

High Country News

December 13, 1993

Vol. 25 No. 23

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar and fifty cents

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die 1,000
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Jack Ward Thomas: Hail to the chief



Mary Annette Pember/The Oregonian

Jack Ward Thomas and Margaret Thomas

by Steve Stuebner

LA GRANDE, Ore. — A year ago, Jack Ward Thomas, 59, was beginning to see his career as having passed its peak. His wife, Margaret, had just been diagnosed with colon cancer, and his thoughts were on her, his family and retirement.

So when Clinton administration officials talked to the 27-year Forest Service veteran about taking on a major job, he quickly, flatly turned them down.

But Margaret Thomas had other ideas, recalls Thomas today. "She caught wind of it and said, 'Hell, we've been married 37 years, and that's the first time in your life that you've ever made a career decision without talking to me about it.'"

"I said, 'What is there to talk about?'"

"She said, 'I think you made a mistake. Here's an opportunity at a critical moment to perhaps make some changes and carry out some things you've worked for your whole life ... hell, I don't see how you can refuse that. There is such a thing as duty.'"

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HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Dear friends,

New low price!

It is not too early to think about what you will be wearing on the trails or rivers this summer. Which brings us to the few dozen *HCN* T-shirts, with Diane Sylvain's evocative drawing of a mountain goat, that remain on our shelves. In aqua, we are best supplied with large and medium sizes, with a few extra-large shirts also available. In the color oatmeal, with the goat design in red, we have only medium and small.

To clear the shelves, we offer these 1993 design shirts for \$10 each, a huge markdown from the normal \$12.

Corrections and emendations

The Nov. 29 column by Gregory McNamee on crowding at the Grand Canyon promoted Nick Clark, a staff member with the National Parks and Conservation Association, to president. The president is actually Paul Pritchard. Several issues back, on Nov. 1, a Hotline changed the last name of an NPCA staffer; the correct name is David Simon.

Dr. James C. Halfpenny of Gardiner, Mont., writes to say that a Nov. 29 Hotline on the hantavirus left a misleading impression when it said that a Great Falls, Mont., victim of the virus kept mice as household pets. He says the victim's pets tested negative for the virus. Halfpenny says the only rodent thus far implicated in the epidemic is the common deer mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus*, and he hopes that people will not dispose of household pets or trap squirrels, prairie dogs, chipmunks, et al, unless they are implicated at some future time.

Visitors

Visitors dwindle during the winter, throwing the *HCN* staff onto its (limited) resources. Which makes the few people who do come through all the more welcome. Subscribers Walter and Verla Kohrman, who work for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Page, Ariz., stopped by on their way to a Thanksgiving dinner in Longmont, Colo.

Rancher Peggy Godfrey, a cowboy poet, came by for what turned into an informal seminar on sheep raising. Sheep are supposed to be fragile animals — born with one foot in the grave, and unsuited for the open range — but Peggy said, "Mine seem to be survivors." Their toughness may be helped by the predator repellent she douses them with, and by the fact that she has a farm flock of only

An historic event

"Historic" is a word that was given a bad name in the 1970s by space stunts. We can see in retrospect, having just yawned our way through another NASA weekend, that Elvis Presley was more "historic" than Neil Armstrong.

At the risk of damaging the word even more, we think this issue is about an historic event: the changing of the guard at the century-old U.S. Forest Service. For this change to be effective, it must take place on two levels. Clearly, there has been a change at the top: Jack Ward Thomas comes out of a different tradition than past chiefs, and the Clinton administration deserves full credit for having appointed him.

But the Thomas appointment will be meaningless unless there is also change from below — change of the kind illustrated by this issue's profile of District Ranger Melissa Blackwell.

Page 15 of this issue also contains a letter from White River National Forest Supervisor Veto LaSalle, who believes that my editorial on the opposition to Thomas by 70 forest supervisors was off the wall. In LaSalle's view, the supervisors were simply trying to safeguard the independence of the agency. Their opposition was not against Thomas, he writes, but against the precedent his appointment has set.

To LaSalle, the Forest Service is still a proud, independent organization, capable and worthy of setting its own course. In my view, the agency's former leadership led it into receivership. Were the Forest Service a corporation, it would be in bankruptcy court. The Clinton administration would have been justified in appointing a "bankruptcy judge" — a tough, outside political type to redo the Forest Service by *force majeure*. Instead, the administration has chosen a leader who is both loyal to the agency and who appears to be loyal to a new approach to the forests. In their letter opposing Thomas, the 70 forest supervisors refer to their collective experience of over 1,000 years. It's

60 or so animals.

She also has a philosophy. "I think sheep need intimacy to thrive. And sheep contribute more to me than just income and food. It's not just a quirk that sheep are the basis for scriptural wisdom." Peggy also raises cattle.

amazing that that much experience could be so wrong.

In his letter, LaSalle refers to the fact that my editorial attack on the Gunnison National Forest has been corrected, but that nothing has appeared in print. Gunnison Forest Supervisor Bob Storch did come by in mid-November to talk about two errors in the Sept. 20, 1993, editorial, "It's time to clearcut the Forest Service."

The statement, "The latest supervisor, Robert Storch, has just proposed oil and gas leasing for almost every square foot of the forest," was an exaggeration. Only 950,000 acres out of the 3.1 million acre forest were analyzed for oil and gas leasing; 85 percent of the analyzed land was put up for leasing.

The editorial also complained about a festering three-mile-long linear clearcut ranchers use to move cows back and forth between two wilderness pastures. Storch walked the clearcut. While all of it is an eyesore, he said only a few hundred feet of the Beckwith stock driveway represents a threat to the resource, in terms of erosion and destruction of a stream, and the agency is planning to repair that section.

I apologize for the mistakes.

More generally, the editorial used the recent sorry history of the Gunnison National Forest as an example of how the U.S. Forest Service operates throughout the West. After talking with Storch, I had the feeling that the story of the Gunnison National Forest may be different in the future. He has pushed tenaciously to change the forest's travel management plan, despite fanatic opposition from ORVs whose identity depends on their freedom to trash the forest. The fight over travel management even reached Washington, D.C., where it became a part of the struggle over grazing reform. Less publicly, Storch has been working hard to change the internal culture of his forest staff — a culture that has not always been marked by full respect between the sexes.

— Ed Marston, publisher

She was on her way to give a reading in nearby Montrose from her home in Moffat, Colo., in the San Luis Valley, where it had already been 15 degrees below zero by mid-November.

— Betsy Marston for the staff

HOTLINE

Congress balks MRS grants

Congress has cut off funding for a program that enticed Indian tribes and county governments to consider hosting high-level nuclear waste. Since 1991, the Department of Energy has awarded \$1.7 million in grants to nine Indian tribes and three counties to study whether they want a monitored retrievable storage facility in their backyards. The MRS is planned to hold spent fuel from commercial nuclear reactors for up to 40 years until a permanent repository is opened. Grants to the tribes and counties ranged from as little as \$290 to \$300,000 depending on the progress of talks with the federal nuclear waste negotiator. The longer tribal or county governments were willing to study the idea the more money they got. Four

Indian tribes advanced the furthest in the negotiations: the Mescalero Apaches in New Mexico, the Skull Valley Goshutes in Utah, the Fort McDermitt Paiutes and Shoshones on the border of Nevada and Oregon, and the Tonkawa Tribe in Oklahoma. The Mescaleros and Goshutes had applied for \$2.8 million phase II-B grants, the highest level of study grants in the program. Before a tribe can get any more money now, a DOE spokesperson said, it must agree to accept the MRS facility.

Maybe another wolf

Yellowstone National Park biologists can't confirm if a video shot by three men in Hayden Valley in October shows an endangered gray wolf. Even if it does, the finding will likely have no effect on plans to re-introduce the wolf

to Yellowstone. Steve Fritts, wolf recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says a lone wolf has limited biological significance. "We're looking for a breeding population." Fish and Wildlife has proposed releasing Canadian wolves in Yellowstone and in central Idaho beginning October 1994. But if a viable wolf population — two breeding pairs, with pups — is discovered in either location before then, federal law would require the agency to forego reintroduction and protect the existing packs instead. Fritts says the possible sighting of a lone wolf in Yellowstone this year, and two confirmed sightings of single wolves in Wyoming last year indicate no wolf packs live in the park yet. "A wolf pack would leave a lot more evidence," Fritts adds. "It wouldn't stay secret for very long."

