

INSIDE: Other voices/15

High Country News

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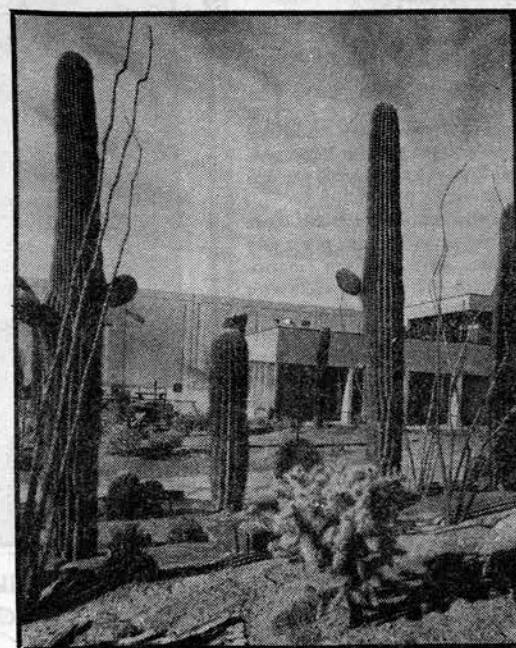
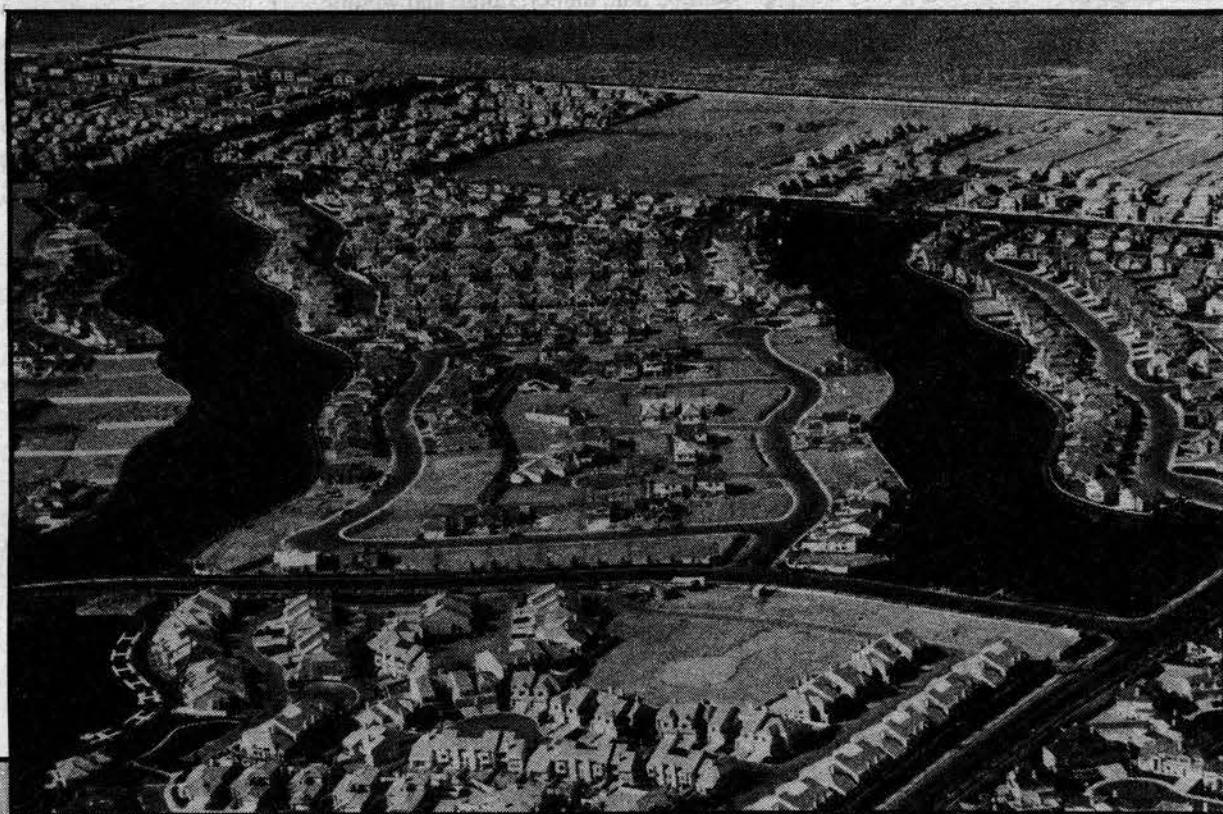
A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar



The boom
craps out ...
...and the city has
second thoughts
about water

pages 10-13



Dear friends,



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Betsy Marston
Editor

Linda Bacigalupi
Associate publisher

Florence Williams
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Midnight dumpers nabbed

Jon Sering, a Bureau of Land Management ranger in Montrose, Colorado, doesn't mind getting his hands dirty. Last Sunday he called editor Betsy Marston to report that he'd been looking in big bags of garbage close to — but not quite at — the county dump. And the garbage contained lots of letters mailed to *High Country News*.

This was embarrassing, and as Jon pointed out, potentially expensive, since federal law allows for fines as high as \$100,000 and 12 months in jail. To cut to the chase, *HCN* was not the culprit. An intern's landlord had hired two teenagers who decided to pitch garbage on BLM land rather than a legal landfill. Jon Sering said he talked to the parents and was scheduled to have a heart-to-heart with the boys. But, he said, the agency was less interested in fining people than in changing behavior. What helps modify behavior, he added, was the BLM's practice of opening garbage bags dumped on public land, then getting in touch with folks who never dreamed their personal letters and bills would be pored over.

A new intern

Caroline Byrd comes to *High Country News* after spending a year and a half in Kenya, where she led programs for Indiana's Earlham College and the Lander, Wyo.-based National Outdoor Leadership School. She says an internship will be a great way to get reintroduced to Western issues, places and people.

Caroline is no stranger to the region. In 1980, she started working for the Shoshone National Forest in northwestern Wyoming. There she spent five seasons on trail, timber, range and wildlife crews and as a wilderness ranger. Getting to know grizzly bear country in Wyoming and southeast Alaska inspired Caroline to return to school. As a graduate student in the environmental studies program at the University of Montana, she wrote her master's thesis on bear and human encounters.

Her work with NOLS began in 1985, and led to lots of mountaineering opportunities, including being the first woman to climb the northwest buttress of Denali, also known as Mt. McKinley. Caroline's

first introduction to Paonia came when she and Mary Moran, a former *HCN* intern and staffer, led students enrolled in Earlham College's course-on-wheels, called Southwest Field Studies. For four years the course included a get-together with *HCN* staff.

End of the road

Speaking of Earlham, 14 students in this year's mobile classroom just passed through Paonia. Instructors Mary Moran and Willie Williams like to end the course near the headwaters of the Colorado River, a watershed the students have been studying and traveling along for most of their two and a half months on the road.

After an evening potluck with *HCN* staffers, the students also got a Sunday morning introduction to the paper, a tour of the office and talks by reporter Steve Hinchman and editor Betsy Marston. Students James M. Hinkley, Sarah Krietzman, Peter Badra, Gretchen Feiss, Ken Rosenberg, Jerel Walden, Leif Richardson, Mina Khoi, Ben Balivet, Susie Jackson, Andrew Rubin, Kelly Miller, Yuri Kimura and Erik Murdock came mostly from the Midwest and East, and for many the course was their introduction to the West.

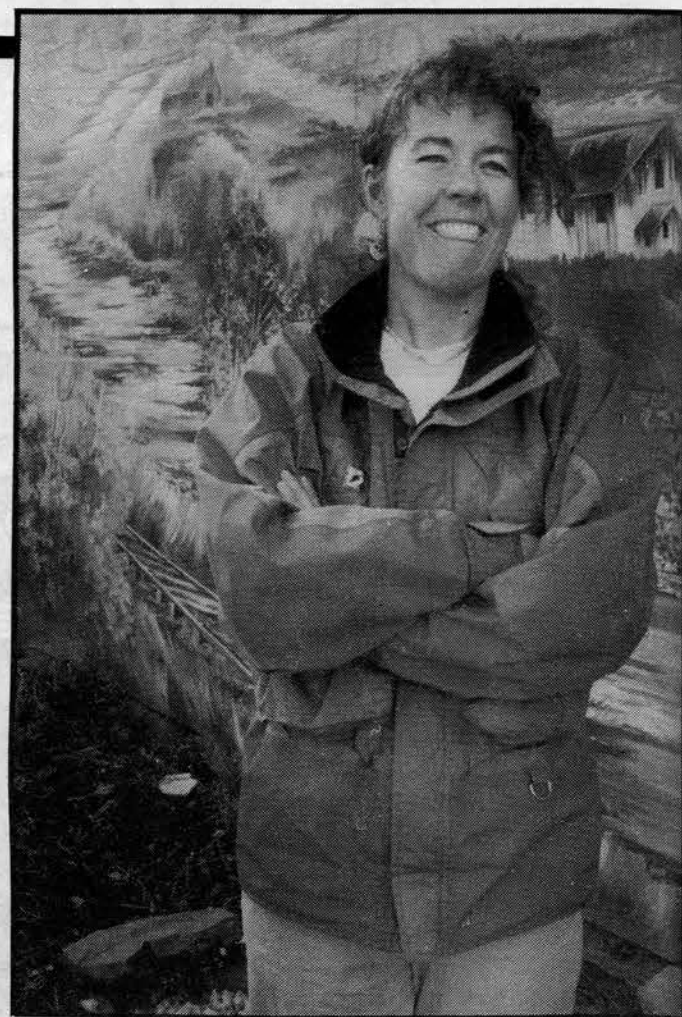
Visitors

The erratic spring weather has brought out lots of visitors to Paonia. Mike Dennison, the new AP writer assigned to Grand Junction, Colo., dropped in to write a short feature on the newspaper. Mike had worked for a daily newspaper in Montana.

Long-time readers Gene and Margo Lorig from Eagle, Colorado, came through to see their son, David, who bought a house in Paonia. Lynda Alfred, a former *HCN* intern who is an organizer for Western Colorado Congress in near-

by Montrose, stopped by on her way to Steamboat Springs, and Mel Mayer of San Francisco came by on his way to a skiing vacation in Telluride. Ray Miller, a back-country ranger at Mt. Rainier, dropped in before visiting Tara Miller and Sam Brown, potters and avid gardeners on Lamborn Mesa just above Paonia. A week later, we heard Sam Brown's letter about the presidential campaign read on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Miles Hemstrom, formerly of Eugene, Oregon, and now a resident of Evergreen, Colorado, toured the office recently with his daughter Cassie, 10 (or 11). Miles, who is group leader of "ecology, silviculture and



Cindy Wehling

New intern Caroline Byrd

inventory for the Rocky Mountain region," was visiting family in Paonia and Olathe.

John Stednick, a natural resources professor at Colorado State University, came by after a hike through Canyonlands National Park with four children.

We heard from former intern and reporter Mark Harvey of Aspen, who is working in Chile for the National Outdoor Leadership School. He says he has travelled up and down Patagonia, finding unspoiled country loaded with good trout fishing, hiking and kayaking.

Other visitors included Peter Holter of Durango, Colo., and prospective intern Julie Carey of Boulder, who is presently working with *Buzzworm* magazine.

Shelley Vidal of Austin, Texas, and Melissa Palmer of Houston came by to subscribe. The sisters, who graduated from Paonia High School a few years ago, were in town to visit their parents, Jack and Charlene Gillespie. Shelley works for Texas state comptroller John Sharp. It was Sharp who received 40,000 "applications" for Texas state citizenship after *Doonesbury* spoofed Pres. Bush's tax residency in the Lone Star state. Sharp good naturedly sent out 40,000 certificates of residency, and included on them an appeal for contributions to one of his favorite charities: The Center for Battered Women in Austin, Texas.

Subscriber Albert Newman of Flagstaff writes to say that while *HCN* failed to discover how much the heads of groups such as the National Coal Association make, the word is out on Louisiana-Pacific head Harry Merlo: \$100,000 per week, or \$20,000 per day.

Odds and ends

How Not To Be Cowed, one of three books reviewed by Ed Marston in the last issue, is available from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 1471 S. 1100 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84105 for \$3.

Former High Country Foundation board member John Driscoll has decided that, after 11 years on the Montana Public Service Commission, he will not seek reelection. His decision came soon after he concluded it was time to resign from the Montana National Guard. "I found myself saying, 'The war is over, the human spirit won.'" In his letter, John says he has not decided what to do next.

— Ed Marston and Betsy Marston
for the staff



Cindy Wehling

AP reporter Mike Dennison stands in front of the first issue of *High Country News*, dated Jan. 30, 1970

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Forest Service may scuttle its appeals process

A Forest Service proposal to eliminate appeals to timber sales, oil and gas leases and grazing leases has received quick and angry criticism from environmental groups.

The proposal would change the structure of public involvement in national forest operations by limiting public participation to a 30-day comment period before any decision is made. If people are unhappy with the Forest Service's decision, their only recourse is to take the agency to court. The proposal was published March 26 in the Federal Register, and the Forest Service will take comments until April 27. Then the agency will announce whether it is adopting the proposal or continuing its appeal process.

Agriculture Department Secretary Edward Madigan announced the proposal March 19 as part of a package designed to reduce "regulatory burdens" and improve USDA service. The Forest Service is an agency within the Agriculture Department. Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson recently blamed the burden of too many appeals for his agency's inability to deliver timber earmarked in forest plans to logging companies, the *Billings Gazette* reported. The proposal would eliminate all appeals, but so far the criticism has focused on timber sales.

Critics charge that the Forest Service breaks the law, in many cases, by promising more timber to logging com-

panies than is healthy for forest ecosystems.

Their successful appeals are "a tacit admission of guilt by the Forest Service," said John Wright, executive director of American Wildlands, a Bozeman, Mont.-based non-profit group with 2,000 members. "If administrative appeals are inflicting gridlock upon the Forest Service it is because the Forest Service is routinely failing to comply with law or regulations." About 80 percent of the sales and leases his group has appealed have been reworked or withdrawn, Wright said.

If the Forest Service eliminates the appeal process, "it's sort of 'do not pass go, go straight to court,'" Wright said.

The Forest Service has tried to present its proposal as a swap, but the comment periods that the agency says will involve people earlier — at a less confrontational state — already exist, Wright said. "We just lost our one meaningful opportunity to have some say in the process."

Currently, if the Forest Service decides to sell timber in a certain area, it conducts a "scoping" process during which it solicits public opinion to identify issues. If concerns are brought up, the agency may write a draft environmental assessment or a draft environmental impact statement, which anybody can comment on. Then a final environmental analysis or full EIS is written, and the

agency issues what is called a decision notice, which can be appealed.

The public isn't gaining anything with the agency's proposal, said Kevin Kirchner, an attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. "I think it's the direction the Forest Service has been heading ... away from open and democratic involvement in a decision."

He called the agency's actions over the past five years a "shell game," recalling that in 1987, the agency said people should no longer challenge the broad, long-term management documents called management plans that set a forest's course for the next decade. Instead, citizens should challenge each timber sale or lease. Now the agency says "those dissatisfied with Forest Service decisions may sue the government."

Environmental groups in the West say the proposal is an election-year tactic by the Bush administration to keep cutting trees and maintain support from the timber industry, the *Billings Gazette* reported.

The timber industry supports the proposal. One trade group, the Inter-mountain Forest Industry Association, called the proposal "much needed and long overdue."

But the proposal comes at a time when critics, even within the agency, say the Forest Service is cutting too many trees. A panel of congressionally

appointed scientists told a U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior that the agency overestimates potential harvests in the Northwest by as much as 20 percent. And a Forest Service mapper in Montana said the agency plots trees on its computers where clearcuts already have removed all trees (see Hotline, below).

Last autumn, Northern Rockies Regional Forester John Mumma testified before Congress that political pressure to meet unrealistic timber targets on 13 national forests in Montana, Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota forced him to resign (*HCN*, 9/23/91).

The agency says the appeal process is outdated because the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act and "other laws" provide for public participation in public land management decisions. But, across the Northwest, the Forest Service has been accused of ignoring the laws to accommodate lumber mills who say jobs are at stake, the *Billings Gazette* reported.

The appeal process is not required by any law, the agency notes in its briefing paper on the proposal, and Congress has no say over the change. If Congress opposes the proposal, Kirchner said, the agency could back off. But it could also ignore Congress and eliminate the appeals altogether.

— Melinda Merriam, *HCN intern*

Group plans to fight large Idaho timber cut

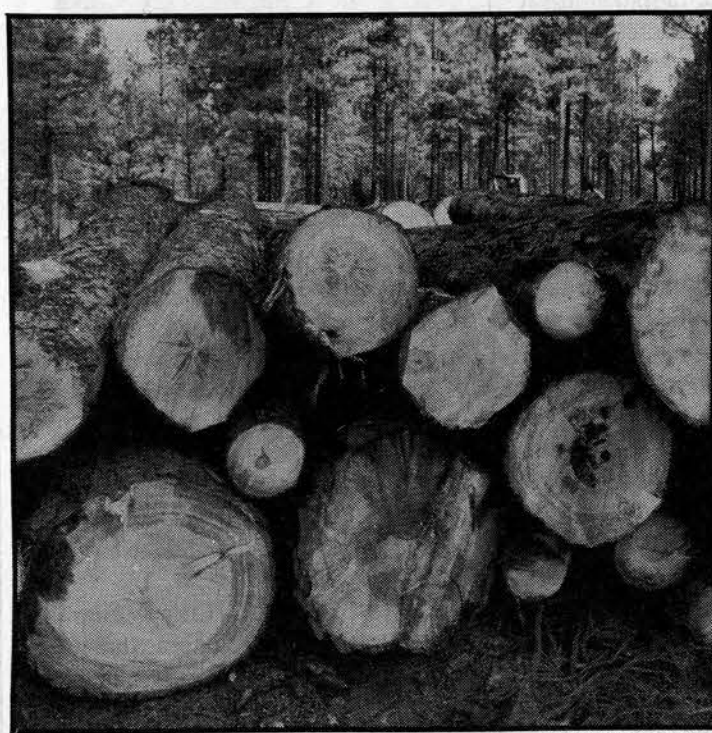
With the Boise National Forest proposing to cut more than 200 million board-feet of timber over the next five years, and with more than half that slated for roadless areas, environmentalists decided to form a group called the Boise Forest Watch.

