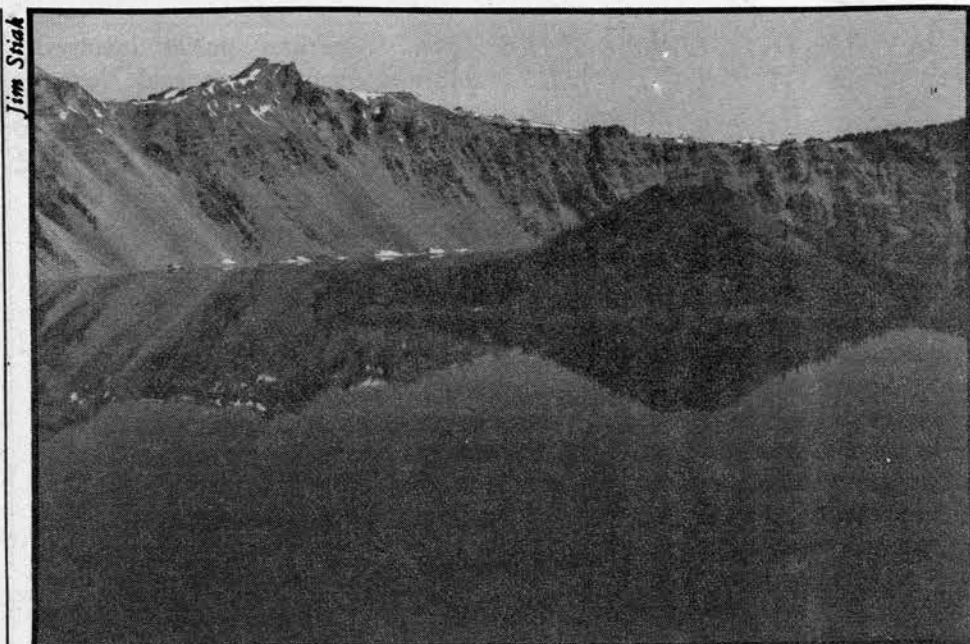
Those levels increased during the summer when most of the half-million annual visitors arrive to tax the aging sewage system. Spring No. 42 became the smoking gun that convinced Larson and Dahm that the cafeteria's septic system was leaching into Crater Lake.

The resulting increase in nitrogen -- up to 400 parts per billion -- is fairly moderate. Water isn't considered unsafe to drink until it reaches about 10,000 ppb. But it's enough to feed and cause a growth spurt of small organisms such as diatoms and other plankton, the scientists say. Ecologist Dahm says the effects of even a minute increase in nutrients can be dramatic.

"Crater Lake is extremely fragile," adds Larson, "it can't absorb a lot of punishment. The effects could be irreversible -- no one knows." Larson says he has urged Park Superintendent Bob Benton to stop the lake pollution since 1978. "So far nothing's been done."

Benton says, "We know the nitrates are there, and we're dealing with it. This is one of the finest diamonds in the national park system, and we're not going to jeopardize it."

In 1982, largely on the basis of Larson and Dahm's findings, Congress mandated a 10-year program to study Crater Lake. Although Douglas applied for the job of heading the program, it was another



Crater Lake

Larson, Oregon State University's Gary Larson, who was given the position.

Gary Larson has assembled a group of scientists to thoroughly study the lake. Limnologists are testing the chemistry of the nutrient-poor water; physicists are studying the lake's brilliant sapphire color. Others are studying the effects of storms and slides, of the plowing of 50 feet of snow a year from the road, and of the lake's four tour-boats. They are also looking into the effect of thousands of cars that circle the lake every summer, and of possible pollution from the nearby town of Medford, which often has the dirtiest air in the state.

The \$100,000 annual funding from Congress has also provided a new research boat, diving submarine, new boathouse and well equipped recreation room.

Gary Larson won't predict what the group will find. "This is a complex and dynamic system," he says. "I can't tell you the lake has changed in clarity because of man-caused sewage....But that is a very possible explanation."

Sewage has been a sticky issue in the park since 1975, when drinking water became contaminated and hundreds of people fell ill. Although the manager of the lodge, Ralph Peyton, was charged with removing warning signs and covering up the affair, he won a \$1 million lawsuit against the Park Service.

The 78-room lodge is another touchy issue. In 1984, plans were announced to raze the historic building instead of spending an estimated \$33 million to renovate it. Public reaction and a new Park Service director put those plans on hold.

Park Superintendent Benton says plans to move sewage away from the lake are being developed. A sewage pump may be the cheapest, but it's a high-maintenance machine. In 15-foot snow depths "we can't fool around with damn pumps," Benton says. Four alternatives to the sewage problem will be presented to the public this fall, Benton says.

There is yet another controversy surrounding Crater Lake, this one a search for geothermal power to generate electricity. The California Energy Company has begun exploratory drilling on BLM land four-and-a-half miles east of the lake. Opponents of the drilling fear that the wells may strike subterranean waters that are connected to Crater Lake. Their suspicions were buttressed

ed by a 1983 finding by a USGS geophysicist of two warm spots on the lake's floor, leading to the conclusion that there are hot springs there. To Joe La Fleur, geologist for the California Energy Company, the evidence is flimsy.

"The difference in temperature he measured was one-hundredth of a degree Celsius," says La Fleur. "It's colder than a clam down there. The caldera's only 6,500 years old, and there's probably some pieces of rock underneath still cooling off."

"There's no evidenced that there are any kinds of springs on the lake floor," he adds. "Those guys are doing nothing but protecting their research budgets."

Jack Dymond, part of the park's monitoring team, disagrees. "There's conclusive evidence of hot springs," he says. Dymond and fellow oceanographer Bob Collier hope new instrumentation allowing them to troll for hot springs will prove their case this summer.

-- Jim Strick

HOTLINE

Writers' blindspots

The nation's outdoor writers do good research and writing about hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, but seldom tackle questions of use and preservation of outdoor resources. That problem was highlighted by the recent Outdoor Writer's Association of America convention in Kalispell, Mont., this summer (HCN, 7/6/87). The conference drew over 1,000 writers and rave reviews of Montana's outdoors, but few requests for information on the state's many hotly contested conservation issues. The Flathead National Forest says it spent over \$1,000 to mail information to 1,500 writers, but the mailing resulted in only one pre-arranged interview about resource issues. Alfred Journey, Montana editor for *Outdoor Life*, also notified attendees that he could provide leads to roadbuilding on national forests, mining in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and grizzlies on the Rocky Mountain Front. He says he did not receive even one response. After the event Journey told the *Great Falls Tribune*, "We are really good at writing where to go and how to get it when you get there, but we don't seem to make the connection between preserving the resources and continuing to have the hunting and fishing."

Idaho's governor turns wilderness scout

Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus traded his desk for a saddle to see firsthand one of the most controversial proposed wilderness areas in eastern Idaho.

He joined the Idaho Fish and Game Commission as it toured the Palisades backcountry on horseback. The 35-mile trip through steep terrain this June was the first of what Andrus said would be several tours of roadless areas under consideration for wilderness designation. The trip, organized by the Idaho Fish and Game Department, was designed to show commissioners the successful mountain goat reintroduction program in the 202,000-acre tract.

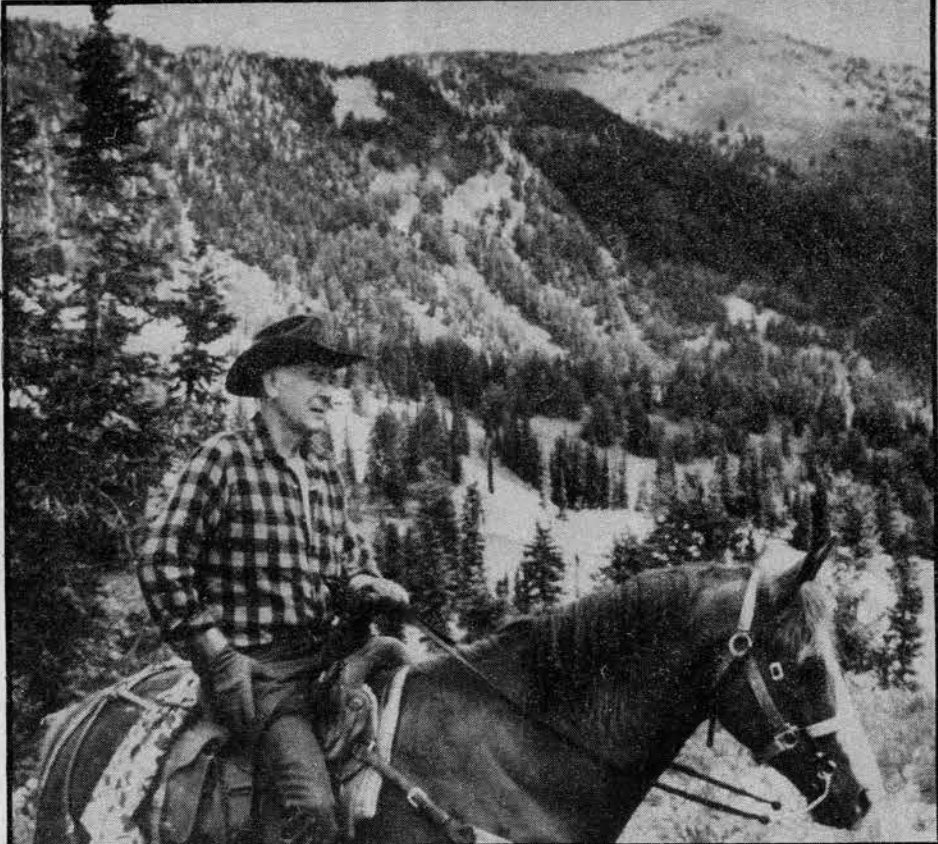
"Timber values are not that high but other resource values are really high, including water quality," he said. "I've got pretty good ideas but I've got to put the pieces together in the puzzle."

Andrus and the commissioners rode in Sunday on the Palisades Creek trail to Upper Palisades Lake where they camped. The entourage rode up steep trails Monday to Baldy Mountain to observe mountain goats. On Tuesday, they rode out through spectacular scenery in Waterfall Canyon and out Little Elk Creek trail.

Throughout the trip, Andrus discussed with local Fish and Game personnel various conflicting uses which Palisades faces, including oil and gas exploration, motorized recreation and wilderness recreation. He has vowed to resolve the Idaho wilderness issue this year. So far, he has done all of his own staff work on the issue.

There are more than 9 million acres of roadless areas in Idaho national forests that cannot be developed until the passage of a wilderness bill or the completion of Forest Service land management plans. Andrus has said he will work

Post-Register photo, Rocky Barker



Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus

with Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, and the rest of the Idaho congressional delegation to hammer out a compromise this year.

He said he expects the most controversy over the Mallard-Larkins and Long Canyon roadless areas in northern Idaho, parts of the Payette National Forest roadless areas in western Idaho and the Pioneers in central Idaho.

"Then there is a legitimate issue that's got to be resolved with the off-road vehicles."

The Palisades area has several stands of old-growth Douglas fir that Louisiana-Pacific Corp., which operates a lumbermill in Rexburg, wants to harvest.

Andrus said that in some areas,

temporary roads can allow timber harvesting without hurting elk and other game species. But other areas have to be left alone.

"I still believe roadless does not have to mean no roads," Andrus said. "You can put in primitive roads, get wood fiber out, close it, scarf it, reseed it and (that) will provide some level of protection. But if you run a road to where we were yesterday, that's the end of the goat population."

"If you don't have habitat for big game, you're talking about the loss of a major industry in the state and a major part of our lifestyle for some of us," said Andrus. "Wilderness is habitat."

--Rocky Barker

An Idaho forest is struck by sabotage

Forest saboteurs have struck in Salmon National Forest in central Idaho. Five sets of spikes were found embedded in a popular multi-use trail. The spikes, totalling 100, had been pounded through boards and buried so that they protruded about one inch above the surface.

The trail lies in an area of the Lemhi Mountains that has been proposed for wilderness designation by the Idaho Conservation League and the Idaho Wildlands Defense Council. Trail users include mountain bikers, horseback riders and hikers. Jim Guest, Forest Service branch chief, told the Idaho Falls *Post Register* that there have been no previous incidents, nor any conflict between users.

Dick Hauff, the Salmon National Forest supervisor, says that he believes the incident may be related to controversy over trail use, and that some environmentalists would like to see the bikes out of the area. "If (the area) did become wilderness, that would exclude bikes," he said.

At least one off-road vehicle user attributes the incident to Earth First! and the Idaho Conservation League. Clark Collins, executive director of a recreation group based in Pocatello, told the *Post Register*, "I think ICL should be held directly responsible for that kind of behavior. The fact that they had Dave Foreman here speaking to their organization is

going to lead to more of these incidents." Foreman is co-founder of Earth First! and author of *A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*.

"We condemn sabotage in any form. It is contradictory to our basic philosophy," said ICL Executive Director Mary Kelly. The ICL board of directors is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to conviction of the perpetrators. "That's how appalled we are," she said. Kelly said this type of sabotage is "totally new... even if you were an Earth First! follower," and believes the trail-spiking may be an effort to frame environmentalists.

A hang glider enthusiast discov-

ered similar damage last April in the Swan Lake District of the Flathead National Forest in northern Montana. He stepped on a spike, prompting an investigation that revealed rocks rolled down to block a road, a sabotaged cattle guard, and monofilament fishing lines strung across trails at neck height. Swan Lake District Ranger Bill Peterson says he believes the incidents are "absolutely" related to controversy among users. The area has been designated for off-road vehicle use, but many environmentalists are upset because it is grizzly bear habitat. Investigations in both areas are pending.

