

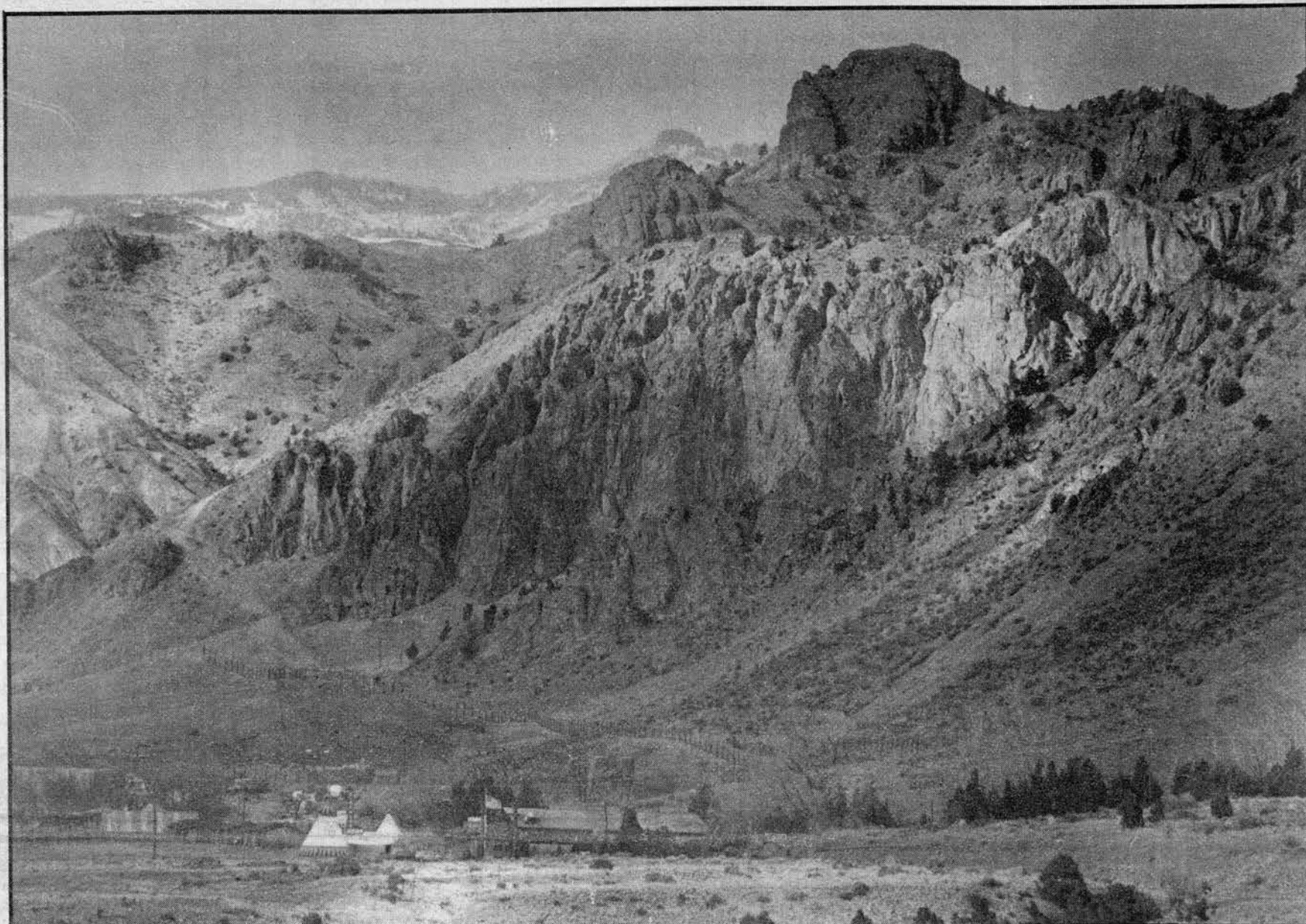
High Country News

September 14, 1987

Vol. 19 No. 17

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



ALBERT DICKSON

The Absaroka mountain range in Montana's Paradise Valley rises up behind a restaurant owned by the Church Universal and Triumphant

Beauty, isolation and cheap land bring a sect to Montana

by Jim Robbins

The sparsely settled Paradise Valley is a 50-mile stretch of dun-colored prairie, broken by the meandering Yellowstone River and shadowed by the jagged peaks of the Absaroka Mountains.

Earlier this summer, small rainbows glinted from dozens of water cannons as they marched on wheels across hayfields. Up and down the two-lane road the traffic was often cattle. Ranch country, the valley is important as well to the wildlife in Yellowstone National Park, which lies at the valley's southern end. Come winter, deer, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep will migrate down from the park's high plateau into the valley, where the weather is milder.

There is anxiety and resent-

ment in the Paradise Valley these days. The Church Universal and Triumphant, a wealthy religious group from southern California, recently moved to a ranch called the Royal Teton on the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park, and there it is busily constructing a community. The unorthodox nature of the church is disturbing to many in this land of cowboys, cattle and curio shops.

Elizabeth Clare Prophet, the group's leader, raised more than a few eyebrows with her claim that she, and not Pope John Paul II, is the true Vicar of Christ and leader of the Roman Catholic Church. The title came to her, she says, in a vision from Pope John XXIII, whose spirit inhabits a higher plane of existence. That is only one of her many claims to spiritual leadership.

With numerous charges of

brainwashing following the church to Montana from its former headquarters near Malibu, Calif., some residents of the valley and the nearby town of Gardiner, where about 500 people live, believe they are poised at the entrance to a "Twilight Zone" and about to relive the story of Antelope, a small rural town in northcentral Oregon that was literally taken over by Indian religious leader Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and his followers in 1982, and renamed Rajneeshpuram. The bloody incident at Jonestown in Guyana, where more than 900 followers of the Rev. Jim Jones committed mass suicide and murdered U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan, is also occasionally mentioned by some in the same breath as the Church Universal and Triumphant.

The feelings of resentment

among some local residents are fueled by prayers that church members chant endlessly against anyone they say opposes the church. There are also persistent rumors of weapons being trucked to the ranch and claims by ex-members that some Church Universal and Triumphant true believers are prepared to lay down their life for the woman they call Guru Ma.

But for some residents of the Paradise Valley, including many who are not worried about the church's unusual tenets, there is a more immediate concern. They fear an influx of hundreds of people will mar the pristine nature of Yel-

(Continued on page 8)

Dear friends,



High Country News

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS (ISSN 0191/3637) is published biweekly, except for one issue during July and one issue during January, by the High Country News Foundation, 124 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado 81428. Second-class postage paid at Paonia, Colorado.

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

Tom Bell
Editor Emeritus

Ed Marston
Publisher

Betsy Marston
Editor

Judy Moffatt
Development

Rocky Barker
Craig Bigler
Peter Carrels
Katharine Collins
Bruce Farling
Patricia Guthrie
Regional Bureaus

C.L. Rawlins
Poetry Editor

Steve Hinchman
Editorial/Research

Diane Hackl
Intern

Ron Sunderland
Darkroom

C.B. Elliott
Circulation/Production

Peggy Robinson
Graphics/Typesetting

Mary Moran
Centerspread designs

Claire Moore-Murrill
Becky Rumsey
Production

Judy Heideman
Typesetting

Tom Bell, Lander WY
Michael Clark, Washington D.C.
John Driscoll, Helena MT
Jeff Fereday, Boise ID
Tom France, Missoula MT
Sally Gordon, Kaycee WY
Bill Hedden, Moab UT
Adam McLane, Helena MT
Kate Missett, Buffalo WY
Garrett Ray, Fort Collins CO
Patrick Sweeney, Billings MT
Herman Warsh, Emigrant MT
Andy Wiessner, Denver CO
Robert Wigington, Boulder CO
Board of Directors

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

All rights to publication of articles in this issue are reserved. Write for permission to print any articles or illustrations. Contributions (manuscripts, photos, artwork) will be welcomed with the understanding that the editors cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with all unsolicited submissions to ensure return. Articles and letters will be published and edited at the discretion of the editors.

Advertising information is available upon request. To have a sample copy sent to a friend, send us his or her address. Write to Box 1090, Paonia, Colorado 81428. Call High Country News in Colorado at 303/527-4898.

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

Star struck

Small towns are like aspiring actresses -- forever hopeful that someone will discover them. The latest example is Walden, Colorado, an economically-depressed town of 900, so far north it is practically in Wyoming. At the moment, Walden's hopes are soaring -- it believes it is about to become a star.

The source of the excitement is the recent choice of Routt National Forest, surrounding Walden, to provide the Christmas tree for the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., in 1990. Town Trustee Chris Christofferson said, "The Town Board is ecstatic. We hope this will really develop into something to bring the community together and help out the economy. This could really put Walden on the map."

Walden is a logging, ranching and mining town hard hit by the natural resource downturn during the 1980s. As in many rural Western towns, businesses have closed, already small schools have become even smaller, and many houses stand empty.

So Walden's desperation is understandable, as is its eagerness to believe that the nation is waiting to discover it. But the idea that sending a Christmas tree to Washington in 1990 is going to turn an economy around -- even so small an economy as Walden's -- is both pathetic and amusing. In fact, we were going to use Walden's high hopes in a Barb. But then we remembered Lana Turner sitting on a stool at Schwab's in Hollywood. Presto! A star.

Come aboard

The board that oversees HCN holds its third and final meeting of 1987 in Boise, Idaho, Sept. 26. The meeting will be followed by a potluck at 6:30 p.m. If you have not received an invitation to the potluck and would like to come, call or write to us. All readers are welcome, but invitations have been mailed only to those in the Boise area. The potlucks are a tradition and are always fun. They are also a good way to find out who else in your neighborhood reads this unlikely paper.

Now is an appropriate time to consider joining the paper's board of directors. HCN is owned by the non-profit High Country News Foundation, which is governed by a 14-person board of directors. Several vacancies will be filled this January. If you are interested in HCN, if you think you can help the paper, and if you can afford to give up at least three weekends a year and travel at your own expense to the far reaches of this region, we invite you to contact us. Simply send a letter describing your background and interests to: Board of Directors, HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, Colo. 81428.

Missing issues

Until now, our 17 years of back issues have sat in a pile atop a file cabinet. A few months ago, we had the last few years of HCN bound between hard covers. Now we are about to bind the paper's first 15 years. The money is in the bank; the binder is ready to go. But first we need some missing issues. Number 9 is missing from 1982 (Vol. 14); and numbers 1, 13 and 14 are missing from 1983 (Vol. 15). If you can send

us one or more of the missing issues, we shall be most grateful.

Knowing visitors

What staff most enjoys about visitors is the knowing way they pick their path through our cluttered, corridor-like offices. We suspect they wouldn't be surprised to come upon bunk desks, with interns climbing ladders to get to work stations perched 10 feet above the office floor.

We spotted our most recent visitors from a half-block distance. They were given away by a mud-spattered Jeep with Utah plates carrying a mountain bike on the roof. The owners were Rob and Connie Smith and seven-month Ella. Connie had been attending a lawyer convention in Snowmass while Rob and Ella explored the trails on his bike.

Rob, a Salt Lake City businessman, supplies pipe to construction projects. He said he reads the paper both for his work and because of the feel it gives him for the rural West. It's clear, he said, that HCN comes out of a working town. "The stories are sensitive to the fact that losing jobs is painful. I especially appreciated the articles on the fight over the Louisiana-Pacific mill in Dubois."

Other visitors this fortnight included Alex Stege, who was on his way to Taos to return a rental car. Alex works with biologist Barry Commoner at the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at Queens College in New York City. Vicky Gow came to Paonia to pick and then haul back to Colorado Springs a carload of peaches.

Passing through with a brightly-painted canoe on their car roof were a father-son team -- Spence and Dave Havlick. Spence is a professor of environmental studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dave, an HCN intern from two years ago, gave his education a finishing touch by graduating from Dartmouth in June.

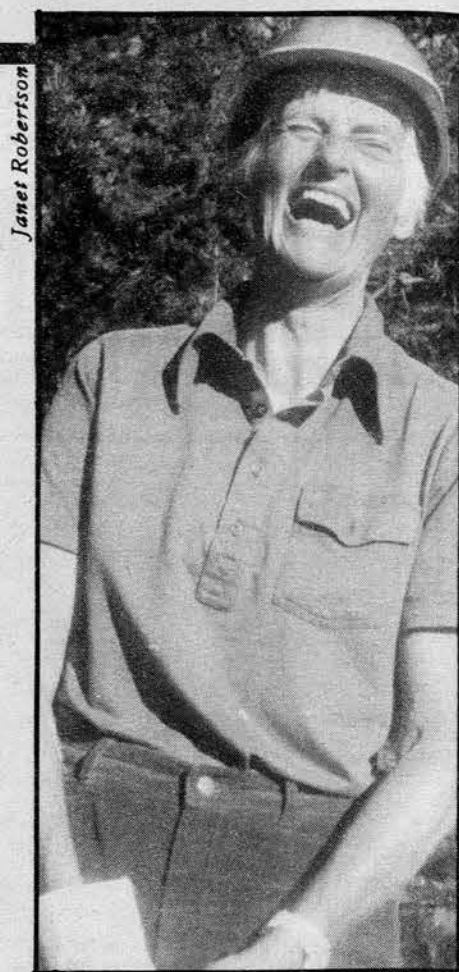
Spence teaches HCN 101 -- an environmental studies course that uses this paper as a text of sorts. Sixty-five students are enrolled this semester. Also enrolled in HCN 101 are 12 students in a decision making and resource management course taught by geography professor Gundars Rudzitis at the University of Idaho. Articles in the paper will be grist for a course requirement: each student must write a paper on a resource conflict.

An astounding effort

We heard recently from HCN freelancer Janet Robertson of Boulder, Colorado. She had just returned from a week of Pulaski swinging on one of the final sections of the 450-mile-long Colorado Trail (HCN, 8/4/86). The driving of the trail's silver spike, she said, will take place this month. But the exact location is up in the air. Each Forest Service Ranger would like the ceremony marking completion of this astounding effort to take place in his or her district. Gudy Gaskill, who has spent the last several years guiding the trail to completion, has not yet decided on the location, Janet said.