WESTERN ROUNDUP



Aerial view of the Dixie National Forest in Utah

Ken Rait/Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Logging firms scour the West for trees

A helicopter hovers over 9,000-foot ridges of the Markagunt Plateau in southern Utah. Below, lumberjacks secure to a cable a load of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, now felled and stripped of their limbs. The helicopter then lifts and veers north, to a staging area a few miles away. Crews there bundle the giant trees onto logging trucks, which grind their way down steep dirt roads through some of the oldest forests in Utah. This is remote public land that supports mule deer, elk, black bear, goshawk, peregrine falcon and three-toed woodpecker.

At rail yards in Cedar City, 40 miles away, workers move the logs onto flatbed cars of the Union Pacific Railroad for a 620-mile train trip to Emmett, Idaho.

It may sound like a lot of handling for 1.6 million board-feet of trees, but this scenario is set to unfold as soon as snow melts next spring on Utah's Dixie National Forest. It is not an isolated event: Another Fortune 500 company, Louisiana-Pacific, based in Portland, Ore., recently purchased 4.2 million board-feet of Dixie Forest trees in an area just south of the Cedar Breaks.

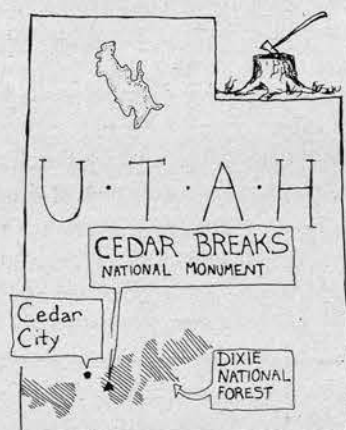
This long-distance search is the latest phenomenon in the race for timber around the West. To Utah conservationists and some local officials, whose communities depend heavily on the timber industry, it is an unwelcome development.

Panguitch mayor Maloy Dodds says his town's only sawmill laid off 19 workers for lack of timber. "If they (Boise Cascade) take that timber up to Idaho to cut, it will have a detrimental effect on our economy," the mayor says.

Environmentalists believe the unprecedented sales to out-of-state giants such as Boise Cascade and Louisiana-Pacific will further degrade the Dixie National Forest.

"The (Dixie's) forest policy is over-cutting the forest," says Stan Boicourt, an adviser to a local watchdog group, Friends of the Dixie National Forest. "The forest should cut only 5 or 6 million board-feet a year, but they have not seen fit to lower it to that level."

According to Dixie Forest Supervisor



Hugh Thompson, the Dixie intends to cut more than 17 million board-feet per year. Friends of Dixie and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance have argued for years that the timber industry — not sound forest management — has driven timber sales on the Dixie. They say competition from out of state will only worsen that situation.

Boise Cascade officials say they went to Utah for timber for only one reason: the spotted owl controversy in the Northwest, which halted many timber sales.

Federal Judge William Dwyer halted timber sales in the owl's old-growth habitat until the Forest Service comes up with a reasonable protection plan (HCN, 7/26/93). The stalemate has sent Oregon and Washington companies such as Snow Mountain Pine and Ellingson Lumber into Idaho for timber, forcing Idaho companies to look beyond their state borders, says Dave Van De Graaff, regional timber

lands manager for Boise Cascade.

"It's kind of a domino effect ... throwing our whole industry into a state of imbalance," Van De Graaff says. "(Northwest companies) are willing to bid high prices to stay in business, so we're looking for opportunities to the east and south to make up the difference."

Ken Rait, issues coordinator for SUWA, says blaming the spotted owl is "garbage." Boise Cascade "raped the forests of the Northwest and now they've come to Utah to do the same to ours," he charges.

Although the Panguitch Lake timber sale must be taken out by helicopter because of the steep terrain and then shipped by rail, the trees are still profitable for Boise Cascade. Van De Graaff says a comparable cut in Idaho would cost the company \$300 per 1,000 board-feet. In Utah, the company will pay the Dixie National Forest about \$74 per 1,000 board-feet, for a total of \$168,000. Forest Service officials say this sale helps them combat a bark-beetle infestation that affects tens of millions of board-feet.

To Ken Rait and other critics of Dixie Forest management, the salvage sale isn't justified since the trees aren't necessarily in need of "saving." The sale "makes Utah a third-world state exporting unprocessed natural resources," Rait charges.

For more information about Dixie National Forest issues, contact the Forest Supervisor, 82 N. 100 East, Box 0580, Cedar City, UT 84721; Friends of Dixie National Forest 801/628-2028; or Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 1471 S. 1100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105.

— Brent Israelsen

The writer works for the *Deseret News* in Salt Lake City, Utah.

HOTLINE

Jobs flow to WIPP

Shortly after killing its long-contested plans to bring medium-level nuclear wastes to the \$8 billion Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, the Department of Energy announced that it will add 68 jobs to the project's 1,000-person payroll. WIPP won't open before 1998, after lab experiments elsewhere test whether the 2,150-foot-deep salt beds are a safe burial ground. Nevertheless, the added jobs will go to a new waste management center in Carlsbad, while other jobs will be moved from Albuquerque to Carlsbad. Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest lobbied intensely for the jobs: He and other town leaders met with Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary four times to make their case. Veteran WIPP critic Don Hancock said the DOE's decision to add the jobs was "pork-barrel politics." Since 1988, the project's estimated lifetime construction and operating cost has quadrupled.

Salvage sales assailed

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Idaho Sportsmen's Coalition and other environmental groups have sued the Forest Service to block 30 salvage timber sales totaling 40 million board-feet in Idaho. The group says the Forest Service has shielded sales of dead and dying timber from public scrutiny in defiance of legislation passed by Congress in 1992. That law upheld citizens' rights to appeal timber sales (HCN, 10/19/92), but Mike Bader, executive director of the Alliance, says the Forest Service has blocked citizens from exercising their right to do so. In addition, the agency is lowering timber prices because the timber is damaged. In a contested sale along the Selway River, the Forest Service recently slashed prices 53 percent in response to timber officials' complaints that \$188 per thousand board-feet was an unreasonable price for fire-damaged timber, reports AP. A controlled burn that ran wild created the burn area, says Bader. "They're so desperate to get logs out of the forest they'll do anything. They'll burn it down and they'll break the law."

BARBS

If future generations want us to stop stealing their natural heritage, they'll have to pay for it.

An official of Plum Creek Timber recently told a House of Representatives committee that the U.S. should issue tax-exempt bonds to fund protection of endangered species and ancient forests. This would "spread the cost of current environmental conservation efforts to the generations who will reap the benefits of a healthier environment," James Kraft told AP.

HOTLINE

The return of Tom Horn?

A secret society named for a legendary gunman of the old West has threatened the Bureau of Land Management. "If you think Reno was something, you haven't seen nothing yet," said a letter mailed to director Jim Baca after the bombing of the BLM's Nevada state office on Halloween. The letter was signed by the "Tom Horn Society" and postmarked from North Platte, Neb., according to a spokesperson at the BLM office in Reno. Tom Horn was a government scout, and "hired killer" in the late 1800s, according to *The Reader's Encyclopedia of the American West*. As a livestock detective in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, Tom Horn's job was to hunt and kill rustlers and scare off settlers. Whenever a man was found mysteriously murdered on the plains, wrote biographer Jay Monaghan, people said, "Somebody Tom-Horned that fellow." The BLM is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the Reno bombing. There are suspects in the case, a BLM spokesperson said, but no arrests have been made. Anyone with information can call BLM law enforcement at 1-800/521-6501 or 702/785-6448.