--Florence Williams

HOTLINE

Hall Creek well on hold

The proposed Hall Creek oil and gas well in prime grizzly habitat in Montana is back on hold. The Lewis and Clark National Forest says it will restudy its environmental analysis of the project. A permit was issued to American Petrofina to drill the well in 1985, but appeals were immediately filed by the national and Montana wildlife federations, the Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance and the Blackfoot Tribe. Since then federal decisions

on drilling the well have swung back and forth. Tom France, an attorney for the National Wildlife Federation, said three years ago that the issue for conservationists was adequate planning, and appeals of the well have been based in large part on the Forest Service's refusal to do a detailed environmental impact statement. Forest Supervisor Dale Gorman said recently, however, that "I would expect that we would give very serious consideration to doing an EIS at this time."

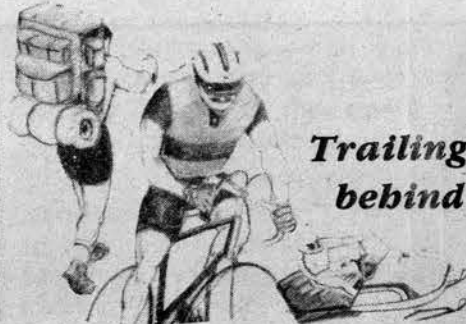
HOTLINE

The toxic touch

Tailings from an old and inactive Montana gold mine are polluting a trout stream in northeastern Yellowstone National Park, according to a park scientist. Metal contaminants activated by the McLaren gold mine flow into Soda Butte Creek, and then into the Lamar River, harming fish and other wildlife, Yellowstone scientist John Varley said. "The situation is definitely getting worse. We're worried about a mass failure of the tailings ditch, which would blow out these tailings in sort of a catastrophe situation," he told the *Great Falls Tribune*. The Environmental Protection Agency in Montana is currently examining the abandoned mine site to determine if it qualifies for Superfund status, according to EPA spokesperson Eric Finke.

Gridlock saves lives

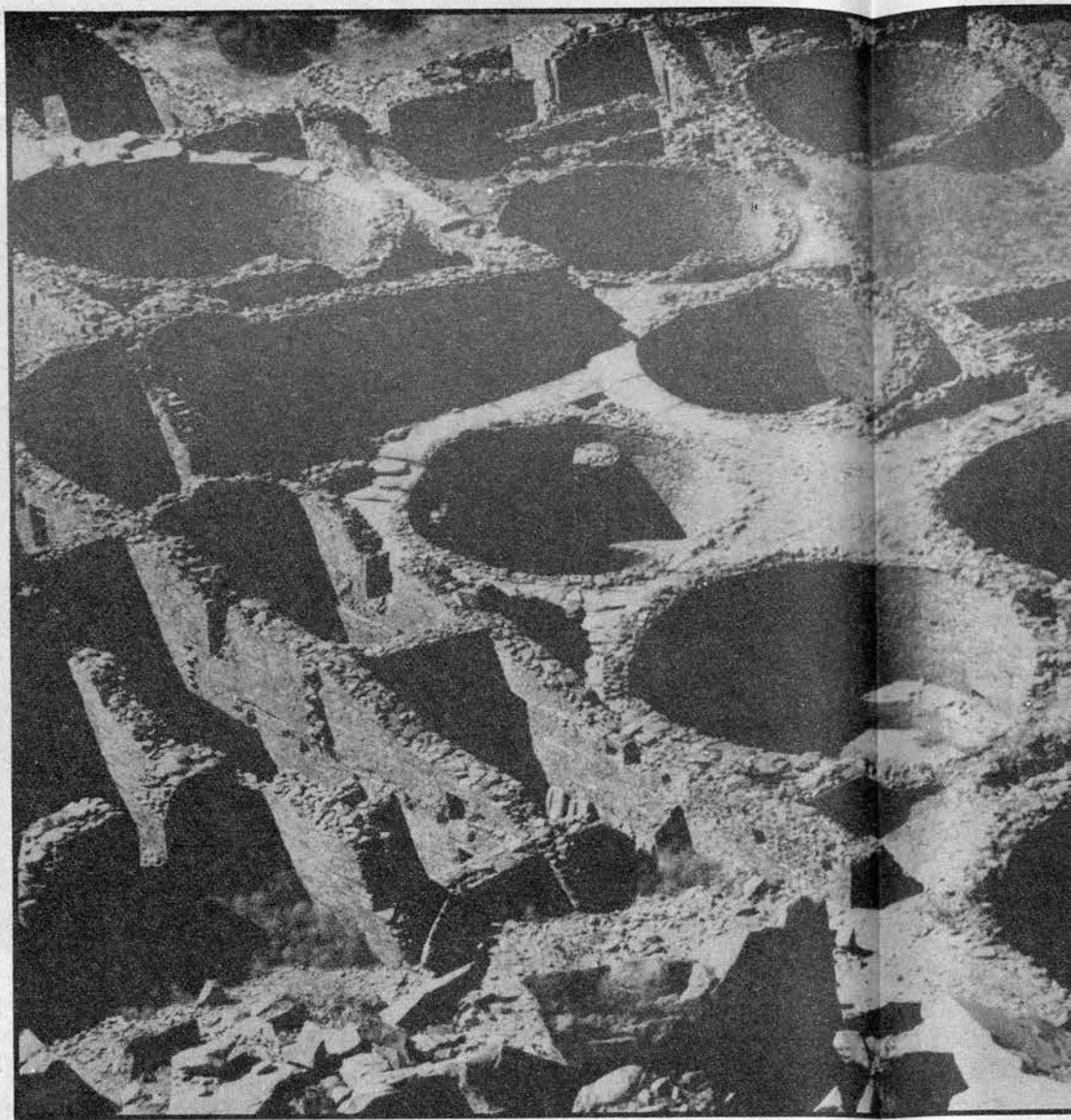
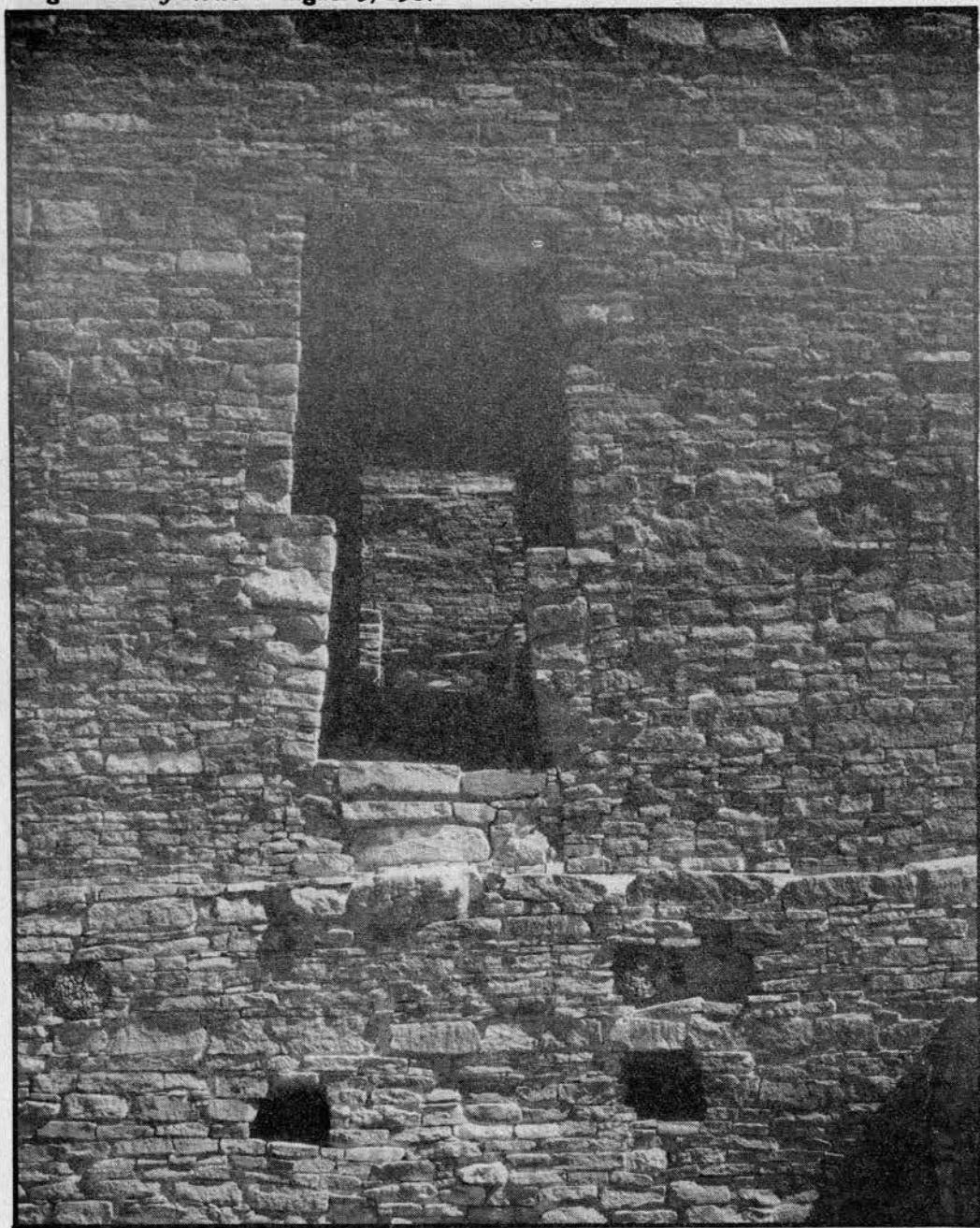
It's hard to believe, but the streets of Manhattan are safer than the back roads of Nevada. That is the conclusion of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, whose study calculated the annual number of highway deaths per 100,000 residents in each county. The national average was 18.7, Manhattan's was a low 2.5, and the most deadly place turned out to be sparsely populated Loving County, Texas, with a rate of 1,465 deaths. Researchers cited several reasons for the high rural death rates, including rough, run-down roads, fewer people using seatbelts, more distant medical care, and drivers moving at higher speeds. More pickups and jeeps are also on back roads, and those vehicles have a tendency to roll over in an accident, researchers said.



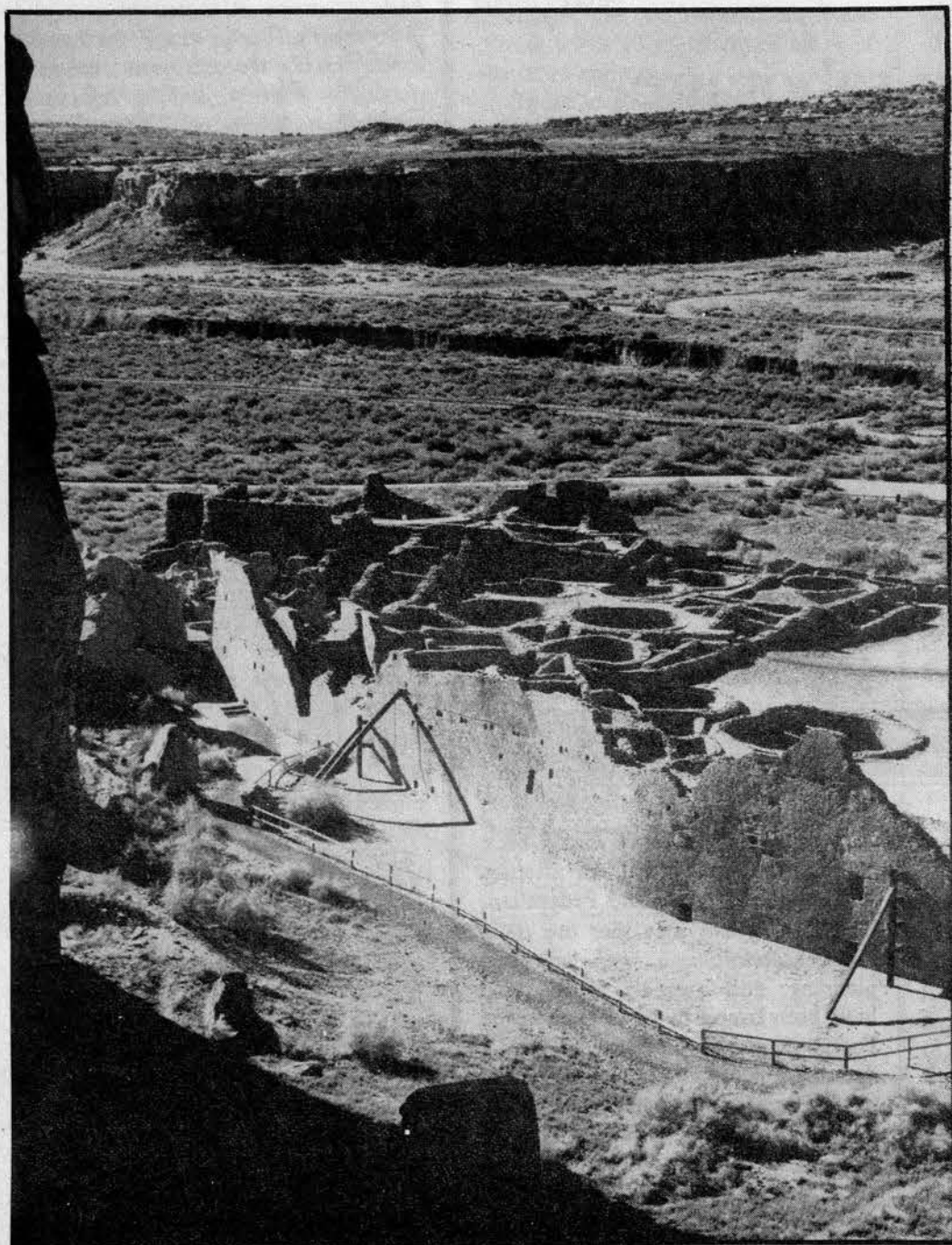
Trailing behind

If you're looking for male companionship, try backpacking; most backpackers are male, well-educated and young. Or if it's female companionship, try walking -- more women than men walk. These observations are from a National Park Service and Interior Department survey for an assessment report on national trails. The survey also found that since 1960, the number of bicyclists using trails has tripled and that half of all Americans now walk for pleasure. Since Congress established national trails in 1968, 750 recreation, eight scenic, and five historic trails have been established, but more trails are needed to meet public demand for recreation near urban areas. The report cites several reasons why more trails have not been created: inadequate funding for route planning, difficulty in acquiring land because of cost and conflicts with landowners, and the high cost of maintenance and construction. For a copy of the 155-page *National Trails Assessment 1986*, or the separate appendix, *National Recreation Trails Guide*, write National Park Service, Recreation Resources Assistance Division (765), Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013.