Correction

Writer-photographer James R. Conner has asked us to correct our Aug. 31 story about the group that circumnavigated Montana's wild lands. It was retired forester Bud



Gudy Gaskill

Moore and not John Gatchell who said Congress should "put into wilderness what we can agree on now, release what we can agree on, and take time to study the rest."

A dismal preview

Labor Day weekend is both the traditional end to summer and a celebration of the American working person and the nation's industrial might. But in the rural West -- especially in Colorado and Utah -- this Labor Day weekend provided a preview not of the end of summer, but of the death of what is special about the Rockies. It showed us what will happen if the American way of life develops here as it has in most of the nation.

The preview came courtesy of vast fires in California and Oregon. The smoke of those distant fires drifted east, thinning somewhat, but having enough force on arrival to transform sky and landscape. Clouds here are always white and sharply defined, as if shaped by a giant scalpel. The sky, except on our few rainy days, is bright blue. The hillsides stand out precisely in the clear air, and profiles of distant mountains are sharply outlined against the blue sky and white clouds.

But over Labor Day, the bright blue sky, the white clouds and the clearly visible landscape vanished. Everything more than a few miles away became blurred and indistinct. Clouds and sky merged into a dull bluish-white, and hillsides and mountains receded or vanished in the haze.

It was as if the area had died. We had no desire to look at the landscape, let alone hike in it. Were that haze to become a permanent condition, as it has in so many parts of America, there would be no reason for us to live here. We would mourn the death of yet another part of America, and move to an area we had not known when it was still clear and alive.

Whoops

We remarked last month on the departure of proofreader Linda Bacigalupi. Her absence was obvious in the typos in the last issue. We hope to do better as the new crew learns its trade.

--the staff

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Leafy spurge meets its match, in a goat

One of the most troublesome noxious weeds in the West is leafy spurge.

A fast growing perennial, spurge spreads rapidly by a horizontal root system and efficient seed dispersal. It crowds out grass, reducing cattle-carrying capacity by 50 - 75 percent on infested acreages. It also competes with other natural vegetation and reduces forage for wildlife. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, leafy spurge is one of the weeds least likely to be controlled by biological means.

But officials in Stillwater County and on the Gallatin National Forest in Montana are using a very efficient biological control -- goats.

That goats like and even prefer leafy spurge was a serendipitous discovery. In 1983, Stillwater County was hosting the state's weed fair and fattening some goats for the barbecue. The goats were released on an island in the Yellowstone River. When it came time to gather them for butchering, they couldn't be caught.

Then it was noticed that the goats had been preferentially eating the leafy spurge that infested the island. Later, a three-year study showed that the goats were able to prevent further spread of the spurge.

Now the Stillwater Weed Management District, in cooperation with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and the County Extension Service, uses goats to control spurge on public sites throughout the county. A full-time herder watches over a goat herd that has grown to 40 animals. The animals stay at each site two to five days, then are moved by truck and trailer to another area. Each site is grazed twice during the growing

Judith E. Strom



Radio-collared goat feeding on leafy spurge

season. Although the goats do not kill the spurge, they keep it grazed down and prevent its spread.

Stillwater county extension agent Chuck Egan says, "The goats are more effective than spraying or grubbing because they really seek out the leafy spurge. They get into thick, thorny brush where a man can't get."

On the Gallatin National Forest, range technician Chuck Sundt is cooperating with Montana State University graduate student Vince McElligott in studying means of controlling the goats. Sundt says, "We don't have a trailhead or campground on the forest which isn't contaminated with this (spurge)."

Since forest officials can't spray within 50 feet of standing or running

water, they hope to use the goats in these areas. The goats wear a radio-collar and their pasture area is surrounded by an insulated wire laid on the ground. When the goat nears the wire, it hears a beep and then two seconds later receives a mild shock. The animals learn quickly, McElligott says, and even when the current is turned off can't be enticed across the wire.

For information about goats as a control for leafy spurge, contact: Chuck Egan, Stillwater County Extension Agent, Box 807, Columbus, MT 59019, (406/322-5334) or Chuck Sundt, Range Technician, Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406/587-6920).

--Judith E. Strom

HOTLINE



Extinction by neglect

Managing national parks primarily for large mammals such as grizzly bears or elk may be putting smaller mammals, invertebrates and plants in danger of extinction, say biologists at Montana State University. This summer several university students studied the biological diversity of Glacier National Park, which has about 60 mammal species but several hundred species of birds, a thousand species of plants and 10,000 or more species of insects. Because it would be impossible to catalog them all, university biologists are studying bird and butterfly species to see if they can be used as indicators of biological diversity. Biology department head Peter Brussard says development in and near the nation's parks are affecting the animals and plants within. He told the *Great Falls Tribune*: "If you manage for a few vertebrate species you could be inadvertently driving a considerable portion of the biological diversity into extinction."

Kenji Kawano



Relocation protest last summer

Navajos repudiate relocation

The Navajo Tribal Council has officially adopted the position that there should be no forced relocation of Navajo people from their homes on what is technically Hopi Indian land. The council's unanimous resolution on the Hopi-Navajo land dispute came as the result of a report from a task force headed by Tribal Chairman Peter MacDonald. The task force held 13 community hearings with residents affected by relocation proceedings. The resolution states that Navajos who prefer relocation or who have already been evicted should receive benefits from the federal government, and that the Hopi tribe should receive monetary and/or other lands in compensation for those who stay. Hopi Tribal Chairman Ivan Sidney has called the Navajo Council's position an insult to the Hopi people.

SSC race reveals the West's weak spots

After some last minute emergency sessions, Superconducting Super Collider site proposals are in to the Department of Energy. A DOE spokesman says the agency received 43 proposals in 25 states, including nine submitted by local governments or private organizations (*HCN*, 8/17/87).

Already the fur has begun to fly.

California was nearly knocked out of the race by a squabble in the state legislature over minority participation. California's key attraction -- a \$560 million bond to purchase land, make site improvements, upgrade local schools and other infrastructure, and build a special high energy physics institute -- was not passed by state lawmakers in time to meet the DOE's Sept. 2 deadline.

The problem was a California law requiring that projects funded by public bond must contain quotas for participation by minorities and women. A fight over those quotas in the State Assembly on Sept. 1 blocked passage of the bond. When a last-minute push failed, the California Collider Commission was forced to submit its proposal contingent upon later approval of the money. Commission spokesman Mike Lassiter says the state beat the deadline by only seven minutes.

A day later the issue was

resolved, with 15 percent participation in collider-related business reserved for minority-owned companies and five percent reserved for woman-owned companies. A DOE spokesman says the incident has not hurt California's chances.

Three other western states are having problems. While on tour of a DOE facility in New York, an Energy Department staffer asked a Colorado state legislator if the agency was welcome in Colorado in light of stepped-up protests at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility.

AP has also reported that DOE is uncomfortable with the anti-Rocky Flats stance taken by Colorado Democrats Sen. Tim Wirth and Rep. David Skaggs. DOE officials deny that Rocky Flats will have any bearing on the collider site selection.

In Utah, the U.S. Air Force informed Gov. Norman Bangerter that it is unhappy with the state's proposal to build the collider near its West Desert bombing range. In a letter to Bangerter, then-Acting Air Force Secretary Tidal W. McCoy expressed concern that foreign spies posing as visiting supercollider scientists would have access to the bombing range, reports the *Deseret News*. McCoy also said the collider would interfere with a new electronic combat range planned for the West

Desert, and pointed out that the state had not addressed the problem of loaded bombers and sonic booms above the collider facility.

In Arizona, conflict over the state's collider proposal may be the straw that breaks the back of Arizona's newly elected and controversial governor. After Gov. Evan Mecham, R, interfered with the legislature's choice of a Washington lobbyist to help the state land project, 11 leading state Republican legislators broke party ranks.

The defection has added momentum to a fast moving recall campaign that aims to end what one anti-Mecham protestor called a "thrill a week approach to supposedly running a government," reports the *Denver Post*.

--Steve Hinchman

BARBS

It will be interesting to see how the hysterical, emotional environmentalists counter this piece of cool, scientific reason from industry.

Michael Sullivan of the Northwest Forest Resource Council, a logging group, told *The New York Times*, "Our gut feeling is that the spotted owl is not endangered."

Court ruling may ignite chain reaction in uranium industry

The nation's ailing uranium industry is glowing with anticipation now that a federal appeals court has barred the importation of foreign uranium for enrichment in the United States.

The unanimous ruling from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver upholds a 1986 ruling from federal District Judge Jim Carrigan. It orders the Department of Energy to cease processing uranium of foreign origin in its enrichment plants. The federal agency says it will appeal this latest decision to the Supreme Court.

Nonetheless, the case is a victory for the nation's uranium miners, who have seen their industry wither away in the last decade. The decision cites a clause in 1964 amendments to the Atomic Energy Act that says national defense and energy security require the Atomic Energy Commission, now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to maintain the existence of the domestic uranium industry. For the last two years, however, DOE Secretary John Herrington has officially declared the domestic industry dead and allowed foreign suppliers to take over the market.

The Energy Department is the only entity in North America that enriches uranium for use in nuclear power plants. A DOE spokesman says that in 1987, 70 percent of the agency's production will be used to fuel domestic power stations, and the rest will be exported. Until the collapse of the U.S. industry in 1980, domestic mines supplied 40 million pounds a year to be enriched, a sum about equal to U.S. power consumption. Today the domestic industry supplies some 10 million pounds a year, only a quarter of the nation's nuclear energy consumption.

Price is the reason. The 1979 price for un-enriched uranium averaged \$43 a pound; today's price averages \$17 a pound. It comes from countries such as Canada, South Africa and Australia, which can mine cheaper than we do.

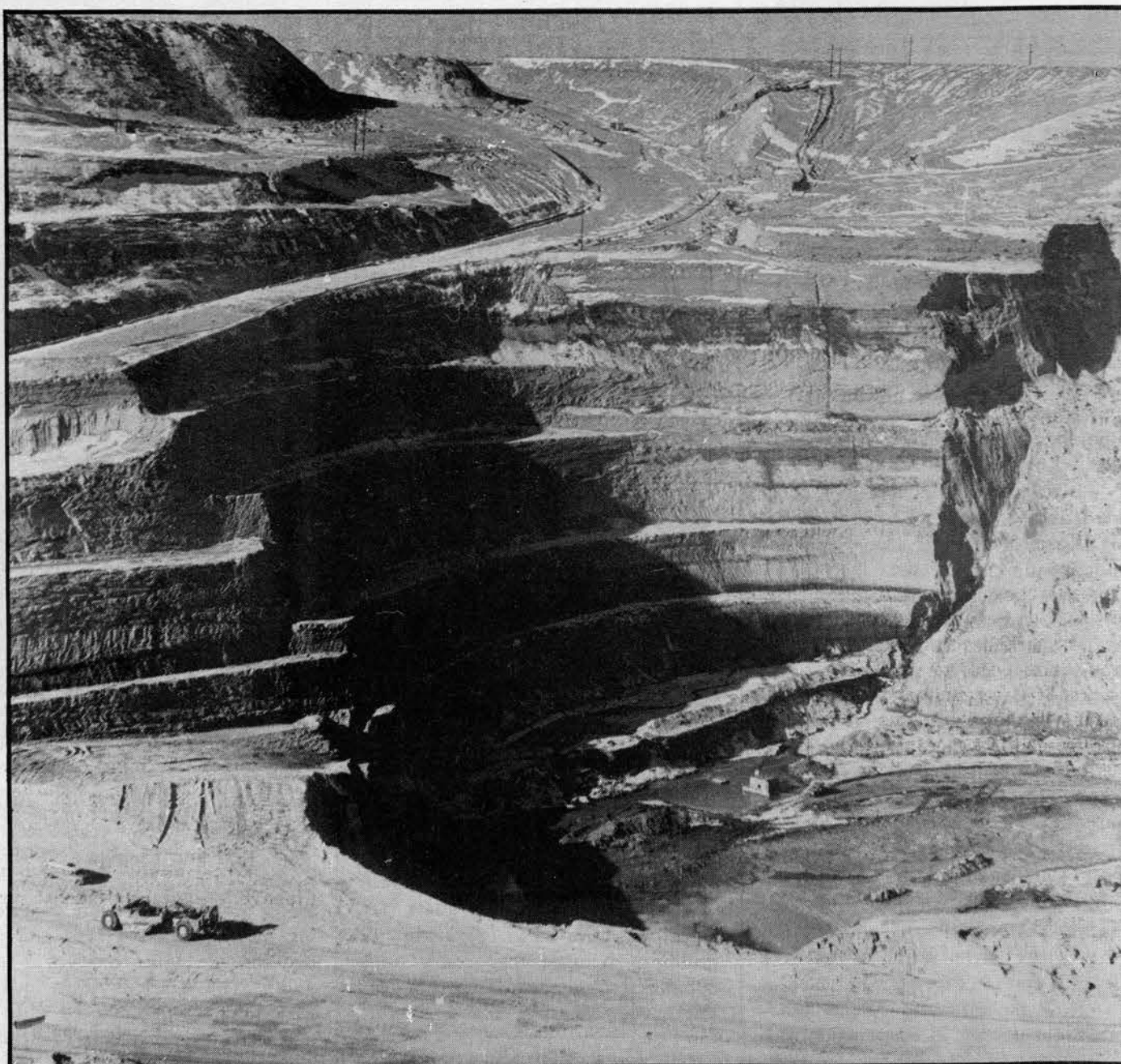
As the domestic market collapsed, mines and mills closed and in many cases reclamation projects began (*HCN*, 1/16/87). The recent court rulings may turn that around.

The case was originally filed by three uranium mining companies: Western Nuclear and Energy Fuels Nuclear of Colorado, and Uranium Resources, Inc. of Texas. Energy Fuels President Jerry Grandey says the miners attempted unsuccessfully to negotiate with the DOE for three years before filing suit.