Impetus for formation of the group also came from an anonymous letter mailed to the Idaho Conservation League. Accompanied by internal Forest Service memos, the letter said: "I desperately need your help ... The cutting is planned in some old-growth timber stands, in roadless areas, in areas that are not able to grow back ... The Forest Service has already made the decision to cut these trees ... The time schedule does not allow us to do any field work ... Please get involved in what's happening before it's too late ..."

Nancy Tyler, who works full time as assistant director of the Mountain States Surgery Center in Boise, became coordinator of the Boise Watch Group. "Our concern is that they are pushing a lot of timber sales at us at once (and) we are having difficulty getting information," she says.

According to Tyler, three proposed cuts are of immediate concern. One is the Logging Gulch cut of 8 million board-feet, a third of which would come from the 40,000-acre Breadwinner roadless area. It has been proposed for designation for wilderness by the Idaho chapter of The Wilderness Society. The nearest roadless area to Boise, the Breadwinner area is "enormously popular with the hunting, fishing and packing public," says Craig Gehrke, a staffer with The Wilderness Society.

According to the Idaho Fish and Game Department, the Breadwinner Area is also one of the most important



Dale Schicketanz

hunting areas in the state. "It is extremely important for elk, mule deer, black bear and mountain lion ... We remain concerned with incursions into the roadless area," says the state agency's Stacy Gebhards.

Other areas of concern are the Hot Horse Salvage Cut, which includes parts of three roadless areas, and the proposed Cache Creek Salvage Cut in Bear Valley, an area of critical habitat for both wolves and salmon.

Larry McLaud, a member of the Boise Watch Group, says he is also concerned about salvage sales of dead or diseased timber. "An attempt is being made to make these salvage cuts non-appealable, even though they cut into roadless and old-growth areas," he says.

According to Mike Medberry, pub-

lic lands director for the Idaho Conservation League, environmentalists may have to sue if the Forest Service tries to make some salvage sales non-appealable.

So far, no recent appeals of proposed cuts on the Boise National Forest have been filed. McLaud says that may change. On the neighboring Payette National Forest, over 70 million board-feet of timber on eight separate sales are currently tied up

in appeals, including 18.8 million on Grade/Dukes and 6 million on Deep/Copper, the first two proposed sales in roadless areas on the Payette.

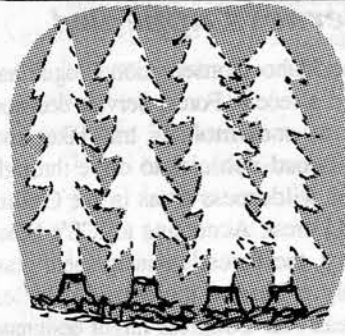
A recent decision by the Washington, D.C., Forest Service office has given additional strength to the Payette appeals filed by the ranchers, irrigators and environmentalists.

Issued by David Unger, assistant to Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson, the decision confirmed that the Payette Forest must prepare a new study for the Grade/Dukes sale and a new Record of Decision.

— Kathleen Menke

The writer lives in McCall, Idaho.

HOTLINE



Agency counts phantom trees

The Forest Service consistently overestimates the number of trees in its forests, critics recently told a U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior. "Phantom trees" are plotted on computer maps even though clearcutting stripped the land years ago, said LeRoy Lee, a mapper for the Forest Service in Montana. The result: Because the Forest Service counts more trees than exist, logging targets are inflated. In a forest near the Idaho and Canada borders, nearly three-quarters of the clearcut land is recorded by the Forest Service as "mature" trees, Lee told AP. "Forest plans are a political fantasy, not reality. The timber targets on many forests were politically generated due to lobbying pressure from the timber industry," said Al Isaacson, a scientist who worked 23 years for the Forest Service. Isaacson is now a member of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign, which urged the subcommittee to withhold Forest Service funding for logging. Last year, a panel of scientists appointed by Congress expressed concern about discrepancies between forest-management plans and what was actually on the ground in the Pacific Northwest. The panel charged that the Forest Service overestimated potential harvests by as much as 20 percent.

HOTLINE

Federal court fines L-P

Local environmentalists failed, the federal government failed, and the state failed. But four families who were neighbors to Louisiana-Pacific's Olathe, Colo., waferboard plant finally won. A federal jury awarded the families \$2.3 million in damages because factory smoke polluted the air around their homes. Before abandoning their homes, the families lived within 1,400 feet of the plant, which opened in 1984. In their suit filed against L-P in 1987, they complained of dizziness, headaches and respiratory infections, which they said were caused by formaldehyde and other toxic emissions from the plant. "Our intention was never to sue. I thought it would be pointless," said Margaret Orjias. "But the state health department told us that it had no laws to protect us against formaldehyde, so our only option was a lawsuit." This month a U.S. District Court jury in Denver found L-P was negligent, committed fraud, wantonly disregarded the rights of the families and created a nuisance, said Kevin Hannon, the families' attorney. However, Keith Clifford, one of the company's attorneys, was pleased that the jury awarded nothing for physical damages. "This verdict is consistent with what Louisiana-Pacific has said," Clifford told the Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel*. "There isn't any ill-health effect" from the plant. Environmentalists who had protested for years about L-P's disregard for air quality and worker safety welcomed the verdict. "That ought to shake some people up," said Marv Ballantyne, a member of Western Colorado Congress's toxics committee.

Traffic in Idaho wilderness appealed

The Idaho Conservation League has appealed a recent Forest Service decision that allows snowmobiles, trail bikes and other off-road vehicles to drive through proposed wilderness areas in the Challis National Forest. According to ICL's Mike Medberry, the forest's management plan expressly excluded motorized vehicles from areas that Congress might designate as wilderness. But the Challis National Forest amended its forest plan to "placate" groups favoring motor-vehicle recreation, he says. Assistant forest planner Bob Gianiny disagrees. He says a consensus decision was reached through negotiations of many groups ranging from environmentalists to motorcyclists. Medberry says the ICL appeal is now in the hands of the regional forester.

A petition for emergency help

Three conservation groups have petitioned the Department of the Interior for emergency listing of the southwest willow flycatcher. They say the birds' population has drastically declined in the past few years because of overgrazing and dam construction. The flycatcher, which nests in mature cottonwood-willow forests along slow-moving watercourses, is already listed as endangered by the California, Arizona and New Mexico departments of game and fish. In 1987, only 500 pairs of southwest willow flycatchers remained in about 41 different locations, according to Phillip Unitt, an Arizona ornithologist. But he estimates that no more than 300 pairs are now alive. Kieran Suckling, a field researcher who is one of three individuals petitioning the Interior Department, says he doesn't doubt the flycatcher will be listed. The big battle, he predicts, will be over what gets designated critical habitat.

Protesters hope to bury nuclear testing

Last November, Paiute Indian Dolly Big Soldier was arrested at the Nevada Test Site, 160 miles northwest of her home on the Shivwits reservation in southwestern Utah. Big Soldier was there protesting the underground testing of nuclear bombs because she believes the tests have caused illnesses among the families in her tribe.

In April, Big Soldier plans to return to the test site, but this time she hopes to be joined by thousands of activists from around the country. Beginning April 10, a coalition of peace activists, environmentalists and Native Americans plans to gather at the test site for 10 days of music, speeches and non-violent protest. Their goal is a comprehensive test ban outlawing all nuclear bomb tests in the United States.

"We're at a point where we need to spark the imagination of the American people," says John Quigley, director of Earth Day International, a sponsor of the event. "We hope to ... push the issue over the top."

Since the test site opened in 1951, the Department of Energy has detonated more than 710 nuclear bombs. The largest was 150 kilotons, 10 times more destructive than the bomb the United States dropped on Hiroshima. Since the limited test ban treaty of 1963, nuclear testing has taken place underground. The Department of Energy monitors bomb tests and says radiation leaks are almost non-existent. One that got away, however, occurred in December 1970, when the "Banebury" test spewed a cloud of radiation dust 10,000 feet into the atmosphere. The DOE says no people or livestock were harmed.

Since the Banebury test, DOE has reported four releases of radiation that it says did not threaten the public's health.

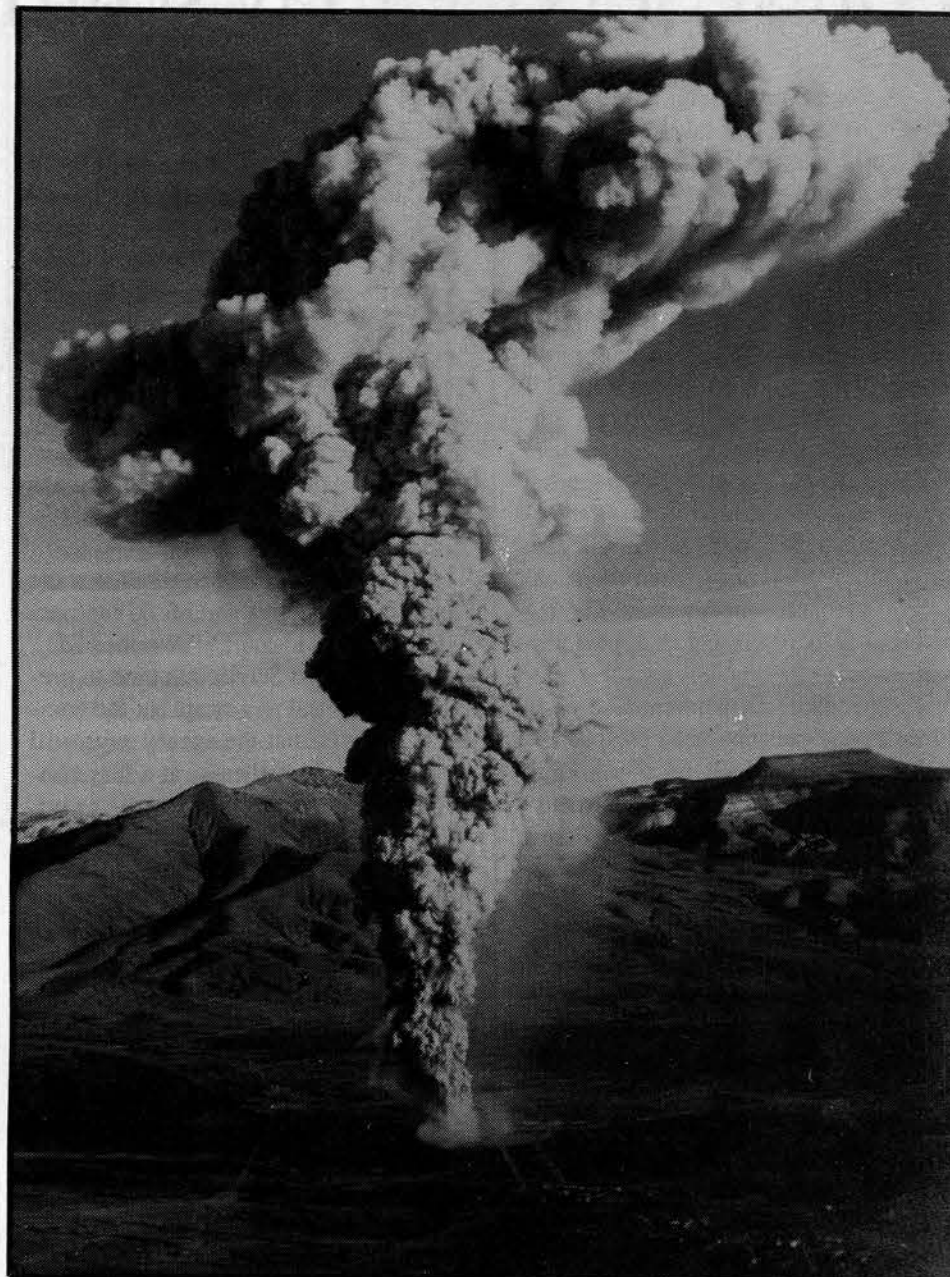
Citizen Alert, a grass-roots watchdog group in Nevada, disagrees. It says evidence exists that more than half of all underground tests have leaked radiation into the atmosphere and that groundwater at the Nevada Test Site has been contaminated.

Although anti-nuclear activists have targeted the Nevada Test Site for decades, the end of the cold war is giving their cause added momentum. The Soviet Union closed its test site in the republic of Kazakhstan in 1989 after massive public protests by the Kazakh people. The U.S. Congress has responded by introducing legislation that would freeze U.S. testing for one year unless the former Soviet Union or its successor republics resume testing. The Nuclear Testing Moratorium Act (HR 3636), introduced last October by House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., and Rep. Mike Kopetski, D-Ore., is now supported by 177 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

There is international momentum as well. Last January, the United Nations hosted a conference on a comprehensive nuclear test ban, a move supported by the former Soviet Union and 117 other nations. But the United States and Great Britain blocked the expansion of the limited test ban.

Nevadans remain divided on a nuclear test ban. Gov. Bob Miller says the test site is important for national security and southern Nevada's economy, according to his press secretary, Mike Campbell. The test site has an annual budget of about \$1.2 billion and employs approximately 8,100 Nevadans.

Many of the state's Native Americans take a different view. Nuclear powers, including the United States, have



U.S. Department of Energy/Johnson Controls World Services
The 1970 Banebury underground nuclear test raised a cloud of radioactive dust that reached 10,000 feet above the surface

consistently chosen native people's lands to test bombs, says Sue Navy, an organizer with the California-based 100th Monkey Project to stop nuclear testing. "The Soviets tested on the Kazakhs, the French on Polynesians, while the U.S. and Great Britain continue to test on Western Shoshone land," she says.

Many Western Shoshone continue to battle for ownership of the 1,350-square-mile test site, which they believe was illegally taken from them. The treaty of Ruby Valley, signed on Oct. 1, 1863, and ratified by Congress, grants the government and settlers the right to travel through Shoshone territory, yet acknowledges Western Shoshone title to the land (*HCN*, 12/31/90).

In 1972, the Indian Claims Commission ruled that the Western Shoshone accepted \$26 million for more than 24 million acres in Nevada, Utah, Idaho and California. But Western Shoshone have never taken the money, which has now grown to more than \$65 million held in the Treasury trust.

Raymond Yowell, chief of the

Western Shoshone National Council, says that he and many tribal members will take part in the April 10 demonstration. "It goes back to our traditional ideas that Mother Earth is sacred, alive in her own way," he says. "And now she is being directly affronted by nuclear testing. The water, air and ground are being contaminated."

Organizers of the project have high hopes for a large turnout, but there are questions about whether a demonstration is an effective means for change.

"People remember the aggressive and sometimes violent protests of the '60s and '70s and get scared," says Earth Day International's Quigley. "But there is a right time and place for a rally. If it is timely, it has a profound effect. A comprehensive test ban is a winnable issue and now the climate is right."

— Beth Jacobi

The writer, a former *HCN* intern, lives in Crested Butte, Colorado.

HOTLINE

Where the buffalo roam

Cable TV magnate Ted Turner is in desperate need of a bison-proof fence. Turner, who lets 2,500 buffalo roam a 100,000-acre ranch in Montana, can't keep his stock from wandering onto his neighbors' property. The final straw came when two of Turner's bison settled in the middle of a road west of Bozeman after leaving his Flying D Ranch. Despite the ranch's electric fence, bison have been seen wandering in winter

wheat, damaging property and keeping company with neighborhood children. Mae DeHaan, who lives near the Flying D Ranch, told the *Billings Gazette*, "They're tearing down fences like nobody's business." Many neighbors are concerned about the spread of brucellosis, although Turner announced that he would inoculate his bison. "He's definitely making an effort to control them," said Vernon Westlake, another neighbor. "It's a question whether there's any way to hold a large number of buffalo. I mean, they're buffalo and if they want to go somewhere, they go."

In this town, wildlife can outnumber locals

GARDINER, Mont. — Buffalo roam Gardiner, and elk, deer and antelope play in the football field.

Because some animals prefer life in town, wildlife can outnumber the town's 750 residents. Recently, half a dozen bull elk and dozens of mule deer grazed lawns or cruised in front of the Town Cafe.

Down the street, cow elk lounged under a goal post at the Gardiner High School football field. Three bison stood near the park gate, looking toward town, but staying put in a field of buff-colored grass.

The Yellowstone River runs from the north end of Yellowstone National Park into Gardiner, where it tumbles between steep banks dotted with motels, cabins and wildlife. Wintering animals also move north, leaving the park plateau for the Paradise Valley that begins at Gardiner.

A few miles from town, out of sight of the media, park rangers and state game wardens shot several hundred bison this winter after they moved onto private land. The bison were unwelcome as possible carriers of bovine disease (HCN, 3/9/92).

One of the world's largest elk herds draws hunters to Gardiner. They shot about 3,000 elk in the district this season, according to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. A mid-winter aerial survey counted 13,000 elk from northern Yellowstone through the Gardiner area, state wildlife biologist Tom Lemke said.

Some elk were shot right in Gardiner during the fall, but the unincorporated town has since been designated a no-hunting zone.

The large elk herd has its political critics. Writer Alston Chase, for example, says the Park Service has allowed the animals to dominate the park at the expense of other animals, trees and plants.