**Jaccuse in Oregon**

An Oregon conservation group applied for a Forest Service reward Oct. 20, saying it had identified vandals who desecrated an archaeological site in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The guilty party is the Forest Service, charges environmental activist Ric Bailey. He says a \$3.1 million complex of roads and recreation sites completed last summer allowed access to a once remote part of the canyon. Soon after the work was completed, 3,000-year-old petroglyphs at Pittsburg Landing were vandalized (*HCN*, 8/23/93). "The (Forest Service) has itself defaced, and aided in the further defacement of the most significant archaeological site in Hells Canyon," says Bailey. But Bailey and his group, the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, don't want the reward money. Instead, Bailey continues to press for the National Park Service to take over management of the canyon. "It's time to fire the Forest Service and appoint a competent caretaker that can protect the canyon's sacred sites instead of exploiting and degrading them," he says. District Ranger Ed Cole says that the Forest Service archaeologists and the Nez Perce Tribe worked together to develop a plan for the area. Although Cole says the tribe initially supported the development plan, the Nez Perce now want the road removed and more protection for the site. The Forest Service says it will form a task force including members from the tribe to consider revising its recreation plan.

Groups say rich ranchers get free ride

CHALLIS, Idaho — A federal grazing allotment utilized by two of the richest men in America is at the center of a controversy in Idaho.

The "ranchers" are David Packard and William Hewlett, who founded electronics giant Hewlett-Packard. Their cattle graze the San Felipe allotment — 90,000 acres of isolated desert land between the Big Lost and White Cloud mountains.

Environmentalists and scientists say the land, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, has been in poor condition for years and continues to deteriorate.

Dave Nelson, who runs the ranch for Packard and Hewlett, disagrees. While the land there has been overgrazed in the past, Nelson says, "we got into management and it's not 100 percent, but it's a helluva lot better than it was."

Two BLM reports done 12 years apart, however, support environmentalists' contentions. In 1979, the agency termed the allotment a "non-functioning" natural area and called for animal unit months to be cut in half — from 7,393 to 3,788 — in order to halt range damage on the San Felipe. An AUM is the grass needed to feed a cow and calf for one month.

Packard appealed the plan and threatened legal action if it were enforced. Negotiations between Packard and the BLM resulted in a plan for phased-in reductions, but the plan was not implemented.

The second agency report, in 1991, said "severe utilization and loss of riparian vegetation is evident on the upper springs sources." The BLM again cited the importance of reducing the number of cattle on the allotment.

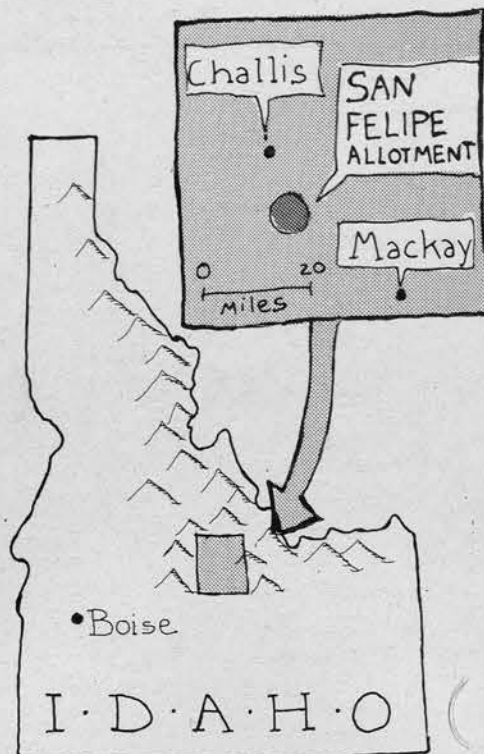
Today, the condition of the range is evident to even a casual observer. Aspens along Broken Wagon Creek are dead, and the creek itself has disappeared below the ground. Aging willows stand on pedestals of dirt where the constant trampling of hooves has worn away the surrounding soils. The rest of the stream flows several feet below the surrounding landscape due to erosive downcutting.

Kentucky bluegrass has replaced the native bunch grasses, and in early October it is as short as a golfing green. The springs that act as headwaters for Broken Wagon Creek are muddied and pockmarked with hoof prints from both cattle and wild horses.

Environmentalists such as Pat Ford are angry that the BLM has not required compliance from Packard and Hewlett's ranch management. "It gives the lie to noble words about stewardship and family ranching," Ford wrote to BLM Director James Baca. "It says instead that money, power and the status quo are in the saddle at BLM, and will stay in the saddle."

"The BLM didn't stick to its word," says Beth Wendel, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation in Denver. "The basic environmental destruction is bad, but the breach of faith is especially disturbing."

BLM officials agree that many proposed range improvements have not been done, but give a variety of reasons, including budget. One constraint is that much of the allotment is in wilderness study areas, where BLM rules pro-



hibit building water troughs and fences.

Instead of forcing reductions, local BLM officials have sought to nudge ranchers into making changes. The allotment was included in an Experimental Stewardship Program, which brought local ranchers and others together to make recommendations for range management.

Roy Jackson, Salmon BLM district manager, says the approach has helped convince ranchers of the value of good management. Packard's and Hewlett's ranch manager, Nelson, has been very cooperative, Jackson adds.

But one stewardship program board member quit because he felt little was accomplished.

"I don't think the cattlemen changed their attitude or their way of doing business," says Keith Axline, an Idaho Conservation League board member from Challis.

The BLM's 1991 analysis of the San Felipe allotment would seem to support Axline's contention. It said much of the allotment remains in poor-to-fair condition. "With current stocking levels, it will not be possible to either rest any pasture, reduce utilization significantly or change the season and duration of use as needed," the report said.

On a recent range tour of the San Felipe allotment, it was evident that when riparian areas are protected they can rebound. Keeping cattle away resulted in lush grasses, young willows and other resurgent growth. But, Jackson says,

Road Creek is the only streamside area BLM staff has the resources to improve. And Nelson protests that fencing creeks would force the Packard-Hewlett Ranch to reduce its numbers unless it built an expensive series of watering troughs on higher ground.

Jackson says the agency is rethinking its management plan, although he believes nothing will change if the ranchers refuse to cooperate. Environmentalists, frustrated by the long non-compliance on the San Felipe with BLM proposals, want a tougher approach. If the agency can't make Packard and Hewlett comply with the nation's environmental laws, they ask, how will it ever convince less affluent ranchers to make the necessary changes in management?

"We're talking about two of the richest men in America," environmentalist Jon Marvel protested to the BLM's Jackson during the range tour. "David Packard's and William Hewlett's livelihood won't change a bit no matter what you do here."

The controversy came to a head last month as the hearing date of an appeal filed by the National Wildlife Federation and other groups came closer. The groups had appealed the BLM's current management plan to a Department of Interior administrative law judge, demanding that the BLM reduce grazing to the level it ordered in 1979.

The Nov. 30 hearing was averted, however, when the parties negotiated for two days in Boise and reached tentative agreement. BLM District Manager Roy Jackson said his staff will fill in the details and report back Feb. 1. Resolution came, Jackson said, when scientists from both sides hammered out a plan that would establish pasture-by-pasture guidelines for the timing and numbers of livestock to be grazed.