Both the 1986 and 1987 rulings order the DOE to cease importations immediately, but the agency asked the 10th Circuit Court for a postponement pending its appeal to the Supreme Court. Until then it's business as usual at the DOE's two enrichment plants in Ohio and Kentucky, says an Energy Department spokesman.

Although most companies are waiting for a Supreme Court decision, the lower court rulings have spawned some optimism. Grandey thinks it might eventually result in a doubling of the domestic share of the market. But he adds there will be little impact until prices go up.

Soon after the ruling, uranium prices on the spot market remained at \$16.90, but a premium of \$1.90 developed for U.S. uranium. Jack



The Federal American Partners uranium mine, now closed, in Gas Hills, Wyoming

Burgess, manager of Chevron's Mt. Taylor mine in New Mexico, says that is not nearly enough. "Most operations are going to need a \$30 to \$35 dollar price before they consider re-opening," he says.

While the New Mexico industry remains dormant, some companies in Colorado and Utah are taking action. Grandey says Energy Fuels has cancelled plans to close its Blanding, Utah, mill, one of four in the nation that still operates. Instead, he says it will close for maintenance at the end of this year and re-open in 1988.

UMETCO, formerly Union Carbide, has announced plans to re-open three mines: the King Solomon mine outside Uravan and the Sunday mine at Slick Rock, both in western Colorado, and the LaSal mine in San Juan County, Utah.

Wyoming's major producer, the Pathfinder Corp. says its operations won't change. But Pathfinder government-affairs officer John Atkins says the news is certainly good and will bolster operations at the company's Gas Hills open pit mine. The company is ready to increase production at its two mills at any time, he says.

Many in the field say it is naive to think that DOE and Congress will let a court in Colorado decide what is ultimately an international trade and foreign policy question. DOE officials say if the court order stands, the agency could lose \$125 million in sales for the remainder of 1987, and \$550 million in 1988.

Furthermore, the price increase of \$10-15 per pound uranium officials say is necessary to revive the domestic market will drive electricity prices up. That could force utilities to look overseas for their enriched fuel.

Both France and a consortium of other European states have enrichment facilities and regularly compete with the DOE on the U.S. market, says Grandey.

One solution may come from Congress this fall. A uranium bill sponsored this summer by New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici, R, proposes to reserve 62.5 percent of the market for domestic suppliers and in later years even it out to 50-50. Grandey and others say both uranium miners and the nuclear industry support a percentage solution. They say a partial ban is a better remedy to the problem of maintaining the domestic industry.

Domenici's bill also includes a proposal to restructure the Energy Department's enrichment program as a wholly owned federal corporation comparable to Conrail. This and other parts of the bill could delay a quick solution to the enrichment problem.

If the domestic uranium industry does return, it is sure to be different from the boom years of the late 1970s. No one expects it to grow to more than half of earlier production. Environmental impacts will also be less.

In the meantime, U.S. standards have gotten tougher. Pathfinder's John Atkins adds that probably very few new mills will be built because the standards are so tough.

Higher uranium prices, however, could encourage new mines now embroiled in controversy. Energy Fuels is actively exploring the area around Grand Canyon National Park, and their operations have faced continual protests from environmental groups.

In Wyoming and Texas, attempts are being made to mine uranium through the in situ leaching process. The controversial recovery method uses a cyanide solution that is poured directly over uranium ore deposits still in the ground. The solution leaches out the uranium oxides, which are then recovered and turned into yellowcake. The process eliminates much of the high costs of uranium mining but is also a direct threat to ground water. Malapai Resources, a mining company owned by the Arizona Public Service Company, plans to open its first in situ operation in Wyoming's Powder River Basin this month.

--Steve Hinchman

HOTLINE

Indian seeks asylum

American Indian activist Leonard Peltier has asked the Soviet Union for political asylum as a human rights victim. Soviet officials, who recently sent two doctors to examine Peltier, say they are considering his request. The U.S. State Department, however, has given no indication that it would free Peltier, who is serving

two consecutive life sentences at the U.S. penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan. He was convicted of killing two FBI agents during a shootout at South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975. Peltier says he was framed and that his trial was unfair. Peltier has lost two appeals and is now waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide if it will hear his case.

Park Service seeks to evict an interloper

Two decades ago, the Utah Highway Department won an award for the "Potash Road" near Moab. The road circles the Atlas uranium mill and then follows the Colorado River for 15 miles until it reaches the Texas Gulf Inc. potash plant.

Thanks to its view of the Colorado River, the American Society of Highway and Transportation Officials decided it was the most beautiful highway built that year.

It would not win that award today. Thickets of tamarisk 10 to 15 feet high hide most of the river from view. Moreover, the thickets are so dense that a motorist who wanted to see for himself whether there was a river behind the plants would have trouble getting to the water.

The tamarisk was introduced to the Southwest in the late 19th century from the Middle East and Africa. Some say it was brought in as an ornamental plant; others say it was introduced to stabilize river banks. It is certainly suitable to the latter. It grows fast, its roots are strong, and it is more attractive than rusted car bodies or junked equipment. Tamarisk is also a rapid spreader. It reached the canyon country of southern Utah in the 1920s, and today occupies every side canyon of the Colorado and its tributaries.

On a per leaf area basis, tamarisk consumes little more water than its fellow phreatophyte, the cottonwood. A phreatophyte is a deep-rooted plant that obtains water from the water table or the layer of soil just above it. But the tamarisk is able to survive being underwater for as long as six weeks, and this has allowed it to take over sandbars and beaches that would otherwise be bare.

Its presence, in turn, has narrowed channels and caused floods. In addition, its growth in previously unoccupied areas means more vegetation in waterways and more water loss.

It is a tough opponent. A single mature tree produces 600,000 seeds a year that travel great distances by wind or bird. Man has taken fire, bulldozers and chemicals to tamarisk trees only to find them quickly growing back from root suckers.

In response to this tenacity, the National Park Service has a technique for control in isolated locations where water loss justifies the expense. The trick is to cut and burn away the tamarisk, selectively poison the roots, reintroduce cottonwoods, and then -- every year thereafter -- cut and poison new growth.

That technique was about to be applied in Arches National Park, near Moab, Utah, to a place called Salt Wash Spring. It is in the middle of shale hills covered with cheat grass and other remnants of severe overgrazing. The overgrazing probably occurred back in the 1940s, when a sheep rancher built a watering trough for 1,500 head of sheep. The rancher probably trucked in more water to supply that many animals.

Before man discovered the area, Salt Wash Spring was a desert oasis, a water pocket periodically cleansed by flash floods. Cottonwoods and willows made habitat for hawks, owls, coyotes, foxes and their prey. Antelope may have watered there.

"Tammie" roots and falling branches have since done their job.



Tamarisk along the banks of the Colorado River in Utah

The water pocket is now filled with water-soaked sediment. Yet Coopers Hawks still nest in the remaining cottonwoods; Great Horned Owls, coyotes and foxes still linger and hunt. Somehow, their prey finds food and water.

There are even trees because some of the tamarisks have grown to tree-size. If the big tammies die, they will be replaced by the impenetrable tamarisk that always comes back. Unless of course, the resource managers kill the roots and all new seed growth every year, which the resource management plan says will be accomplished by nine person-days of work each year.

The Park Service was set to kill the tammie trees and bushes this spring and no one objected until Jim Stiles, a former summer ranger and current Moab artist, visited Salt Wash Spring, as he has done regularly for more than 10 years.

Stiles said he thought about the plan and concluded that the Park Service could never do anything in perpetuity. Agency priorities keep changing as diminishing funds shift more and more to police work and crowd control, he said. Stiles added that tammie control is also not possible until a way is found to eradicate the source of seeds -- that green ribbon growing up and down the Colorado River and its tributaries.

Until then, Stiles said he is convinced that the big tamarisk trees with little understory are preferable to a thicket. Mature tammies consume little more water than cottonwoods, he said, and rather than annual poisoning he would like to see periodic cleansing of the water pocket so wild animals can drink. Because wildlife have adapted, the cutting and burning would wreck the habitat that exists for several years until planted cottonwoods take hold, he said. The writer Edward Abbey said he supports Stiles' position.

Stiles' protest induced Arches managers to take a second look at the spring. They prepared a separate environmental assessment that is set for release this month. In the meantime, earlier this year, Arches, which is managed as a unit of Canyonlands National Park gained a new manager, Paul Guraedy.

During a lengthy interview, Guraedy said that Salt Wash Spring is not the issue. Yes, burning and chemical use are lamentable, he

said, and the destruction of habitat, even temporarily, is more lamentable.

But the issue, is tamarisk throughout the national park system. "We are not destroying what we want to save. We are working to restore what was previously destroyed (by overgrazing and the spread of tamarisk). National parks are not islands that don't have to be manipulated. We have no control over our surroundings, but we have learned how natural conditions were overcome, and how to respond to promote their reestablishment," Guraedy said.

The Park Service does not expect to eradicate all tamarisk. But it does hope to reclaim enough water to restore rodent and raptor populations, and perhaps even reintroduce antelope. If it works in Salt Wash Spring, they'll try it other places.

The mandate, as the Arches managers see it, is not to draw a line in the dirt and preserve existing conditions; it is to restore natural conditions, while at the same time it makes every effort to "enhance" visitors' appreciation of nature.

It is not easy to be a land manager in Moab. Moab is polarized by environmental and other ethical issues, but it is united in its distrust of land managers. So the tamarisk dispute goes beyond the relationship between man and the land, to that between the Park Service and a contentious community. What may be revealed as the agency deals with Salt Wash Spring is whether the Park Service changes the distrust that now exists.

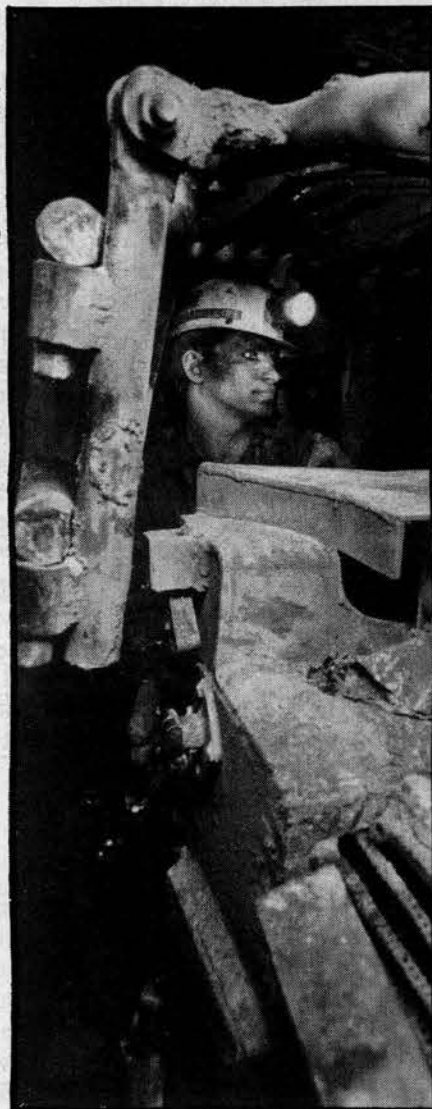
--Craig Bigler

HOTLINE

Neighbors sue L-P

Louisiana-Pacific officials in Olathe, Colo., say they were surprised by a recent lawsuit filed against them. Twelve neighbors to the waferboard factory filed suit in U.S. District Court, charging that formaldehyde, iso-cyanates and other toxic emissions have caused immune-system damage, respiratory problems, memory loss and dizziness, among other symptoms. L-P says it is still in the process of testing emissions from the plant, but so far has found no toxins. The company will also be in court this fall on charges from the Environmental Protection Agency that it has failed for three years to obtain a federal clean air permit and has not yet submitted an acceptable air pollution monitoring program. Residents have complained about the plant since it opened in 1984. No state or federal regulations govern formaldehyde emissions; formaldehyde and iso-cyanate resins are used to cement wood chips in the production of waferboard.

Roaring Fork Valley Journal



Mid-Continent miner

Coal firm stiff county

Mid-Continent Coal and Coke Co. of Redstone, Colo., has not paid its property taxes for the second year in a row. That means the company's total tax debt of \$384,384 puts western Colorado's county of Pitkin in a bind. It may have to cut school and fire protection budgets. "We're upset about it. We're in a quandary about what to do about it," said Fire District Chief Ron Leach in the *Glenwood Post*. After no tax was paid last year, the county placed Mid-Continent on the auction block, but no one bid. The company encountered financial difficulties last summer when its prime customer, USX, stopped buying coal due to a workers' strike and shutdown. Mid-Continent is currently negotiating with the company that bought USX to resume transactions.

HOTLINE

A drowned canyon

Scientists recently discovered a maze of canyons beneath the waters of Yellowstone Lake. Three hundred feet under water lie canyon walls similar in shape and steepness to those of Yellowstone Canyon and the Grand Canyon, they reported. There also appears to be a geyser basin on the lake bottom. Tony Remsen, a microbiologist from the University of Wisconsin and member of the study team, says the canyons were discovered by a small, video-equipped submarine.

HOTLINE



Panel gets hot assignment

Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan recently appointed a blue ribbon wildlife panel to tackle the problem of encouraging private landowners to maintain and improve wildlife habitat on their lands, for a fee. Controversy erupted last January when state legislators proposed a game-ranching bill that would have allowed landowners to control hunting access in return for managing wildlife habitat (HCN, 2/16/87). The bill was viewed by some hunters as a step towards privatization of wildlife, and it was withdrawn before it came to a vote. However, the question remains: How should Wyoming's hard-pressed ranchers and farmers be paid for feeding wildlife on their lands? While Sullivan instructed the panel to find incentives and compensation for private cooperation in wildlife management, he also told the group to attract as little publicity as possible and to steer clear of the question of access for hunters, reports the *Casper Star-Tribune*. The panel's report is due by Dec. 31, 1987.