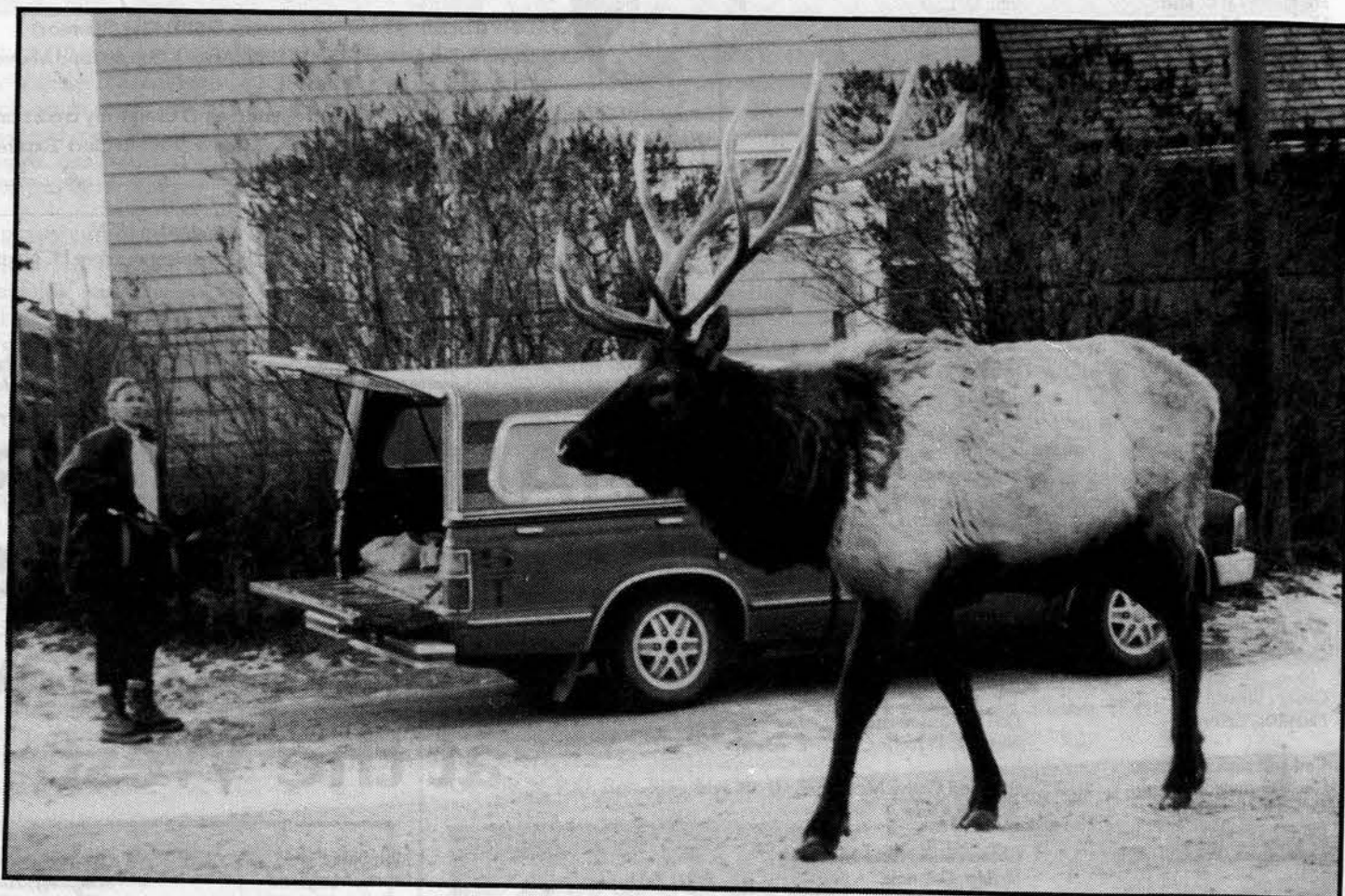
Wildlife can be pets or pests for Gardiner residents. Either way, animals are important to a town that has 11 motels and a dozen outfitters. Businesses cater to tourists in summer, and to hunters and snowmobilers in winter.

"It's like driving through a zoo on my way to work," said Chris Wagner, a school secretary. She watches for wildlife while driving through the dark valley every morning.

Gardiner schools are just across a gravel road from the park, so the 250 students often see wildlife up close. Elk will trot up the earth-sheltered sides of the school building and stare in classroom windows, Wagner said.

Antelope sometimes stay on the football field during games, Wagner said. The animals prefer the end of the field, away from the action, and move from side to side to avoid the players.

Bison arrive later than antelope and may stay until the spring sports season.



Bull elk strolls through Gardiner, Montana

Bob Zellar

"Last year our javelin throwers were run off by the buffalo coming down," said boys' track coach Ken Ballaugh. "You don't argue with them. We went around the back side of the school and let them have the football field."

Lloyd Johnson let three trophy-sized bull elk eat a bale of hay from his pickup truck one cloudy winter morning. But he kept his distance from the large animals.

Johnson, 28, lives in a log cabin that clings to the bank of the Yellowstone

River. The son of outfitters, he works for the family business, too. But the elk in his yard have become more like pets than big game.

"They kind of live here off and on," Johnson said, while a seven-point bull stood beside his woodpile. "They're kind of pets, big friends. I had a bale of hay, so I let them eat it."

Karl Reinhardt, owner of the Flamingo Motor Lodge for 10 years, enjoys watching wildlife but also fights a

running battle with the animals.

He has had to shroud the Flamingo's shrubs with green netting and place chicken wire around evergreens that hug the motel porch. Still, the coverings don't protect against elk or bison, Reinhardt said.

"The other day there must have been a hundred head of elk lying on the lawn," he said. "They don't bother me down there, but when they come up and start eating my good trees, then they're in trouble."

Sunflower seeds and crabapples attract wildlife to Don Laubach's lawn. For hunters, Laubach makes thousands of elk calls a year at E.L.K. Inc. He is a hunter and a bird lover.

"First I had a bird feeder at eye level to a deer," Laubach said. "As the deer found it, I had to raise it up. The elk found it and I had to raise it up higher. The deer and elk would eat the shells. Then they found out about the seeds and really went for them." Elk tipped over bird feeders to get the seeds out, he said.

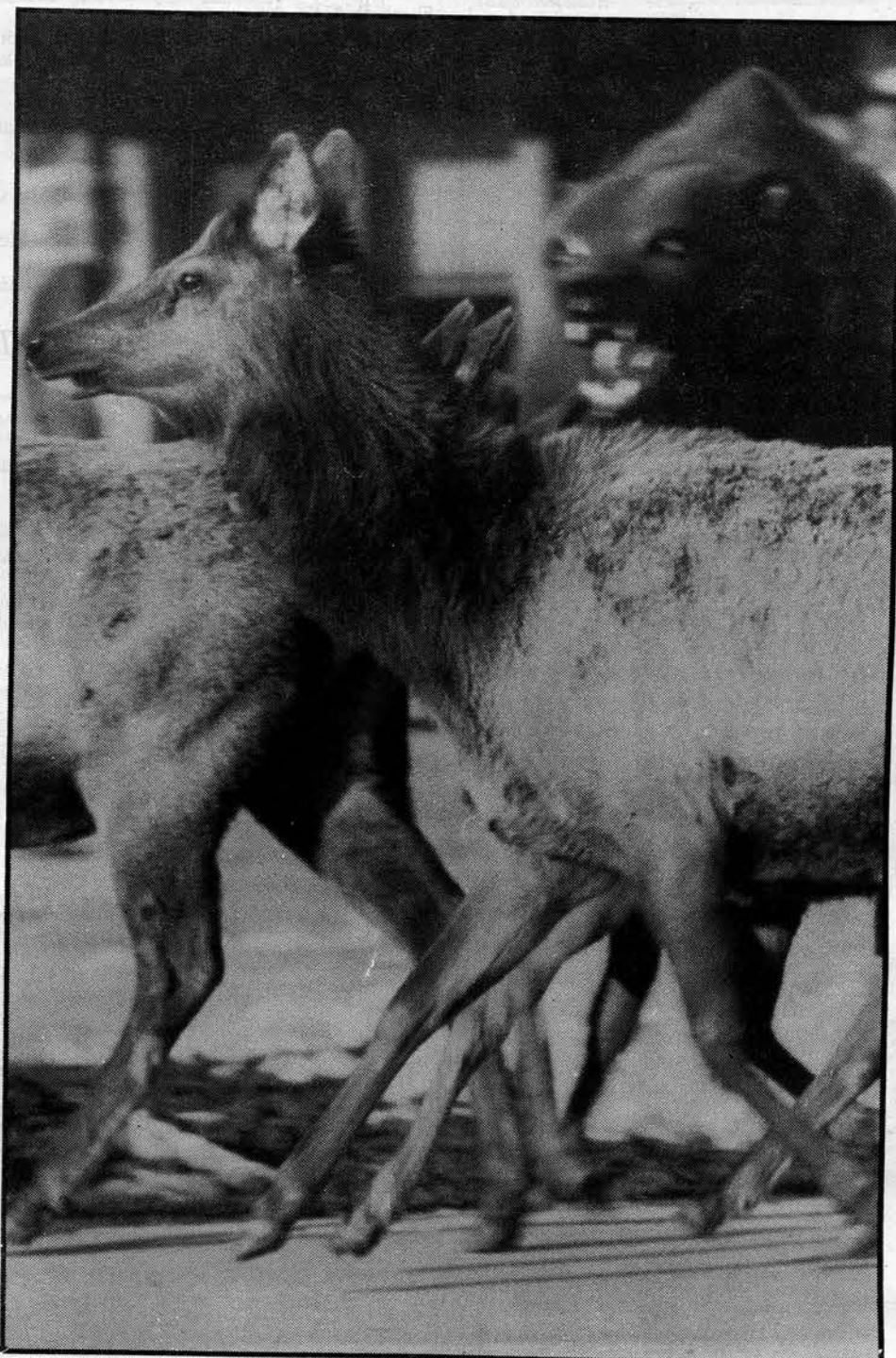
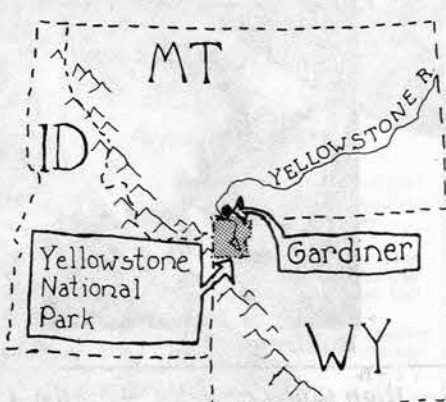
A flowering crabapple tree in his front yard has no branches lower than eight feet, about the height of a bull elk's antlers, with which the animals shake the fruit down.

Because a few bull elk spend the entire winter in Gardiner and return every year, Laubach said, local people have named a couple of them. "Bones" sometimes looks "like a rack of bones," but somehow survives the winter.

Last Christmas, "Charlie" tangled with a string of twinkle lights from a holiday display. He wore the lights for days before finally freeing himself. Charlie the elk managed to drop off the lights at Laubach's home.

— Pat Bellinghausen

The writer works for the *Billings Gazette* in Montana.