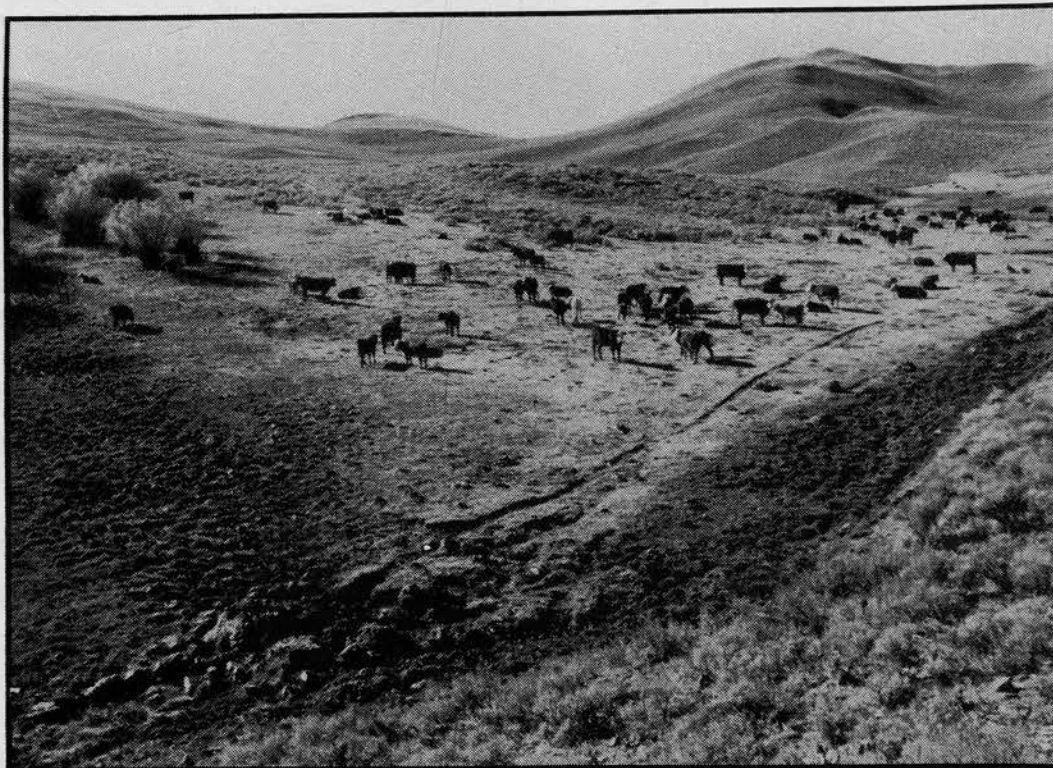
Linn Kincannon of the Idaho Conservation League in Ketchum, Idaho, cautioned that the agreement is by no means solid.

"They have to flesh it out before we're sure our concerns are being met. When grass in streamside areas is chewed down to a height of four inches, cattle should be removed and the area rested the next season," she said. "We're going to base our decision on that."

But Jackson said he is optimistic that this agreement will solve the problem.

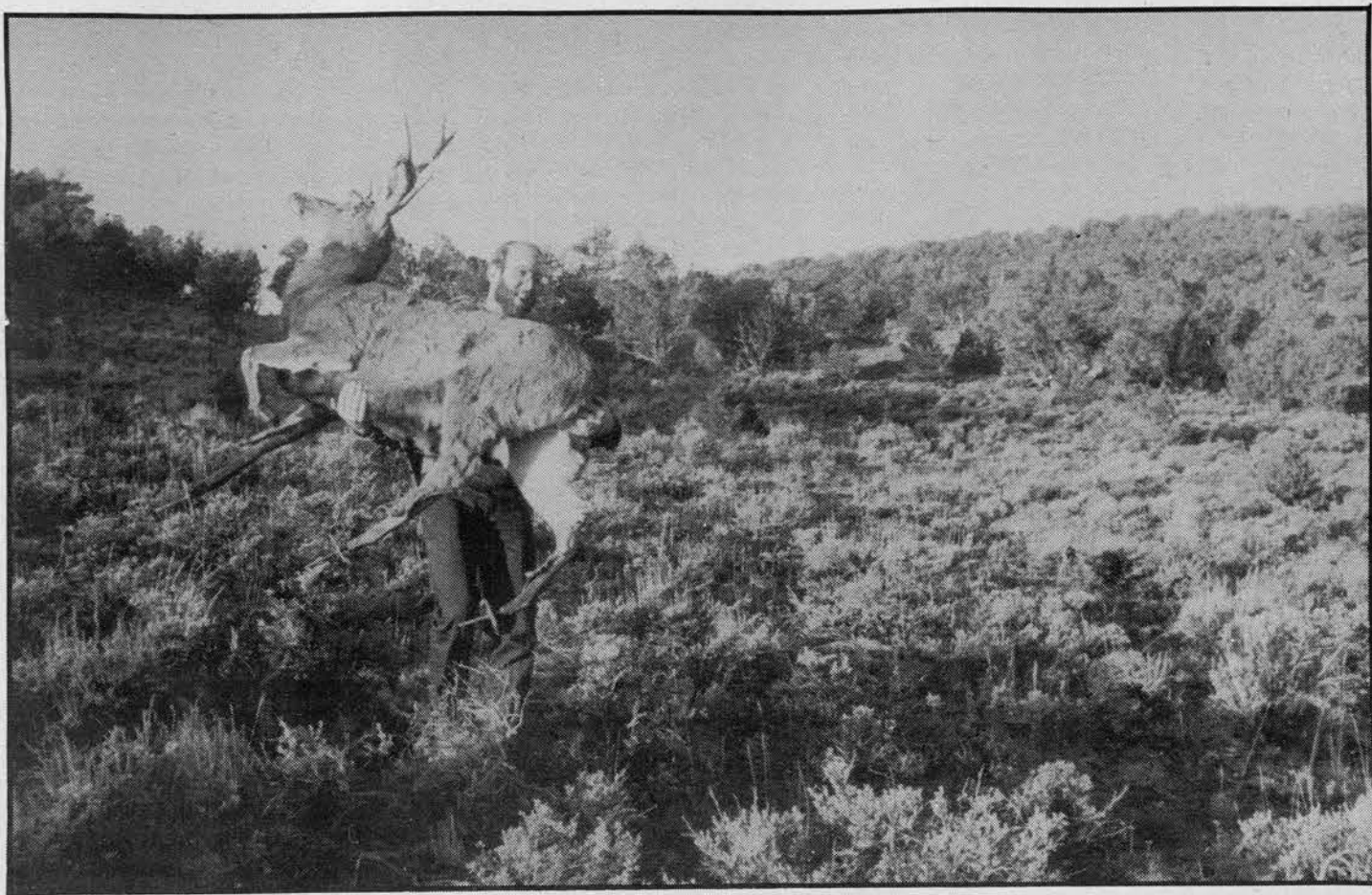
—Rocky Barker

The writer works for the *Idaho Falls Post-Register*.



Cows graze on the San Felipe allotment in Spring Basin, Idaho

Yvonne Stone



Kathy Heicher

Wildlife officer Craig Wescoatt carries Robodeer to its position

Faux deer draws faux hunters near Vail

Slowly his head moves: a three-point rack standing tall. His body racked with gunshot wounds, he still stands.

It's Robodeer, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's most effective tool in catching hunters who illegally shoot wildlife from their cars or the road.

Robodeer recently spent two days in a meadow near Vail, Colo. In five hours, DOW officers issued five tickets, four within 40 minutes.

"Some of them tried to deny it," said wildlife officer Bill Andree. "Others just grab their license and hand it over." It is illegal to shoot wildlife within 50 yards of the centerline of a road in Colorado, to spotlight deer, or to hunt at night.

Robodeer's fiberglass form is covered with a deer hide and antlers. Airplane motors and batteries allow wildlife officers to move Robodeer's head by remote control.

"We foresee him as a way to improve hunting ethics," said Andree. "A lot of hunters have walked all day, they're tired and they see an easy way to get a deer. We're also trying to get them to think about non-hunters. Think about how a non-hunter would feel if he saw someone shooting at a deer from the side of the road."

Robodeer is the DOW's third version of the decoy. The first, named Elwood, was a plywood cutout of a buck propped

up by a shovel. One roadside shooter happened to hit the shovel, sending Elwood down in a realistic finale.

It was so realistic, that even after she had been ticketed, the shooter was convinced the deer was real, and wanted to clean it and take it home.

Not everyone attacks the fake deer with guns.

Wildlife officer Bill Heicher, who has worked with decoys in the Eagle Valley for several years, says a surprising number of passers-by shoot photos, no doubt marveling that their subject stands so still. And others try to scare the deer away, probably so it won't wander onto the road and get hit by a car.

Andree recalls the time two men saw the deer, jumped out of their car, then yelled and waved their arms for 15-20 seconds while a third man stayed in the vehicle and honked the horn. When it didn't move, the men took more drastic measures. One picked up a baseball-sized rock and flung it at the deer. The rock connected with a loud clunk, and the wooden deer toppled over.