Coal firm wins suit

The Montana Supreme Court recently declared unconstitutional a state law requiring the owner of sub-surface mineral rights to obtain permission to mine from the surface-owner. The judges said the state law violated both the Montana and U.S. constitutions because it allowed taking of property without due process or just compensation. The law also impaired contracts by which land and mineral rights were sold separately decades before, the court ruled. The decision has widespread implications throughout Montana and the West. The ruling overturned a 1986 court order prohibiting Western Energy Co. access to stripmine 860 acres of coal on Patty Kluver's ranch on Montana's southeastern plains (HCN, 4/15/85). Kluver says the decision will destroy her ranch, which has been in the family for over 100 years. Western Energy says without the coal it will fail to meet its contracts for Montana Power. Western Energy spokesman Cort Freeman says the decision gives access rights, but before it can mine, the company must apply for permits from the state, show by its resource inventory that it needs the coal, and prove that the land can be reclaimed.

Tribes say rights hearing hurts sovereignty

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission came to Flagstaff, Ariz., last month to examine the independence of tribal courts, freedom of the press and expression on reservations, and tribal enforcement of the 1968 Indian Civil Rights Act. It plans to prepare a report for Congress and President Reagan, possibly recommending limited federal review of civil rights lawsuits filed in tribal courts.

The commission chose Flagstaff for the hearing because it was thought the nearby Navajo Tribe's large and sophisticated government and 20-year-old court system would provide a good sounding board to reach general conclusions. But the Navajo government refused to allow its officials to testify.

Instead, the tribe accused the commission of violating its sovereignty by conducting the hearings at all.

Navajo tribal officials told the commission and the press that they don't have to enforce the federal law protecting Indian civil rights because of sovereign authority to implement their own civil rights laws.

Navajo attorney general Michael Upshaw said the tribe's own Bill of Rights provides greater guarantees of individual rights and freedoms than the federal law. Neither he nor Navajo Tribal Chairman Peter MacDonald, who began his fourth term in January, attended the hearing.

The tribe's decision to ignore the commission angered its chairman, Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr. "I think Mr. MacDonald is playing around with a criminal statute," Pendleton said. "Other nations and tribes showed up. I don't know why they can't."

The Navajos were not alone in their opposition to the commission. Thomas R. White, lieutenant governor of the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, Ariz., said the hearings were more concerned with "generating as much adverse publicity about tribes" than with protecting Indian civil rights.

"Indian bashing may be a popular sport with the commission, but you should realize that in the process you are irreparably harming tribal governments who are effectively and efficiently delivering services to their tribal members," White said.

The commission heard allegations of violations of civil rights on reservations, including denial of due process and disregard of tribal constitutions where they exist. Other testimony revealed that:

- Political interference in tribal courts is widespread;
- Indian judges often have little legal training, if any;
- Free expression is often stifled with threats or censorship; and
- The Indian Civil Rights Act is not being enforced by tribal courts as set out in a landmark 1978 Supreme Court ruling.

Despite these concerns, most witnesses said that even limited federal review of Indian civil rights cases would harm the long-term interests of tribes. Tribal leaders and attorneys said that tribes simply needed more time to improve their systems.

"Many tribes can't scrape up funds to hire judges," said Zuni Gov. Robert E. Lewis. "Zuni wasn't blessed with the resources of other tribes."

Besides great tribal wealth, the

John Sorrell, Sho-Ban News



Navajos differ from other tribes in that the tribe never adopted a constitution when many tribes did so following passage of the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934.

Robert Roessel, an educator who has worked on the Navajo Reservation for 30 years, told the commission that until the Navajos set out their system along constitutional lines, individual rights violations will continue.

"In my estimation, things have never been worse on the Navajo Reservation than they are right now," he said. "If the Navajo people want to preserve their rights, they need a mechanism to do so. They must be able to have the same guarantees that I have and members of this commission have."

Navajo tribal judges are among those who are removed when their rulings displease the tribal council or council committees. Four judges have been removed from the tribal bench in the last six years, with the latest being dismissed in June.

Daniel Deschinney, a Navajo attorney and associate of MacDonald, acknowledged that despite the tribe's judicial, legislative and executive branches, the Navajo government today is controlled primarily by the chairman's office.

"There is no such thing as a three-branch government on the reservation," he said.

Deschinney, who represents a tribal chief justice who was removed from office during the administration of former chairman Peterson Zah, said his client waited until a few months ago to file suit against the tribe for wrongful removal because he felt he'd have a better chance in court under the MacDonald administration.

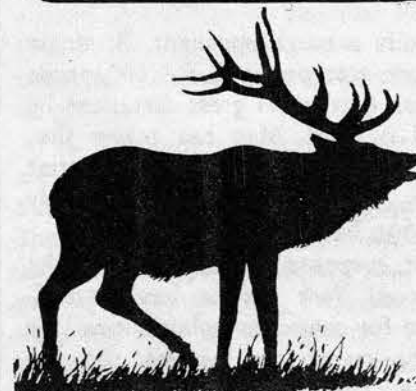
"There's no due process. There's no equal protection. It has to be taught to the decision makers," Deschinney said.

The commission also heard testimony on the controversial closure of *Navajo Times TODAY*, the only daily Indian newspaper in the country. The paper, which endorsed the incumbent chairman who lost the tribal election last fall, was shut down five weeks after a change in administration earlier this year (HCN, 3/16/87).

The paper resumed publication as a weekly tabloid under new management in May, but prints no editorials and has no Navajo reporters or editors. Bill Donovan, a *Times* correspondent and once its managing editor who has been fired and rehired by the paper four times under MacDonald, said he told tribal officials that the logical thing would have been to place someone from the chairman's office in the paper to salvage it from financial crisis. Instead, he said, no one talked to either him or the paper's officials about the money problems before it was closed in February.

--George Hardeen

HOTLINE



Developers shed burden

Colorado's Gov. Roy Romer has signed a bill that may require taxpayers to foot the bill when water projects destroy wildlife habitats. HB 1158, sponsored by Rep. Chris Paulson, R, requires Colorado to help defray wildlife mitigation costs when they exceed 5 percent of the project's total construction cost. It also stipulates that water project developers must submit a plan for wildlife mitigation and provides funds for the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian tribes as part of the final settlement of the Colorado Ute water rights lawsuit. Stephen Blomeke, executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation, opposes the bill, saying it could force the state to contribute money even if it opposed a project. Two Forks Dam is one of the projects that may be eligible for state aid under the bill.

Canadian wolf hunt could hurt U.S. packs

Three years ago 12 wolves later dubbed the "Magic Pack" left the wilderness of British Columbia, Canada, and made their way into Glacier National Park. They were the first wolf pack in the American West since the animal was wiped out almost 50 years ago.

Now Glacier Park officials fear this natural relocation of wolves, which has grown to four packs, may be ended by a hunting and trapping season set to begin in early September in British Columbia, just north of the park. It will be the first season on wolves in that part of Canada in 20 years.

Glacier Park officials oppose the hunt. "It's too early in the recovery process to lose wolves," said Gary Gregory, resource management specialist for the park. Some of Glacier's wolves wander freely across the unfenced border into Canada, he said, and he fears they will be killed.

But Ray Demarchi, regional wildlife biologist for the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Parks, said that wolf numbers are increasing rapidly in southern British Columbia and an immediate harvest is necessary. "There has been concern expressed by hunting and agricultural organizations that the wolf should not expand unchecked," he said. Canadian officials rejected a proposal from biologists in Glacier Park that the season be postponed one more year.

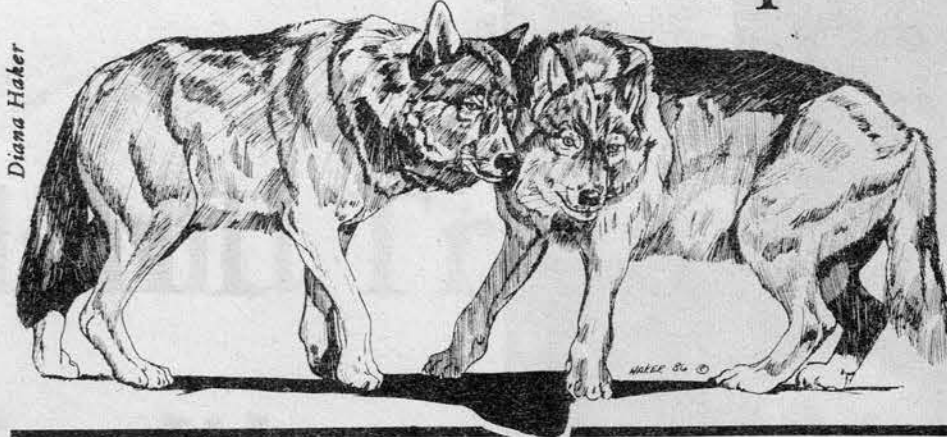
Meanwhile, environmental groups on both sides of the border have protested the wolf hunt. "It should be cancelled," said Dan Smith, a spokesman for Defenders of Wildlife, a Washington, D.C., environmental group. "The hunt's too much of a peril for wolves in Montana. They're a key part of the restoration of the wolf to the Northern Rockies." Members of his group have sent more than 60 letters of protest to British Columbia Premier William Vander Zalm, Smith said.

The hunting season was set to begin Sept. 10 and the trapping season on Nov. 15. Both end February 28.

Viewed as a threat to the livestock industry, the wolf was trapped, hunted and poisoned out of the American West by the 1930s. An extermination program in British Columbia through the 1940s and 50s had a similar effect, though some wolves remained in remote regions. Once hunting and trapping were halted, the population began to recover, and now the wolves are slowly reclaiming their former range, moving southward along the Rocky Mountains "like a curtain coming down", said Canada's Demarchi.

Only occasional lone wolves have been seen the past half century in Montana and Idaho. Then, in 1985, a pack of more than a dozen wolves -- called the "magic pack" by researchers -- moved into northwestern Glacier National Park. The remote valleys and riverbottoms of the million-acre refuge as well as surrounding public forestland are considered prime wolf habitat. Deer, elk, beaver and moose are plentiful and there are no other wolves to compete.

Indeed, three years after they first arrived in the U.S., where they are protected by federal law as an endangered species, the wolves have multiplied into four packs, for a total of between 20 and 30 animals.



One of those packs, however, which established itself on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation just east of the park boundary, has killed livestock and will be broken up, according to federal wildlife officials. An adult wolf that was feeding beef to its young has already been shot by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Trapper (HCN, 8/31/87).

Demarchi said biologists would monitor the harvest and close the season if the numbers taken were deemed to be affecting U.S. wolf

recovery. British Columbia wildlife officials say that wolves are not aggressively hunted, and in the past five years in the southeastern corner of the province only three wolves have been shot. Pelts are now worth only \$100.

Nonetheless, Glacier Park officials are concerned. "We've waited 50 years for wolves to come back," Gregory said. "We really don't want to have to wait another 50 years."

--Jim Robbins

Oil Shale county takes a hit

Oil shale has played a less flamboyant role in the economy of Garfield County, Colo., since EXXON's much-publicized suspension of its Colony Project in 1982. But the industry continues to play a substantial role in one arena. Unocal Corp., Exxon's neighbor on Parachute Creek and the sole surviving active oil shale project in Garfield County, is the county's largest taxpayer.

Unocal's tax load, however, was recently lightened. In response to the company's challenge to the property value set by the county assessor, Garfield County Commissioners cut \$243 million from Unocal's July assessment. Even after the pruning, the \$136 million figure arrived at by the commissioners is higher than the \$54 million the company believes its property was worth as of Jan. 1, 1987.

Unocal contended that its property should be assessed on income rather than the \$720 million the plant cost to build. That income, Unocal said, is low and its production unpredictable. Unocal's Public Affairs Administrator, Chris Treece, said he could not even estimate average daily production. "It's varied so much as we continue to experiment that a rate is meaningless," said Treece.

The commissioners agreed with Unocal's arguments, and so far none of the public districts affected by their decision has protested. Unocal's \$4.5 million a year in property taxes

have been going to county government and to the Parachute school, fire and recreation districts.

It's too soon to estimate the impact on the county's 1988 budget, but the commissioners have asked department heads to trim their requests by 15 percent. This continues a trend begun in early 1985, in the aftermath of the oil shale bust. To make up the difference, the Parachute School District may instead raise taxes for other property owners, according to Supt. John Pennington. Preliminary figures show the new assessment will reduce Unocal's tax contribution to the school district's income from 80 percent now to 53 percent.

Pennington said he believes taxpayers will accept an increase, in part because Unocal's taxes have given them the second lowest school tax rate in Colorado. "If people sit down and consider what's fair," he said, "I think they'll agree Union deserved this reassessment."

Parachute Mayor David Beasley agrees. "Union Oil in this county is the goose that laid the golden egg," said Beasley. "If you try to get too many eggs out of the goose, it will die."

Unocal's victory is double-edged. The plant, with about 500 employees, was to begin producing 10,000 barrels per day in 1983. Today, four years later, the nearly \$1 billion facility is still operating only in fits and starts.

--Judy Moffatt

HOTLINE



Bankrupt farms

A check of the latest Chapter 12 bankruptcy statistics for states in the Western farm belt shows South Dakota easily leads its neighbors. The state's filing rate since Dec. 1, 1986, was 9.6 per 1000 farms. Chapter 12 is a debt-rescheduling bankruptcy procedure available only to farmers. It contrasts with Chapter 7, which is total bankruptcy. Chapter 12 became a legal option for farmers Dec. 1, 1986. Other farm belt figures are: 7.6 per 1000 in Nebraska, 2.6 per 1000 in North Dakota and Kansas, 2.5 per 1000 in Iowa and 1.2 per 1000 in Minnesota. South Dakota and Nebraska farm bankruptcies are said to be high because farm debt mediation programs do not exist in either state. Mediation programs bring farmers and lending agency officials or bankers together to work out debt payment. State-appointed mediators guide the discussions. Voluntary or mandatory mediation legislation has been enacted in the other states.