Elk seem oblivious to a statue of the growling Gardiner school mascot

Bob Zellar

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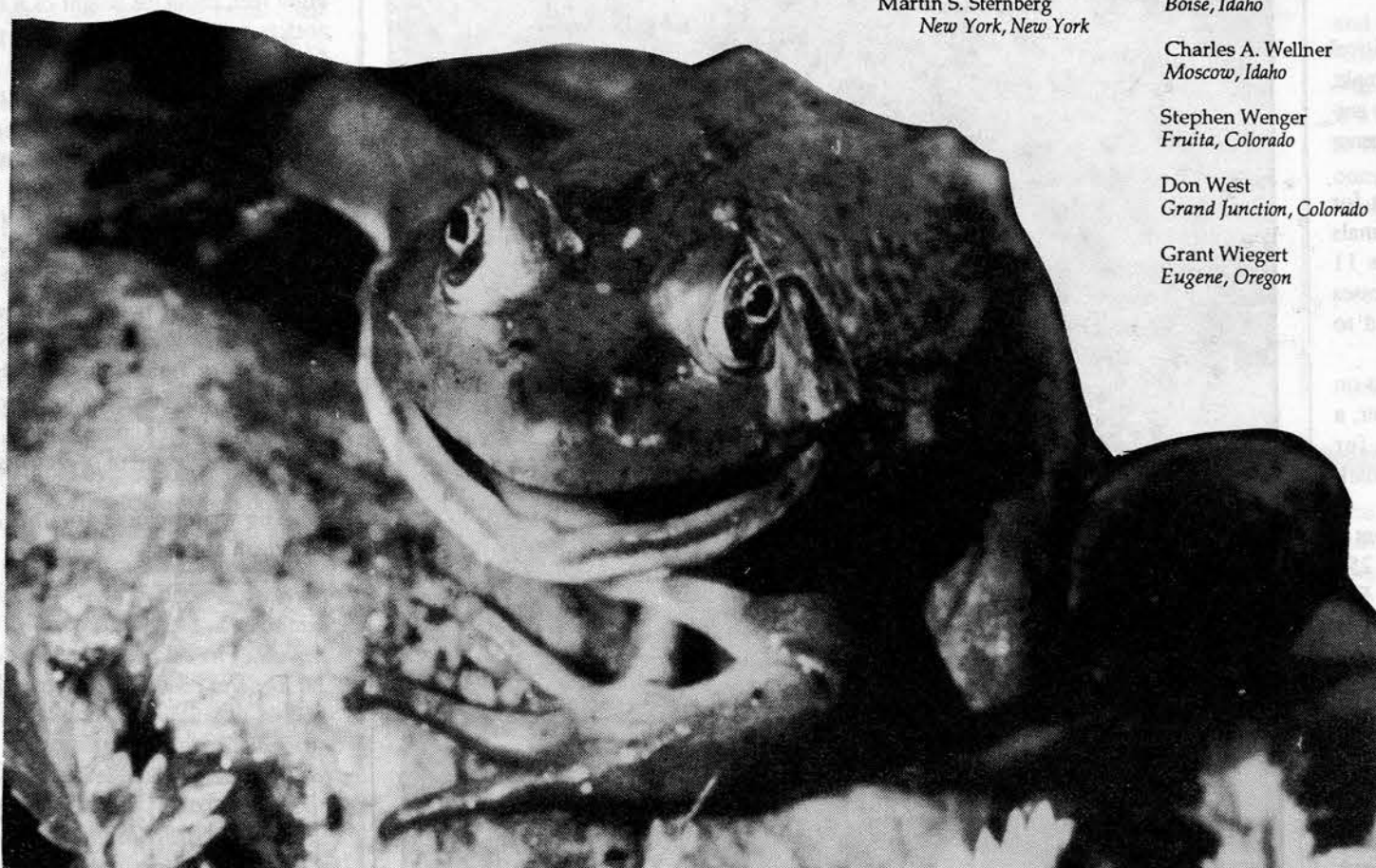
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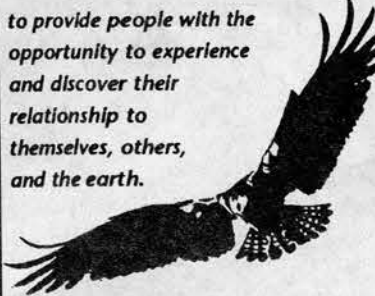
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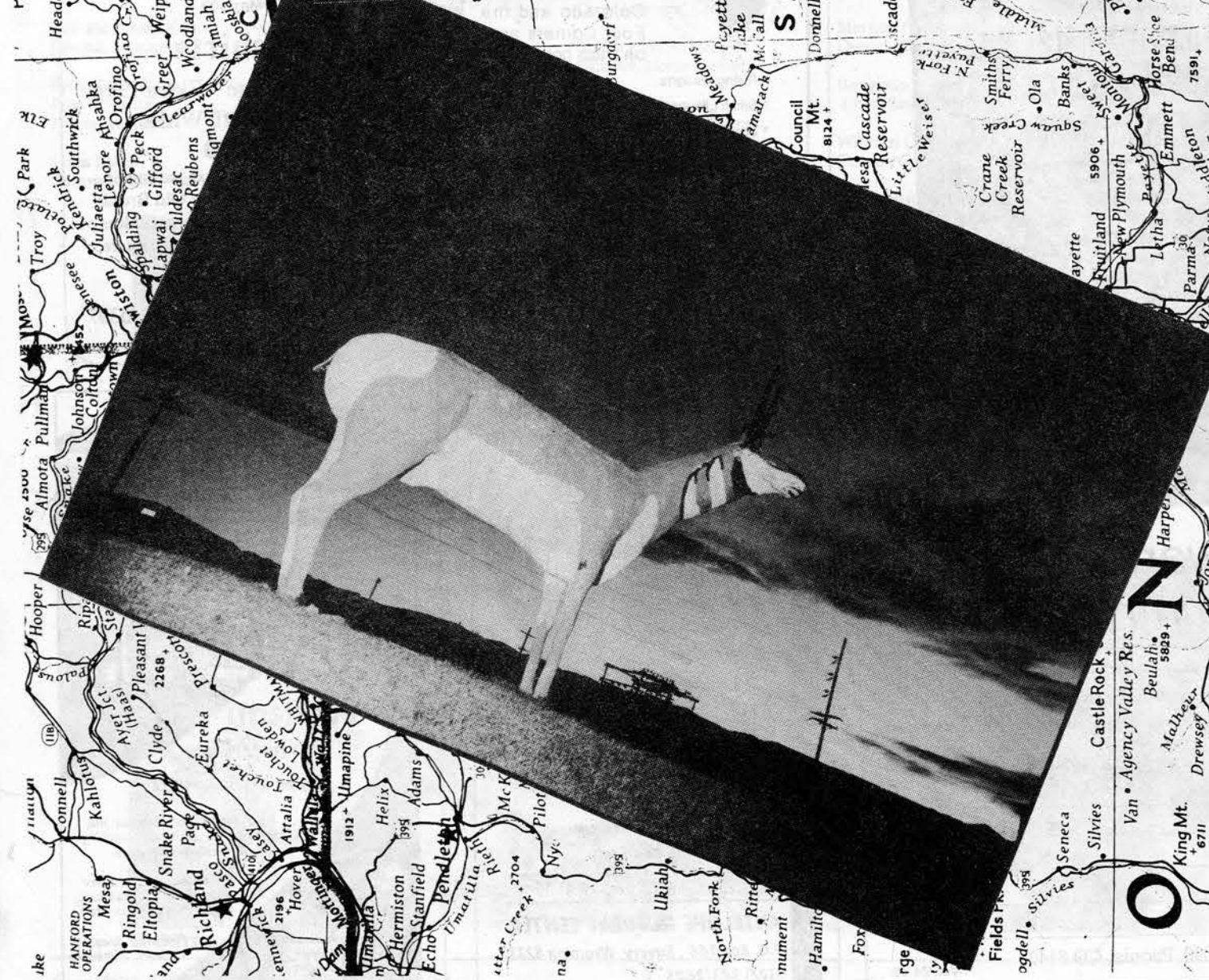
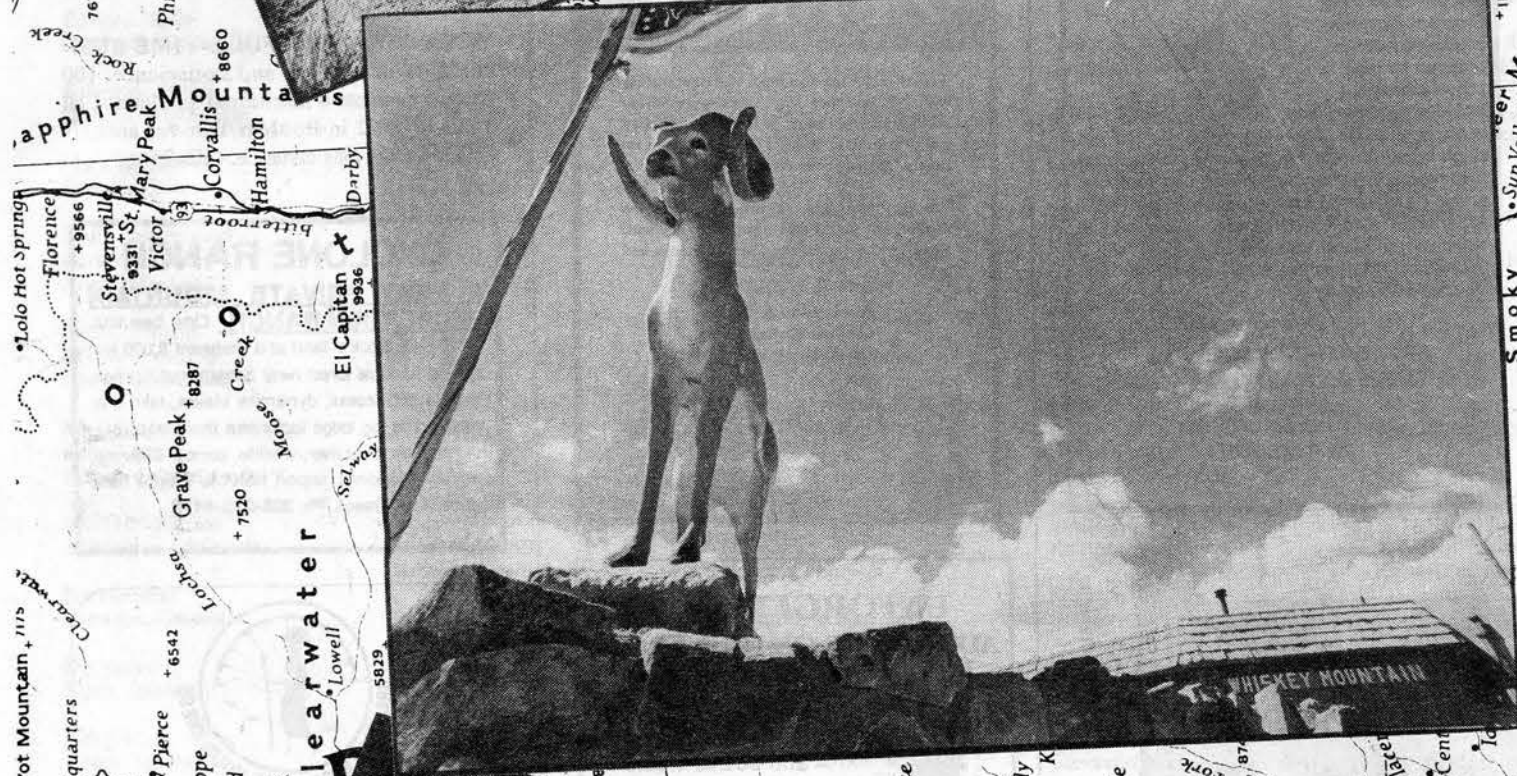
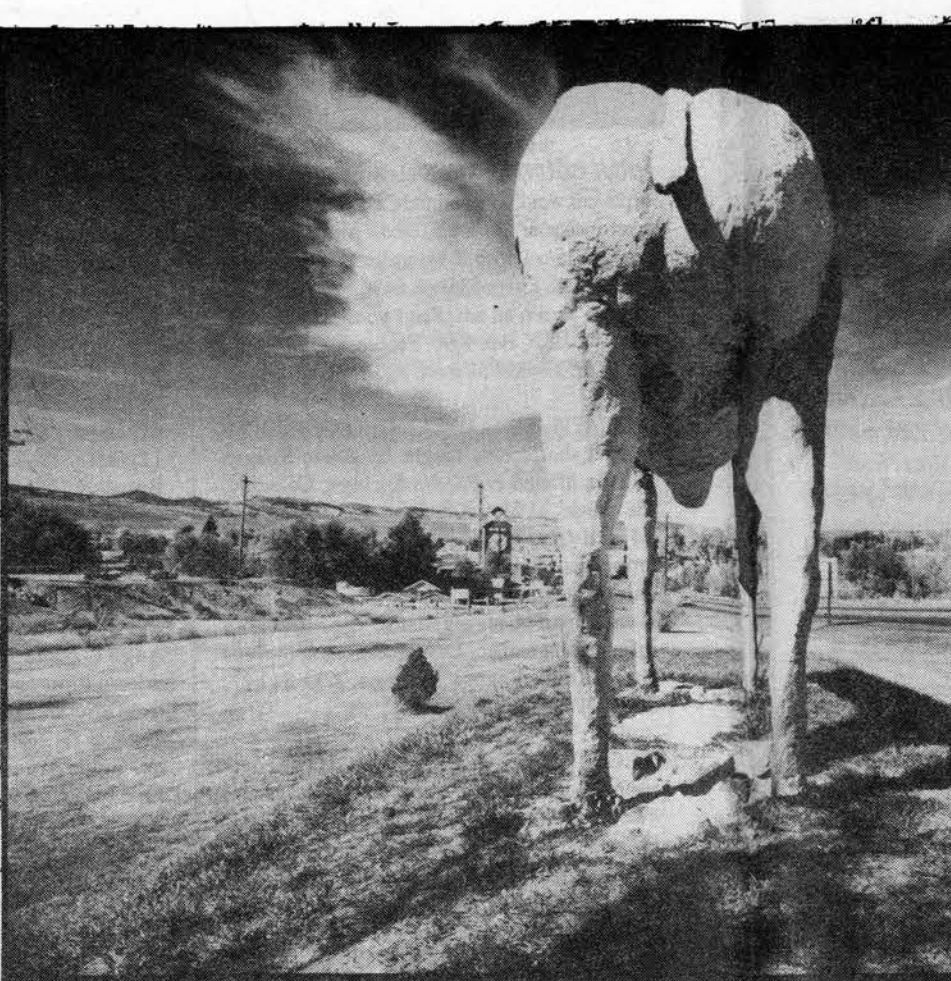
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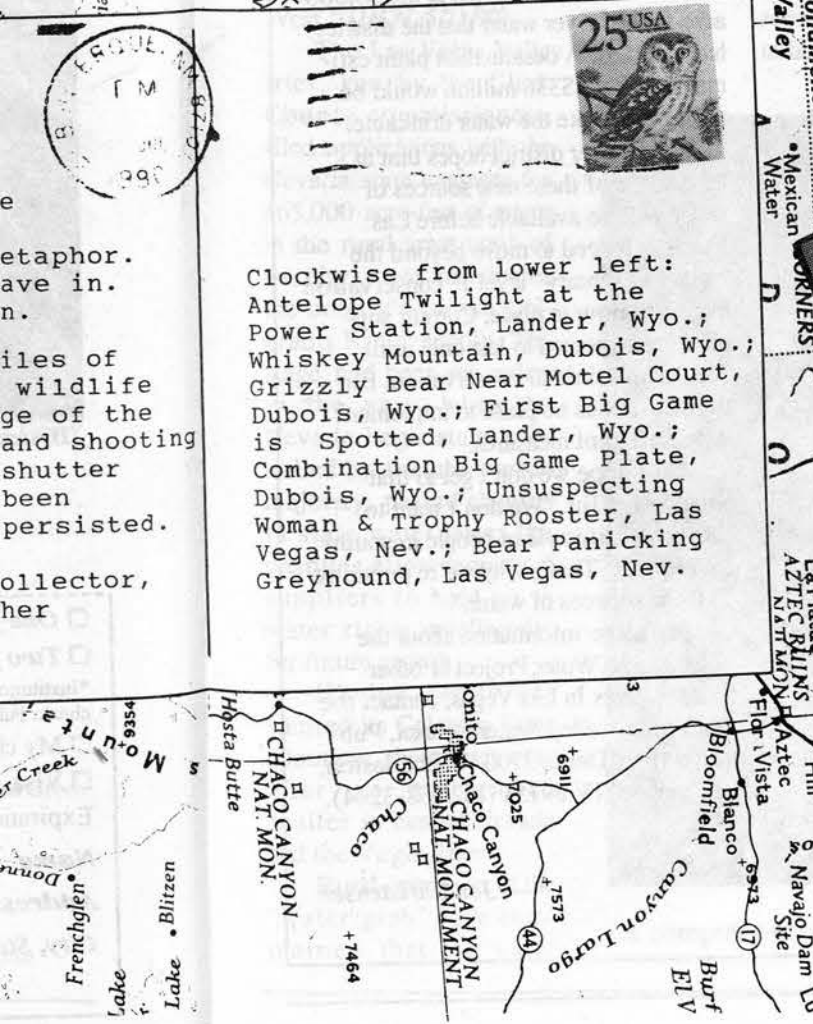
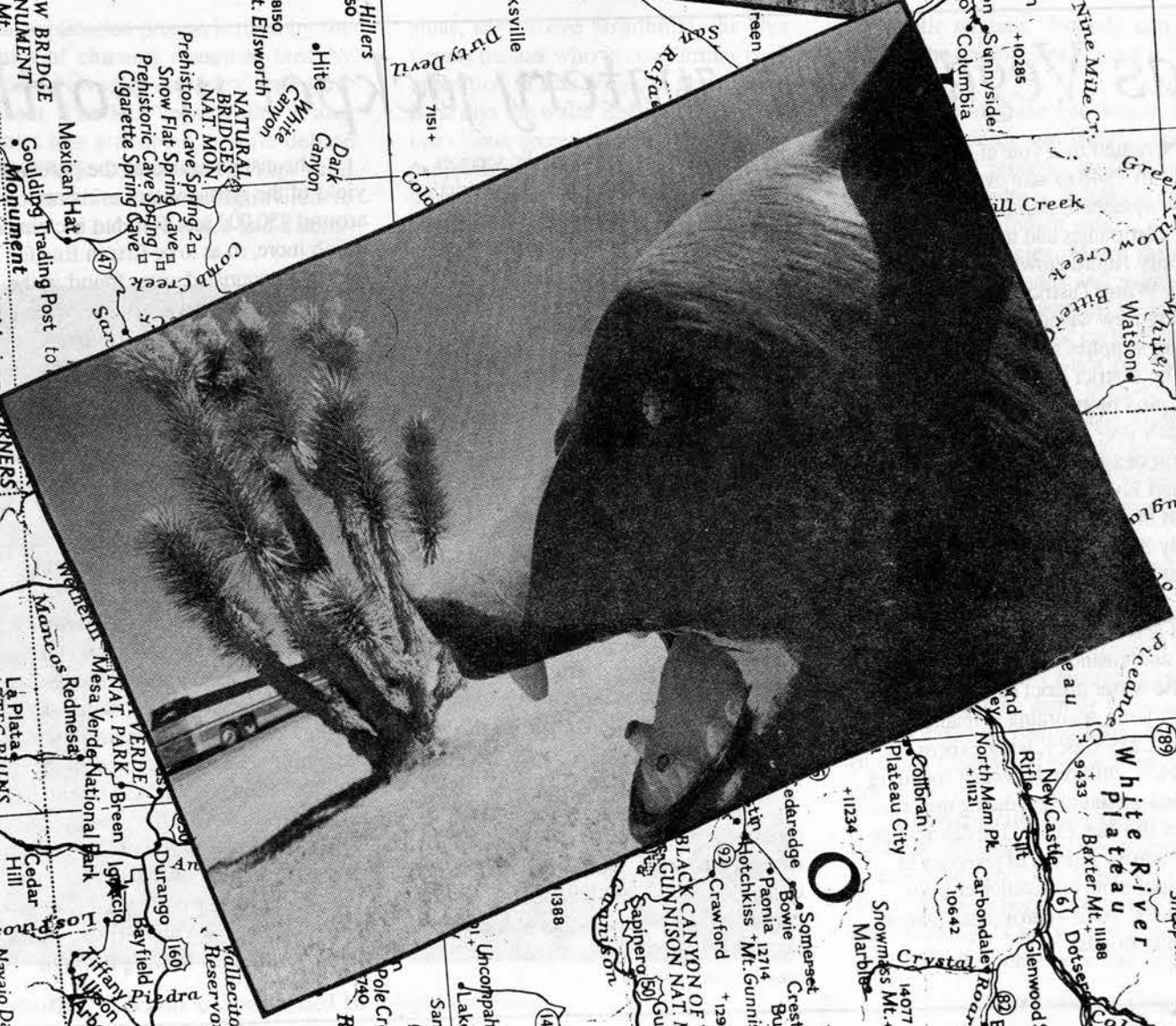
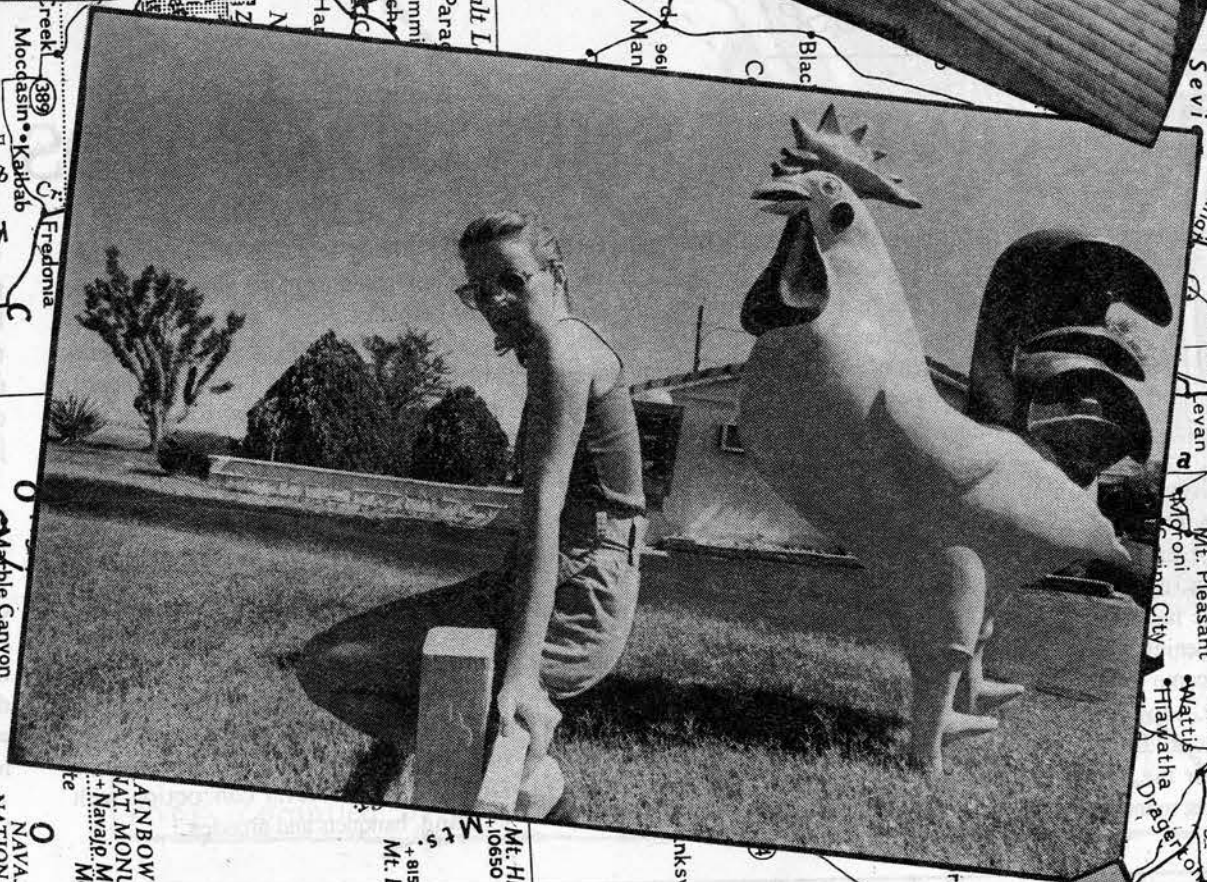
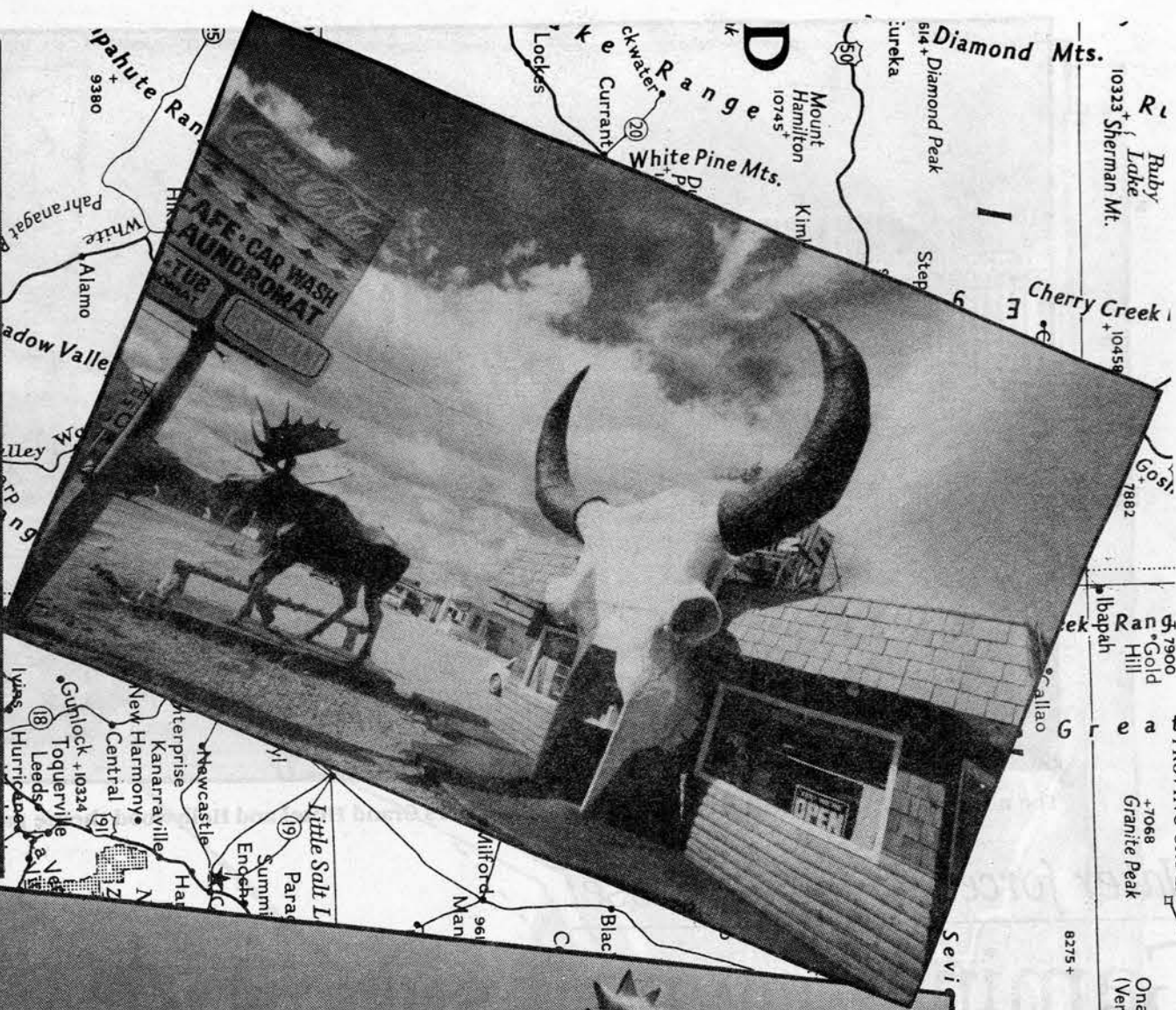
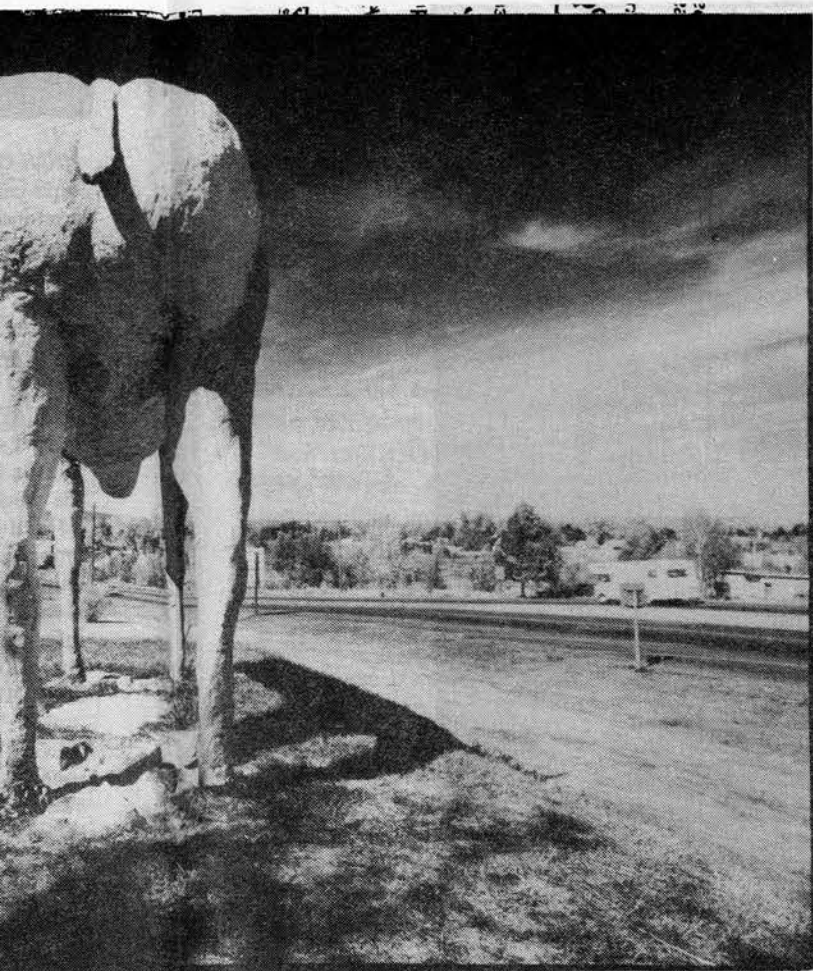