8-High Country News -- August 3, 1987



Photos, clockwise from above: Chaco masonry, by Dale Schicketanz; kivas of Pueblo Bonito, by the National Park Service; Chaco masonry, by Dale Schicketanz; Pueblo Bonito and Chaco Wash from the air, by the National Park Service; and Pueblo Bonito, by Dale Schicketanz.



CHACO CANYON

by Mary Moran

The Anasazi Indians were undeniably the best masons in the prehistoric United States, and Chaco Canyon shows their architecture at its most advanced. Pueblos rose five stories high with as many as 500 rooms. Eleven to 18 major ruins and hundreds of minor ruins are found within or on the cliffs overlooking Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico.

The culture centered on Chaco Wash, an intermittent stream that winds its way down the broad, shallow canyon cut into an arid, high plateau. Plant life is scarce, mostly greasewood and saltbush. Today the Chaco Culture National Historic Park is reached only after a long drive on sometimes rained-out dirt roads. A feeling of desolation permeates the canyon.

An ancient road system extends out from Chaco Canyon like the spokes of a wheel to surrounding outlying villages, some close to 100 miles away. Travel was by foot, but the roads were elaborate, sometimes wide and even curbed. What the many roads suggest is a complex culture revolving around a ceremonial or trade center. There were too many residences for the amount of farmable land in the canyon, also suggesting Chaco was a place where the Anasazi gathered for ceremonies.

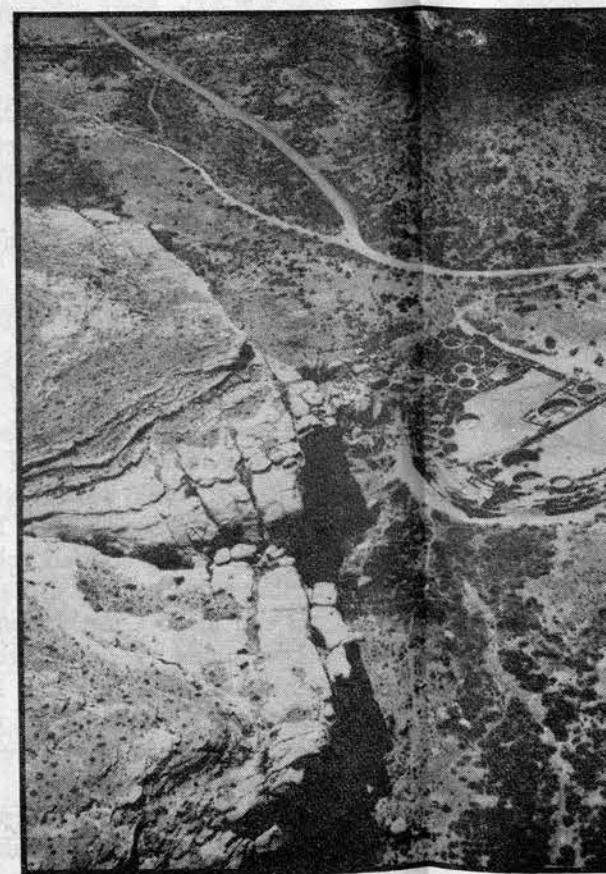
Between A.D. 1150 and 1200 the Anasazi abandoned Chaco Canyon.

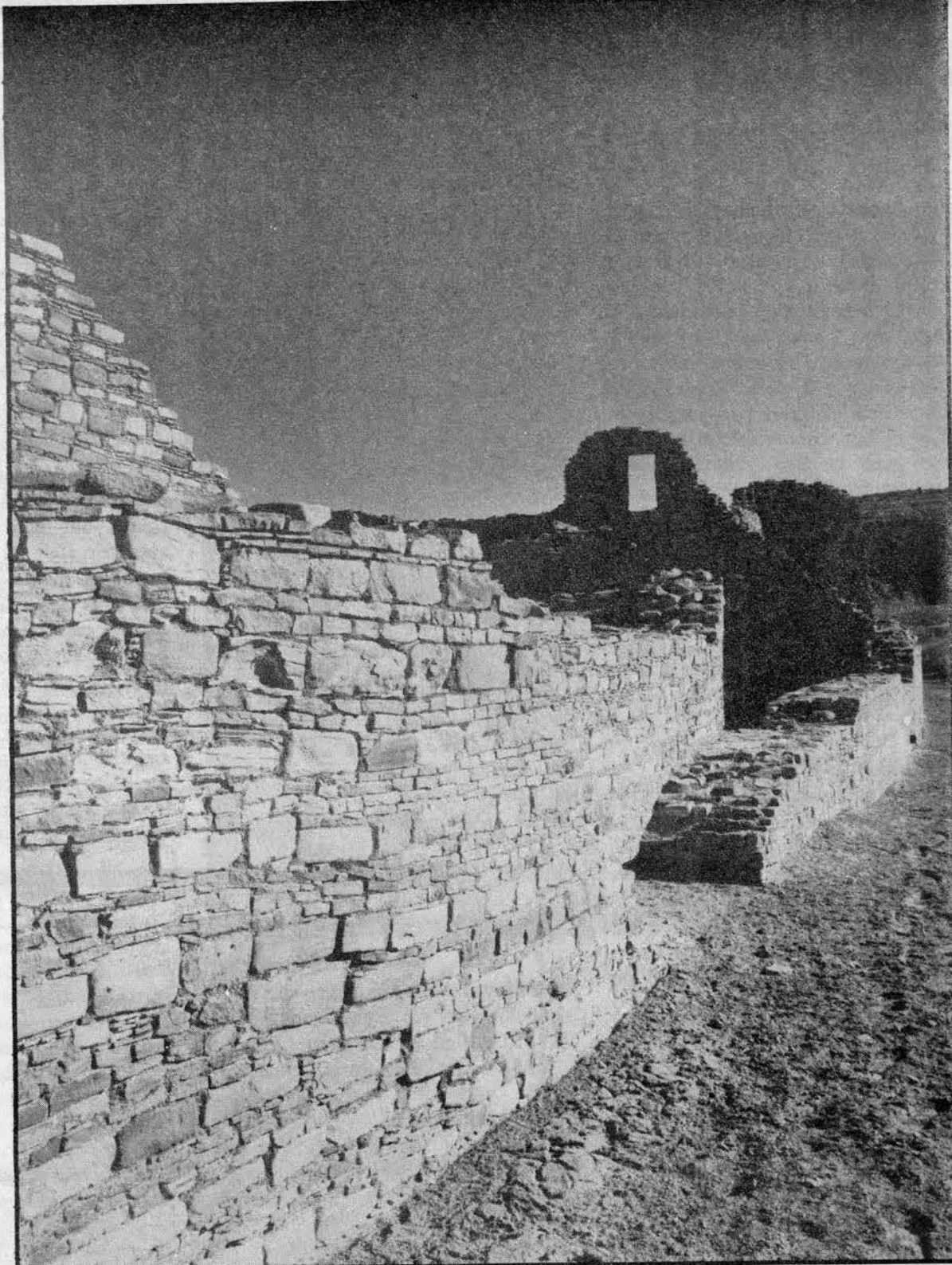
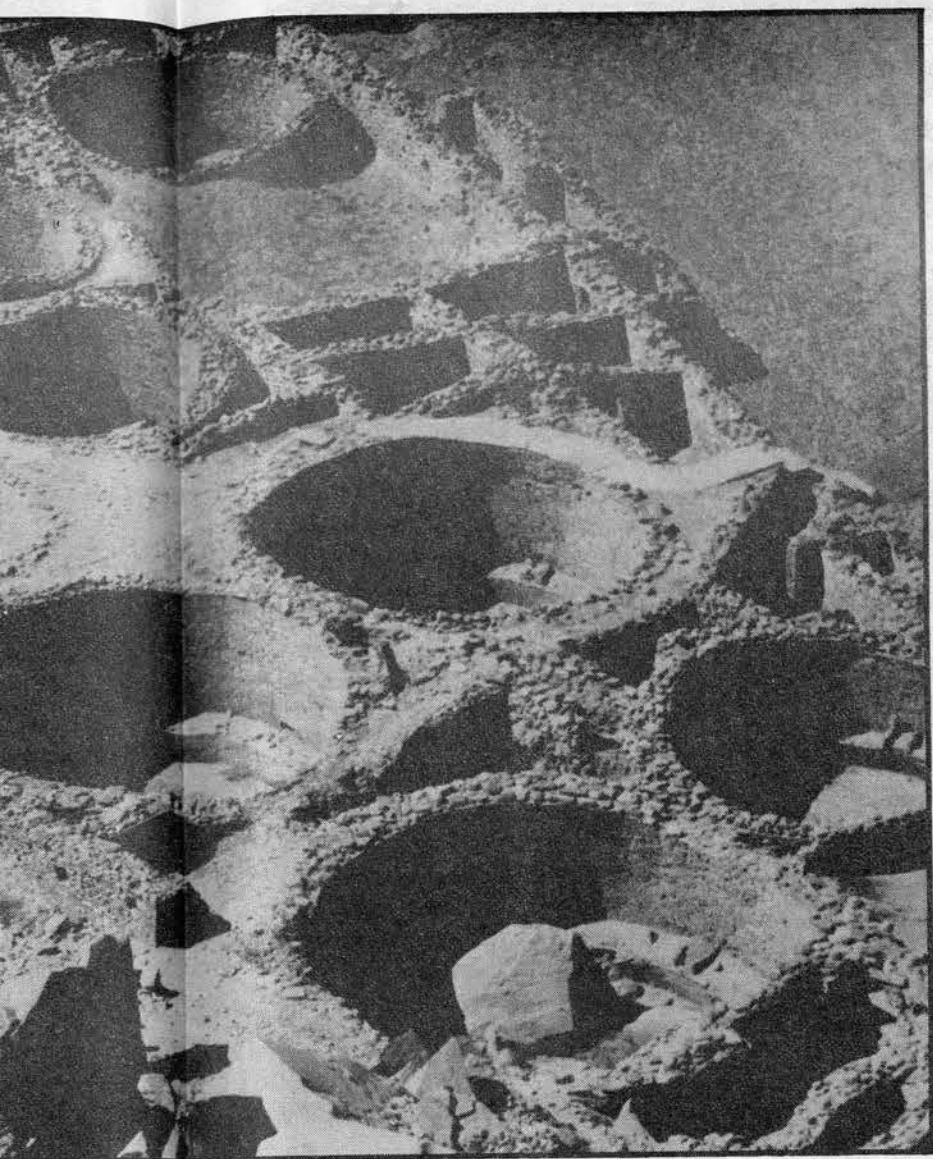
The Anasazi people lived in the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, on the

southern Colorado Plateau. The Chaco Anasazi were one of three major subdivisions of Anasazi culture, each with distinct architecture and pottery. One was Mesa Verde, in southwest Colorado, which the Anasazi began leaving at about the same time as they deserted Chaco Canyon. The Kayenta Anasazi, the other group further west, left their settlements in the last few decades of the 13th century.

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earliest and squ groups hunt ani About A. down to villages crops. Th of crops maize w After A. structure the Color





CANYON

Plateau. The Chacoan one of three major Anasazi culture, each with its own architecture and pottery. Mesa Verde, in Colorado, which the Anasazi lived at about the same time as Chaco Canyon. The Anasazi, the other major culture, left their settlements a few decades of the late 11th century, around 1000 B.C., the

earliest Anasazi grew some maize and squash but migrated in small groups to gather wild plants and hunt animals for most of their food. About A.D. 500, they began to settle down to a sedentary lifestyle in villages and eat mostly cultivated crops. They added beans to their list of crops and then cotton, although maize was always most important. After A.D. 1050, their water control structures became widespread over the Colorado Plateau.

Because most settlements didn't have a year-round flowing stream or spring, the Anasazi designed structures to take advantage of seasonal rainfall. They built holding reservoirs, lined up stones across sloping fields to disperse runoff and limit erosion, terraced arroyos, occasionally built canals and ditches that moved runoff waters to planted fields, and simply chose garden spots in areas where runoff was concentrated.

As agricultural techniques evolved, the architecture was also evolving. Small pithouses of the early villages were eventually replaced by the multistory pueblos and great kivas as large as 81 feet in diameter.

The questions everyone asks about Anasazi culture are: Why did they abandon their incredible pueblos at Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde? Why did their complex and advanced culture disappear?