"Oh sure, now you've killed it," his companions chortled. They set the decoy back up and left.

One group of beginning hunters tried to creep up on the decoy, all the while expressing concern that the plywood deer might charge and gore them.

The wildlife officers are still chuckling about the guy who sneaked up on the decoy very slowly. The deer never moved, and the stalker kept moving closer and closer. Suddenly he reached out and seized the deer by its antlers, causing it to fall over. He meekly set it up and went on his way. He probably never knew wildlife officers were hiding close by.

Andree said dozens of hunters drove by without stopping when Robodeer was on display in October. Of the 10 hunters who did stop, half stalked the mechanical buck but were stopped short of taking out the robot when DOW officers jumped out of nearby bushes.

In the two years Robodeer has been on duty, he has taken his share of gunshot wounds. "Most of the shots would have been fatal," said Andree.

Is the decoy entrapment? "All we are doing is providing an opportunity to break the law," says Heicher. "People who shoot decoys are predisposed to do so. If that is entrapment, then any person who builds a bank is entrapping bank robbers."

Robodeer is scheduled to go in for repairs this winter and will emerge next year with a companion, a bull elk.

— Carol Kuzdek-Laird

The writer works for the *Vail/Beaver Creek Times*. Free-lancer Kathy Heicher contributed to this report.

HOTLINE

How many are there?

The House of Representatives passed a bill Oct. 26 which would launch a National Biological Survey. Critics call the proposal to catalog all plants and animals in the United States a Green Gestapo, while supporters see it as a biological Library of Congress. The Clinton administration hopes it will stave off conflicts such as occurred in the Northwest over logging and the northern spotted owl. "If it had been done in the Pacific Northwest," project advisor Thomas E. Lovejoy told the *Los Angeles Times*, "we could have seen the trouble 12 years ago." The bill received a hostile reaction, however, from property-rights advocates. A conference committee determining funding for the Interior Department has allocated \$163.5 million to the project, and a Senate bill is expected to be introduced early next year.

Clearcuts and the Clearwater

Ten environmental groups that sued the U.S. Forest Service in 1987 to block a logging plan in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest have agreed to an annual cut of 80 million board-feet while further studies are under way. The agency's management plan in 1987 expected 173 million board-feet to be sold annually, but opposition in court foiled all but a few of the sales. Veteran Forest Service biologist Al Espinosa resigned early this year in protest of the 1987 plan because he said it violated environmental laws to appease the timber industry (*HCN*, 1/25/93). Spokespersons from Sierra Club and Idaho Wilderness Society, which spearheaded the legal effort, called the news a victory. Dennis Baird of the Sierra Club says, "It's time to do a good and sound job of planning and keep politics out of the process." However, timber officials called the settlement a travesty. Jim Riley of the Intermountain Forestry Association said, "This deal smacks of the worst kind of politics, the kind of political charade that brings real hurt to real people."

Wanderlust West

A record number of Germans are abandoning Greece and other traditional vacation hot spots for the wonders of the American West. The number of German tourists visiting Arizona climbed 18 percent this year, reports the *Washington Post*, and at the Grand Canyon, the increase in German tourists is so dramatic that many tour guides are learning to speak German. Driving the *Deutsch* deluge is a fascination with Western history, a strong exchange rate and a love of wide open spaces. "In Europe they aren't used to these humongous open spaces. They are really awed by it all," says Richard Ullmann, a Grand Canyon park ranger. German tourists also seem to differ notably from many Americans, says Gary Booth, owner of Apache riding stables. He characterizes the typical American response to the Grand Canyon as, "OK, yeah, that's a big hole."

HOTLINE

Mining reform moves closer

By a vote of 316-108, the House of Representatives passed a bill to reform the 1872 Mining Law. The bill would completely overhaul the law governing mining of gold, silver and other hardrock minerals on federal lands. It would abolish the patenting or privatizing of mining claims, charge an 8 percent royalty on the gross production of mines, set up federal environmental regulations and reclamation standards, and allow federal land managers to declare some public

lands unsuitable for mining. The bill's reclamation standards and unsuitability reviews were scaled back somewhat from the original bill, and an amendment was tacked onto the bill to use royalties to pay for any "takings" of private property that the bill may cause. The legislation next goes to a House-Senate conference committee that will begin meeting after Congress reconvenes in January. The Senate version of the bill would charge only a 2 percent royalty on the net profits of mines and allow miners to buy their mining claims for the fair market value of the surface land. Congressional staffers said the conference com-

mittee promises to be large and contentious. During floor debate on the legislation, Western representatives signaled some of the changes they would seek in conference committee, including further weakening of the reclamation and unsuitability provisions of the bill. The mining industry has successfully resisted reform in previous years, but this time seems different. "The uncertainty in Congress is hampering financing on Wall Street," explained a congressional staffer who has worked on mining reform for many years. "The mining industry needs to get this issue behind them."

Unclassifieds

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION seeks Outreach Coordinators for the Northwest and Midwest to recruit and mobilize activists and work with local media to strengthen the federal endangered species program. Grass-roots experience required. Salary: \$25,000. Send résumé to: Endangered Species Coalition, Grass-roots Coordinator, 666 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003. (2x22b)

PATAGONIA, ARIZONA Rothrock Cottage for rent by the day or week. 2 bedroom cottage with complete kitchen, private patio and bicycles. Close to all birding spots in southeastern Arizona. For brochure and information please call or write to: P.O. Box 526, Patagonia, AZ 85624 or 602/394-2952.

OUTDOOR SINGLES NETWORK, established bi-monthly newsletter, ages 19-90, no forwarding fees, \$35/1-year, \$7/trial issue and information. OSN-HCN, P.O. Box 2031, McCall, ID 83638. (6x17p)



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THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION is hiring a Field Representative to work in the Wyoming portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem on a broad range of programs and issues, and to develop active constituencies. For a detailed job description, please write to GYC, Box 1874, Bozeman, MT 59771, or call 406/586-1593. Application deadline is Jan. 6, 1994. (4x21b)

"OUTDOOR PEOPLE AD-Venture" lists 60-word descriptions of active, outdoor-oriented singles and trip companions nationwide. \$3/issue, \$12/ad. Outdoor People-HCN, P.O. Box 600, Gaston, SC 29053. (6x19p)

In the Words of Edward Abbey

**SOCIETY IS
LIKE A STEW.
IF YOU DON'T
KEEP IT STIRRED UP,
YOU GET A LOT OF
SCUM ON TOP.**

Edward Abbey

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Rubber Stamps featuring the irreverent wit & general world view gleaned from Ed Abbey's writings. For flyer of Abbey quotes, Send 29 cent S.A.S.E. 48 pg Rubber Poet Catalogue (includes Abbey quotes) \$2.00/ refundable Rubber Poet, Box 1011-HC, Rockville, Utah 84763

HOUSE EXCHANGE. We are planning to spend a few weeks in the U.S.A. next summer ('94) and would like to arrange a house swap with a family interested in staying in England for a similar period. Elizabeth and I have two children aged 12 and 14. We live in Somerset in the West Country, in a 3-4 bedroom house and run a three-acre organic holding. If you are interested and would like further details, please do contact us. Martin Wall, Ginger Farm, West Monkton, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8NN, England. Tel day: 0884/243090. Evenings 0823/412837. (3x23b)

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MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION seeks Central Montana (Great Falls) community organizer to increase public support for wilderness. Communication and organizing skills required. \$18,000-20,000/yr. Full job description from MWA, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624 (406/443-7350). Deadline Jan. 14. (2x23b)

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CATALOG for remote homes. Solar electric, wind, hydroelectric generators, wood-fired hot tubs, composting toilets and more. \$2.50, refundable with order. Yellow Jacket Solar, Box 60H, Lewis, CO 81327.

THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION IS SEARCHING FOR A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the nation's premier regional environmental organizations, headquartered in Bozeman, seeks a person with strong leadership qualities who will have a deep commitment to the well being of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The capacity to deal with a wide range of environmental issues and experience with public policy processes are required. Knowledge of the West is a plus. Communications and fund-raising skills are expected. He/she will head a staff of 17 administering an annual budget of \$1 million. To apply, contact E.K. Hamilton, 10 Universal City Plaza, Ste. 1960, Los Angeles, CA 91608; phone 818/509-7339 (voice); 818/509-7331 (fax).