The Road to
Jellystone lay to
the north. The lure
of the highway
whispered erotic metaphor.
I grew strong. I gave in.
I grew strong again.

Glowing like piles of
nuclear waste, the wildlife
was at the very edge of the
roadway. Laughing and shooting
at relatively low shutter
speeds could have been
disastrous, but I persisted.

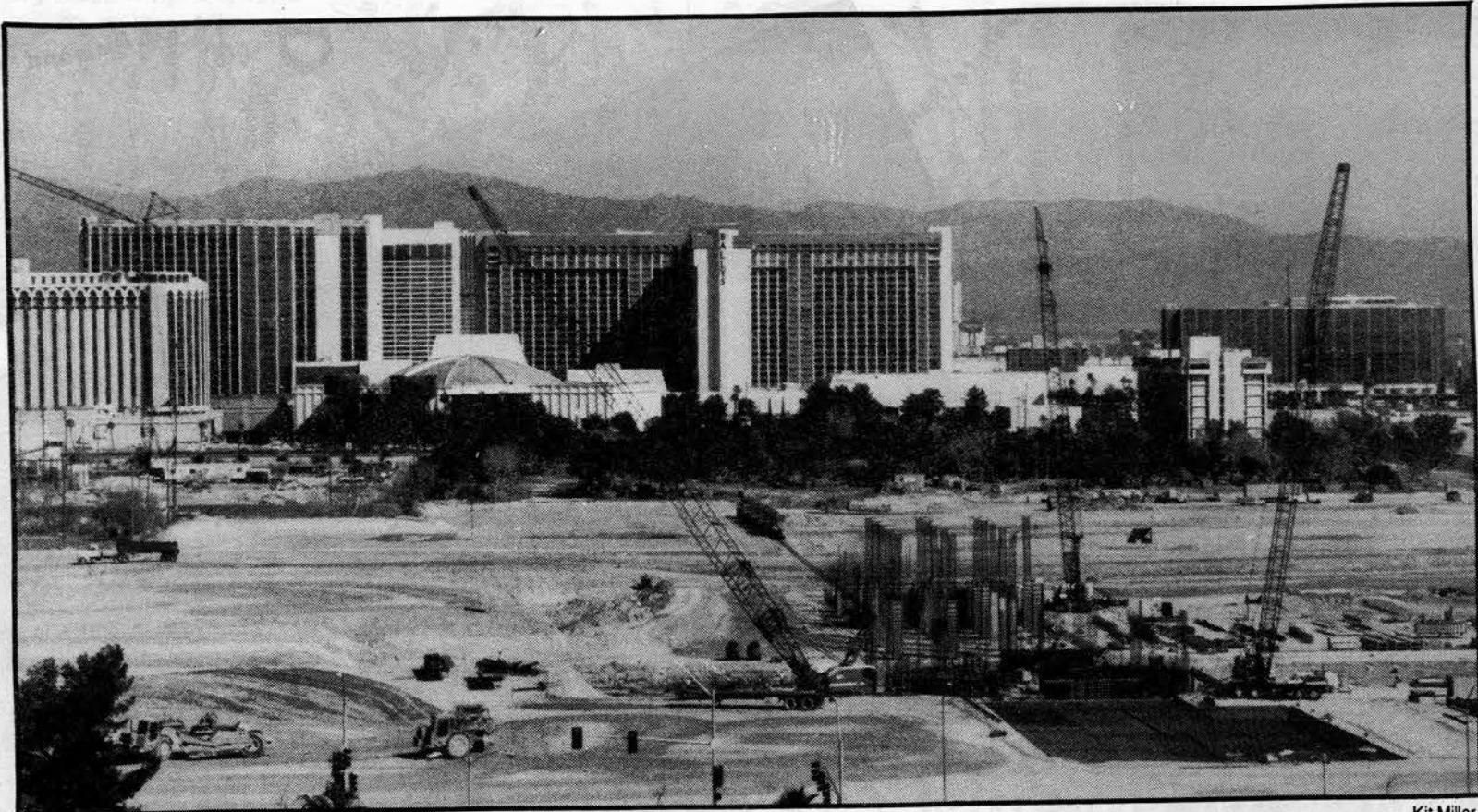
--- Stephen Collector,
photographer

Clockwis
Antelope
Power St
Whiskey
Grizzly
Dubois,
is Spot
Combinat
Dubois,
Woman &
Vegas, N
Greyhoun



Clockwise from lower left:
Antelope Twilight at the
Power Station, Lander, Wyo.;
Whiskey Mountain, Dubois, Wyo.;
Grizzly Bear Near Motel Court,
Dubois, Wyo.; First Big Game
is Spotted, Lander, Wyo.;
Combination Big Game Plate,
Dubois, Wyo.; Unsuspecting
Woman & Trophy Rooster, Las
Vegas, Nev.; Bear Panicking
Greyhound, Las Vegas, Nev.

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Kit Miller

The newest big development project in Las Vegas is MGM's Grand Hotel and Hollywood theme park/casino

Water forces Vegas to choose:

Gaming town or suburb of Los Angeles

by Jon Christensen

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The boom has gone bust here in the city that never sleeps. Until recently, Las Vegas appeared to be thriving on its unique brand of illusion, while the rest of the country wallowed in a deepening recession. Now hard times have come to Glitter Gulch and the Strip, too, once thought immune to economic doldrums.

The question is whether the slowdown will slacken this city's seemingly

insatiable thirst for water. Two years ago, the Las Vegas Valley Water District staked claims to nearly all the unappropriated groundwater in a 20,000-square-mile area of southern and central Nevada. The city also sought any unclaimed water in the Virgin River. Without new water, district officials warned, growth in Las Vegas would halt. To back up the threat, the water district imposed a moratorium on providing water to new developments.

Then the bad economic news hit home. Late last year, gambling revenues tumbled by up to 12 percent in Las Vegas and 6 percent statewide. Casinos in downtown Las Vegas, Reno and Carson City sought protection from creditors. The number of new jobs created in

Clark County fell to a dismal 100 last year compared to more than 36,000 the year before.

Along the fabled Strip, worries about "over-capacity" are now heard, even as ground is broken for what will be the world's largest hotel when it opens next year. Billionaire Kirk Kerkorian's MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park — a populist "Wizard of Oz" fantasy, yellow brick road and all — will be followed shortly by two more billion-dollar-plus projects, a "Treasure Island" theme park by Mirage Resorts and a 30-story pyramid from Circus Circus, which kicked off the latest theme-park trend only two years ago with the Excalibur, a Disney-style medieval concoction with jousting, banquets and arcades.

The quest for the next great attraction — casino theme parks to which baby boomers and high rollers can bring the whole family — has driven casino capital costs sky high. And the shakeout of smaller, debt-ridden properties has just begun.

Meanwhile, the city of Las Vegas and Clark County have been struggling to catch up with the population explosion that brought up to 6,000 new residents a month to Las Vegas in 1989. Roads, water mains, sewers and schools have lagged far behind the housing developments that have bloomed like wildflowers after a downpour in the surrounding desert.

Because the economic engine of Las Vegas drives the state, its problems

Las Vegas seeks watery jackpot in northern Nevada

Created by a vote of city residents in 1948 to take over a chaotic system of private wells and water companies and to tap Lake Mead to supply future growth, the Las Vegas Valley Water District has a history of securing new water sources just as existing supplies are about to run out.

The district supplies 600,000 residents, plus more than 20 million visitors each year in Las Vegas and the unincorporated areas of Searchlight, Jean and Kyle Canyon. Houses are 80 percent of the customers and they use roughly 80 percent of the water — 60 percent is used for landscaping, mostly lawns. The other 20 percent of the customers are businesses, industries, and hotels and casinos.

The water district earned \$69 million last year, according to finance director Cary Casey, while expenses totaled \$79 million, reflecting spending of capital accumulated during the boom years of the late 1980s. The district has four potential sources of revenues to fund expansion: connection charges, water rates, voter-approved tax assessments and bonds.

Florence Jiu of the public services department says about half the district's 450 employees work on the water system, constructing, installing and repairing water mains, branch lines and meters. Others work at district headquarters, where customer service, billing, finance and public relations take place, along with research, design, engineering and planning. The research and resources departments are charged with finding more water for Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Valley Water District dubbed its controversial water-importation project the "Cooperative Water Project" long after opponents labeled it a "water grab."

The project was conceived in secrecy and launched without fanfare on Oct. 17, 1989, when the water district filed 146 applications with the Nevada State Engineer.

The applications were for 805,000 acre-feet of groundwater from 26 valleys north of Las Vegas. At the same time, the district filed on 60,000 acre-feet of Virgin River water. An acre-foot of water can supply one family for a year.

The district estimated the perennial yield of the groundwater basins at around 250,000 acre-feet, but it claimed much more, so as to be first in line for any unappropriated water found in the area. Since then, the district has offered to drop 25 applications in environmentally sensitive locations, such as Meadow Valley Wash, White River and Pahrangat Valley. Although its applications still total 752,000 acre-feet, the district now expects to get only 180,000 acre-feet annually from the project. "More applications could be dropped," says Jiu, "but we don't know anything yet."

The price tag for the Cooperative Water Project is now estimated at \$2 billion. The official timeline shows federal environmental studies, state water hearings and the federal environmental analysis process running through the year 2005. Construction will begin then and water will flow in the pipeline by 2007. By 2035 all phases of the project are expected to be completed.

Engineers are studying the feasibility of purifying the Virgin River, which enters Nevada after flowing through

Arizona from Utah, to get at the 60,000 acre-feet of river water that the district has claimed. A desalination plant estimated to cost \$336 million would be needed to make the water drinkable.

The water district hopes that at least some of these new sources of water will be available before Las Vegas is forced to move beyond the mainly voluntary "level 1" conservation measures now in place. Current supplies are expected to last only until 2006 with minimal conservation. But the district has no plans to implement more stringent measures.

"We hope we don't get to that point," says Jiu. "We don't want to change the lifestyle of people in southern Nevada. That's why we're pursuing all these sources of water."

For more information about the Cooperative Water Project or other water matters in Las Vegas, contact the Las Vegas Valley Water District, Public Services Dept., 3700 W. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89153 (702/258-3264).

— Jon Christensen

become the problems of Nevada as a whole. Faced with shortfalls in meeting revenue estimates that were figured during the flush days of the boom, the state government has had to cut \$120 million in programs, services and personnel to make ends meet. "Less is best" has become the new catch phrase in Nevada government.

Second thoughts about growth are surfacing even in Las Vegas, where doubting the wildest dreams of speculators has previously been a risky bet. Their real estate developments helped Las Vegas and the surrounding metropolitan area nearly double in population during the 1980s. But most of the new residents came from California. Fleeing gridlock and other urban problems, many of them do not wish to see Las Vegas become Los Angeles. Their attitudes are beginning to show up in opinion polls and at the ballot box.

In recent years, the majority of Nevadans have swung from a "laissez-faire, let the good times roll" attitude to one strongly favoring controlled growth, says Mike Sloan, a vice president of Circus Circus who frequently polls the populace. The election of Don Schlesinger, a vocal advocate of growth controls, to the Clark County board of commissioners in 1990 signaled a shift in the politics of growth in Las Vegas.

California will continue to influence Nevada by sheer size. The Golden State added 6.1 million people to its population in the 1980s and is now home to more than 30 million residents. During the same period, Nevada grew from 800,000 to 1.2 million residents. Many Nevada newcomers are "equity exiles" who cashed out of high-priced homes in California to buy dream homes for half the price in a state with a constitutional ban on income tax.

Home builders, who are relentlessly optimistic, count on these Californians to provide steady growth for the future. This is one assumption that inspired and keeps alive the Las Vegas quest for water.

In October 1989, with lightning speed and no warning, Las Vegas launched what has been dubbed "the biggest water grab in the history of the West," (HCN, 5/21/90).

The Las Vegas Valley Water District, run by the Clark County commissioners, filed applications with the Nevada state engineer for 865,000 acre-feet of water in the rural areas north of the city, more than double the county's current Colorado River supply. The stage had been set earlier in the year, when the Nevada Legislature, controlled by a southern urban majority, passed changes in state water laws. The changes allow municipal suppliers to hold on to water rights indefinitely, for future growth.

Having nearly exhausted its Colorado River allotment, the district went after an underground aquifer in central Nevada and the Virgin River.