The dirty West

The Environmental Protection Agency recently released a list of 10 cities in the nation with the most polluted air in 1986, and seven were in the West. Denver, Colo., had the worst air quality in the nation with 33 carbon monoxide violations -- some at three times higher than federal standards. Right behind Denver was the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area. Other polluted western cities were Las Vegas, Nev., Provo-Orem, Utah, Sacramento, Calif., Reno, Nev., and Albuquerque, N.M. Also on the list of the 10 dirtiest were Fairbanks, Alaska, New York, N.Y., and Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

Industry protests a logging moratorium

Montana's Lolo National Forest has imposed a logging moratorium on a portion of its holdings -- a move that is being challenged by a group representing timber interests in the Northern Rockies.

Concern for wildlife and water quality was the impetus for Lolo Forest Supervisor Orville Daniel's May decision to halt timber harvesting in portions of the Lolo Creek drainage west of Missoula. Daniels said timbering by Champion International Corp. and Plum Creek Timber

Co. were high enough to harm the big game on both the private and public land in the area.

The moratorium prohibits logging on 45,000 acres of land the Forest Service has classified as commercial timberland in its forest plan. Lolo forest planner Bob Meuchel said the moratorium could last 10 to 15 years -- the time necessary to provide adequate cover for big game. He said that a slowdown in logging will also help improve water quality in the Lolo Creek drainage.

The problem isn't how much timber is being cut but rather "the size of the openings and closeness to each other," Meuchel said. In recent years, both Champion and Plum Creek have accelerated timber harvesting, most of it clearcut on their Montana and Idaho holdings.

The Intermountain Forest Industry Association, a group that speaks for many of the region's timber companies, disputes the Forest Service's claim and is appealing the moratorium

--Bruce Farling



Tom Shands

Elizabeth Clare Prophet

Church....

(Continued from page 1)

lowstone and the surrounding mountain landscape and change their land-centered, slow-paced way of life. Already the Park Service, Forest Service and environmental groups are opposing many of the church's plans for development. Park officials are especially concerned about church plans to heat their buildings with naturally-occurring underground reserves of hot water, which they say may disrupt the park's world-famous geysers.

"They're drilling hot wells -- tapping the thermal resources of that area -- which is just a few miles from Norris Geyser Basin and just a very few miles from Mammoth Geyser Basin," said Yellowstone Superintendent Robert Barbee. "They (the geysers) are what Yellowstone is all about. We've got a real concern."

Ed Francis is church vice-president and the husband of Elizabeth Clare Prophet. He said locals have nothing to fear from environmental threats, "brain-washed" church members or assault rifles and crossbows. "These people are scaring themselves," he said. "We're not trying to change the character of this area. We like the character of this area."

Spawmed by religious and self-improvement movements in the 1930s, the church has long been steeped in controversy. It is a mosaic of "New Age" religion blended

with eastern and western philosophies, including Catholicism and Buddhism, and a few original ideas as well. According to Prophet, it is a true universal church. Church Universal and Triumphant, she said, is the ancient name for the Catholic Church in its heavenly form, while the earthly church was known as the Church Militant.

Some former members, including Prophet's ex-husband, Randall King, as well as critics outside the church, say the enigmatic 46-year old mother of four is a charlatan. They charge that church officials use coercive and devious fundraising techniques. Prophet, they say, is a psychic dictator who keeps members in line through a sophisticated regimen that includes daily chanting, frequent enemas, fasting, long exhausting days, a heavy burden of guilt, a vision of life in a heaven for the faithful and fear of banishment to darker realms for miscreants.

These critics also believe the church is a right-wing survival cult that stashes weapons and gold in bomb shelters against an imminent day of reckoning. "They promise a spiritual orgasm," said Marilyn Malek, an outspoken foe of the church whose attempt to have her son abducted and "de-programmed" failed.

Prophet and Francis say such claims are absurd. "I want to serve the God in people and help them realize that," said Prophet. "If you give people truth -- the inspired truth of God -- that will liberate them." Many members say Prophet does just that.

The Church U likes Montana

Mighty I AM

The Church Universal and Triumphant grew more directly out of a group that flourished in the 1930s called the Mighty I AM movement, according to some CUT watchers. The I AM movement was sparked by a man named William Dudley Pelley, who in 1929 published an account of an out-of-body experience in the Sierra Madre Mountains near Pasadena, Calif. Pelley claimed his soul spent time with "Ascended Masters," spirits who have governed the affairs of earthly beings since time began. Later, Pelley formed a fascist group called the Silver Shirts of America, modeled after the Nazi movement in pre-war Germany. In 1939, he was investigated by the House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities and labeled a fascist.

In 1930, a man named Guy Ballard claimed in an article that he too had ascended and met the masters. Ballard, a flamboyant man who often preached in a white suit and pink tie, and his wife, Edna, had been both students of Pelley. They began to teach the lessons of the Ascended Masters under the name of the Mighty I AM and in the mid-1930s were joined by some of Pelley's disenchanted followers. The Ballards changed their names to Godfre Ray King and Lotus Ray King and took the mantle, "Accredited Messengers of the Ascended Masters." After Ballard's death, his wife and other leaders of the I AM movement were indicted on charges of fraudulently soliciting money through the mails. They were found guilty, but the charges were later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court on a technicality.

The Ascended Masters, those beings that Prophet says inhabit an unseen plane of existence called the "etheric realm," are a diverse lot, including Saint Germain, a 17th century French alchemist; El Morya; Cosmic Master Ray-O-Light; Oromasis; Mighty Astrea; World Leader Khutami; Jesus Christ; Archangel Michael and his sword of blue flame; William Shakespeare;

K-17, leader of the Inner Secret Service; Buddha and Pope John XXIII. They are known collectively to CUT members as the Great White Brotherhood.

Into this constellation of leaders walked Marcus L. Prophet, his real name, a former vacuum cleaner salesman from Chippewa Falls, Wis. Gerald Bryan, author of a 1940 book, *Psychic Dictators in America*, says that in the 1930s, Prophet, then in his twenties, was an eager student of the Ballards. Elizabeth Prophet says her husband was never a member of the Mighty I AM. Whatever the case, Prophet later claimed to be able to tune in to the Ascended Masters himself, and he formed a sect of his own called the Summit Lighthouse.

Mark Prophet's movement was a fledgling when he delivered a "dictation" from the archangel Michael and fell in love with Elizabeth Clare Wulf Ytreberg, then 21, at Boston University in 1961. The two left their spouses and married each other; the group moved from a house in Washington, D.C., to Colorado Springs in the early 1970s. In 1973, Mark Prophet died of a heart attack. According to his wife he ascended and is now a master named Lanello. In 1976, Elizabeth Clare Prophet renamed Summit Lighthouse the Church Universal and Triumphant.

Elizabeth Clare Prophet later assumed the title Accredited Messenger of the Ascended Masters and now claims to be the only one who receives dictations from the masters. She denies that CUT has roots in the Mighty I AM movement.

By 1978, CUT officials had raised enough money to buy a 276-acre former seminary in the Santa Monica mountains, which they named "Camelot." But Prophet said federal and state zoning regulations there choked off the church's rights to develop its property as the masters desired. Montana, where the tradition of freedom to manage one's land is respected and reflected in regulations and laws, beckoned.

Universal and Triumphant

na's aversion to regulations

A major Montana landowner

In 1981, CUT purchased the 12,000 acre Forbes Ranch near Corwin Springs, Montana, for a reported \$7 million from financier and magazine publisher Malcolm Forbes. At first CUT planned to use the ranch as a retreat for church members; a year later came the announcement that it was selling Camelot to a Japanese Buddhist sect for \$15 million and moving CUT's entire operation to its Royal Teton ranch to build a spiritual community for the next millennia.

The church has bought more ranches and is now the second largest landholder in Park County, owning more than 30,000 acres. It also owns several buildings in Livingston, Mont., where it has established its publishing business, two trailer courts and a subdivision in the

valley called Glastonbury. Recently, church members opened a new mini-mall in downtown Livingston and a restaurant in Bozeman. CUT's California fortune goes a long way in a state where the agricultural and natural resource economy is depressed.

CUT raises much of its money from members through state-of-the-art, computerized direct-mail, sending out many appeals usually centered around some type of imminent disaster. Church vice-president Francis will not reveal the number of members of CUT, and estimates by ex-members vary widely, between 5,000 and 150,000. Francis will also not reveal the church's worth, but some estimate it as high as \$50 million.

The church's Montana headquarters is a refurbished sky-blue ranch house and a cabin, some 30 miles south of Livingston, just off the Yellowstone River. Prairie

rolls out from the ranch house in every direction to meet the Gallatin and Absaroka Mountains. The house is surrounded by outbuildings. A mile or two south of headquarters, lined up along the river, are rows of double-wide modular homes for members. The church also plans to build a school, a cafeteria, a poultry processing plant, and other facilities to serve the 500 to 600 members they say will live here.

Up on Highway 89, the church purchased and renovated a rustic log restaurant -- some locals call it the "cult cafe" -- tourist cabins and a small general store. Signs along the highway for the restaurant show a horse with a lariat and the word "Whoa!" The restaurant is a popular stop for tourists at this major entrance to the park, but many locals boycott it, saying they don't want to support Prophet's church.

There is no easy way to describe Elizabeth Clare Prophet, her beliefs or her matriarchal sect. She has been married four times and has four children. She is known to the flock as the Mother of the Flame and Guru Ma, and she believes she is a reincarnation of Marie Antoinette and Princess Elizabeth, a 19th century Austrian Princess, among others. Members consider her a final authority on all issues. She claims she is the only person on earth who can communicate with the masters and channel their teachings. She often speaks before the faithful as one of a number of spirits -- from the Virgin Mary to El Morya. CUT teaches that the souls of human beings are continually reincarnated until they realize the God within themselves. That, says Prophet, is her goal.

(Continued on page 10)



Albert Dickson

Ed Francis, CUT vice president, on the church ranch just north of Yellowstone Park

Church...

(Continued from page 9)

Some of those who have left the fold, according to the Los Angeles *Herald Examiner*, describe her as a "megalomaniac" who has forced believers to divorce spouses, quit jobs and give over their life savings. "She is a charlatan," said Joseph Szimhart, a former member who is now an artist in Santa Fe, N.M. He counsels people who have left CUT and other sects. "In some dark corner of her mind I think she would like world domination for the Ascended Masters and to set herself up as the ruling queen. I think she's sick and that sickness infects her followers," he said.

Prophet seems unperturbed by criticisms that swirl around her. During a recent interview, Prophet, who often makes appearances to the faithful bedecked in jewels and flowing robes, looked like a suburban housewife. She wore a simple pink cotton dress, blue necklace and ivory-colored cowboy boots with intricately-stitched designs. On one finger she wore a large ring with a blue stone. Francis, her boyish-looking husband, wore faded jeans, a cotton plaid shirt and cowboy boots. Francis said he runs most of the church's day-to-day operations.

In a firm, compelling voice, Prophet said she has found a home in Montana. "All the great saints and adepts fled to the deserts or the mountains. We felt divinely inspired to come here," she said. "We prayed and looked for a place that we felt existed. It had all the components for a spiritual retreat." She said eventually the citizens of Paradise Valley will see that CUT only wishes to be a good neighbor.

Prophet says the 2,000 year "dispensation of Jesus" is coming to an end. The Book of Revelations in the Bible is going to be fulfilled, she predicts, and the people and the planet are going to reap their karma in the form of plagues, diseases, economic problems and very possibly a nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. She said the Royal Teton Ranch is where CUT is preparing to survive this spiritual holocaust.

The church comes down on the conservative side of most social issues. It believes in a strong defense, supports President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, and says building fallout shelters is a good idea. CUT opposes oral sex, homosexuality, communism and abortion.

While the unorthodoxy of the Church Universal and Triumphant has disturbed a good many of those in the Paradise Valley, most concern is focused primarily on the influx of new people. A common

sentiment in Montana for many years as expressed on bumperstickers, reads: "Don't Californicate Montana." Though writers such as Tom McGuane and Richard Brautigan, and film actors such as Jeff Bridges and Warren Oates, have bought ranches in the valley, their influence on the social fabric has been minimal.

Like much of Montana the Paradise Valley is still the kind of place where country ethics are strong; people seal their agreements with a handshake and if someone loses keys for their front door they may never have them replaced because they never lock the door. Some say that is beginning to change.

Local critic Hank Rate

Hank Rate is a land surveyor in his mid-'50s with a small, cluttered office in his home in a tree-lined hollow next to a creek. His land abuts church property. Rate is a prime mover in a new group he and others formed in response to development activities of the church.

Rate's overriding concern is the land. A former Forest Service ranger, he moved to the Paradise Valley to be close to mountains and the river and away from the bustle of the cities. He makes a living as a surveyor, he said, but his real pay is the quality of life. At first he adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the church, but as the tempo of development on church land increased, so did Rate's anxiety.

"We've seen monstrous holes dug in the ground and creek banks stripped for gravel (on church property)," Rate said. Land opened by bulldozers has left soil unprotected, he said, resulting in clouds of dust that billow hundreds of feet into the air. Dozens of double-wide mobile homes -- some purchased from the now defunct Rajneeshpuram settlement in Oregon -- are placed on lots throughout church property.

"Changes in the land are very troubling for one who came to live with the land. They want our beauty, but they want it on their terms," Rate said. "They want to make our country over with the amenities of urban living."

Francis denies the church has stripped creeks for gravel or

ignored the law. "Every construction job is going to have a phase where there's some holes in the ground and there's some dirt being moved," Francis said. "When the job is finished the dirt is put back into place the holes are covered up and grass is planted and it looks just fine."

The concern of local citizens has prompted the state of Montana to prepare an environmental impact statement on the church's development.

Though the environment is of overriding concern, Rate says he is rubbed the wrong way by CUT's unusual lifestyle and what it means to the social fabric of the valley. "These are not the kind of people you can go out and drink a beer with." In the middle of the night, church members often drive vehicles around church property and flash searchlights on neighbors' homes, he added. "No big deal really. It just keeps people uneasy."

But to CUT neighbor Leonard Sargent's way of thinking, the church is not a cause for particular concern. "They've done more to curb the spread of knapweed (a noxious plant) than a lot of ranchers," says the cattle rancher and ardent environmentalist who, among other things, is on the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a Washington, D.C.-based conservation group that specializes in litigation. "We were told that we are allowed to use an emergency route (during flooding) through their property. They've been pretty good neighbors." Sargent said he is worried about the large numbers of people, but that concern would be present "no matter who they are." Sargent said he has not seen behavior by the church that alarms him.