SUPPORT GRASS-ROOTS ACTIVISM

Today's important environmental battles are being fought and won at the local level. That's why the work of New West Research is so essential. New West Research aids activists on the frontlines with a wide variety of support services, ranging from public relations and networking to research and bureaucracy-busting. Issues we've worked on run the gamut from wildlife protection and grazing reform to free speech and corporate accountability.

Please help support the work of grass-roots activists with a tax-deductible donation. Make your check payable to New West Research/Tides Foundation and send to P.O. Box 401, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or call Pat Wolff at 505/989-1663 for more information. Thank you!



SAVE COLORADO!

Controlled by the United States Air Force, the Colorado Air National Guard is trying to steal the air space over wilderness, private lands, homes and ranches in southern Colorado. They want to establish low level training areas and fly their F-16s at **TREE TOP LEVEL, SIX DAYS A WEEK!**

They want to establish low level military training areas to be held in **PERPETUITY (FOREVER).**

WE WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE TO STOP THEM!

The recently passed Colorado Wilderness Bill, which protects 900,000 acres of pristine wilderness against motorized vehicles, is **USELESS** when the Colorado Air National Guard can fly over it at **TREE TOP LEVEL AND DESTROY ITS SOLITUDE!**

What is the effect of Military Operations Areas (M.O.A.) and Military Training Routes (M.T.R.) to Colorado?

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
Economy	☐	☒
Environment	☐	☒
Social	☐	☒
Health	☐	☒
Animal Life	☐	☒
Plant Life	☐	☒

It is very possible that by the year 1997, the Colorado Air National Guard could be phased out because we basically don't need it anymore. With the questionable future of the Colorado Air National Guard, they certainly don't need to spend \$2,000,000 of taxpayers' money to accomplish this **ENVIRONMENTAL RAPE** when our Colorado schools are underfunded.

**Please act NOW to save Colorado
or lose one third of it FOREVER!**

For more information regarding MOAs
call 1-800-892-0135

(Paid for by the
Say No Way MOA Alliance)

Stop them from undermining Yellowstone

Yellowstone is America's original national park. Famed worldwide for its geysers, trout streams, buffalo, elk and

threatened grizzly bear, the park is the heart of one of the last large, natural ecosystems in the contiguous 48 states.

Using a 121-year-old mining law, long overdue for reform, the Canadian-based Noranda Minerals, plans to mine gold within 2 1/2 miles of Yellowstone Park, threatening the park and three watersheds.

Noranda plans to take \$800 million in gold, silver and copper from the New World Mine without paying a cent in royalties to the people of the U.S. — and it's all legal.

Acids and heavy metals that leach from mines and their discarded rock pose a major threat to water quality. The mine's tailings impoundment, with a design untested at such a high altitude, would be up to 10 stories high

and cover an area the size of 69 football fields.

In 1993, Noranda paid a \$205,900 settlement to the state of Montana for violating water quality regulations for 18 months at its mine near Libby, in northwestern Montana.

The mine, increased human activity, and traffic on the roads near the mine will bring "major impacts to the grizzly bear and moose

populations," according to a Wyoming Game and Fish biologist.

No wonder Yellowstone Park's resource director describes the New World Mine site as "probably the worst place possible."

Don't let Noranda undermine Yellowstone. Save what our great-grandparents saved for us and pass it on, intact and glorious, for our great-grandchildren to cherish. Mail the coupons below to the people who need to hear from you now. Thank you.

Say No To Noranda!

Please write to:
The Hon. Marc Racicot
Governor of Montana
Room 204, State Capital
Helena, Montana 59620

Jack Ward Thomas
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
12th & Independence S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090



Greater Yellowstone Coalition
P.O. Box 1874
Bozeman, Montana 59715

For Noranda Minerals, there are hundreds of millions of dollars at stake. For the people of Montana, Wyoming and the rest of the country, the stakes are incalculable. I support the fight to stop the undermining of Yellowstone. I'm enclosing my tax-deductible contribution of \$15, \$25, \$35, \$50, \$75, \$100, or to save what's really precious.

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WETLANDS AT A DISTANCE

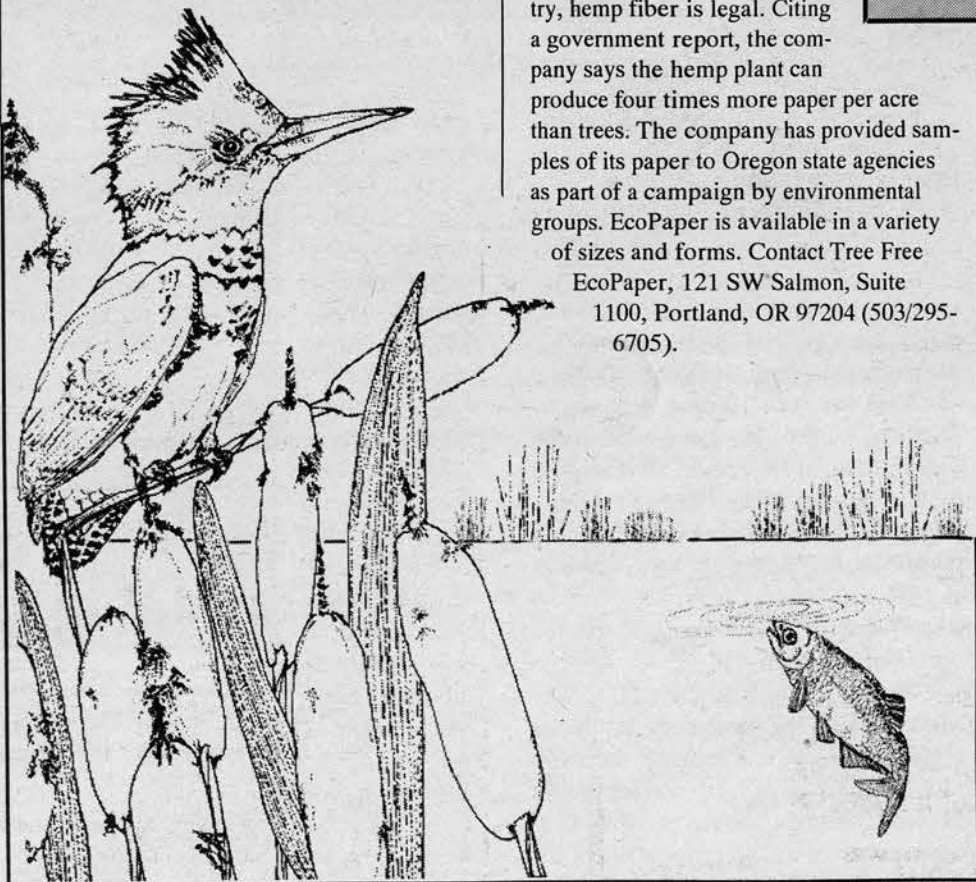
The managers of the Telluride ski resort in western Colorado recently reached a settlement with the EPA in a suit over the largest wetland violation in Colorado history. Telluride Co. destroyed 40 acres of wetland while building condos, restaurants, golf course fairways, parking lots and roads in the late 1980s. The settlement requires the company to pay \$185,000 in fines and create 42 acres of wetland, although only 15 of those acres will be in the Telluride watershed. The remaining wetland restoration is slated for farmland near Montrose, Colo., more than 60 miles away. David Cooper, a fish and wildlife biology professor at Colorado State University whose wetland mapping uncovered the violation, calls the settlement a rotten deal. "Those wetlands were invaluable to the ecosystem," he says. The U.S. Justice Department will decide whether to accept the settlement after a 30-day public comment period ends in December. Comments go to Gary S. Guzy, Environmental Defense Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Room 7328, 10th and Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530. List for reference, U.S. v. The Telluride Company, et al., DJ Reference Number 90-5-1-4-293.