Rural opponents of the "water grab" have complained that the water

rights application process is ruled by the politics of chummy consensus bred by southern Nevada's control of state government. The Las Vegas Valley Water District has attempted to stifle debate within Clark County and has kept rural representatives from being invited to take part in public debates and discus-

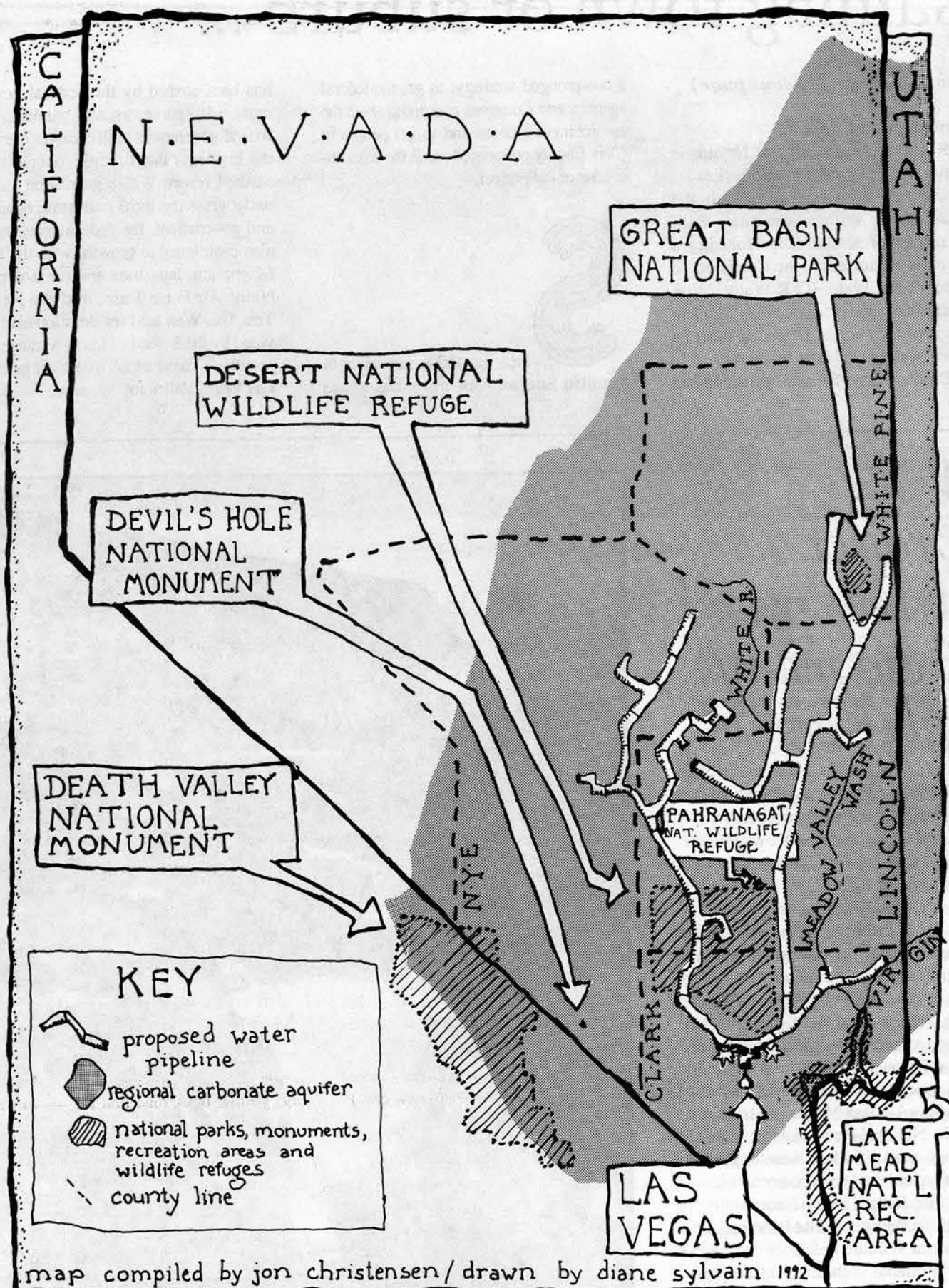
sions, says Steve Bradhurst, the Nye County planner who is coordinating rural opposition to Las Vegas's plans. Bradhurst says the water district has operated in a closed, secretive style. Its model for projecting growth rates and water demand in Las Vegas into the next century, for example, has been unavailable

for public scrutiny. "Nobody can take a look at the assumptions behind it," Bradhurst says.

Shortly after the Las Vegas filings, the state engineer was inundated with a record 3,612 protests by 900 parties, including individuals, ranchers, environmental groups, Indian tribes, and state and federal agencies. Many were concerned about wetlands and wildlife fed by the underground aquifer, which flows through a deep layer of carbonate rocks underlying central Nevada to discharge in the springs at Ash Meadows and Death Valley National Monument. The aquifer has been studied extensively because it flows under the Nevada Test Site. But claims about its potential yield still vary wildly.

The rural counties, however, have been most concerned about Las Vegas "foreclosing" on their future. "This will ensure Clark County's control of the state forever," warns planner Bradhurst. "It's nothing more than de facto annexation to insure the demographic landscape of Clark County and Nevada for years to come."

Bradhurst cites the example of the Delamar gold mine, which recently had to negotiate with Clark County to secure water rights to begin operations in Lincoln County. "Can you imagine?" he asks. "Clark County now has control of



map compiled by jon christensen / drawn by diane sylvain 1992



A computer-controlled volcano and waterfall highlight the Strip

Las Vegas News Bureau

Continued on next page

Gaming town or suburb ...

(Continued from previous page)

the mining industry, too."

Rural residents worry that Nevada is putting "all of its eggs in one basket — Las Vegas," says Bradhurst. With the help of former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, rural representatives are forming a nonprofit organization, the Coalition to Protect Rural Water (CPR Water), that will channel funds to rural areas fighting to control their water. Defeating the Las Vegas "water grab" is its first test.

Bradhurst says the rural opposition has

a two-pronged strategy: to get the federal agencies and Congress concerned about the environmental costs and to get people in Clark County concerned about the economic costs of the project.



Since the 1930s, according to historian Eugene Moehring, Las Vegas

has been shaped by the federal government, water purveyors, and gambling. The federal government built Hoover Dam and the highways that brought people to the sunbelt resort. While gambling largely underwrote the local and state economy and government, the federal government also contributed to growth, with the Basic Magnesium Industries ammunition plant, Nellis Air Force Base, and the Nevada Test Site. With land for development provided by the Bureau of Land Management — which slated all of its holdings in the Las Vegas Valley for "disposal" — devel-

opers worked with the county water purveyor to channel growth along its ever-extending waterworks.

Then in the 1980s, California became the driving force, changing southern Nevada. While the last decade boosted Las Vegas's fortunes as never before, its go-go philosophy is giving way to a new mood that has crept across the border with the newcomers from California.

The rapid residential growth has also led to the possibility of a clash between gaming and future growth.

"Las Vegas will never grow again like it has in the past," says Circus Circus executive Mike Sloan, "because the people who live here will not let it happen. Hey, I've lived here since the 1950s. I don't want it to look like L.A."

"We need to step back and determine what kind of valley we want to live in 20 years from now," says Don Schlesinger, who represents the emerging politics of Las Vegas. "We need to find out what are the outer limits of growth in this valley and plan for that to occur in some kind of sensible, reasonable manner."

Lately, Schlesinger's approach has been supported by commissioner Karen Hayes. And as election time approaches for three of the seven other county commissioners, even the pro-growth commissioners have begun to change their tunes. Clark County has finally begun comprehensive planning, a concept that was once alien to Las Vegas.

"Two years ago," says Schlesinger, "we didn't have any kind of master plans for towns and unincorporated areas. We have had hodgepodge growth with little rhyme or reason. Now we finally have a road map."

The road map includes a mass transit system funded by a tax residents voted last year to impose on new construction. Letting "growth pay for growth" is a philosophy with more and more adherents in Las Vegas.

The new casinos rising along the Strip will pick up a large part of the mass transit tab. But the gaming industry seems increasingly reluctant to shoulder more of the burden to pay for residential growth. With gambling spreading like wildfire around the country, casino executives worry about ruining the attraction to Las Vegas.

"Things that make you look less attractive hurt your business," says Mike Sloan, who is a key mover in the Nevada Resort Association, the casino industry lobby.

"There's a growing recognition that if we're going to let the home-building industry just build whatever they want to build without identifying the consequences, it may come to roost on the gaming industry's head," says Sloan. "We can't stand by and let that happen."

"The lifeblood of this community is the gaming industry," says Don Schlesinger. "We have to preserve an environment that maintains our community as a tourist destination. If tripling the population introduces crime, pollution and traffic that diminishes our appeal, we may be biting the hand that feeds us."

Although casinos use only 8 percent of the Las Vegas municipal water supply — compared to the 60 percent used by people to water lawns — resort executives also worry about the perception that their waterfalls, pools and golf courses waste a lot of water.

"We need to be careful we don't get stuck with a disproportionate cost of some grandiose scheme because of that perception," says Sloan. Las Vegas could be stuck with dramatically higher water bills.

The cost of the Las Vegas water impor-

Water project draws fire from many quarters

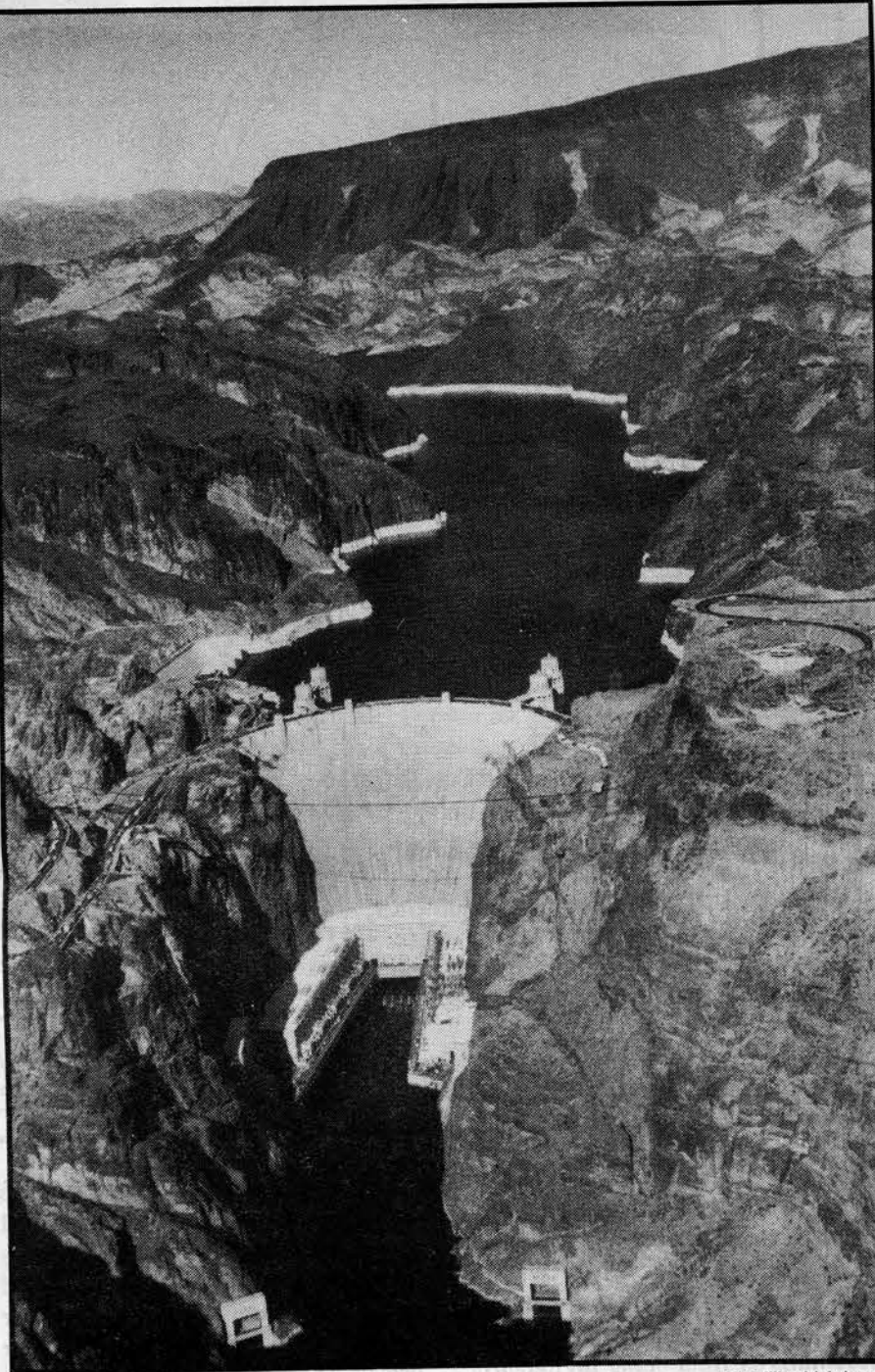
If the Las Vegas Valley Water District's expansive plans become a reality, the consequences might extend to desert wetlands throughout southern and eastern Nevada.

Critics say tapping a regional aquifer in carbonate rocks could dry up riparian zones, drive away thousands of migratory birds and kill rare fish species that have survived since the Ice Age. At risk are springs, seeps, marshes and streams throughout the southern Great Basin, including Death Valley National Monument and the Devil's Hole pool in Ash Meadows, Great Basin National Park and its Lehman Caves, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Range, Moapa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge.

Wetlands in these places are precious because they are so rare. According to a report by the National Park Service, Death Valley receives as much as two-thirds of the water in its meager springs from the carbonate aquifer that underlies the southern and eastern Great Basin. Gushing springs and lush marshes in nearby Ash Meadows — thought to be a principal outlet for the entire aquifer — are home to five endangered species, seven threatened species and 20 species which are candidates for listing.

Terry Katzer, research director for the Las Vegas water district, disagrees with the dismal predictions of critics. He says the ecological effects of the project are grossly exaggerated. It could take 600 to 60,000 years, Katzer asserts, for groundwater-pumping to affect the water seeping out at Ash Meadows and Death Valley. And water district director Pat Mulroy promises to "set aside some water for environmental purposes." She claims that the project could be beneficial to wildlife because it will bring underground water to the surface.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disagrees, protesting all 146 of the Las Vegas Valley Water District's applications. The National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management also protested most of the applications. The federal agencies were joined by the



Kit Miller/Lighthawk

Hoover Dam blocks the flow of the Colorado River outside Las Vegas

Sierra Club, Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association and Citizen Alert. All of the protests cited lack of knowledge about the regional carbonate aquifer.

"We really don't know what the effects will be because no studies have been done," says Larry Silver, an attorney for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. "This is an immense project and there have been no environmental studies done by project proponents."

The project would involve drilling more than 100 wells, laying more than 1,000 miles of pipeline, and building hundreds of miles of access roads. New reservoirs also would be needed.

The state engineer has demanded that the water district prepare an "environmental report" before hearings on the applications begin in November. But critics charge the scope of the report is too limited to fulfill the engineer's duty to weigh the "public interest." The report, for example, will not

examine the impact of future growth in Las Vegas, nor will it be subject to public comment. The public apparently must wait for a full-blown environmental impact statement, which will be required before wells can be dug and pipelines built on public land.

However, the Las Vegas "water grab" could be derailed well before that, not by concerns about the impact on the larger environment of the Great Basin, but by increasing alarm in Las Vegas about the effects of growth. Chris Brown, southern Nevada coordinator of Citizen Alert, charges that tapping deep desert water could create an "environmental catastrophe, a dust bowl" in the rural counties. But in opposing the project, Brown focuses closer to home on the "unlivable" environment that will result from doubling or tripling the current population in the Las Vegas Valley.

— Jon Christensen

tation project is now estimated at around \$2 billion. But the price tag could escalate. For comparison, Steve Bradhurst cites the Central Arizona Project, which cost \$4 billion for a 355-mile delivery system. The Las Vegas project calls for more than 1,000 miles of pipeline, Bradhurst says, and costs could go to \$12 billion, he estimates.

Chris Brown, the southern Nevada coordinator of the statewide environmental group, Citizen Alert, predicts that "when people find out about the cost, and who will have to pay, the polls which now show a slim majority opposed to the project will swing even farther apart."



In early March, Las Vegas signed a contract to get the last of Nevada's Colorado River allotment. The additional 58,000 acre-feet of water come from return-flow credits for treated effluent.

Ironically, the environmental assessment of the contract, prepared by the Las Vegas Water District, said the district's rural water applications were too "speculative" to analyze as an alternative source. Although rural representatives and environmentalists questioned the environmental impact of the new water supply, they refrained from delaying the contract by demanding a complete environmental impact statement or appealing the decision.

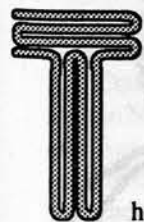
"This water isn't that important to us," admits Chris Brown.

In fact, the new contract for Colorado River water may set the stage for defeat of the much grander importation plan.

Although most of the water is already committed, the contract lifts the moratorium on "will serve" letters, which had been imposed because the water district was over-committed and threatened with lawsuits by developers who had been promised water. The district now has breathing room.

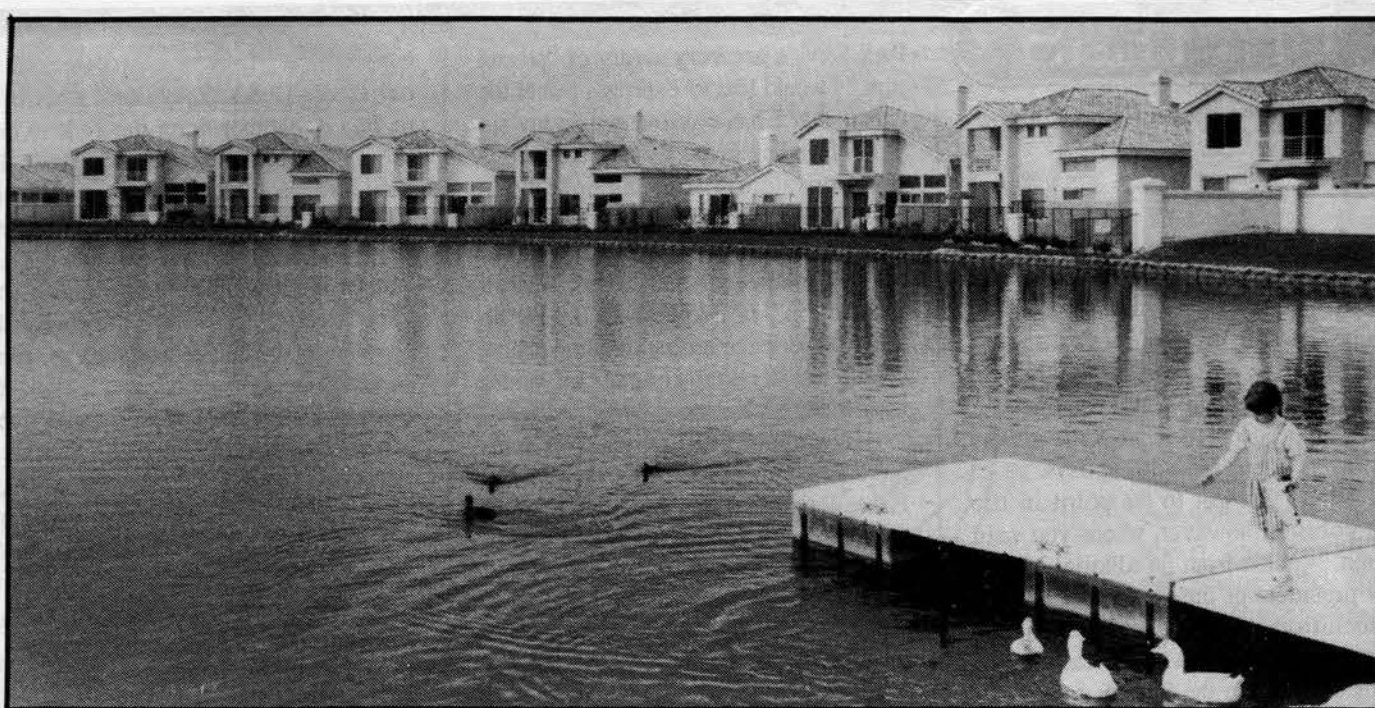
According to the environmental assessment of the contract, the new water from Lake Mead will allow Clark County to grow from the current population of 800,000 to 1.4 million residents, with minimal conservation measures. More important, the contract allows the three huge new casino projects by Circus Circus, Mirage Resorts and MGM to move forward. And that means casino executives can now take a critical look at the water importation plan without putting their projects on the line.