The first archaeologists at Chaco Canyon looked at the huge ponderosa pine roof beams used in construction of the pueblos, looked at the barren surroundings, and assumed that the climate had changed since Anasazi times -- that ponderosas had grown in the canyon area when the Anasazi lived there. But packrat middens and pollen analyses didn't support that theory. Climate fluctuations probably put juniper and pinon pines within easy reach of some of the Chaco Anasazi, but there were no ponderosas closer than the highlands about 30 miles away. The Anasazi must have carried the trees to Chaco.

Still, climate has usually been

blamed for Chaco's mid-12th century abandonment. Tree-ring data show a severe drought at that time. The downcutting of Chaco Wash into a deep arroyo about then might have made it harder to irrigate and could have been another cause for abandonment. Recently archaeologists have argued that the Anasazi may have cut all the junipers and pinon pines around the wash, causing the downcutting of the stream.

In addition to environmental theories, general cultural breakdown has been blamed for the Anasazi abandonments. Hostile "invaders from the north" is another popular theory, based on late Anasazi tower structures such as those at Hovenweep, in southeastern Utah. Overpopulation and possible subsequent overexploitation of their environment has also been called the cause for collapse.

But the water-control structures at Chaco are mostly along Chaco Wash's tributary streams and the steep canyon walls rather than the main wash, denying the importance of the wash's downcutting. Evidence that the wash actually began a serious downcutting event at the time of Anasazi abandonment is also shaky. Tree-ring data from the Colorado Plateau show several droughts of the intensity of the 12th-century drought through Anasazi time. And the "invaders" were likely migrating Anasazi competing for the last few habitable places on the Colorado Plateau.

Interacting factors probably caused Anasazi abandonments and mi-

grations. In the early 1980s, a group of six archaeologists, geologists and botanists looked at the geological record of arroyo cut-and-fill cycles, at long-term climate trends defined by pollen analyses, and at short-term trends defined by tree-ring data. The critical times, they say, were when several environmental lows hit at once.

The Anasazi, they continued, could respond to such times in a number of ways, and their evolving culture and population size largely dictated that response. A drought during the onset of arroyo downcutting in early Anasazi times might have meant more mobility around the plateau to find wild foods, an intensification of agriculture, or migration to a different site on the plateau. But by the time the environmental lows of the last half of the 12th century rolled around, Anasazi populations had grown and cultural complexity, particularly in the Chaco Canyon area, was at its height. The culture wouldn't allow for a return to mobile hunting and gathering; agriculture was already intensified to its maximum; and sites on the plateau with better climates were probably already overcrowded. So Chaco Canyon was abandoned.

The Anasazi didn't disappear when they left Chaco, Mesa Verde and the rest of their villages. They built pueblos at new sites and evolved into today's Hopi Indians of Arizona, Zuni Indians across the border in New Mexico, and Pueblo Indians farther east in New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley.



Exhale...

(Continued from page 1)

auto-inspection program that went into effect July 1 requires service stations to buy \$6,500 worth of new test equipment and ties the inspection to automobile registration, it does not have the centralized, state-operated program that local air-quality officials wanted. The centralized program continues to be fought by service-station owners, who gain a good deal of spinoff business from the inspections.

Another example of the hurdles clean air faces is seen in the push for year-round daylight savings time for the state. Officials have said it would be the least offensive way of helping to clean Denver's air, yet it has the most circuitous route to follow.

Two proposals were introduced into the state Legislature this year to get the ball rolling on year-round daylight savings time. One resolution would have required the U.S. Department of Transportation, which oversees time-zone matters, to begin formal debate on putting Colorado on Central Standard Time.

"That died in the House simply because people didn't like the idea of being on the same time as Chicago," said Patti Schwyder with the Denver Metropolitan Air Quality Council.

Another resolution would ask the U.S. Congress to amend the Uniform Time Act to put Denver on daylight savings time in the winter. That resolution passed the House but is being held hostage in a Senate committee by Sen. Jim Brandon, an eastern plains Republican.

Brandon said he was upset that state health officials did not take a stronger stand during recent debates before the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission on high-oxygen fuels. Brandon, who represents a good chunk of Colorado's plains farming community, said the Health Department should have pushed for a stronger oxygenated fuels program, basically one that would have more strongly encouraged the use of gasohol. Gasohol is made from corn stock.

For the Health Department, it was a tradeoff. The oil and gas industry lobbied mightily to kill any high-oxygen fuels program, and trade associations and oil companies even tried to convince the Legislature to strip the Air Quality Control Commission of its authority to regulate fuels when they have an impact on air quality.

The commission recently approved a compromise mandatory high-oxygen fuels program. It is unique in the country.

Now, the Health Department's Beckham is worried about a different type of tradeoff: People might think that because they are using ethanol in their cars in the winter, they can forego the voluntary one-day-a-week no-drive program or burn wood in their fireplaces when they're told not to.

"We learned last year when we had our first woodburning ban in place that people sensed a tradeoff was possible -- 'It's not,'" Beckham said.

State and local health officials also are concerned that regional transportation planners are neglecting the impact of their decisions on air quality. "Eventually, we simply have to cut down the number of miles driven in metro Denver," Beckham said.

But the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the area's major transportation-planning group, is not formally involved in the air-quality planning process.

Unfortunately, even if all of the novel strategies being hyped to help clean Denver's air were magically in effect this winter, Denver still would not cut its carbon monoxide by enough to stop violating federal standards, health officials admit.

Dealing with the carbon monoxide monster doesn't address the city's Brown Cloud, an ugly haze of yellow and brown that hangs over the city much of the year. The Brown Cloud and carbon monoxide pollution do seem to coincide on winter days when each is at its worst.

But the Brown Cloud is made up of bits of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide gases and microscopic bits of

dirt and dust from auto exhausts, industry smokestacks, diesel vehicles, street dirt and the coal-fired power plants of the Public Service Co. of Colorado.

Denver has until March 1988 to come up with a separate plan to cut down that type of "particulate" pollution under a federal regulation passed back in early June. Suggestions so far include forcing Public Service to burn natural gas rather than coal and stiffening standards on the quality of diesel fuel.

In the meantime, the Environmental Protection Agency is trying to figure out how to deal with the approximately 80 cities in the same boat as Denver -- cities that will miss the 1987 deadline for cleaning their air of carbon monoxide or another basic pollutant, ozone. Basically, the EPA has said for years that if cities can prove they have made every reasonable effort to clean up their air, the EPA would not bring down the hammer of economic sanctions.

Legislation recently introduced by Colorado Sen. Tim Wirth would give

cities like Denver either five or 10 years to meet the federal clean-air standards. But in exchange, urban areas would be required to enact a full battery of air cleanup strategies, including vapor recovery systems on gasoline pumps, new tailpipe emission limits for trucks and far greater use of ethanol and other clean-burning fuels for vehicles.

Wirth's co-sponsor on the bill, Democratic Sen. George Mitchell of Maine, called the legislation "a delicately balanced approach" that provides incentives to urban areas that make honest efforts to meet federal clean-air standards.

□

Lou Chapman is the environmental writer for the *Denver Post*.



Denver, Colo.

Reno, Denver come under EPA interdict

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it will restrict construction of large new air pollution sources in 14 major metropolitan areas beginning next winter.

All 14 areas will fail to meet the Clean Air Act's Dec. 31, 1987, deadline to bring local air quality within federal standards. The 14 that have incurred the ban are not the only cities that will miss the deadline, but just the ones that failed to file acceptable air pollution control plans with the EPA as required under the act.

The cities in trouble are mostly in the Midwest and California, but two are in the West: Denver, Colo., and Reno, Nev. Both have a carbon monoxide problem. The ban will prohibit construction of industries with emissions of 100 tons or more of the specific pollutants now out of control. The ban will take effect

sometime in February or March 1988, says EPA air quality expert Dale Wells.

In Denver and neighboring Aurora, the carbon monoxide restriction could ruin plans to build a waste incinerator to cogenerate electricity. Other examples of large new air pollution sources include power plants, steel mills, natural gas terminals and refineries, large paint operations and breweries.

All affected states must re-write their air pollution control plans for the polluted cities and undertake more drastic cleanup efforts, or risk federal highway and other sanctions from the EPA. Sanctions may be hard on cities, but Wells says, "The Clean Air Act gives us no choice. This is what Congress intended and I don't think it's unreasonable."

Two other Western states are already being prosecuted by the EPA for inadequate air quality control

plans. Albuquerque, N.M., will soon face EPA sanctions, including the withholding of federal highway funds, for ozone and carbon monoxide excess. And the agency is in the midst of a court battle with Arizona because of pollution problems in the Phoenix and Tucson areas.

The EPA will put out another list of air pollution offenders in September for areas which have EPA-approved air pollution control plans, but which will also fail to meet the Dec. 31 deadline. The list is advance notice that such areas must prepare to re-write those plans or also face sanctions, says Wells. In Utah the list may include the Salt Lake City area, Provo and Ogden; in Montana, Missoula, Great Falls and Billings; and in Colorado, Ft. Collins, Greeley and Colorado Springs.

--Steve Hinchman

In some of the West's towns and cities, it is clean air and health versus woodstoves

by Steve Hinchman

After a six-year delay, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued new air quality standards for airborne particulates. The regulations become effective July 31.

Although there is little difference between new and old particulate standards, the new rules are backed by health data and will be strictly enforced, the agency promises. That was not the case in the past.

Particulate pollution is a serious problem in Western mountain towns, especially during weather inversions. Low-tech wood-burning stoves are the main culprits, but EPA officials say restaurant grills, charbroilers, auto exhaust and dusty streets also foul the air.

The new regulations will hit the West hard. Eighteen cities and towns in Colorado are expected to fail the new standards, and in Montana 13 towns are vulnerable. Idaho reports six of its counties are on the EPA's target list, and in Utah the Salt Lake City metro area and towns of Magna and Provo are expected to fail. Other potential offenders include Sheridan and Lander in Wyoming, and Rapid City, S.D., according to Dale Wells, the EPA's air-quality technician based in the Region 8 Denver office.

The EPA has regulated particles suspended in the air since 1971, but never had health data to back its regulations. Data based on 13 years of research now show that health is damaged by particles 10 microns or smaller that lodge easily in a person's lungs. Accordingly the EPA has switched its regulations from total suspended solids to particles 10 microns and smaller. A human hair is 100 microns thick.

A Colorado health officer says although the new EPA regulations are more specific, they are also slightly less restrictive. Steve Arnold, who is with the Colorado Health Department's Air Pollution Control Division, says the regulations should be tougher since the West's pollution is complicated by altitude. Most of Colorado is above 5,000 feet, which causes people to breathe deeper and faster. "Our assumption is the standards are not good enough for high altitudes," Arnold says.

The agency says, however, that the new standards will be accompanied by better enforcement. The EPA's air quality regulations are enforced indirectly by enforcing air quality management plans each state adopts. In turn, state health officials enforce local management plans drafted by cities to control their pollution problems.

As of August, states will have nine months to re-write their plans and three years to fully implement programs contained in those plans. The EPA's Dale Wells says if states don't fix their air problems by then, the agency will step in with its own air quality plan.

Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA has the authority to withhold federal grants and funding for such projects as highway construction or sewage treatment plants until an

area's air is cleaned up.

Enforcement will hit the West's area if the EPA decides to change its fugitive dust policy. That policy exempts from EPA regulations rural communities of 50,000 or less, in which the main source of particulate pollution is windblown soils. Historically, the dust policy has been used to exempt nearly every rural community from EPA regulations, even when most of the pollution came from woodstoves.

Woodsmoke particles average .2 microns, which the EPA says is within the most dangerous size range, and can contain up to 14 carcinogenic compounds. In Colorado where over half a million cords of wood are burned each year, the state health department reports it handles more complaints about woodsmoke than all industrial sources of air pollution combined.

In Colorado's mountain towns, Telluride's air ranks as the dirtiest, followed by Pagosa Springs, Aspen, Crested Butte, Rifle, Grand Junction, Fruita, Vail and Steamboat Springs. Arnold says the health risks in these areas include the likelihood of increased respiratory disease, reduced lung function in children during exercise and a lesser reduction in adult lung function.

Beginning in January 1987, Colorado became the second state in the nation after Oregon to regulate new woodstoves. Colorado will soon be the first to certify new fireplaces. The regulations will help phase out old designs, replacing them with high-tech fireplaces and stoves utilizing secondary burn chambers and catalytic converters to reduce emissions. The first phase of the project required all new stoves sold in the state to meet criteria that cut particulate emissions by half over old designs, to 30 grams per hour. In July 1988, that figure will be reduced to 12 grams, and carbon monoxide emissions must also be cut in half by that date (HCN, 7/22/85). Similar regulations for new fireplaces will be effective in late 1988.

Many communities have also imposed their own control programs. In Telluride, no new woodstoves have been allowed for the past two years. The only way to install a new woodstove is to buy out permits for two old stoves. The town is also offering incentives to replace old equipment with new, high-grade stoves and eventually hopes to connect most of the town to a natural gas line recently extended to the area. The state health department has started a similar demonstration project in Pagosa Springs, where 85 percent of residents use wood as their sole source of heat.

Wells says the EPA will join the regulatory move to control emissions from wood stoves, enacting similar, though slightly less restrictive, regulations nationwide on all woodstoves sold after July 1990. But Wells warns that such regulations will only help mitigate impacts from population growth and will not solve existing particulate problems.