LET THE MARKET HELP

In the late 1980s, the non-profit Defenders of Wildlife helped smooth recovery of the endangered gray wolf in Montana by offering to pay ranchers if wolves killed their livestock. The program worked so well, says project director Hank Fischer, that Defenders began offering \$5,000 to any Montana landowner who could prove that wolf pups had been born and raised to adulthood on private land. Now, Defenders has issued a report, *Building Economic Incentives into the Endangered Species Act*, that urges Congress to use the marketplace on behalf of endangered plants and wildlife. Since 50 percent of all endangered species in the U.S. live solely on private land, the 130-page report says support from landowners is crucial. In 14 articles, economists, environmentalists and federal agency staffers propose a range of market mechanisms, such as tax incentives and penalties, conservation easements, land exchanges, credits for habitat protection and cooperative management. The report, edited by Wendy Hudson, costs \$5 from Defenders of Wildlife, Northwest Regional Office, 0434 S.W. Iowa St., Portland, OR 97201 (503/293-1433).

MONTANA'S DISAPPEARING WETLANDS

As Congress prepares to revise wetlands protection in the Clean Water Act, the Montana Audubon Council has released a 30-page study showing the state's wetlands need immediate help. *Protecting Montana's Wetlands: An Overview of Montana's Section 404 Program* says Montana's wetlands are rapidly being "nickel and dimed out of existence." Under national policy, isolated wetlands under 10 acres — equal to about seven football fields — are considered of limited value. As a result, federal agencies granted almost 1,000 permits in Montana between January 1991 and August 1993, authorizing, without study, construction of boat ramps, electric power lines, road crossings, riverbank stabilization and numerous other projects. Because of inadequate funding and staffing levels "it is impossible for the Army Corps of Engineers or a concerned public to really know the extent of wetlands losses," the report found. In addition some 800 permits for larger construction projects were granted during the same time period. Only nine permits were denied. The \$4 report, researched and written by Janet Ellis, Tim Baker, Lynn Teneffoss and Dave Ross, can be ordered from the Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 (406/443-3949).



Lou Ann Herritt/Montana Audubon Council



Cathy Schwartz/University of Washington

SALMON SYMPOSIUM

The University of Washington will host a three-day seminar, "Pacific Salmon and their Ecosystems," Jan. 10-12 in Seattle. Speakers include Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-Wash., Willa Nehlsen of the Pacific Rivers Council and more than 40 experts representing the fishing industry, state and federal agencies and academia. Topics include salmon breeding and migration, the causes of decline and questions science has yet to answer. For more information, contact Deanna J. Stouder, Fisheries Research Institute, School of Fisheries, WH-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (206/685-2724).

WILDERNESS POETS LOOKOUT

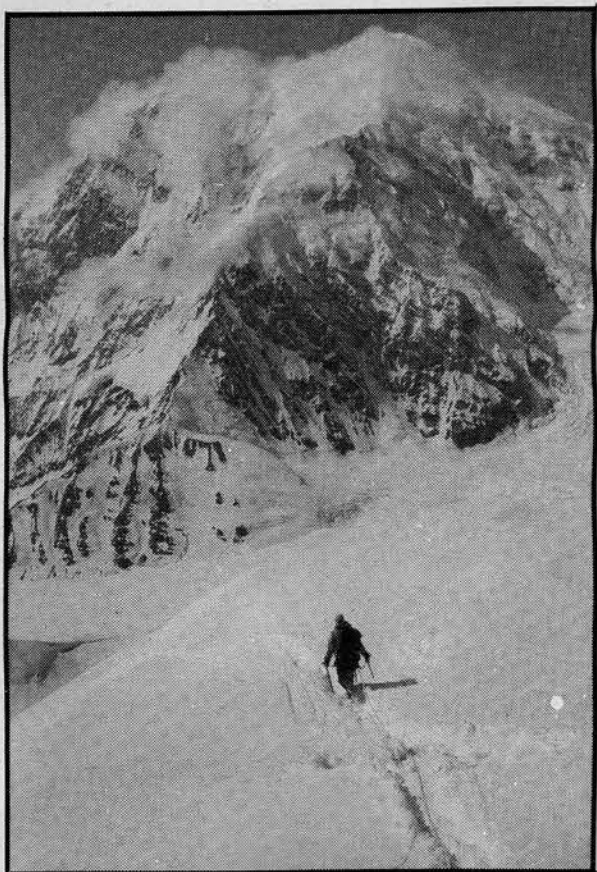
The Utah Wilderness Association is sponsoring its ninth annual wilderness poetry competition. Contestants may enter any unpublished poetry celebrating wilderness, its preservation, its life and values, or its spiritual nature. Poems may be in any style but no more than 40 lines in length. First prize is \$100, and the best six will be published in the *UWA Review* in June. Deadline is Feb. 15. To enter, send two copies of each poem — one with your name, address and phone number and the other solely with the printed poem — along with \$3 per poem to Poetry/UWA, 455 East 400 South, #306, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (801/359-1337).

LOOK MA, NO TREES

In an effort to eliminate environmental damages associated with the timber industry, an Oregon company is offering paper made without wood. Tree Free EcoPaper sells paper products made from 50 percent hemp and 50 percent cereal straw. The result is acid-free, unbleached and contains no dioxins. While marijuana is illegal to possess in this country, hemp fiber is legal. Citing a government report, the company says the hemp plant can produce four times more paper per acre than trees. The company has provided samples of its paper to Oregon state agencies as part of a campaign by environmental groups. EcoPaper is available in a variety of sizes and forms. Contact Tree Free EcoPaper, 121 SW Salmon, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97204 (503/295-6705).

BOMBING IDAHO'S HIGH DESERT

The Air Force wants to turn a swath of southwest Idaho's high desert into a bombing range. In a draft environmental impact statement released Nov. 5, the Air Force proposed to designate much of Owyhee County as the Big Springs Training Range. The controversial plan would create a 20,000-acre target area, with planes from the nearby Mountain Home Air Force Base flying up to 70 missions a day. In one year, planes would drop over 24,000 dummy bombs and tons of radar-jamming aluminum chaff. Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus strongly supports the plan, which involves a 20,000-acre land exchange between the state of Idaho and the Bureau of Land Management. It would also restrict public use of 200,000 acres of Owyhee canyonlands, which include 15 wilderness study areas, a National Historic Cultural District, Native American burial grounds and three rivers proposed for wild and scenic designation. The project is opposed by over a dozen state and national environmental groups, led by the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition in Boise (208/343-8153). The Air Force, BLM and state of Idaho will hold joint public hearings on the plan in Grand View, Boise, Twin Falls and Mountain Home, Idaho, Jan. 11-15. Copies of the draft EIS are available from Mountain Home Air Force Base (208/828-6800). Comments on the proposal may be sent to Butch Peugh, BLM Idaho State Office, 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, ID 83706.



Wendy Roberts/Women Climbing

PUT HER AT THE TOP

Following a stunning 1992 edition, Women Climbers Northwest has released its 1994 *Women Climbing* engagement calendar. The calendar is packed with highlights of women's climbing events, essays by women climbers and 54 photos of women's expeditions around the world. The calendar is a memorial to climbers Kathy Phibbs and Hope Barnes, who died in the Washington Cascades, and profits are used to promote women's climbing. Highlights of the 1994 calendar include more colorful quotes from Phibbs' alter-ego, the eccentric climbing leader, "Miss Dish," who said in the 1992 calendar, "Though it is important that we reach the top (because that is where lunch is), this expedition's goals are not assault and conquest." Calendars are \$12.95 each, and may be bought in bookstores or ordered directly from Women Climbers Northwest, P.O. Box 20573, Seattle, WA 98102.

— Dave Frey

Western women wild with joy!



Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania
Susan La Flesche Picotte, a member of Nebraska's Omaha Tribe, was the first Native American physician. Educated in Victorian culture by the Connecticut Protestant missionary women who were her sponsors, she graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889. She returned to the reservation and opened her own hospital in 1913.



Colorado Historical Society

Jubilant women on the front page of the *Queen Bee*, 1893

"WESTERN WOMEN WILD WITH JOY!" read the headline in the *Queen Bee*, in November 1893. The exuberance was great because Colorado men had voted to extend the franchise to women in their state, and the hope was that other states would follow.