"My family came over just after the Mayflower to worship the way they wanted," Sargent said. "I think that's one of the principles on which this country was founded."

Yellowstone National Park is world famous for its thermal features, especially that symbol of punctuality and dependence, Old Faithful, a geyser that erupts every 70 minutes or so. But there are

Judy Moffatt



Sandy and Leonard Sargent in Corwin Springs, Montana

hundreds of such features in the park, including Mammoth Hot Springs near the park's northern entrance, six miles from La Duke Hot Springs on the church property.

The church has drilled into the underground reservoir of the simmering water in hopes of using it to heat buildings.

That has alarmed geologists and administrators in Yellowstone. They say the drilling of geothermal wells might disrupt the flow of water to Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris Hot Springs, perhaps upsetting the intricate balance of water, pressure and heat that creates geysers and hot springs.

Officials cannot say for certain the drilling will destroy the features because they do not know how the "plumbing" works. But they don't want to see fate tempted. Yellowstone Chief of Research John Varley says disaster has befallen every geothermal area after wells were punched nearby. Without a doubt, Varley said, such systems are fragile.

"We know how intricate the plumbing system is that feeds the hot springs, geysers and fumaroles," Varley said. "We know that an earthquake 400 miles away can affect it." In 1983 an earthquake in central Idaho

CUT member Bill Malek:

"I'm embarrassed.

I have to stand up in front of the people I love and tell them about my mother trying to destroy the thing they hold most dear."

lengthened the time between eruptions of Old Faithful by several minutes (HCN, 7/23/84).

The church's Ed Francis can't understand the park's concern. For many years in the early part of the century, he said, there was a commercial "hot plunge" on church land that derived water from the spring. The church has had an engineering firm from Helena examine the site and prepare a report, which said the well would not affect the park's geysers.

"The only thing we're in the process of doing is using the waters that are discharging naturally at La Duke springs," on the other side of the river, Francis said. "The reason for the well is to get the discharge on this side of the Yellowstone without having to dig a pipeline and bury it under the river."

Park officials also worry about other threats from the spiritual community, said Yellowstone Superintendent Barbee. Much of the church development is taking place in important winter range for wildlife. Each year Yellowstone's white-tailed deer, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep leave the park's harsh winter behind and wander to lower altitudes in the valley. There, winds scour snow off the prairie and leave the forage open. In a harsh winter that bottom land on church property is especially critical, and officials say the presence of people and buildings will keep wildlife from using the land. To CUT's Francis, however, the park's worries about wildlife are overblown.

Grizzly bears, which many believe are on the verge of extinction in Yellowstone, are of particular concern, Yellowstone researcher Varley says. That the church grows large amounts of potatoes and carrots and disposes of poultry and red-meat wastes is an accident waiting to happen, Varley warns. "A grizzly bear will walk 10 miles out of her way for a carrot," he said. "When you combine that with a meat-packing plant, well, it's not a question of if, it's a question of when. When the bear finds that patch, we have no technology to change its mind. And it'll end up a dead bear."

"We've been growing carrots and potatoes for nearly six years, and we haven't had a grizzly

Albert Dickson



Church member Hugh Bowers hefts a sack of carrots grown by CUT

problem yet," counters Francis. The meat and poultry wastes, he said, "are bagged up in plastic, kept inside and hauled away. There's not going to be an opportunity for bear confrontations."

Ed Francis finds all of the brouhaha from the park more than a little ironic. There are several towns within the park that are as big or bigger than the church's project, he points out. The park recently allowed construction of a new town, Grant Village, on some of the most critical grizzly bear habitat in the park. The Park Service also backed down on its plans to remove another town in the park, Fishing Bridge, that occupies habitat critical to bears (HCN, 4/28/86).

When Malcolm Forbes placed his ranch on the sale block, the park negotiated to buy the ecologically important property. But the Park Service had difficulty raising the money and the church was first with the cash.

Since then there has been speculation that the park's attitude is a case of sour grapes.

"There's no question that most of the people in this park wanted to slash their wrists when we lost that ranch," said Varley. "But we are genuinely concerned with the ecosystem. I'd admire their industry if they were doing it any place else but next to Yellowstone Park." Superintendent Barbee adds that it is also not a case of bigotry. "If it were the Boy Scouts of America down there we'd be concerned."

High-speed chants

There are some in Paradise Valley who are particularly upset by the church's unusual beliefs and practices. Marie Mar, a resident of Livingston, is a devout Catholic and "cult-watcher." In fact, she is secretary-treasurer of the local chapter of the Cult Awareness Network, a Chicago-based group that mon-

itors the activities of many of the nation's cults.

One of the more unusual and divisive events to happen since the church moved to the valley was the discovery of a church notebook containing names of some people who live in the area. Mar said "someone" turned the book over to her, and she gave it to the local newspaper. She calls it a spiritual "hit list". The list included Yellowstone Superintendent Bob Barbee, Hank Rate, Mar, newspaper reporters, government officials, churches and dozens of others who had made remarks about the church.

The cover of the blue, three-ring notebook says, "For Decree Leaders Only." A decree is a high-speed chant that members repeat several hours each day. Inside the notebook the list of names is prefaced with the term "negative attitudes and malintent expressed against us."

Mar said she learned that church members were given the list to decree, or chant, so that evil things would happen to the people named. Decrees in the book are filled with aggressive righteousness.

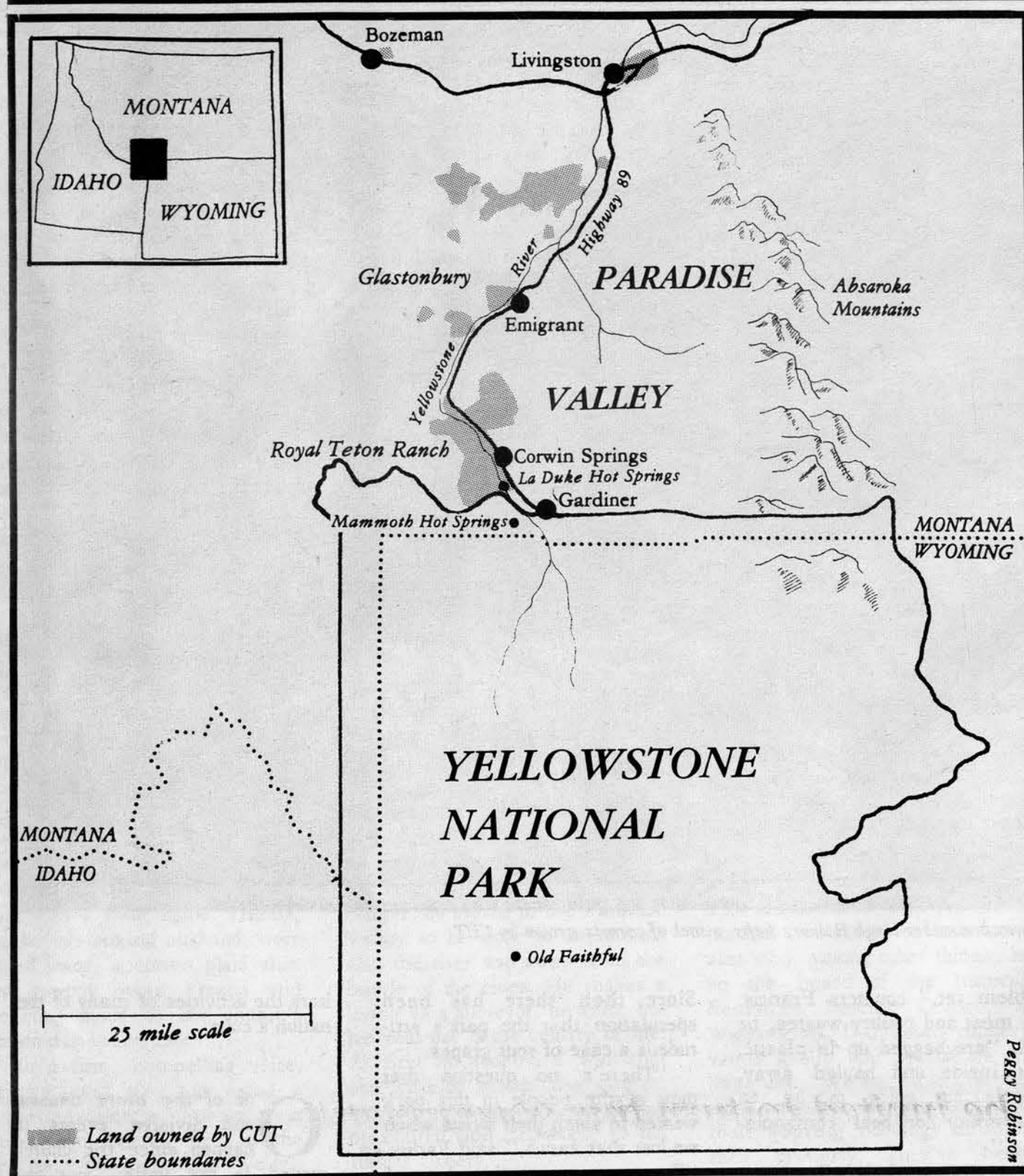
"Bolts of blue lightning into the very cause and core of all opposition to the victory on this planetary body this day," said one. And: "Burn right through and roll it back. Roll it back and mow them down, roll it back and mow them down now, those demons and disincarnates!"

CUT opponent Marilyn Malek:

"What have I got to lose.

I have no son. I might as well speak out."

(Continued on page 12)



Church...

(Continued from page 11)

After the "malintent" list came to light, the church claimed the decrees were not curses but prayers for enlightenment for those who opposed the church. Representatives of CUT visited those on the list and explained that Mar had misconstrued its meaning.

"We don't pray for harm to come to anyone," said Francis. "Forces of evil influence people, and we pray for the right decisions to be made. We believe specific prayers can affect a situation; not just local situations, but world situations."

Ex-members of the church disagree. Gregory Mull, a former architect for the church from Westlake Village, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles, filed suit against CUT in 1981 for \$253 million, claiming the church defrauded him and made him an unwilling slave. In 1986, he won a \$1.5 million jury judgment against the church that is now under appeal. Shortly after he won the suit, Mull, who was 64, died of multiple sclerosis.

After Mull filed suit, said Anne Trowbridge, an ex-member of CUT who left with her

husband in 1983, Elizabeth Clare Prophet began calling Mull the "Beast of Blasphemy." Trowbridge said that Prophet declared Mull a member of the "dark forces" which are so-called evil entities arrayed against the church. CUT leaders posted Mull's picture in the church and members were told to draw a psychic bead on him. They also chanted something called the "ruby ray decree" to rid the church of Mull.

Szimhart explained it this way: "If a person is negative they must hate the (masters). So they must take and blast that energy out of them. If that results in that person's death, well, that's for their own good."

Other church practices have alarmed local residents. In a 1982 "dictation" from Ascended Master El Morya, that has been published by the church, the matter of moving to a mountain retreat is discussed. El Morya cautions that despite the beauty of such a place, the faithful must be careful not to set back their spiritual cause and let their consciousness become more dense.

"You see it in some of those people who live in this area," the dictation reads. "You might categorize some of them as narrow-minded, bigoted, small in

their apprehension of life. These vistas and mountains have not taught them the lessons of eternity."

Francis says the church does not control dictations. "We didn't make the quote up. It was dictated to Elizabeth. We just record them." Besides, he said, it aptly describes some locals.

Another statement that fueled comparison between Rajneeshpuram and the Paradise Valley was a statement from one of Guru Ma's lessons. It said CUT's spiritual pantheon was "determined to take hold of this government at every level beginning with the White House, the Supreme Court, state governments, local governments. The seven mighty Elohim are just waiting to be invited in to turn this government upside down, inside out, to shake it up and down, right and left, until when the dust settles, the right hearts, the Christed ones, will be in possession of authority."

Local residents don't like this kind of talk. Rate predicts first, an attempted takeover of local government in this county of 14,000 people, and then, if things don't go as the church likes, something worse.

"Is there a potential for violence?" he asked. "Yes, there is a potential for violence. When

people get backed into a corner and see things slipping away, they do anything they need to keep it together." Although the church may not have evil intentions, a mentally unstable member could take the words "mow them down" literally, he said.

Szimhart said there are a lot of members who would go to the wall for Prophet. "Some of them wouldn't draw the line anywhere," he said. "They would die for her. To defend her is to defend God." He notes the persistent tales of weapons stashed at the Royal Teton ranch, including AK-47s and crossbows.

All rumor, said Ed Francis. "People who are members or people on the staff might have owned a hunting rifle," he said. "They're not different from anybody else in Montana from that standpoint. The idea that somebody's toting AK-47s or whatever is totally false."

Prophet says the quote from the one of the Ascended Masters that calls for a takeover of the government does not mean church members. "What we are talking about is God taking over the government -- his heavenly hosts and the saints above. As an organization and as us personally, we have no such interest." Francis would like to lay to rest any notions about a Rajneesh-style coup. "There's very little comparison," he said. "It's really kind of ludicrous."

A frequent charge made by relatives of members and ex-members is that the church practices mind control. Szimhart said after he became involved with the church in 1976, he began the fast chanting called decreeing, which he believes mesmerized him. "I was in a form of hypnotic trance for over a year." "I was involved in this magical world that was having no effect on the real world. But I thought it did." Szimhart said Prophet's decrees are no more than hocus-pocus, and that he neither fears the decrees nor church members, "I sleep very well at night," he said.

Another outspoken foe of the church is Marilyn Malek, of Duarte, Calif., whose son William joined the church in 1978. She and her husband and three Christian "deprogrammers" took Bill against his will to a hotel room where they attempted to change his mind about CUT. The episode ended in failure when Bill Malek ran to the balcony shouting for the police. The deprogrammers, who charged \$1500 for the aborted effort, quickly departed, fearing arrest.