"The gaming industry wants to take an objective look at the costs and consequences of any plan," says Mike Sloan. "To the extent that (the water plan) is harmful to our interests, we will speak up. There will be wide public dialogue on this issue before it's decided," Sloan promises.



There is already talk of scaling back the Cooperative Water Project, as the importation project was dubbed by the Las Vegas Valley Water District.

The state engineer's hearings on the project are scheduled to begin in November. The engineer has not demanded an environmental impact statement. But there are signs that an EIS, which is being prepared in anticipation of federal requirements for the well sites and rights-of-way, is being used to pare down the



Kit Miller

Houses line the lakefront at the Desert Shores development in west Las Vegas

A low-flow way to quench Las Vegas's thirst

While the "water buffaloes" plot a raid on rural Nevada to quench the thirst of Las Vegas, a renowned desert fish specialist is pushing a conservation strategy. Jim Deacon, known as Dr. Fish to his students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, believes Las Vegas can grow without imperiling desert ecosystems.

A biology professor, Deacon came to Las Vegas in 1960, when the city had 127,000 residents. As the university grew from two dusty buildings on the outskirts of town, Deacon roamed the desert, describing many native fish species for the first time. His work was key in establishing protection for the Devil's Hole pupfish and nearly 30 other species in Ash Meadows, a wetlands north of the city threatened by groundwater pumping for irrigation. Ash Meadows is thought to be an outlet for the regional aquifer Las Vegas plans to tap.

But Deacon is steering away from ecological arguments this time. His *Water Strategy for Southern Nevada*, co-authored by David Kreamer, direc-

tor of a new water resources management program at the University of Nevada, suggests that the Las Vegas Valley Water District asked the wrong question: "Where can we get more water?" Better to ask: "What is the most cost-effective way of supplying water services to Clark County?"

The argument that conservation is a "cheaper solution" than finding, storing and moving water is not new. It has won over many cities in the West. But not Las Vegas.

With the highest per-capita water consumption in the nation — an average 350 gallons per day — a lot of leeway exists for the economies of conservation. Imported groundwater is projected to cost \$1,000-\$3,000 or more per acre-foot, which leads the authors to note that "new water" from conservation at \$154 to \$282 per acre-foot looks very competitive.

Deacon and Kreamer call for requiring new construction to "save more water elsewhere in the community than the new project would use." Water-wasters would be charged higher fees and savers would get rebates.

Customers converting to more efficient plumbing and landscaping would be rewarded. Those that didn't would pay.

The professors call for keeping down the per-capita costs of water by retrofitting indoor plumbing to use less water. But they believe more water will come from outdoors. Desert landscaping should be encouraged and lawns should be watered with gray (waste) water or the latest demand-irrigation systems that water only when sensors detect the need.

The authors warn of "paying for a system that supplies water nobody needs." As the cost of water rises, they note, people use less. Better for conservation to make the pipeline unnecessary before it is built, they say, than for the great waterworks to become a sprawling economic dinosaur, rusting away without servicing the community.

Copies of *A Water Strategy for Southern Nevada* are available from the Environmental Studies Program, UNLV, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154.

— M.E. Andersen

project by identifying environmentally sensitive or controversial aspects.

The water district has offered to share some 25 claims with the rural counties. Steve Bradhurst calls that a "P.R. ploy" announced the night a CBS News crew came to a hearing. Now the water district says it will simply drop the claims. But it has yet to do so.

Ironically, just as Clark County may be pulling back, a willingness to negotiate seems to be spreading in the rural counties. Jo Anne Garrett, a resident of the small town of Baker near Great Basin National Park, who has been involved in the protests, says some rural residents and county commissioners fear an opportunity may be slipping by.

"The poverty of Lincoln and White Pine counties makes them vulnerable to the constant pressure to negotiate and get a good deal," says Garrett. "You can't tell a guy he can't sell out if he wants to," she recalls a rancher insisting at one of the recent meetings.

But flush with tax revenues from four "world class" gold mines and federal payments in lieu of taxes from the Nevada Test Site, Nye County has been able to keep the rural opposition afloat. The county has hired Bruce Babbitt as well as experts in hydrology and conservation to help with the coming battles.

Their reports are expected to provide the technical and financial details to "blow Las Vegas out of the water," says Steve Bradhurst.

Arguments against its costs are expected to turn on its costs and the opportunities for more efficient use and reuse of existing water. Las Vegas now consumes more water per capita — 350 gallons per day — than any other city in the West and roughly twice that of comparable cities such as Phoenix and Tucson.

Bradhurst is also compiling a complete paper trail in preparation for the battle over the EIS, which may be years down the line. Eventually, he suspects, the southern Nevada water war will end in federal court.

But it could be over before that. Las Vegas has the power to decide the fate of the project, perhaps as early as the November election, when the majority of the county commission could be swung against the project.

Citizen Alert's Chris Brown worries that there is not yet "a political vehicle to carry forward the slow-growth sentiment. There are some indications that the water grab may be falling apart," he says. "But there is so much institutional momentum and money behind it that I wouldn't count on it disappearing of its own accord."

In any case, County Commissioner Don Schlesinger vows to put the project to a vote of the people. "We can't ask the people to tax themselves without a vote," he says. And Circus Circus executive Mike Sloan predicts that the importation project eventually could be limited to the outlying areas of Clark County on the grounds of cost alone.

Steve Bradhurst says that would be a great victory for rural Nevada. Bradhurst is confident that "given the environmental disaster that would occur, I don't think the water grab will ever happen." Nonetheless, he worries that, under state law, Las Vegas could sit on the water rights applications for 30 years or more without building a pipeline. Bradhurst suggests that Las Vegas turn the applications over to the counties of origin.

"In 20 or 30 years, we could have some great communities in rural Nevada, if they are allowed to develop their own water," says Bradhurst. "Our only hope now is the people of Las Vegas."

Jon Christensen lives in Carson City, Nevada. His stories were paid for by the High Country News Research Fund. We are also grateful to Project Lighthawk for making the aerial photographs possible.

LETTERS

THIS GROUP REPRESENTS CITIZENS

Dear HCN,

I read your story on the January workshop, "In search of sustainability," in the Feb. 24, 1992, issue of *High Country News*. For the most part, I thought you captured it well, and I'm glad you shared it with your readers. There are some important ideas floating around these days.

When you got to the point in the first column, however, where you said Alston "quoted from an editorial by the new president of the American Forestry Association..." I sort of did a double take. That editorial, which is causing all kinds of angst in the forestry community, was done by Bill Barton, the president of the Society of American Foresters, in their *Journal of Forestry*. Now, Ed, I realize that all of us "Washington-types" look alike, but we'd still like to think we have some individuality.

SAF was unwilling to become a co-sponsor of the workshop you attended, in part, I think, because of Barton's views. I don't know the details, and they're unimportant. What is important to us, however, is that we constantly get mixed up with either the forest products industry associations or the professional foresters. We are neither. The American Forestry Association is a national citizens' conservation group — the oldest such group in the United States. And it sort of bugs us when people miscast us.

R. Neil Sampson
Washington, D.C.

The writer is executive vice president of the AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

DAM DATES DIFFER

Dear HCN,

The article by Brian Collins (*HCN*, 12/2/91), while good in most respects, requires a correction. The Skagit River dam project of Seattle City Light proceeded as follows:

There are three dams, two built upstream from the first. Gorge Dam was started in 1918 and completed in 1924; Diablo Dam was started in 1927 and completed in 1929; Ross Dam was started in 1937 and was built in three stages: first, completed in 1940 to 300 feet in height; second, in 1946, to another 195 feet; and third, in 1949, to a present total height of 540 feet. The reservoir backs up into British Columbia.

Please note: I am writing a history of 20th century Seattle so the subject is close to me. Seattle's Lighting Department superintendent, J.D. Ross, was one of the nation's leaders of the public power movement at a time when the fight was between the "power trust" and public ownership advocates ... long before the nascent conservation movement recognized the ecological consequences of rampant dam building.

Rich Berner
Seattle, Washington

A DIFFERENT VIEW OF "RIVER CITY"

Dear HCN,

In response to Daniel McCool's guest essay, "Welcome, floaters, to River City" (*HCN*, 12/30/91), his allegations about commercial river running are completely speculative and the exact reason why commercial operators and the National

Park Service are very weary of "private trips." I would like to express a few of the events that I have witnessed in my six years of guiding in the Grand Canyon:

A private trip showing up at Lee's Ferry in a chartered coach, getting off, all speaking a foreign language, and being of southeast Asian origin. Is this a "private trip," or people with little or no rafting experience embarking into almost certain disaster that commercial guides usually end up bailing them out of?

How about six boatloads of commercial passengers sitting on shore at Hance Rapid for six hours, while a private trip's 22-foot Campways "Party Barge II" is wrapped around a rock. After the boat's crew is safe, they want all six commercial boats to camp (with their paying customers) and help them get their equipment.

Their equipment is two personal duffel bags and 50 cases of beer. Then what do you say about your tax dollars paying for a \$750 helicopter that must fly the people and their gear out? You pay because they cannot. That really makes the Park Service happy!

Through my examples, I am not saying that commercial trips are immune from accidents. But in every incident that I have experienced, the guides have acted efficiently and with the utmost professionalism.

It is important to mention that the number of private departures has been doubled to two per day. I imagine that this has been in response to experienced and well-prepared river-runners who have made claims like McCool's and the increased display of knowledge and experience by private trips in general.

I would like to commend Mr. McCool's documentation and interpretation of the current status of the EIS, which incidentally was lobbied for by the Grand Canyon Guides Association, composed mostly of commercial river guides.

Lastly, the overcrowding of Deer Creek and Havasu can and should be expected for the sole reason that they are two of the most beautiful places on the planet. In Havasu, man's impact was completely overshadowed by the 25-foot-high piles of logs that were deposited when a wall of water rushed down the canyon and uprooted cottonwood trees that were as tall as 60 feet. After that flood, evidence of man's recent existence was totally wiped out for a brief period.

The major changes that have occurred since the inception of the permit system in the early 1970s are the degradation of historic and archaeological sites and the disappearance of sand and beaches. Let's continue to enjoy one of our most beautiful parks at our current rate and "let the rivers flow."

David Kashinski
Aspen, Colorado

NOW COME THE WHINERS

Dear HCN,

Okay! That does it! So now the ranchers want the feds to butt out when it comes to managing federal land (Sagebrush Rebellion II, *HCN*, 2/24/92). It reminds me of Denver officials grumbling about Two Forks Dam being a local issue when the EPA put a nix on the project. The feds shouldn't interfere, they said. Somehow nobody remembered the feds were interfering by placing the huge federal center in the area, which greatly bolsters the local economy. And their amnesia became absolute when these same officials crawled to Washington for dollars to build the unneeded, environmentally destructive Denver International Airport.

Now come the whiners from the

hinterlands. They seem to think they own federal lands. They don't even want to buy it, but they want the feds to quit telling them what they can do on it. Do they also want the feds to butt out when it comes to financing education, transportation, or, to be blunt, farm subsidies?

Or are they, like Denver politicians, very selective about what they want the government to do? The land they're crying about belongs to me, and I vote for wildlife, wetlands, endangered species, wild rivers and a definite lack of "progress."

Dorothy Hatch
Conifer, Colorado

HIS POSITION WAS DISTORTED

Dear HCN,

Florence Williams' article on "Sagebrush Rebellion II" (*HCN*, 3/9/92) contains inaccuracies and distortions. First: 1) Neither I nor The Land Center (TLC) are "followers" of Dick Manning. His argument on grazing permits as private property is untenable; 2) Except for assisting Catron County with ideas, TLC has not written any interim land use plans for any county in any state. What has been written by TLC, but not mentioned in the article, is the Catron County final plan — a plan that bears little resemblance to the interim plan; 3) I am not a former Forest Service employee — *HCN* has my vita; 4) Florence Williams took my comments on reversion of federal land to private ownership out of context. She is quite aware of my approach, which is spelled out in my forthcoming book, *Visions Upon the Land: Man and Nature on the Western Range* (Island Press).

Yes, I firmly believe government is bad for the environment. But my solution is not the standard Sagebrush fare (which I totally reject). My approach would give environmentalists opportunity for the first time to meaningfully control vast areas of the West; and 5) the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment is in no way connected with my activities with Catron County or Utah.

My final comment pertains to the shallow treatment given to the county move-

ment, and the grave mistake of labeling it "Son of Sagebrush." The movement is not some draconian plot to seize the West from the American people. It is simply about finding a way to give local people a say in the fate of their environment. More importantly, it is about how laws, regulations and policies can be reformed to create the types of incentives that will harmonize rather than clash the interests of people and nature.

I believe that final solutions to Western public land problems will not come from more government regulation or from the special interest politics and hidden agendas of groups like "People for the West." My solution goes to the root of the problem — to the land ethic. Aldo Leopold understood, and so should the environmental movement, that the making of a viable land community comes not from the power of government, but from the voluntary decision of people to go from "conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it." This is my vision.

Karl Hess
Las Cruces, New Mexico

The writer is an associate with The Land Center.

HCN reporter Florence Williams replies:

Mr. Hess worked closely with rancher Dick Manning and ranch attorney Karen Budd in preparing the Catron County plan. He has appeared alongside Manning and Budd at meetings sponsored by the rancher-backed National Federal Lands Conference, and has published articles in that organization's newsletter.

With or without Hess's blessings, dozens of counties in the West have replicated Catron's interim plan and made equally clear their anti-preservationist sentiments.

It is interesting to note that since the "Sagebrush" story appeared in *HCN*, Hess has withdrawn from the National Federal Lands Conference as well as from the efforts of the Utah Association of Counties to emulate the Catron plan.

It is unfortunate that the causes best served by Hess's free-market, anti-government theories are those he now rejects.

OFF THE WALL



OTHER VOICES

Dollars flow toward good fishing

—by Cecil D. Andrus

The test drawdown of Lower Granite and Little Goose reservoirs in southeastern Washington, an important step in the recovery of Idaho's once plentiful salmon runs, has already turned up some interesting debris:

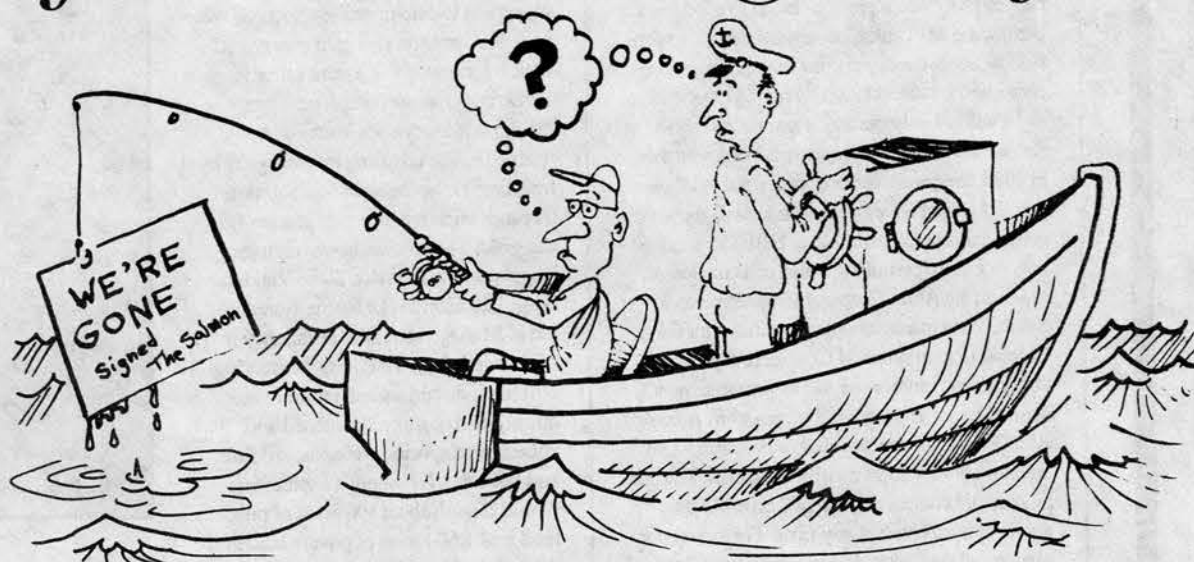
- a 1981 Chevy Citation, presumably stolen from a Democrat;
- a muddy Cadillac, presumably stolen from a Republican;
- lots of rods, left, I imagine, by frustrated salmon and steelhead fishermen.

While it's probably coincidental that the fishing poles were found, it serves to illustrate one of the most optimistic points about salmon recovery: Happy fishermen translate into big tourism dollars.

The long-term economic gains from returning the salmon to its ancestral waters will far outweigh the pain of the short-term system changes we must make. Cash registers in river communities will communicate the accuracy of this prediction.

There is another very clear reality about the salmon issue: Either we unite as a region and reverse the disappearance of the salmon, or bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., are going to do it for us. We cannot legally ignore this matter; the Endangered Species Act won't let us.

The Columbia River basin once contained the largest chinook salmon and steelhead runs in the world, and roughly half of the Columbia's spring and summer



Laura Zerzan

chinook and steelhead runs originated in the Snake River basin.

The salmon became the unfortunate victims of our successful efforts to irrigate the region's land, harvest its timber, exploit a commercial fishery, generate hydroelectricity and build a seaport 500 miles inland, at Lewiston.