Eva Crane



Lander, Wyoming

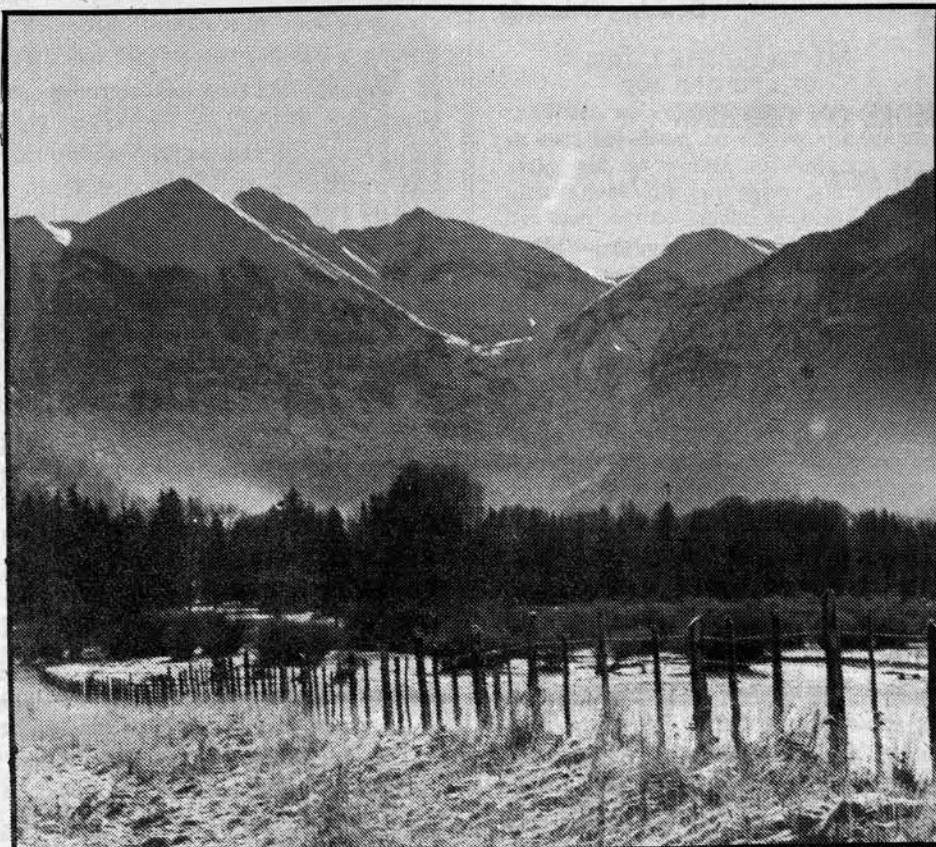
Wells says that from experience he has found that the only solution that works for sure is to ban use of woodstoves altogether, or limit burning during high pollution days.

On an average day in the West, you can see for 110 miles -- the highest visibility in the nation, says Steve Arnold of Colorado's Department of Health.

Arnold and other Colorado officials have identified the state's air quality and long range vistas as a primary scenic attraction, but visual air pollution could be threatening those resources.

In a study conducted at Mesa Verde National Park, in southwestern Colorado, the department identified three types of visual air pollution affecting the park. Plume blight is thin layers of haze spread horizontally across the sky just above the horizon; steam plumes rise vertically on the horizon, and regional haze scatters light to reduce overall visibility.

Jose Bonza



Telluride, Colorado

All three stem mainly from particulate emissions produced by coal-fired power plants in the Four Corners area. Rural sulfate and nitrate particulates from wood stoves add to the problem, Arnold says.

There are federal regulations to protect visual air quality, but Arnold says they are not enough. "It is evident Colorado and other Western states are going to have to take an aggressive stand to protect their air quality." The department plans to conduct surveys to identify the levels of visual pollution Coloradans will tolerate, and to then make those standards law.

The department's concerns are shared by Utah, where a citizens' commission appointed by Gov. Norm Bangerter concluded that clean air was a top priority (HCN, 1/19/87). Arnold hopes that by coordinating Colorado's air quality regulations with other Western states, a regional consensus on air pollution can be reached and enforced.

12-High Country News -- August 3, 1987

LETTERS

FALSE DRAMATIZATION

Dear HCN,

Carole Gallagher's portfolio of radiation victims of the American Southwest (HCN, 7/6/87), or at least your presentation of it, exhibits a quite biased and overly sensational view of the possible carcinogenic effects of the nuclear testing program in Nevada. Radiation can cause cancer and undoubtedly many of the people who were exposed to the fallout have developed malignancies; however, her viewpoint is overly dramatic and pushes the limits of belief.

There is no mention of smoking history, especially in relation to the individuals with lung, windpipe, and laryngeal cancer. Were some of these people uranium miners in the past? Did they have any significant radon exposure in their home environment? Did any sustain carcinogenic chemical exposure? Skin cancer is included in the list, without pointing out that such tumors are very common in the cloudless west.

A man and a woman are presented who completely disregarded common sense, i.e. dipping arms in radioactive wastewater and driving through roped-off "hot" areas. Heart bypass is mentioned, a surgery usually performed for coronary arteriosclerosis, an entity not associated with radiation exposure. Genes of a child with multiple congenital defects were found to have "radiogenic" chromosome damage. Chromosome damage can be easily identified, but there is no procedure that I am aware of that will pinpoint this injury to any specific cause.

It should be pointed out that at the time of most of these atmospheric tests, the long term consequences of radiation damage were poorly understood. But even if our government is to be condemned and victims are to be compensated, some attempt must be made to winnow out the diseases and the diseased that are not related to the radiation. False dramatization of these unfortunate episodes in American history will only serve to prolong the economic and physical suffering of those actually injured.

Kevin W. Hanley, MD
Boulder, Colorado

MORE ON GRAZING

Dear HCN,

Matthew warns us against "blind guides which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." Anti-grazier Steve Johnson of Tucson tried to gussy up his opinion piece some weeks ago on Allan Savory (HCN, 4/27/87) with references to buffalo and cattle. While one commends his zeal in propagating the ignorance of others, his poor choice of "facts" -- presumably to establish his credentials -- casts doubts on the value of his opinions as well.

He cites approvingly a book, *The Buffalo*, by Francis Haines, containing a map showing that buffalo ranged the country according to state lines. What magnificent perception these beasts show for borders which aren't even marked on the ground except occasionally on a highway. Let's forget my mild comment in my

letter (HCN, 5/25/87) regarding buffalo west of Texas and south of Wyoming, which cited a published archaeological dig in New Mexico. Do you suppose I can dispense with my buffalo fences by reading the property lines to the beasts?

To learn about cows, Mr. Johnson says he went to bureaucrats in the BLM and Forest Service -- a good place for coffee machines, perhaps, but not for cow talk. Here's the source of the fuzzle: Most individual ruminants can't eat more than 2 percent of their weight per day -- but this is in dry matter, which doesn't count water. Cattlemen and even buffalo breeders know the math tricks on how to convert weights from green stuff in the field all the way down to dried bales in the pickup truck.

Right now I'm mowing some orchard grass, which is about 25 percent dry matter (the rest water). I'll sun-dry it in the field, then bale it, then dry the bales in the field, then stack the bales. By then, the hay will be about 88 percent dry matter, which I'll use as supplemental feed in the winter. If I wanted to put 16 pounds a day into an 800-pound cow, in winter I'd feed about 18 pounds. In the flush of summer, I'd ask the cow to kindly eat 64 pounds of green watery grass for the same intake. Readers will appreciate that at different times of year, cows will eat different gross weights in their effort to maintain their ration.

Most of us who read journals of opinion like *High Country News* do it to stroke our egos as we reinforce our prejudices. I suppose there are also a contrary few who subscribe to make their own blood boil as they read the anathema of others of opposite persuasion. It's distracting to either audience when the author of a jeremiad impales himself on a dilemma at the start, instead of quietly riding his hobby horse as Sterne commends.

Dave Reynolds
Lander, Wyoming

NOT A LONE WOLF

Dear HCN,

In reply to your article of July 6, 1987, we wish to point out that Sen. Harry Reid is not a "lone wolf in his congressional delegation" in introducing a bill to protect 599,400 acres of Forest Service wilderness in Nevada. While it is true that Congressman Barbara Vucanovich has introduced a bill to designate a measly 132,000 acres in four areas as wilderness, newly elected Congressman Jim Bilbray introduced H.R. 2142, which would designate 14 areas with 729,000 acres as wilderness.

Our group is a coalition of over 25 organizations, representing more than 10,000 Nevadans. In addition to traditional wilderness supporters such as Sierra Club, Audubon Society and Wilderness Society, our member groups include several Soroptimist groups, a Kiwanis Club, and religious organizations. Our broad membership supports the designation of 21 areas of superb Nevada forest wilderness, totalling 1,427,000 acres.

Much closer to our proposal is H.R. 2044, introduced by Congressman Buddy Darden, D-Ga., who participated in a tour of Nevada in 1985 with members of the U.S.

House Committee on Public Lands. Nevertheless, we applaud both Congressman Bilbray and Sen. Reid for their forward-looking stands on wilderness and hope that with their leadership Nevada will be recognized nation-wide for the beauty of our lands that have so much to offer future generations if we will only take steps to preserve them now.

Lois Sagel
Chair, Friends of Nevada Wilderness

STILL MORE ON GRAZING

Dear HCN,

I thought Steve Johnson's article on Allan Savory was terrific and am grateful to you for printing it. I have also enjoyed reading the many letters from your readers that were prompted by Steve's article and the companion piece by Sam Bingham. It was one of those letters that prompted me to write -- albeit belatedly.

Lee Hughes, in a letter printed in your June 8 issue, criticizes Steve Johnson for using a "glib" and "outdated" figure when he stated that 71 percent of BLM lands are in unsatisfactory condition. In fact, that figure is neither.

The figure Steve used came from a report David Alberswerth of the National Wildlife Federation and I wrote -- "Our Ailing Public Rangelands/Condition Report -- 1985." That report contains the most current data published by the BLM in final environmental impact statements and land use plan documents concerning the condition of specific areas of the public's rangelands. In contrast, the more optimistic figure Mr. Hughes cites came from a BLM report that was based on data that were not tied to specific geographic areas and had never been subject to public review as well as on published data that had been subsequently adjusted by Bureau employees, regardless of the lack of monitoring information.

In short, it appears to me that it's Lee Hughes, and not Steve Johnson, who has perpetrated a "half-truth." The real -- and tragic -- truth is that the resources of our lands have been, are being, and will continue to be abused by livestock grazing until the search for panaceas -- like the one Allan Savory espouses -- is abandoned, and meaningful changes in existing management are made.

Johanna H. Wald, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
San Francisco, California

ACCESS

WORK

RANGER POSITION available with the City of Boulder Open Space Department. Full-time, permanent, starting salary \$19,500 and good benefits. Position involves interpretive, patrol and maintenance functions on Boulder's 16,100 acres of open space. Bachelor's degree in forestry, wildlife management, agricultural management or related field required. Applicant must be Colorado POST certified, or successfully complete certification within one year of hire date. Apply before Aug. 28th to: City of Boulder Personnel Department, P.O. Box 791, 1101 Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80306 Re: #87-149. (1xb)

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA: The Dakota Resource Council (DRC) is a grass-roots organization of farmers, rural people, and concerned citizens who are active on family farm, energy development, environmental, air quality and toxic issues. Members work on local, state, and national policies. Duties: Membership recruitment, leadership development, grass-roots fundraising, action research and campaign development with rural people. Requirements: Strong oral and written communication skills, dedicated and willing to work long hours, must have car. Salary: Starting salary is \$9,600 per year with health insurance and 4 weeks paid vacation. Send resume and writing sample to: Julie Ruplinger, Dakota Resource Council, 29 7th Ave. West, Dickinson, ND 58601 (701/227-1851.) (1xb)

WORKING VACATIONS: Volunteers needed for rewarding, challenging 10-day public service trail projects in cooperation with the USFS and NPS. Tetons, Colorado, Alaska, NH, Maine, Montana, and elsewhere. Contact: Appalachian Mountain Club Trails Program, Box 298C, Gorham, NH 03581 (603/466-2721). Trails need you! (4x-b)

NEAT STUFF

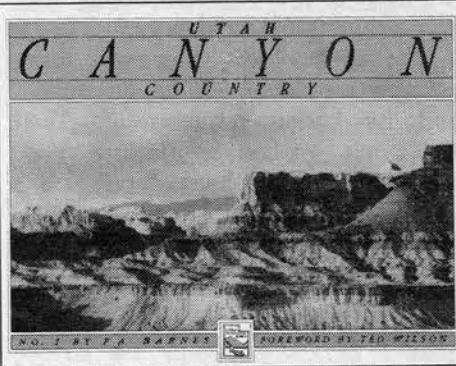
SAVE RURAL AMERICA. Own a part of it. Homes, farms and orchards for sale in west central Colorado. Call or write John Benjamin at Montrose and Associates, P.O. Box 715, Hotchkiss, CO 81419 (303/872-3155). (1x14b)

FOR LEASE OR SALE: Cafe/bar in ranching community in Colorado's San Juan Mountains; elegant new building, with dance floor, TV lounge and patio dining. Loyal staff and patrons. Opportunity for couple with experience and energy. Call Dee Dee: 303/626-3548.

OUTDOOR FABRICS AND HARDWARE. Send \$1 (applied to purchase) for *Materials*, our new quarterly newsletter for outdoor stitchers. Pile, Gore-Tex, Cordura, foam, zippers, Fastex buckles, much more. SEQUEL SOFTWARE, Dept. H, Box 3185, Durango, CO 81302 (3x12p)

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20 cents per word, pre-paid, \$5 minimum. General rates for display are \$6/column inch camera-ready; \$8/column inch if we make up. For ad rate brochure, write HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428 or call 303/527-4898.