"I've not had a Mother's Day Card since that spring," Malek said, "Nor has dad had a Father's Day card. No Christmas cards, nothing." Malek's experience has led her to try to expose the Church Universal and Trium-

Albert Dickson



The Yellowstone River, looking south toward Yellowstone Park. CUT's land is on the right; public land is across the river on the left.

phant and Elizabeth Clare Prophet. She wants nothing more, she said, her voice desperate, than to have her son back. To do that she has become a clearing-house on the church. "There's no way for us to reason with him anymore."

Vendetta

But William Malek, who lives at church headquarters in Montana, sees things differently. "She will not stop persecuting the church until I leave it or denounce it," said the tall, thin, 31-year-old mechanical engineer during an interview at church headquarters. "She feels like she has failed and has a vendetta against Elizabeth Clare Prophet."

Malek, who works on the construction of church buildings, says he arises at 4:45 a.m. and begins each day with 2 hours of decrees. He runs to stay in shape and then eats breakfast from 7 to 8 a.m. Work begins at 8:30 a.m. and is over at 5:30 p.m., with a one-hour break for lunch. There is an hour of decreeing after dinner ends at 6:30 p.m., and then from 7:30 p.m. until bedtime at 10 p.m. Malek says he reads and studies.

Malek says he does not date, although others do. "My particular path is a path of celibacy," he says. "That is a path I choose." Ex-members say Prophet dictates sexual practices to her members, including how long the sex act should last and a prohibition on oral sex. Susan Moldenhauer, Prophet's ex-secretary, Francis's ex-wife and a former member of the church, told the Los Angeles *Herald Examiner* that "lovmaking was to last no longer than half an

"The seven mighty Elohim are just waiting to be invited to turn this government upside down, inside out, to shake it up and down, left and right..."

hour and we were to say decrees before and after." Ex-members say men and women were not allowed to talk to each other for more than 10 minutes and, should they desire to date, had to exchange letters through Prophet. Francis denies that anyone's sexual practices are regulated.

For Bill Malek, the church and its Royal Teton Ranch snuggled in the mountains of Montana is heaven on earth. "I couldn't be happier," he says emphatically. "I wanted to live in the mountains. I wanted a clean environment. I wanted a community based in morality. Now I've got it."

The only serpent Malek sees in this Eden comes from his mother. "I'm embarrassed. I have to stand up in front of the people I love and tell them about my mother trying to destroy the thing they hold most dear."

Marilyn Malek does not believe her son means what he is saying. Bill has been with the church for so long, she said, that he is doing and saying things

that have been programmed by CUT officials. The persistent chanting, she says, turns off the mind. Long, exhaustive days, fasting and enemas also weaken a person's resolve. The brainwashing is so successful, she said, that her son is being trotted out as a propaganda tool. "I know this outfit," Malek said, "and Bill's giving you the party line."

Marilyn Malek said her son told her he would renew their relationship only if she stopped her crusade against the church; for nearly three years, she was silent. Yet wounds between the two did not heal. Now she is speaking out again. "What have I got to lose?" she asks. "I have no son. I might as well speak out."

Some ex-members say one of the most powerful holds the church has is guilt. The faithful are told it is through them the Ascended Masters are allowed to work and combat the dark forces. If you leave, said one ex-member, you are letting the universe down.

Others claim the church preys on members financially by convincing them to sign over property and life savings. "If people have money they're (CUT) going to get it," Szimhart said. "It's not difficult to get true believers to hand it over."

Allegations of brainwashing are preposterous, said Ed Francis. "Disaffected believers are being convinced by attorneys looking for big damages to claim that they were being brainwashed," he said. "And I just think it's a bunch of baloney. Nobody, short of physical restraint, can be brainwashed just by reading books and being exposed to ideas." Money is given over, he said, by those who devoutly believe in the church's mission.

"You will find this community filled with very independent thinkers," said Prophet, "people who are strong, who have come here because it is a way of life where they can be who they are."

(Continued on page 14)

Church...

(Continued from page 13)

Why does Prophet believe she has been the target of so much criticism? In the case of former members, she said, it has come from people with high expectations who don't find what they want in the church -- whether it's power or an idol to worship. Outsiders who attack her are envious, she added. "I think it revolves around the fact I am a woman. Those who are most offended are men."

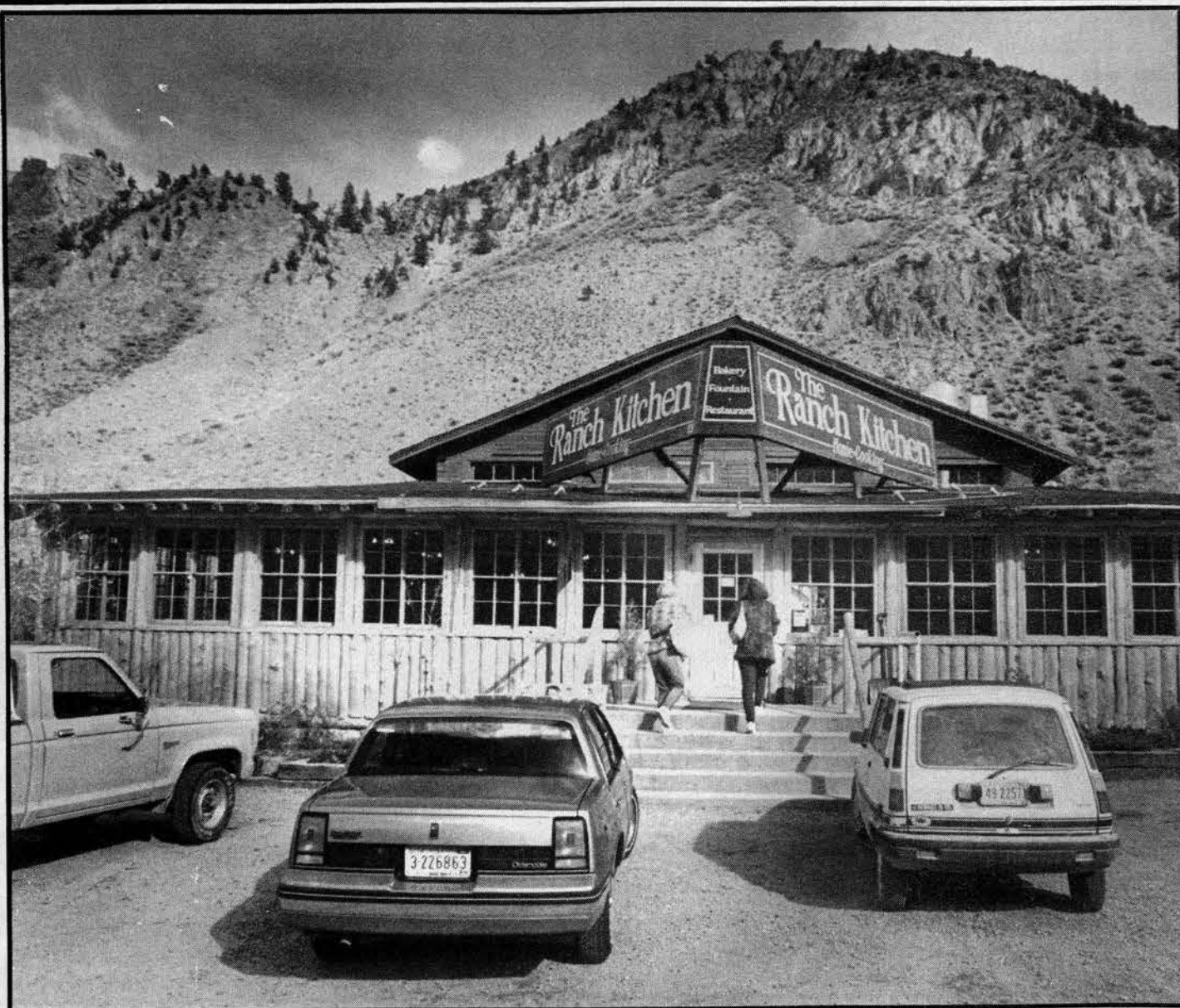
Rate and others believe -- perhaps hope is the right word -- that the Church Universal and Triumphant may not last very long. With the geysers of Yellowstone, herds of elk, deer and bighorn sheep, and sublime mountain scenery, Rate acknowledges the valley is an appealing place to live. But he cites the paucity of employment in the valley. And he is heartened by how quickly the Rajneesh community burned itself out.

The Mother of the Universe, however, has very different ideas about how long she will shepherd her flock of souls beneath the sawtooth peaks of the Paradise Valley. "We believe through the heart of Jesus we were led to this property," she said. "Mountains have a very special spiritual quality, a power and a fire within them." How long does she expect to be here? "Forever," she said.

□

Jim Robbins lives and writes in Missoula, Montana. This story was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund. Additional research was paid for by the Fund for Investigative Journalism in Washington, D.C.

Albert Dickson



CUT's restaurant

*"We believe through the heart of Jesus
we were led to this property.*

*Mountains have a very special spiritual quality,
a power and a fire within them."*

Tom Shands



This summer's conference at the ranch attracted 4,000 people

LETTERS

QUICKLY SEDUCED

Dear HCN,

An interesting twist developed here in New Mexico concerning the Superconducting Super Collider (your cover story, Aug. 17, 1987). A proposal has emerged in Washington, D.C., from an "unknown source" indicating that New Mexico would consider accepting the nation's first high-level nuclear waste repository site if the SSC came along with it as a sort of package deal. In a sense this would "solve" the problem of what to do with the radioactive waste material produced by the super collider.

The Carlsbad area has already been selected as the site for a low-level nuclear waste dump (WIPP, or Waste Isolation Pilot Project). Yet the Carlsbad mayor and Hobbs city manager have said that they would be interested in the high-level waste dump "if it proves to be safe." Community health and safety are exactly the points in question, of course. Neither has been adequately addressed.

No one seems to be sure of the origin of the proposal, but it does indicate the extent to which Western states will go to secure high-tech industry. Unfortunately, in all too many instances, the lightly populated wide-open spaces of the West make easy targets for everything from waste dumps to MX racetracks. Our leaders seem quickly seduced by federal largesse regardless of the potential perils.

Mike Bencic
Carlsbad, New Mexico

THE BEST

Dear HCN,

I would like to state my reaction to the game ranching article and proposal of Rep. J. Hageman to permit (large) landowners to manage wildlife on their lands. (HCN, 2/16/87).

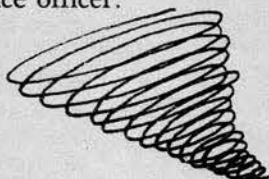
Sooner or later with this type of operation, hunting would become much as it is in Europe, i.e., hunters/fishermen would pay a large

sum to hunt or fish, a large sum for the individual animals, and the landowner would eventually tell the hunter which animal to shoot in order to maintain a healthy herd. A very distasteful way to hunt, in my opinion, and very costly to the individual.

Mr. V. Geist, a Canadian, put it very nicely when he said, "...Under private (wildlife) control the ferocity of the market would destroy wildlife ... You are the envy of the world. Don't give up your system." I have been a student of many foreign countries' hunting/fishing regulations, and I can only say that ours is the most equitable for the masses.

Charles D. Wayker
Fort Collins, Colorado

The writer is a retired Foreign Service officer.



HIGH-ALTITUDE TORNADOS

Dear HCN,

I've been a subscriber to your paper for only a few days, and after receiving just the first issue, I'm overwhelmed at the interesting information contained within its pages. The Aug. 17 issue, which dealt primarily with the Superconducting Collider, provided answers to many questions I've had regarding that gigantic project. I think your journalists did a fine job in researching that complex subject.

With reference to the story about the tornado that destroyed 15,000 acres of trees near Jackson, Wyoming, I thought you might like to know that Dr. Theodore Fujita of the University of Chicago, who maintains that the tornado was unique in that such storms don't occur at such high elevations, is very much in error. As a native of Greybull, Wyoming, I can vouch for the fact that tornados have touched down in the Big Horn Mountains on more than one occasion.

Robert Turner
Denver, Colorado

ACCESS

LAND

NORTH CASCADES RANCH. Premier 4-Season recreation area. 1814 acres border Methow River, state, USFS land. Custom home, all amenities. Ideal environmental retreat, private hideaway, luxury guest ranch. Seller will work with environmentally oriented buyer. \$2,000,000. Contact Mary Jensen for color brochure. Alpine View Realty, Route 2, Box 6, Twisp, WA 98856, 509/997-6562. (4x17p)

FOR SALE: Western Colorado Peach Orchard/Vineyard. 9 1/2 acres with 2300 s.f. house. Solar, sunroom, deck, barn. BLM access. Views. \$167,000. 303/464-5386 (recorder). 3695 F Road, Palisade, CO 81526. (2xp)

20-ACRE patented mining claim above Silverton, Colorado. Road and Animas River through property. Terrific views, possible cabin sites, mineral value, \$9,500, 303/247-0914. (3x17p)

AN ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

ARTICLE I: You have a right to live in an uncrowded world. (Global population is increasing at a rate of 85,000,000 per year or roughly the size of Las Vegas every day.)

ARTICLE II: You have a right to eat food. (Global soil erosion is occurring at a rate the size of Nebraska per year.)

ARTICLE III: You have a right to breathe clean air. (Global deforestation is occurring at a rate the size of Kentucky per year.)

ARTICLE IV: You have a right to reduce desertification. (Global desertification is occurring at a rate the size of West Virginia per year.)

ARTICLE V: You have a right to drink clean water. (Over 5 million Americans face water shortage or water quality problems.)

ARTICLE VI: You have a right to well financed national parks. (The budget of the U.S. Park Service has been reduced over 15 percent in the last five years.)

ARTICLE VII: You have a right to solutions to acid rain. (The U.S. annually produces over 50 million tons of pollutants.)

ARTICLE VIII: You have a right to stop toxic waste dumping. (There are 10,000 hazardous waste sites in the U.S. that pose a public health threat.)

ARTICLE IX: You have a right to safer nuclear power plants. (You have probably breathed radioactivity from Chernobyl.)