But the system is out of balance. It is no longer a multiple-use river when our fish runs are at risk.

Studies have shown that Idaho's fish habitat is strong and well-protected, and that mainstream harvest restrictions have had about as much influence in protecting fish populations as they're going to have.

Clearly, the decline of the Snake River runs is due primarily to the mainstream dams.

Biologists have told us what conditions the fish need to survive. Hydrologists have established that there isn't enough water in the whole Snake River

basin to provide those conditions in the slack water of the reservoirs, so our only alternative is to simulate the river velocity that existed before construction of the dams. Drawing down the reservoirs is the only viable option, and that is why it is the centerpiece of the Idaho Plan to restore the salmon (HCN, 3/9/92).

I believe the economic impacts of salmon recovery can be substantially mitigated. Nobody will bear a disproportionate share of the financial burden of recovering our salmon runs. For the

last year, the salmon issue has been couched in terms of how much it is going to cost to protect the fish. It is time to talk about what the loss of salmon runs has already cost the region and about the enormous boost to the economy a sport fishery represents. When we lost our salmon sport fishing season in 1977, the impact on local economies was tremendous. In the city of Salmon alone, 120 jobs were lost.

Conversely, in river communities, Main Street is a hive of activity when the steelhead season is strong.

Now, we have the opportunity to restore jobs lost when the salmon went away and to increase tourism dollars as we did by improving Idaho's steelhead fishery. Salmon restoration means economic development for the entire Snake River basin. ■

Cecil Andrus is the governor of Idaho.

Yucca Mountain is an assault on Nevada

—by Robert R. Loux

Jon Christensen's article, "Nevada Speaks with Fissured Tongue" (HCN, 1/10/92), seriously misrepresents the issues surrounding the debate about the proposed high-level nuclear waste site at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada.

The contention that Yucca Mountain and the Nevada Test Site are somehow analogous, and that support for — or at least tolerance of — the test site somehow diminishes the legitimacy of Nevadans' opposition to the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump is spurious.

The Nevada Test Site has been part of the Nevada landscape and consciousness for 40 years. It is an artifact of the early days of the cold war. Its establishment in the 1950s harkens back to a time when people, especially Nevadans, had trust and confidence in their government's assurances that safety could be maintained even under the extreme conditions associated with above-ground nuclear tests.

Partly as a result of years of experience with the test site, Nevadans are no longer as trusting of the federal government (or as gullible). The site is a fact of Nevada life and has, as Jon Christensen points out, created a certain economic dependency through the creation of jobs over the years. This dependency has fostered political support within the state, but the Yucca Mountain dump site is another matter entirely.

Contrary to the original intent of Congress in passing the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Yucca Mountain was not selected as a repository site on the basis of scientific or technical merit. Rather, Yucca Mountain was chosen as the only site in the nation to be considered as a possible nuclear waste dump as a result of Nevada's political vulnerability. Not even the U.S. Department of Energy, the chief proponent of Yucca Mountain, will argue that the Nevada site is the best site for storing radioactive wastes for thousands of years.

Nevada's opposition to the nuclear waste dump is based on concerns that the Yucca Mountain site is unsuited geotechnically for isolating the waste from the environment; that the transportation of waste to the site could cause serious health, safety and environmental problems; and that the state's unique tourism-based economy and fragile environment could be irreparably damaged as a result of this facility.

Compounding these concerns is the undisputable fact that the Department of Energy's track record in handling nuclear materials is scandalous. Cleaning up the contamination caused by DOE mismanagement at over 120 of its installations around the country will cost this nation more than \$200 billion. If Nevadans have learned anything through tolerating the Nevada Test Site as part of the state's duty to national security, it is that DOE simply cannot be trusted to do anything right when it comes to nuclear waste.

The fact that the Nevada Test Site contains many miles of contaminated geology as a result of atomic testing does not make Yucca Mountain a suitable location for a high-level nuclear waste dump. For one thing, the test site itself was not selected on the basis of its geological abilities to contain radioactive contamination any more than Yucca Mountain was. It was chosen because of its isolation in the Nevada desert and the need for a secure, easily developed location for weapons testing during a time of perceived danger to our national security.

Only a very small part of Yucca Mountain is even on the test site. It is located at the far western border of the site on land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Air Force.

Contrary to the impression given by DOE and nuclear industry proponents of the dump, Yucca Mountain is not and has never been contaminated as a result of weapons testing.

It is also not accurate to claim that a repository would be somehow less of a problem in terms of radioactivity than the test site. If a repository were to be located at Yucca Mountain, the radionuclide inventory of the wastes to be disposed of there would equal the radionuclides deposited into the ground by over 2 million atomic bombs of the size of the Trinity weapon! Consequently, any breach of the isolation capability of a repository would have far more serious consequences than the migration of radioactive materials left over from testing activities.

Christensen's call for Nevada to "make a deal" and accept Yucca Mountain in exchange for a halt in nuclear weapons testing is a very bad idea for a number of reasons. For one thing, this is not a deal that Nevada or any other state can make. The decision to stop weapons test-

ing is something that will be made on the national political front for reasons that have nothing to do with the disposal of wastes from commercial nuclear power plants.

Even if Nevada sought such a deal (and it does not), there is simply no legitimacy to it. Furthermore, what sort of "deal" would it be to exchange a project that is at least tolerated by a majority of Nevadans for one that is strongly and vociferously opposed by over two-thirds of the people of the state?

More importantly, how does one go about making a deal for a faulty nuclear waste dump site? What price do you put on public health and safety, on the consequences to future generations, on environmental contamination, and on damage to Nevada's economy? The fact is that Nevada cannot make a deal with respect to the flawed Yucca Mountain project. And Nevada's leaders are absolutely correct in their steadfast opposition to this ill-conceived, potentially dangerous and politically driven project.

There is plenty of work to be done at the Nevada Test Site. Contamination from years of weapons testing needs to be cleaned up, and DOE and the federal government are already beginning that process. Even if testing were to cease tomorrow, there would be years of employment for test site workers cleaning and restoring vast areas and facilities impacted by weapons activities.

The notion that Yucca Mountain is in any way needed or desired as a replacement for the test site is simply spurious. The suggestion serves a purely political end for proponents of the Yucca Mountain dump by seeking to generate support for the project among test site employees, certain unions and others concerned about employment in a post-test-site Nevada. But the debate over Yucca Mountain is not about the site, it's not about jobs, and it's not about making deals.

The debate is about the health and safety of present and future Nevadans and about the appropriateness, equity and even morality of a national nuclear-waste disposal policy that seeks to victimize one state and one region out of pure political expediency. ■

Robert Loux is executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, the state agency charged with overseeing the federal government's Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository program.

BULLETIN BOARD

ADAM'S RIB

The Colorado Environmental Coalition hopes to drum up opposition to the development of a new resort town and ski area, called Adam's Rib, 17 miles southeast of Eagle, Colo. Since the 1970s, the HBE Corporation of St. Louis has quietly been buying ranches in the Brush Creek area near Eagle. There it plans to build five lodges, a performing arts center, commercial mall, a sports facility, 2,491 condominium units, convention center and a transportation system. Opponents say it will not only destroy a scenic valley but also almost 50 acres of high-mountain wetlands. In 1980, the Forest Service issued a special-use permit to resort developers, which will allow the construction of ski runs. Now HBE Corp. needs only one more permit—a 404 construction permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Rocky Smith, forest management coordinator for the Colorado Environmental Coalition, says the Army Corps' environmental impact statement showed major impacts on the area from Adam's Rib. "Why Califormicate such a beautiful valley when we have Vail so nearby?" he asks. The public may still contact the Army Corps, but its approval is expected at any time. For more information call the Colorado Environmental Coalition at 303/837-8701. To comment on the proposed project, write to Col. Laurence R. Sadoff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2922.

LET THE PROCESS BEGIN

After five years of informal and sometimes acrimonious public meetings, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says it will begin an environmental impact statement on the reintroduction of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho. By 1994, the agency plans to issue a final decision. Galen Buterbaugh, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said that drafting an EIS would be a difficult task. "Wolf Recovery and management are very polarized, controversial and emotional issues involving people in virtually all segments of the public," he said. Anyone interested in wolf reintroduction and helping to develop the environmental impact statement should contact Ed Bangs, project leader for the gray wolf EIS, P.O. Box 8017, Helena, MT 59601 (406/449-5202).

CUTTING TREES IN NEW MEXICO

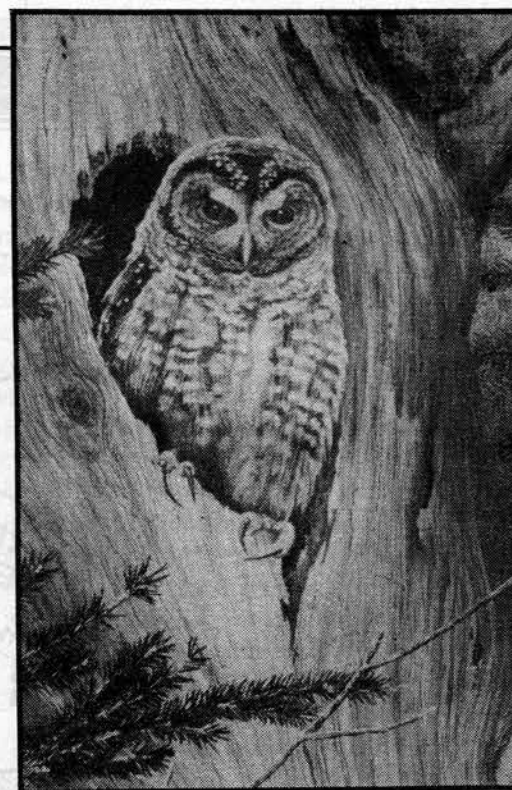
Carson National Forest, in northern New Mexico, is taking public comments on how many trees should be cut and where they should be harvested. The forest includes the 73,400-acre Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit, established in 1948 to support local mills. Environmentalists and loggers joined forces in Vallecitos recently to halt what they consider excessive logging on the Carson forest (HCN, 1/27/92). The Forest Service denies a problem exists. Its recently completed tree inventory concludes that "we aren't running out of big trees," according to Andy Lindquist, forest supervisor. But critics say the Forest Service is selling 5.5 million board-feet of timber a year when it should sell no more than 4 million board-feet. A million board-feet is about what 200 logging trucks can carry. In addition, environmentalists want a 13,000-acre area within the Vallecitos withdrawn from timber production because it contains old-growth trees. For more information or to comment on tree cutting, contact Gary Schiff, Carson National Forest, P.O. Box 558, Taos, NM 87571 (505/758-6307).

NEVADA GOLD MINE WANTS TO EXPAND

Newmont Gold Company, the largest gold producer in the United States, wants to expand its open-pit operation in western Nevada. The company is preparing an environmental impact statement to determine the effects of two new pits, an expanded gold quarry pit, which measured five square miles in 1989, larger waste dumps, new heap-leach pads for cyanide leaching, and a reservoir. The company extracts gold by trickling a cyanide and water solution through mined rock, which leaches out the gold. The process, however, uses large amounts of water. Dave Vandenberg, EIS team leader for the Bureau of Land Management, says his agency is concerned about the effects dewatering will have on surface and groundwater quality and quantity, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries. Newmont's expansion would disturb about 800 acres of public land and 1,600 acres of private land and extend the life of Newmont's mine for eight years. Scoping meetings are planned April 7 and 8 in Elko and Reno, Nev. Written comments will be accepted through April 24. The draft EIS is expected to be completed this December. To comment on the EIS or for more information, contact Rodney Harris, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Gold Quarry EIS Coordinator, P.O. Box 831, Elko, NV 89801 (702/753-0200).

A VISION OF RECOVERY

A conference at the University of Colorado April 24-26 will examine threatened ecosystems in the Rockies. Called "Working Towards the Vision of Native Wildland Recovery," the conference offers panels and workshops with Chris Maser, author and consultant on sustainable forestry; Dave Foreman, co-founder of Earth First!; Michael Soule, chair of the board of environmental studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz; and George Wuerthner, environmental writer and wildlife biologist. The conference's sponsor is the University of Colorado Wilderness Study Group; admission is \$20. For more information, call 303/492-6870 or write CU-Wilderness Study Group, UMC 183, Campus Box 207, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.



Michelle Mara

Northern spotted owl

NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

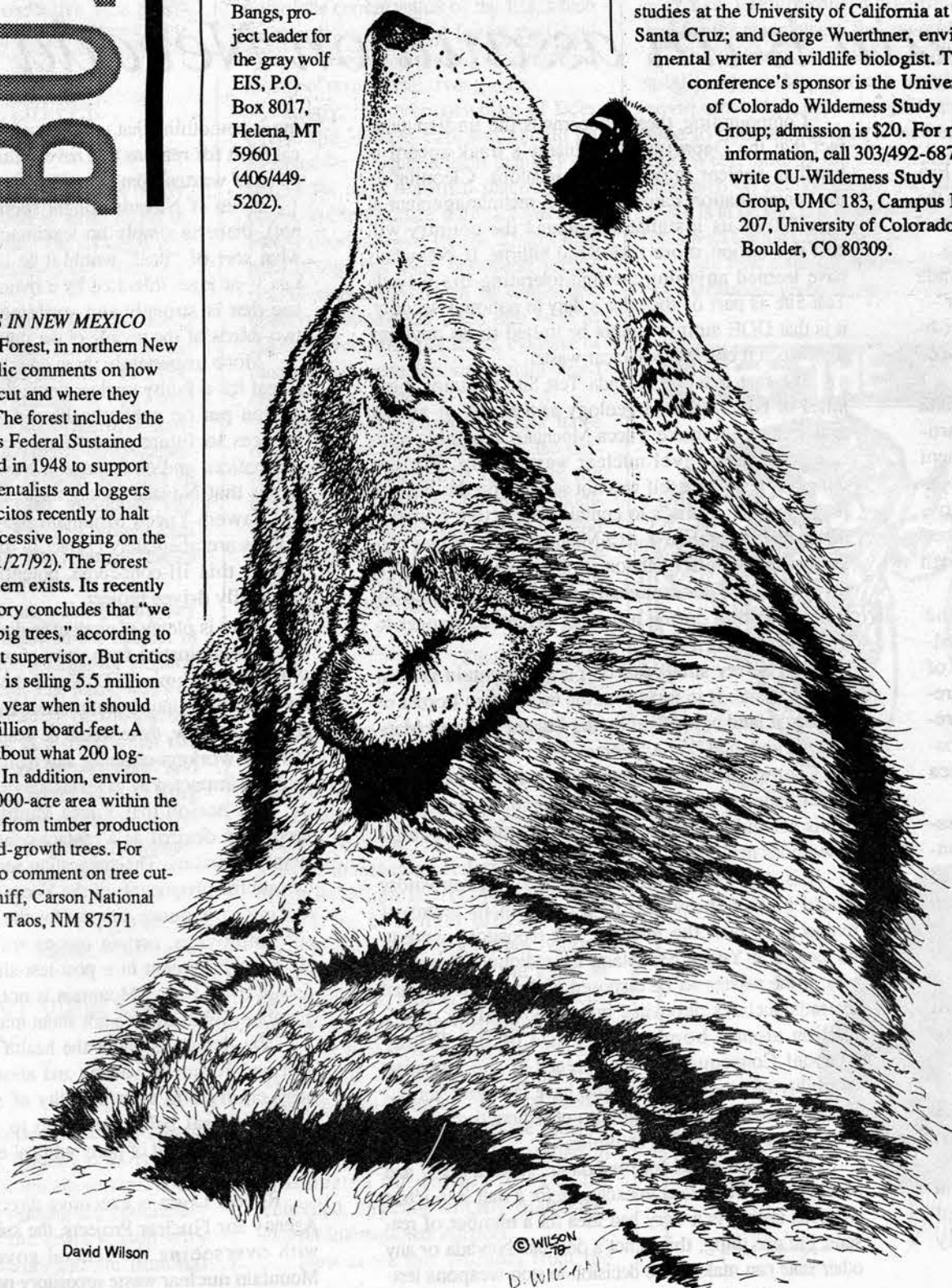
Today through Thursday, April 6-9, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society celebrates its 10th anniversary with a conference on managing fish and wildlife resources. Topics cover everything from managing forest resources on Indian land and the implications of the Endangered Species Act upon Indian resource management, to the Yakima Indian Nation's management plan to protect the northern spotted owl. Speakers include Peterson Zah, president of the Navajo Nation, Gary Edwards, second in command at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Billy Frank, chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. The conference costs \$85 and is set at the Quality Hotel Four Seasons in Albuquerque, N.M. For more information contact the society at 750 Burbank St., Broomfield, CO 80020 (303/466-1725).

A REAL FISH STORY

Because people disagree about how to best save salmon, Idaho conservation groups, Indian tribes, Idaho's Department of Fish and Game and the Northwest Power Planning Council are co-sponsoring a seminar titled "The Real Story." It will consider the genetic implications of transplanting salmon and steelhead into streams that no longer have their own runs. The seminar, hosted by Idaho Steelhead and Salmon Unlimited, will be held at the Boise Convention Center April 10-11. Speakers include consultant Larry Riggs, who will discuss the differences between wild, natural and artificial production, and Ed Chaney of the Northwest Resource Information Center, who will discuss what happens when fish are transplanted. For more information write to Idaho Steelhead and Salmon Unlimited, P.O. Box 2294, Boise, ID 83702.

WIELD A PULASKI

Would you like to work this summer building or repairing a rugged trail that straddles the Continental Divide? The Colorado Trail Foundation needs volunteers for 19 week-long crews and five weekend crews in spectacular areas such as the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness and Mt. Holy Cross Wilderness. Some crews drive into areas, others backpack, and some are encouraged to bring fat-tire bikes along. For the past few years, the foundation's call for volunteers has attracted not only Coloradans, but also people from other parts of the country as well as abroad. Crew members, who must be at least 16 years of age or accompanied by an adult, are expected to bring sleeping bags, tents and eating utensils. The Forest Service and Colorado Trail Foundation furnish hard hats, tools and meals. Registration is \$25. For a list of dates and trip offerings, write the Colorado Trail Foundation, P.O. Box 260876, Lakewood, CO 80226-0876.



David Wilson

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