UTAH WILDLANDS, volume 3 in the Utah Geographic Series, is now available. This beautiful 112-page book features more than 90 color photographs, eight color maps and more than 30,000 words of text by author Stewart Aitchison about wilderness and proposed wilderness in the diverse vastness of Utah's Great Basin, Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountain physiographic provinces. Send \$15.95 plus \$1.00 for postage (\$16.95 total per softbound book) or \$25.95 plus \$1.20 postage (\$26.15 total per hardbound book) to: Utah Geographic Series, Box 8325, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. Money-back guarantee if not fully satisfied. (1xb)



UTAH CANYON COUNTRY, the first book in the Utah Geographic Series, is now available in hardcover as well as softcover editions. Includes authoritative text by Moab author F.A. Barnes, 162 color photos, maps, charts, and a foreword by Ted Wilson, former Mayor of Salt Lake City. Send \$15.95 plus \$1.00 for postage (\$16.95 total per softbound book) or \$24.95 plus \$1.20 for postage (\$26.15 total per hardbound book) to: Utah Geographic Series, Box 8325, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. Money-back guarantee if not fully satisfied. (M,J,b)

BULLETIN BOARD

CHRISTIANITY AND ECOLOGY

Wendell Berry, author and conservationist, will speak at the first meeting of the North American Conference on Christianity and Ecology at the Epworth Forest Center in northern Indiana, Aug. 19-22. Church leaders and lay people of all denominations are invited to hear lectures about the spirituality of the earth, creation and natural resources, redefining the family farm and "ecofeminism" and the church, among others. Participants can also swim, hike, canoe and visit a special series of art shows depicting Christian ecology. Over 40 churches and conservation groups established the organization in 1986 to integrate ecological values into Christian understanding and action. Registration is \$48 and accommodations start at \$100. For more information or to register, write the NACCE, P.O. Box 14303, San Francisco, CA 94114.

YELLOWSTONE BESIEGED

With the publication of *Yellowstone: A Wilderness Besieged*, by Richard A. Bartlett, the oldest national park now has a definitive, well-written history. This is a scholarly book that analyzes park pressures and policies that affect the park in the context of shifting American values. Founded in 1872, Yellowstone was a national experiment that heralded an entirely new concept of stewardship over public lands. Documenting the attitudes of visitors such as Rudyard Kipling and Owen Wister, in addition to those of poachers and politicians, the author also chronicles some of the nation's environmental history.

University of Arizona Press, Box 3398, Tucson, AZ 95722. Hardback: \$24.95. 437 pages. Photographs, notes and bibliography.

SOUTH PLATTE CLEANUP

A coalition of Colorado environmental and resource user groups opposed to the proposed Two Forks Dam outside Denver, Colo., are sponsoring a cleanup of the South Platte River on Aug. 15 and 16. The cleanup is in response to a recent Denver Post article showing that the river canyon has been trashed and is not worth protecting, says organizer Jonathan Gates. Volunteers are needed. Car pools for the reclamation expedition leave from two Denver sites both days at 10:00 a.m. One location is at the Riverfront Shopping Center at the southwest corner of Bowles and Santa Fe avenues. The other is at The Fort restaurant south of Morrison, Colo., on Highway 285. For more information call Jonathan Gates at 303/722-1601, evenings, or Rocky Smith of the Colorado Environmental Coalition at 303/393-0466.

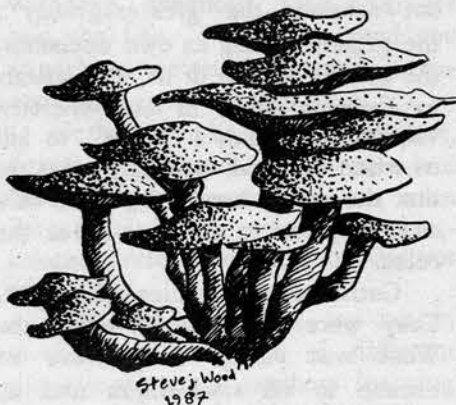


TRASHING THE OUTDOORS

Poaching and vandalism are just two of the problems to be addressed by the world's first international conference on outdoor ethics, Nov. 9-11. Sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America in Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., the meeting stems from increased land abuse and overuse in this country and around the world. The league hopes the conference will develop specific recommendations for developing an ethics program involving the private sector, grass-roots organizations, schools and the media. For more information, contact the Izaak Walton League of America, Suite 1100, 1701 N. Ft. Myer Dr., Arlington, VA 22209 (703/528-1818).

FRESHWATER

The Freshwater Foundation, which wants to make sure Americans have enough clean water, has written two educational publications: *Retinking Reuse: A Water Supply for Our Future*, and *Groundwater: New Perspectives, New Initiatives*. Currently 50 percent of the country depends on groundwater for drinking, but the supply is in jeopardy because the supply is dwindling and groundwater in 34 states is contaminated by hazardous materials. The booklets are \$10 each from the Freshwater Foundation, 2500 Shadywood Rd., Box 90, Navarre, MN 55392.



MUSHROOM FAIR

For fungophiles everywhere, a Wild Mushroom Fair will be held in the Telluride, Colo., City Park Aug. 28 and 29. The major activity of the fair will be collecting mushrooms from nearby forests and asking experts to identify them. The fair is part of a larger Mushroom Conference from Aug. 27-30 that will focus on the cultivation of diverse mushroom species. In addition, conference workshops will be held in mushroom identification and mushroom photography. For information on the fair or conference, contact Fungophile, P.O. Box 5503, Denver, CO 80217 (303/296-9359).

FREE WILDERNESS OUTINGS

The Colorado Environmental Coalition is sponsoring free outings in August to areas that are being studied for wilderness designation. On the weekend of Aug. 8-9, backpackers can enjoy the spectacular Fossil Ridge Wilderness Study Area near Gunnison, famous for its clear mountain streams and high-elevation fossil beds. During the same weekend you can also take an easy trip into the Piedra Wilderness Study Area near Pagosa Springs, which offers sheer canyons, roaring rivers and trout fishing. On the weekend of Aug. 22-23, participants will camp and hike in the Service Creek Wilderness Study Area near Steamboat Springs. For the details, contact the Colorado Environmental Coalition, 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206 (303/393-0466).

HAVE CITIES GROWN TOO LARGE?

We live in an age best characterized by the pendulum, and its penchant to overswing. In this 77th paper by the Worldwatch Institute, Lester R. Brown and Jodi L. Jacobson examine the recent urbanization of our planet. During the past 36 years, city dwellers have increased from 600 million to more than 2 billion. The expansion has been based on the availability of cheap oil, which is a concentrated form of energy, and the efficiencies of scale and improved communications available in cities. The authors speculate -- there are no good numbers -- that sprawl, the widespread use of automobiles, and the failure to recycle sewage and solid waste have destroyed the efficiencies cities once enjoyed. Their new inefficiency combined with the projected decline in oil could reverse the human flood into cities. Any tendency toward de-urbanization will be resisted; cities have reinforced their natural advantages with the political clout that comes of numbers and economic concentration. Those tensions are visible in the American West, where Utah, New Mexico and Colorado are dominated by single metropolitan areas. *The Future of Urbanization: Facing the Ecological and Economic Constraints*, Number 77, is available from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, for \$4. A one-year subscription is \$25; it brings the institute's booklets for that year.

ALL THINGS ARE CONNECTED

"What is man without beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected." This quotation from the Suquamish Indian tribe highlights the 1986 annual report of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the first issued in 23 years. Laden with charts and graphs, the booklet examines trends and makes predictions for wildlife, recreation and conservation. People, for example, are expected to watch or photograph wildlife rather than shoot or catch it in the decades ahead. For a copy of the report, write the Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

ROADS TO RUIN

The Forest Service plans to bulldoze 7,200 miles of new logging roads over the next 50 years in Idaho's panhandle and double the existing 6,000-mile road network. In the latest publication from the five-year-old Inland Empire Public Lands Council, "Roads to Ruin," the 1000-member group of sports enthusiasts, environmentalists and Native Americans examines the fate of Idaho's forests and fisheries. In addition to publishing, the council participates in national lobbying efforts to control logging and make it more compatible with the environment. For more information about the Inland Empire Council, write Box 2174, Spokane, WA 99210.

WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs invites new members to join its organization, which includes individuals and over 40 affiliated clubs such as the Montana Wilderness Association, American Wilderness Alliance and the Sierra Club. The federation is concerned with the proper use, enjoyment and protection of wilderness and outdoor recreation resources in the West. Individual memberships are \$5 a year and bring a 12-page newspaper, *Outdoors West*. Write FWOC, 512 Boylston Ave. E #106, Seattle WA 98102.

ILLUSTRATIVE ARTISTS

The West of the Imagination by William H. Goetzmann and William N. Goetzmann is a tribute to generations of Western artists in all media. The father-son writing team combines expertise in both the history of art and the West, producing a sweeping chronicle of art from Bierstadt's sunsets to contemporary murals of San Antonio, Texas. The authors argue pigeon-holing Western art as regional denies the strongest continual current of artistic expression in America.

W.W. Norton & Company, 500 Fifth Ave., New York City 10036. Hardback: \$34.95. 458 pages. Illustrations, index, bibliography.



Jeanette Hortick

THE ONLY GOOD BEAR...

Researcher Jeanette Hortick Producers of Butte, Mont., spent years combing pioneer newspapers, books and magazines for the best and worst bear stories. Her book, *The Only Good Bear is a Dead Bear*, is a compendium of tales of hunts, tall stories and close encounters with angry grizzlies or black bears. The final chapter about unusual and often vicious methods of attacking bears left us wondering at the depths of man's cruelty. Among the writers is Theodore Roosevelt.

Falcon Press, Box 279, Billings, MT 59103. Paper: \$7.95. 224 pages.

AGRICULTURE AT THE CROSSROADS

A conservation conference assessing the 1985 farm bill will take place in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 1-3. Sponsored by the Soil Conservation Society of America, "American Agriculture at the Crossroads" will examine the farm bill from local and federal perspectives, and discuss possible improvements. Workshop topics include water quality, tree planting, wildlife enhancement and regional discussion groups. For more information, contact the Soil Conservation Society of America, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021 (515/289-2331).

WILD IN UTAH

The Utah Geographic Series has published its third book, *Utah Wildlands*, by naturalist Stewart Aitchison, who hopes readers will "visit, enjoy and cherish" the state's roadless areas. Focusing on both designated and proposed wilderness areas, the book's dominant feature is its glossy color photography, although the text includes useful accounts of wilderness legislation, descriptions of geology and wilderness proposals from various interests, such as the Bureau of Land Management, Utah Wilderness Association, Utah Wilderness Coalition and Earth First! There are 90 color photographs and eight original maps.

Utah Geographic Series, P.O. Box 8325, Salt Lake City, UT 84108. Softcover: \$15.95; hardcover: \$24.95. 112 pages, illustrated.

THE TREEPLANTING LIFE

Close to the Ground: One Treeplanter's Geography is the world's first book of poems devoted exclusively to tree-planting. Travelling from the aspen groves of Colorado to the scarred slopes of Mount St. Helens, it is a portrait of an extraordinary occupation that employs thousands of people in the Pacific Northwest. The 22 poems are combined with illustrations and photographs.

Hulog's Cooperative Publishers, P.O. Box 1188, Eugene, OR 97440, \$7.95.

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF?

When an entire society cries Wolf! as ours has done, an entire species can disappear, as wolves in America have almost done. But now there is a growing but cautious movement to bring wolves back to the lower 48. About 1,200 wolves roam 30,000 square miles of northern Minnesota, coexisting more or less with 12,000 livestock operations. According to a newly published book, *Wolf! A Modern Look*, an average of 27 operations per year lost livestock to wolves. The average total loss per year was three cows, 18 calves, 50 sheep and 183 turkeys. The West has some scattered wolves in and around Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and there are controversial plans to reintroduce the species into Yellowstone National Park. This anthology, inspired by the Wolves and Humans Exhibit created by the Science Museum of Minnesota, is an introduction to the subject. It contains essays on various aspects of the wolf -- its history, biology, folklore, children's literature, and wolf management. Among the contributors are Glenn Oakley, who also writes for HCN.

NorthWord Inc., Box 128, Ashland, WI 54806. Hardcover, \$8.95.

LETTERS

ENRICHING THE LANGUAGE

Dear HCN,

Although "bloviate" is not defined in our Websters (unabridged), Oxford (unabridged) or Black's Law Dictionaries, we have incorporated it into our language. A wonderful word: It is adding new dimensions to discussions in our house: "Honey, you are bloviating again."

I would like to thank Jeanne Englert for beginning such an entertaining exchange of letters (HCN, 6/22/87). Each edition of HCN is gripped with fervor, the suspense of finding out *who* said *what* to *whom* is nearly overwhelming. My only fear is that Mr. Marston's pointing out the truth may silence this soap opera. However, I feel confident that if HCN keeps up the quality of its reporting there will be others uncovered who will provide more such entertainment. Thank you.

Lucy E. Feazel
Pagosa Springs, Colorado

WATT AND ELITISTS

Dear HCN,

I have a question for David Pardee (letters, HCN, 7/6/87): Suppose James Watt had proposed not paying but closing the Burr Trail? Continued coverage of the Bridgeport/Dominguez WSA goings-on would not seem ironic if it were not precisely for the elitist charge so quickly leveled at advocates of wilderness and conservationists in general by the pavers of the world. Stop a road and you are an elitist, but does trying to open one make you James Watt?

Perhaps David Pardee has fallen victim to the "Good Ol' Boy" syndrome, believing the BLM should make it impossible for people to get anywhere near a ranch, even if it means blocking the public from public land. Unfortunately, the agency is only too willing to do just that and will continue to do so until something changes. Actions that led to the closing of the Bridgeport Bridge were improper; that is the point.