ARTICLE X: You have an inalienable right to petition the government for a redress of the above grievances. (1xp)

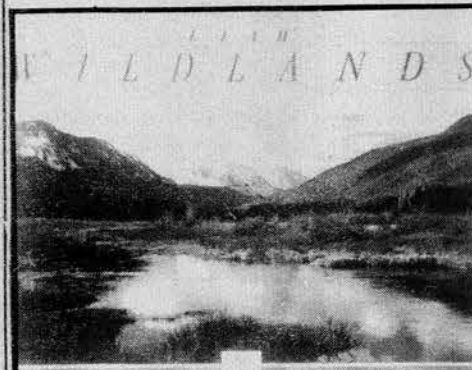
Paid Advertisement

NEAT STUFF

RECYCLED PAPER. Free color catalog of environmental notecards and recycled office and printing paper. Samples enclosed. Earth Care Paper, 325-191 Beech Lane, Harbor Springs, MI 49740. (4x15p)

The Colorado **PESTICIDE NETWORK NEWS** is now one year old. Write: CPN c/o CEC, 2239 E. Colfax, Denver, CO 80206. Welcome inputs, \$5 annual contribution. (1xp)

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)

WORK

ANTI-HUNGER ORGANIZER and **FISH AND GARDENS COORDINATOR:** Crossroads Urban Center, a community center in Salt Lake City, has two job openings. Organizer: Work on low-income food issues. Salary: \$13,000 - \$15,000/yr. Fish and Gardens: Seine fish, coordinate gardens, work with low-income people. Salary: \$16,000/yr. Experience and good writing skills required for each position. Submit resume and writing sample for either position to Jeff Fox or Glenn Bailey, 347 S. 400 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84111, 801/364-7765. (1x17b)

Natural Resource Co.

- * Kalwall solar glazing
- * ARCO photovoltaic systems
- * Clivus Multrum
- * Solar & wood water heating
- * Plans & technical assistance for the do-it-yourselfer

Box 91 Victor, ID 83455 208-787-2495

SUBSCRIBE
ONE YEAR/24 ISSUES
\$20/INDIVIDUAL
\$28/INSTITUTION

SEND YOUR ADDRESS AND CHECK TO
High Country News

Box 1090
PAONIA
COLORADO
81428



A Lasting Gift

Conservation values are rooted in love of place. For more than 16 years, **HIGH COUNTRY NEWS** has been helping to protect the West's priceless heritage—from the places everyone knows such as the Grand Canyon to the places only a few may know.

You can help assure that **HIGH COUNTRY NEWS** will continue to serve as the voice of a community of people who care about the West and its special places. A charitable bequest of cash, land or other assets to HCN will leave a legacy for future generations.

If you are considering a bequest to HCN, consult your lawyer on the type of provision to best meet your needs. A bequest, however, can be simply stated, "I give and bequeath to High Country Foundation, presently at 124 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado 81428, _____ dollars (or _____ shares of [corporation] stock, or _____ percent of my residuary estate)." A bequest can greatly reduce estate taxes, increase and perpetuate support for HCN, and still provide for one's family.

If you have questions about making a bequest or adding a codicil to your will, please write Ed Marston, Publisher, **HIGH COUNTRY NEWS**, P.O. Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

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

16-High Country News -- September 14, 1987

BULLETIN BOARD

Donna Crispin



ANASAZI WORLD

A travelling exhibit called *Anasazi World* will be at the Utah Museum of Natural History until Oct. 11. It features museum artifacts from the now-flooded Glen Canyon and the Smithsonian Institute's 100 color photographs by National Geographic photographer DeWitt Jones. A lecture series will accompany the exhibit at the University of Utah, beginning with a talk on the *Anasazi World* by author Dr. Linda S. Cordell Oct. 7. *The Mystique of Chaco Canyon* brings National Park Service archaeologist Robert Powers Oct. 14; *Anasazi in Utah* will be by curator Winston Hurst Oct. 21. *Anasazi Rock Art* will be presented by rock art specialist and author Polly Schaafsma Oct. 28; *Descendants of the Anasazi* will be presented by the Lowie Museum of Anthropology's Hartman Lonawaima Nov. 4. All exhibits and lectures are free. For more information contact DeeDee O'Brien, University of Utah, Utah Museum of Natural History, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 (801/581-6927).

A LAZY GOVERNMENT

Millions of dollars are not being collected from violators of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office. The 36-page report, called *Surface Mining: States Not Assessing and Collecting Monetary Penalties*, examines several coal-producing states. No state has satisfactorily handled penalty collections, GAO found, and only \$5 million of the total \$89.8 million in penalties assessed were collected during the 1982-1985 period in Kentucky, Indiana and Colorado. "It is particularly disturbing that many of the violations for which penalties are being waived are violations of standards assigned to protect the environment and public safety," said Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., who chairs the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Subcommittee. Requests for copies of GAO reports should be sent to the U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877 (202/275-6241).

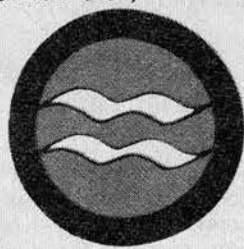
UTAH WILDERNESS ROUNDUP

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will hold its second annual wilderness roundup Sept. 19 in Salt Lake City, focusing on preserving 5 million acres of proposed wilderness in Utah's canyon country. There will be workshops and slide shows, and special attention will be paid to the Burr Trail and Box-Death Hollow Wilderness. Speakers include Salt Lake author Terry Tempest Williams and Dr. Hugh Nibley, professor emeritus of ancient scripture at Brigham Young University. Called "Utah's Canyon Country -- Protecting a National Treasure," the roundup will be at Rowland Hall -- St. Mark's High School, 843 South Lincoln St., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$2. Call the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance at 801/532-5959.



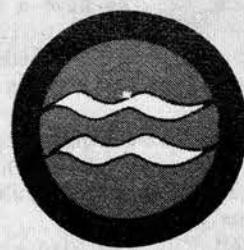
HAZARDOUS WASTE IS BIG BUSINESS

The Hazardous Material Control Research Institute hosts its eighth national conference and exhibition, *Superfund '87*, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C., Nov. 16-18. Management and control of hazardous wastes and materials generate a \$3-\$6 billion a year market, the institute says, and consultants, government officials, scientists, and technicians will focus on upgrading technology, equipment and services. Seminars will examine disposal and storage of hazardous wastes, reclamation of waterways and wetlands, treatment of contaminated soil and much more. A marketing exhibit will feature the wares from 250 companies. Advance registration (deadline Oct. 13) is \$280 for institute members, \$290 for non-members. Later registration is \$315. Write HMCRI-Superfund '87, 9300 Columbia Blvd., Suite 123, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/587-9390).



21ST CENTURY WATER

Water in the semi-arid regions of the Southwest is the theme when the Center for Urban Water Studies hosts its second conference, "Water Planning and Financing for the 21st Century," in Dallas, Texas, Sept. 23-25. The conference will focus on developing options for water management, finding funding strategies for water projects and attempting consensus for management of environmentally sensitive waters. The conference will be held at the Southern Methodist University; registration is \$180. For more information, call Dr. Michael Collins at 214/692-3060.



MORE ON "MC TOXICS"

A citizens' group has announced a grass-roots campaign to force McDonald's Corp. to stop serving food in styrofoam. The Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Wastes, which speaks for 1,800 member groups, says McDonald's hamburger containers are made with chlorofluorocarbon gas, which destroys ozone and contributes to the nation's trash crisis. The group's first "McToxic's" boycott began in August when an affiliate group in Vermont demanded that the company stop using styrofoam produced with fluorocarbon gas. Shortly after, McDonald's announced it would phase out the gas but keep using styrofoam. Citizen's Clearing House says it wants McDonald's to shift entirely to recycled paper-packaging. Styrofoam boycotts, prayer vigils, balloon launches, demonstrations, and picket lines are some of the actions planned at McDonald outlets across the nation. For more information contact Louis Gibbs, Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Wastes, P.O. Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216 (703/276-7070).

BORROW A WILDERNESS VIDEO

The Holy Cross Wilderness Defense Fund will make available to community groups a 30-minute video tape on water projects in Colorado. It pays particular attention to the controversial Homestake II project proposed for Colorado's Holy Cross Wilderness. The defense fund says it will loan the video free of charge to broadcasters and civic organizations interested in understanding water issues, and it will also send a member to take part in debates. For more information contact Jack Holmes, 1219 Gold Park Rd., Red Cliff, CO 81649 (303/827-5207) or Merry Havens, 1130 Alpine, Boulder, CO 80302 (303/447-2216).

FOR RIVER RATS

River runners will converge on Telluride, Colo., Oct. 1-4, when it hosts the fifth annual River Rendezvous. Events include river rescue instruction, medical workshops, river conservation brainstorming, a writing seminar, and a variety of classic river films. Boaters are also promised deals at a flea market and auction. Sunday is dedicated to games and contests. All proceeds beyond expenses are donated to river conservation. For more information write River Rendezvous, Box 1838, Telluride, CO 81435 (303/728-4486).

TEACH IN THE OUTDOORS

Let the animals teach. A workshop on how teachers in Colorado can use the outdoors as a classroom will be held Sept. 26-27 at the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Activities will be adaptable to teach all grade levels, and one unit of graduate or undergraduate credit is available through Adams State College. Tuition registration fee is \$40. For more information, contact Georgena Rennick at the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1148, Alamosa, CO 81101; (303/589-4021).

ROAST BEAST IN IDAHO

Someone has a sense of humor at the Idaho Conservation League. Its annual meeting Sept. 25-26 promises films about Bambi, Grizzly Adams and "anything else we can find," a slide show called "Hydromania," a talk by the *Lewiston Morning Tribune's* Bill Hall on "Spiking the Environmental Crazies," and a banquet featuring "roast beast." The beast is not identified. It's all at the Elk River Community Hall in Elk River, Idaho, and a \$65 weekend reservation fee includes the conference, two night's lodging, three meals and the banquet. Mail reservations to Roberta Rene, Box 8474, Moscow, ID 83843 (208/686-1936).

A LAMB, SKI PASSES...

Canyonlands Field Institute of Moab, Utah, a non-profit educational organization, holds its annual fundraising Round-Up/Auction Sept. 26 at Professor Valley Ranch. The festivities include country music, hot air balloon and carriage rides, and dinner prepared in 30 Dutch ovens. The auction includes items such as a lamb, ski passes, a telescope, a champagne-sail trip, white-water raft trips, climbing lessons and artwork. For more information call 801/259-7750.



BIGHORN COUNTRY

A new 64-page guide to the Bighorn Mountains by Jerry Sanders offers information on the region's physical, historical and recreational attributes. Sanders, a naturalist, takes particular time to discuss wildlife and vegetation and the best places to view them. The mountains cover an area from central Wyoming to southern Montana and include the Pryor Wild Horse Range, Cloud Peak Wilderness and the Crow Reservation. *Bighorn Country, An Introductory Guide*, comes with roadlogs, maps and 44 color photographs.

Three Mile Creek Publishing Company, P.O. Box 451, Buffalo, WY 82834. Paper: \$8.95. 64 pages.

ARGUMENTS IN THE THRONE ROOM

In his book, *In the Throne Room of the Gods*, photographer Galen Rowell documents what the publisher calls "the ill-fated American expedition to K2," the world's second highest peak, in 1975. Rowell makes it clear that the going was tough -- and not just from predictably foul weather. Bitter disagreement and rivalry broke out among the climbers, and the 600 or so porters would periodically stage sit-down strikes unless granted more wages. Out for the first time in paperback, the book includes 50 color photos and many small black-and-white pictures of the haunting Karakoram Himalaya.

Sierra Club Books, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Paper, \$17.95. 326 pages. Illustrated, bibliography, index.



Wild Coastline

A RUESS EXHIBIT

An exhibit dedicated to the art work of a gifted man who died too young will be at Salt Lake City's public library from Oct. 23 - Nov. 23. The man is Everett Ruess, who disappeared in Utah's canyon country in 1934. Since then he has become a folk hero, and to some, a symbol of the wilderness conservation movement. The exhibit, called *Everett Ruess: Blockprints of Utah and the Desert Southwest*, is sponsored by the Southern Utah Wilderness Association, Utah Arts Council and Salt Lake City Library. A reception and lecture by Waldo Ruess, brother of Everett, is scheduled for Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit is free to the public and will travel for two years before being sold to raise funds for the Southern Utah Wilderness Association. For more information, contact Sally Patrick, Salt Lake City Public Library, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (801/363-5733).

HOWL

Have you ever wanted to howl? There's a chance to yelp at "A Night With Wolves" Sept. 16 at Boise State University when biologist Jerome Hansen leads the audience in a "howl-in." A multi-media event will highlight wolves and wolf recovery programs, and there will be a talk about Rocky Mountain wolves by Jay Gore, an endangered species biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This fundraising event for wolf recovery programs is sponsored by the Wolf Recovery Foundation and Boise State's Outsiders and Alternate Mobility Adventure Seekers. Tickets will be available at the Special Events Center, at \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for students and seniors. For more information, contact the Wolf Recovery Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 793, Boise, ID 83701; 208/345-4647.

SYMPOSIUM ON AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture Department's Conservation Reserve Program has already taken 20 million acres of highly erodible land out of production since 1985, and its goal is to enroll 45 million acres in the program. At a regional symposium Sept. 16-18 in Denver, Colo., the Agricultural Department will examine the program's benefits of reduced soil erosion, increased wildlife habitat and guaranteed income for farmers. The keynote speaker is Richard Lyng, Secretary of Agriculture. Registration is \$50, which includes two lunches, a social hour and copy of the proceedings. For more information call Dr. Chris Allison at New Mexico State University at 505/646-1944.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MAMMALS

Tom Ulrich's field guide, *Mammals of the Northern Rockies*, is a handy reference to animals any hiker might encounter from the Canadian Rockies south to the Tetons of Wyoming. Packed with color photos capturing each species in various poses and in different seasons, the guidebook details the range, habits and mating rituals of 58 animal species, from the vagrant shrew to the grizzly bear.

Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 95806. Paper: \$8.95, 157 pages. Illustrated.