Bill Brunner
Paonia, Colorado

RECIDIVIST POLICIES

Dear HCN,

Two items in the May 11, 1987, HCN call for comment. The article "Should wolves return to Yellowstone?" by Dee Oudin summarizes the wolf's role as a balance to the ungulates, as a completing link in the "integrity of the ecosystem," and as a species that will not alone deplete its prey. Concern for the "lock up" of more land was noted; it was also noted that such concern could be allayed by killing all troublesome wolves outside the park, and by the payment of compensation for livestock losses. So far so good, and good luck!

But the article was not a full treatment of the issues. Several additional issues/facts basic to wolf re-introduction should have been noted:

1. Wolves, just like bears, can learn to live with people, with livestock, and not get into trouble.

Poland (slightly smaller than Montana) has 40,000,000 people and lots of wolves. But wolves need time to *learn how* to live with people -- perhaps 20 to 50 years, or more. Will people in the Yellowstone area give them that time? People have not been patient in letting grizzlies "learn how to live in the Yellowstone" after the garbage dumps were closed. Perhaps 3-5 generations of bears will have to live before they learn once again how to get enough food and not conflict with people; how to "use" the *natural* ecocenters of Yellowstone. The fact is, we don't want to give bears even one generation.

2. Wolves *move with* ungulate herds. That means they move out of the high country in winter. Wolves do not den for the winter (as do bears). That means that many wolves will travel outside the Park where you-know-what lives on the range.

3. Wolf packs roam over very large areas.

4. Once wolves form a pack, they become an entirely different entity. Ten wolves is one thing; a pack of 10 wolves is something else. They are as different as two cars, one gassed and parked by the curb with the key in, the other spread out as parts on the grass. We should not forget that *one* wolf can bring down a 900 pound muskoxen, that a small pack can bring down a bull elk in 30 yards. And we should not forget that Yellowstone is not an island.

The grizzly article in the same issue of HCN, "Recidivist Grizzlies," was very unfair to the bears. Yellowstone N.P. authorities and the Fish and Wildlife Service, have not come far from the days of predator control; they still retain a mentality that "the land must be cleansed of varmints." ADC (the Animal Damage Control unit of the USFWS) killed out the grizzlies over most of the West; the very agency that eliminated the bears is now in charge of their recovery. And old concepts die slowly, it seems, just like the last grizzly. Unfortunately, the FWS, with all its money, still bows to politics. This influence at one time kept almost 300 predator control agents in the field; today it has squeezed out opposing viewpoints and independent research. It has lined up the states and other agencies in a committee where little besides "collective, safe thinking and research" are allowed. Elbows are more important than brains.

Yellowstone grizzlies have lived in the Yellowstone area for tens of thousands of years. They have adapted to the area well. But as too many people came to the area, as we opened the area to too much access, the bears had a new and formidable challenge. They adapted first by becoming neutrally tolerant, sleeping under the lilacs, feeding in the garbage dumps, begging on the roads. In time, they became more exploitive of people and all our food. They "built up" a knowledge about people, generation to generation. *We*, over time, have created a "problem bear factory" in the Yellowstone area. And that means that we now generate new problem bears *each year*. The article says that we merely have to eliminate the problem bears. However, because females have higher nutritional needs per active time, they are more prone to such adaptation and removal. Hence the 16 "problem females" that have been removed.



The current Interior decision to continue and even increase such removals, without recognizing the intelligence of the grizzly in learning good behavior as well as problem behavior, without recognizing the continuing human influences as the cause of problem behavior, dooms the grizzly as certainly as when government hunters and trappers exterminated grizzlies from our Southwest. The current official viewpoint simply is not aware of, does not recognize, the "greater grizzly": the grizzly making its own decisions, the grizzly as part of us, the grizzly as forming much of our Western values, the grizzly's "right" to kill us when we break too many rules, or that the grizzly breaks the rules only as a response to when *we* break the rules.

Cattle-eating grizzlies did exist. They were not tolerated when the West was young. They were an excuse to kill stock-killers and all other bears. No thought was given to the fact that many cows were herded into the wrong places; that herding practices were at fault, not the bears; that the greatest wilderness experience -- hunting a grizzly -- was a "killing of the wilderness" by the very frontiersmen who loved it, if the killing continued too far.

Stock-killing grizzlies of the early 1900s were hunted hard, full time, and with traps, guns and poisons. The bears fought their pursuers in turn, taking a few government agents with them into the Great Beyond. Is that so different from a modern bear becoming adapted to tourists instead of cattle, with the people aided by government agencies? Is a 1910 payment by the Biological Survey to a government trapper so different from an agency call to eliminate "problem bears" in 1987? Is a careless photographer of 1986, or a careless camper of 1985 so much different from a careless cattleman of 1920? Is political pressure by a cattlemen's association of 1915 so different from political pressures by a Wyoming senator or a Montana representative in the 1980s? Is an incompetent understanding of bear behavior and ecology of 1910 any different than one in 1987? Is our misunderstanding of wilderness, of wildness and of Man's fascination with, interaction with and need for such wildness, unchanged since 1900? Has our ability to teach people how to live with bears, and to teach bears how to live with people not improved since the 1930s? Interior's decision to eliminate problem bears in Yellowstone says yes to *all* the above questions. I say no to all of them.

In 1987 we have considerably more information and a better understanding of bear biology, ecology, management. We have a healthier and broader public concern and support for bears. We have ways to alter bear behavior and can teach them how to live with people. We have better ways to communicate. We know far better the relationships between habitat and species loss. But we have put much of what we know in a tight little box called interagency cooperation, a "guarding of turf." And then we officially proclaim that the grizzly cannot change. Recidivist Grizzlies--they will inevitably "relapse into criminal behavior" says the dictionary. They must be killed say the agencies.

Recidivist government policies, I say.
Not recidivist bears.

Charles Jonkel
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana

COMMENT ON ELLIOTT ABRAMS

Dear HCN,

Ed Marston's opinion piece, "The Forest Service kowtows while forests burn," in the June 22 issue should get the widest circulation possible. I am throwing it in the faces of many, including some of the gutless wonders in today's Forest Service.

The article's reference to Elliott Abrams of the State Department reminds me of something that perhaps many of your readers do not know about him. Increasingly, Native Americans are referring to him as "Indian Killer Abrams," a man they say has no regard for Indian people, their cultures or needs. He has been the American driving force behind the anti-Mayan terrorism of the Guatemalan governments during the Reagan administration and his hand obviously is one of those intimately involved with the CIA tyranny being exercised over the various groups of Mosquito Indians in Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. What his role is in the anti-Indian activities elsewhere in Central America and South America I can only guess.

To those more interested in environmental and conservation concerns, rather than Indian affairs, I would suggest that they are linked, both here in the U.S. and in the Latin American countries. Abrams' goals are those of the most aggressive Latin American developers, and the Indians, like the forests, must be destroyed if they stand in the way. It would be good to know more about this man Abrams -- whether he is sweet and benign, or, as some Native Americans say, dictatorial, arrogant, vindictive against any show of opposition to his orders -- a fascist mentality operating under the guise of being pro-democratic.

Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.
Joseph, Oregon

The writer is an historian and author specializing in Indian matters.

PERFECT PORK

Dear HCN,

Upon reading your excellent story on the Red Desert (HCN, 6/8/87), it brought to mind an amusing story. Several years ago, while I worked for a water development agency in Wyoming, my fellow workers and I came up with the ultimate project, which we affectionately called the Black Hole project. As anyone who has dealt with water issues in the West knows, there is a faction that is always complaining about their water being used by downstream states.

The Black Hole project would solve the problem for Wyoming. The idea is to dam every river in Wyoming and divert them to the Red Desert, thereby assuring that the water never leaves the state. In addition, since there would be an incredibly large volume of water in the Black Hole we could place nuclear powered submarines with MX missiles in the newly created lake, thereby creating a multi-purpose project.

Denise Bierley
Albuquerque, New Mexico

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Allan Savory tells the cattle industry to Awake! Awake!

To critics, Allan Savory is clever and manipulative. He is an apostle of false hopes, selling his consulting services and training programs to ranchers who believe his gospel: that they can double the number of animals on their land even as they increase the soil's health and productivity.

To those critics, and they are many, he is a false Messiah, appearing at a predictable historic moment, when ranchers' economic problems have prepared them to welcome a charismatic figure promising miracles.

It may be that Savory is a manipulative and charismatic person, bewitching audiences with charm and grandiose promises. But that aspect of his personality was not on view June 18 in the Glenwood Springs High School auditorium, where he addressed the 120th annual convention of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

I had expected Savory to play up to the cattlemen -- to make jokes about real ranchers having the manure on the outside of their boots (environmentalists, bureaucrats and the like have manure on the inside), to jab at pointy-headed experts, and to take a rap or two at those who do not appreciate cattle grazing on the public lands.

It is the type of ingratiating performance many non-ranchers give when talking to ranchers. But there was none of that from Savory. Nor was there any charisma. Instead, Savory that day was only barely adequate as a speaker, perhaps because he was still recovering from gunshot wounds (HCN, 6/22/87).

He made no effort to charm. Instead, he opened by complaining of being scheduled after lunch, and told those who were dozing (the average age of the audience appeared to be 55) that he wished he knew their names so he could call them out.

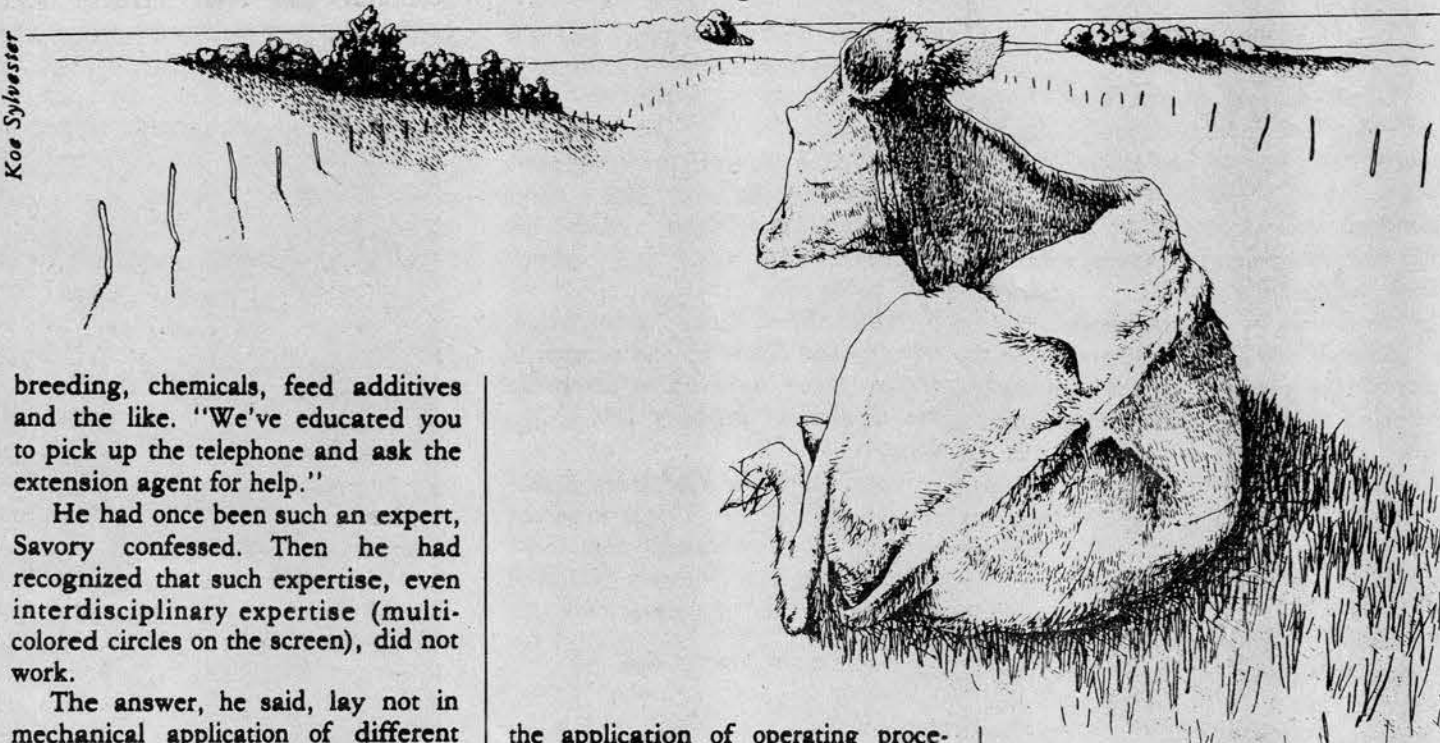
"Some of you old dogs won't learn new tricks -- you'll keep going down." But others, he said, can change. "Old dogs can learn new tricks, but it requires training."

Ranchers give three reasons for their problems: the high cost of what they must buy from the industrialized sector, the low prices they get for cattle and over-production. Savory rejected all as empty excuses. "Your problems are not due to low prices and overproductivity. You've enjoyed the best prices for your product and low prices for your inputs (tractors, fertilizer, etc.)."

The difficulties, he told them, were due to the way they ran their operations. Quoting the writer and philosopher, Wendell Berry, Savory said their real problem could be seen on their hats. Instead of using their heads to think with, he said, they were using them to advertise other people's products.

That was the brief, exciting part of Savory's talk. The dull part, during which a dozen or more ranchers quietly left the auditorium, is best described as epistemology -- an inquiry into the nature of ranching knowledge. With the aid of crudely drawn colored circles, Savory expounded his theory of mechanistic expertise. He said that ranchers are destroying themselves by depending on experts in accounting, cattle

Koe Sylvester



breeding, chemicals, feed additives and the like. "We've educated you to pick up the telephone and ask the extension agent for help."

He had once been such an expert, Savory confessed. Then he had recognized that such expertise, even interdisciplinary expertise (multi-colored circles on the screen), did not work.

The answer, he said, lay not in mechanical application of different disciplines, but in ranchers learning to see their land and animals in a fresh way, then learning to think, and finally combining their new intellectual powers and knowledge in a holistic way.

Those who had come for a single, simple answer left the warm auditorium not only sweaty but disappointed. There is no one answer, Savory had told them. But there are thousands of answers, and ranchers who learn to think and to look at the land holistically would find for themselves which answer suited them.

He did not deliver this message in a neutral way. He had told the dozers: "Try not to go to sleep. What I'm telling you is the most important news in the history of the world!"

Savory is well named, for he sees himself as savior -- the man who will awaken the land's sleeping stewards to their intellectual potential and agrarian duty, and thereby save the globe from desertification.

But Savory didn't good-old-boy his audience into following him. If they hadn't come to the meeting prepared to change their ways, and if they weren't willing to accept the fact that herbicides, low stocking rates, resting of the land, and fractured mechanistic expertise were the causes of their problems, then he had no use for them.

It was as if he had walked into the auditorium knowing that a large percentage of those there didn't have what it takes, by his measure, to save their land and themselves. Savory, with a Rhodesian accent that made him seem all the more arrogant, wasn't going to take time comforting or even being polite to those who didn't measure up.

Which is not to say that there was no self-promotion. At least half of his talk was a commercial announcement. He said ranchers can't save themselves without his help. A definitive book on the holistic method is being written, but is still a year away. For at least the interim, they could only be saved by joining his Center for Holistic Resource Management. They had to find the money and time -- "Don't send your manager" -- to take his course.

The explanation for his insistence that ranchers could not save themselves was implicit in his talk. Today's ranchers, he said, depend on a system composed of chemicals, of

the application of operating procedures taken from the mechanical world, and of incorrect ideas about soil types, droughts and the land's carrying capacity. To survive, they must be weaned from that system.

Savory appears to believe -- he never said it -- that a generation of ranchers must be deprogrammed, and that that deprogramming can be best done at his center.

He said the globe today can be divided in two. The mechanical half -- satellites, telephone systems, computers, spaceships -- works well. The natural half -- air, water, land -- is plagued by seemingly intractable problems. The reason for the natural failures is simple: "mechanistic management," symbolized in the case of agriculture by the farmer in the John Deere hat.

Is Allan Savory's biology correct? Do brittle environments require herds of wild or domestic animals to trample vegetation into the ground so as to renew fertility? Is rested land, free of hooved beasts, bound to deteriorate? Time, study and the economic failure or success of those who adopt the Savory method will tell.

What can be said now is that Savory, whatever the worth of his grazing theories, tells us something about ranching. It was interesting that the very conservative Colorado Cattlemen's Association invited Savory to pepper its members with environmentalist advice, to tell them that their problems are of their own doing, to assure them that there is no system that they can mechanically apply to their land, and to tell them that if they don't awaken, they are dead ducks.

It is most significant that the change Savory preaches is less agricultural technique and more culture. For example, it was probably the first Colorado Cattlemen's talk at which Wendell Berry was quoted approvingly.

Outside of the auditorium, in the display area, the fertilizer and hormone and herbicide salesmen were exhibiting their wares. They were ready to tell the rancher how industrial America could be harnessed to rid pastures of weeds, to improve cattle weight gain and to keep livestock free of disease. Within the auditorium, Savory was telling the ranchers that by putting their money into training instead of into chemicals, they could enrich themselves and their land.

One of the striking facts about agriculture is its alienation from the culture it is feeding. Cattlemen, because of the way they earn their livings and the values of small towns, often seem hostile to the urban world and urban values. The implicit assumption among cattlemen has been that they could provide beef to an urban nation without understanding the values of its customers.

This alienation has practical results -- a growing division between the fat and chemical-laden product ranchers produce and the demands of the urban consumer. The alienation and lack of understanding was illustrated by an advertising slogan that the Colorado Beef Board adopted a few years ago: Beef Builds Strength. (It has since been dropped.)

Beef Builds Strength was conceived in blissful ignorance of the trend toward "light" foods, and without understanding that the association of beef with the word "beefy" was a handicap rather than an advantage. It could only have been adopted by an industry out of touch with this last third of the 20th century.

So the appearance of an Allan Savory within the cattle industry can be taken as a sign of health -- as a sign that ranchers are ending their exile from the rest of America. Savory appears to be bringing word of the modern world -- independence, innovation, freedom from lockstep adherence to the dictates of large corporate producers of chemicals and hormones.

But there was something less helpful visible in Savory's talk. His apparent contempt for his audience, the almost childish level of his epistemology, and his claim to savior status were unsettling. His statement that ranchers must learn to think for themselves was at odds with the lack of rigor in his presentation and in his lack of respect for his listeners.

As an environmentalist, I have no trouble with the first half of Savory's message: that ranchers should be less dependent on expertise and large capital inputs. But I have a serious problem with the second half of the message: that his Center for Holistic Resource Management in Albuquerque is the agent to achieve the deprogramming and reprogramming that he prescribes.

--Ed Marston

16-High Country News -- August 3, 1987

OFF THE WALL*What to do in the West when there's nothing to do*

by Linda Hasselstrom

I love driving in the West, but even the best scenery doesn't occupy more than the top two layers of an active mind. After a couple of hundred miles, one wants more to do, like counting your dentist's nose hairs while he's drilling, or adding up the bodies in a *Rambo* movie.

Though I see truckers with paperbacks propped on the steering wheel, I find the practice unnerving since I sideswiped a guard rail. So I've devised some alternatives.

MONTANA: Sing with the country songs: "I'm drinkin' my baby goodbye," or "She's free again, lock up your men."

Make up new words to country songs, changing the sex to fit the singer: "He's stripping again, turn loose your women."

Argue with radio preachers. Sing hymns with Jimmy Joe Bobby and his Swinging Salvationeers. Defend secular humanism as a religion.

Count vanity plates; according to an informal survey I conducted between Big Timber and Missoula recently, everyone has one. My favorites: PARTON and FETISH. Yeah, but what kind of fetish? And do you ever go in cowboy bars?

Read bumper stickers and graffiti on overpasses. I noticed "I Walla Walla" on the bumper of a 1965 Ford pickup, and "Bela Lugosi is Dead" on an overpass in Butte.

WYOMING: count the number of cowboy hats visible through pickup windows; I saw six in one pickup, which explains why the brims turn up on the sides.

Count the number of rifle racks in pickups and divide by the number of cowboy hats plus the number of oil rigs to determine the number of hippies in Wyoming who don't pretend to be cowboys on Saturday nights.

To find out how many rest areas exist between Buffalo and Moorcroft, count the number of gas stations. If you're female, subtract the number of sagebrush plants large enough to conceal a squatting human form.

Read the first line of historical markers while whizzing past. Try to figure out what the rest of the marker says. Be creative. For example, "Spanish diggings" must say that "Two persons of Spanish descent once installed an outhouse behind a homestead on this site."

Count black-footed ferrets. Good luck.

ARIZONA: Multiply the number of houses with green lawns by 20, subtract the number of saguaro cactus, and divide by the number of residents of Los Angeles to determine the gallons of water left in the state by 1990.

COLORADO: Count the number of "Native" and "Alien" bumper stickers; find two on the same pickup.

Run over as many grasshoppers as possible, keeping a running tally for game officials. This is more challenging and dangerous than it may sound if you drive a small car. For skeptics, I can provide a photograph of two 300-pound hoppers strapped to the fenders of my Honda.

Count the number of houses on

mountains west of Denver. Multiply by 5,000 to determine the number of trees that used to be on the same mountains.

NEVADA: To determine the number of people who wish they'd never heard of Las Vegas, count the number of cars along the highway with hoods raised.

NEBRASKA: Count pivot irrigation rigs and divide by the number of realtor signs observed to determine the number of farmers left in the state.

Count apple or lilac trees beside sunken foundations to determine the number of homesteads that once existed. Add six children each and multiply by 100 to determine the population.

□

Linda Hasselstrom comes from South Dakota, where one of the chief activities on I-90 is counting dead skunks.

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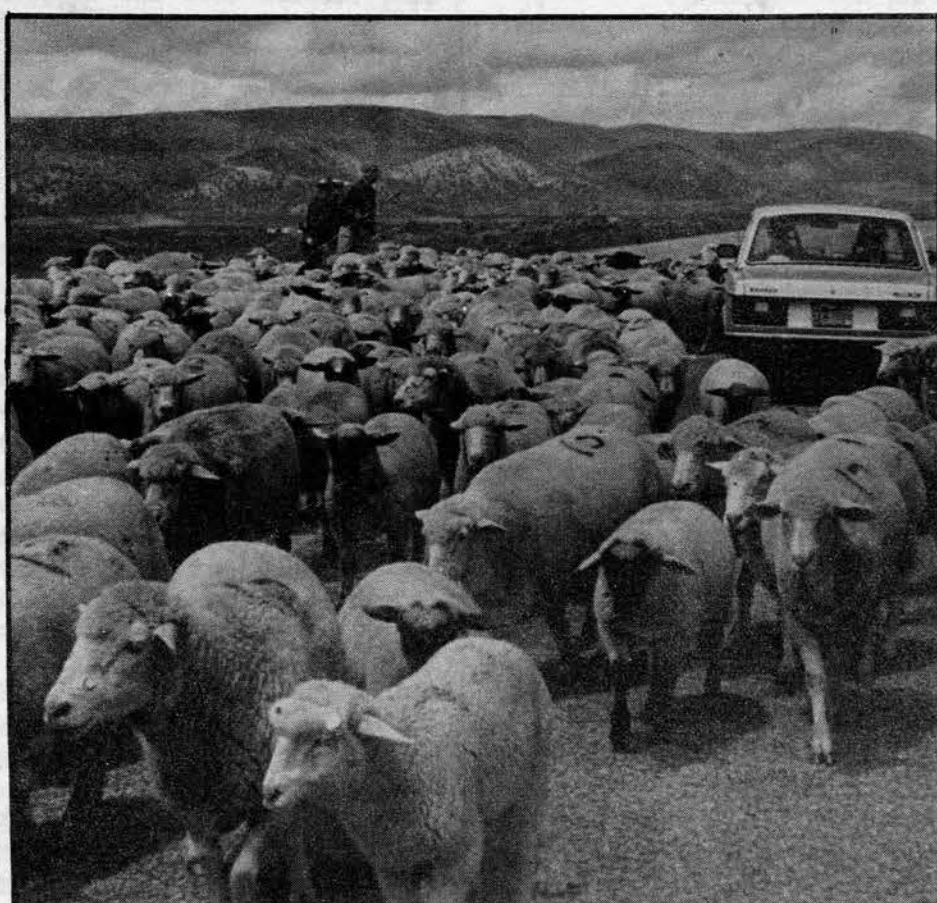
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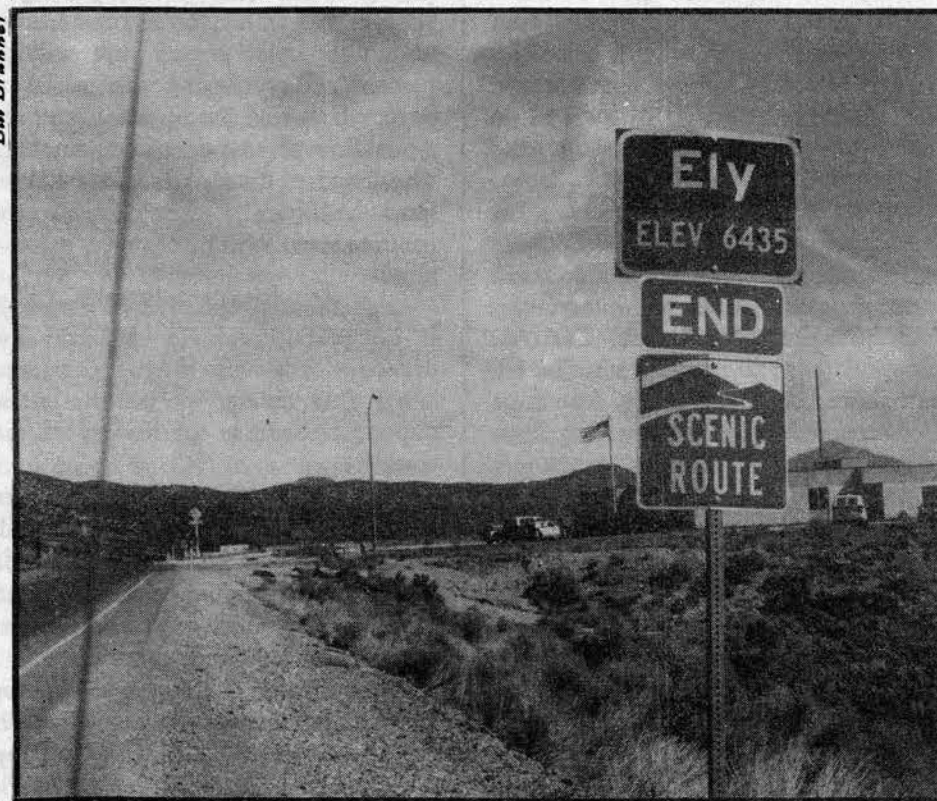
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