Women did win the ballot elsewhere, and their first victories were all in the West. Nationally, the crusade women waged was one of the longest political struggles in U.S. history. It began in Seneca Falls, N.Y., in 1848, and culminated in 1920 with the 19th Amendment. But by then, millions of women in Western states were already voting in state and federal elections.

By 1914, three years before women had a political voice in any eastern state, they could vote in every Rocky Mountain and Pacific state except New Mexico.

"Between 1870 and 1910, women in 33 states tried 480 times to get a women's suffrage referendum on the ballot," says Carolyn Stefanco, head of

the women's history department at California Polytechnic University. The 480 campaigns resulted in 33 referendums and two victories: Colorado, 1893, and Idaho, 1896. After a lull, a new round of Western victories began with Washington in 1910; California, 1911; Arizona, 1912; Kansas, 1912; Oregon, 1912; Montana, 1914; then Nevada, 1914.

Utah was a special case. A Mormon-dominated legislature gave women the vote in 1870. In 1887, the U.S. Congress took it away in an attempt to suppress polygamy. The Mormon church officially gave up the practice of plural marriage in 1890 and six years later, Utah became a state under a constitution that restored the ballot to women.

Women first gained the right to vote in Wyoming. The Wyoming territorial legislature made the decision in 1869, and women kept the ballot when Wyoming became a state in 1890. Colorado followed and became a model for other states. But women failed to get results nationally until suffrage became a

mass movement.

A network of women's voluntary associations was key to Colorado's success, says Stefanco. Groups like the Women's Christian Temperance Union, aid societies, literary clubs, labor unions and African-American women's clubs became the backbone of the network.

The rise of the Populist party was also a factor in both Colorado and Idaho. Its



Colorado Historical Society

Rural and working women like this nearly all-female crew at the Paonia Canning Factory in western Colorado helped the campaign for women's suffrage.

grass roots were rural granges and other farmers' associations, in which women voted and held office. Colorado elected a Populist governor in 1892, and in Colorado,



Abigail Scott Duniway, at left, voting in 1914 in Oregon. Duniway campaigned for women's rights and agrarian reform in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada. She published the *New Northwest*, a paper that was a primary force in the women's movement of the region (*Oregon Historical Society*).



Jeannette Rankin, left, a Montana native, was a social worker who said that without a political voice, women were powerless to change their lives. Rankin worked on suffrage campaigns in Washington and South Dakota, and led Montana women to victory in 1914. Two years later she became the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. A staunch pacifist, Rankin was the only member of Congress to vote against both world wars (*Montana Historical Society, Helena*).



Caroline Nichols Churchill, at left, published a pro-suffrage paper from her home in Denver, reaching five Western states. The paper, the *Queen Bee*, and its predecessor, the *Antelope*, were full of philosophy, news, travel writing, sarcasm and humor. Churchill flouted the conventions of the day by traveling without a male chaperone and aiding a Chinese immigrant during an anti-Chinese riot in Denver (*Denver Public Library Western History Department*).

the Populists endorsed women's suffrage.

In 1893, when the silver panic hit, women's organizations were able to turn the depression to their advantage. After thousands of jobless miners descended on Denver, filling a huge tent city, women went to their aid and promised men they would vote to help the state's economy.

Western press women also played a role by answering critics and boosting morale. "We are aware of the jealousies of many husbands in regard to any public work which the wife may be interested in," wrote Caroline Nichols Churchill, publisher of the *Queen Bee*. "But women

should remember that all the evils of society are caused by the bad management of men, and women are greatly to blame for folding their hands and permitting this state of things." Churchill reached five Western states with her Denver-based paper.

From Portland, Ore., Abigail Scott Duniway started publishing the *New Northwest* in 1871, and campaigned for women's rights for four decades before she authored Oregon's Equal Suffrage proclamation in 1912. In a typical year of campaigning throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada, Duni-



Colorado Historical Society

The Becker sisters branding, 1894, in the San Luis Valley, Colorado. It was hard to argue that women shouldn't have a political voice when their economic contributions on ranches and homesteads were so important.



Colorado Historical Society

In turn-of-the-century Denver, Colorado, African American women were part of the club movement that worked for suffrage and other social reform.



Colorado Historical Society

Colorado's Hispanic southern counties voted against women's enfranchisement, but suffrage leaders did little organizing in those areas.

way once calculated, she gave 181 lectures, wrote 400 columns, canvassed for subscriptions, traveled 3,000 miles by stage, rail, steamer, buggy, buckboard and afoot "and endured more than the usual quota of persecution, hypocrisy, malice, gossip and hate," writes biographer Ruth Moynihan in *Rebel for Rights*.

Colorado's centennial of women's suffrage has given historians an opportunity to review the question: Why were women able to break into politics so much earlier in the West?

In the past, Western historians argued that women's suffrage was an

example of how the West was more democratic than the East.

If not more democratic, the West was still forming, and barriers to change were not entrenched, says historian Richard White, author of *It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own*. Some historians also point out that women had earned equality early on homesteads and ranches, making it difficult to argue that politics was too much for their "pretty little heads."

— Becky Rumsey

The writer free-lances in Boulder, Colorado.

Hail to the chief ...

continued from page 1

So when the offer became official last month, he accepted. Formerly the agency's chief wildlife biologist, he took over the helm of an embattled Forest Service that has suffered a precipitous decline in public trust. His domain covers 29,000 employees and an annual budget of \$3.5 billion.

To some observers, Thomas evokes comparisons to Aldo Leopold, the father of ecology. But Chris Maser of Corvallis, Ore., author of many books on sustainable forestry, compares Thomas to Gifford Pinchot, the charismatic first chief who gave the agency a strong conservation ethic at the turn of the century.

"Like Pinchot, Thomas is a star marketer of ideas," Maser says. Maser points out that Thomas has been thoroughly tested in his work on ancient forests and the spotted owl. The 6-foot-2-inch, 250-pound former high school running back charged through seemingly impenetrable walls erected by loggers and environmentalists with a scientifically defensible plan.

"He's got the scientific background. He's rock solid — as solid as any human being I have ever met — and he's incorruptible. He can't be bought," Maser says.

Before his appointment, critics charged that because he was not a member of the Senior Executive Service, he would be a political appointee. Sen. Larry Craig, an Idaho Republican who receives hefty PAC contributions from the timber industry, said of his potential appointment, "The administration risks destroying the esprit de corps and management professionalism that has long been a part of the Forest Service."

Added Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who pushed a funding measure earlier this year to open up the de facto wilderness lands for logging, "I recognize that Jack Ward Thomas is a career professional, and I do not question his ability to serve as chief. I am concerned, however, that the door has been opened to appointment of a chief in the future based solely on politics, not professional qualifications."

This sounds like the end of the

Like Gifford Pinchot, the agency's first chief, Jack Ward Thomas is a "star marketer of ideas," says environmental writer Chris Maser.



Jack Ward Thomas

world is at hand, said Washington, D.C.-based columnist Larry Swisher, who called the attacks ironic. "Those crying the loudest helped make the agency a pawn of political pressure and biased it toward timber production," he said.

Boise State University political science professor John Freemuth noted it would have been difficult for the Clinton administration to find a reformer among the Senior Executive Service. The agency has been notorious for promoting only "timber beasts and foresters" to top positions, Freemuth says.

The SES was created in the late 1970s, and only the latest chief, F. Dale Robertson, was promoted directly from its ranks. "The Forest Service needed some new blood, somebody who still understood the agency, but wasn't subject to the bias," Freemuth says. "The question of who should lead the agency shouldn't be a question of exclusive choice, but to find the person with the right skills and perspective that's needed to move the agency ahead."

By nearly all accounts, Thomas is precisely the man for the job.

Watch what we do

The new chief began his career 37 years ago as a game biologist for the state of Texas. But the native Texan soon came north and west, and has spent more than half of his working life — 20 years — in sleepy La Grande, Ore., a Boise Cascade mill town on the edge of the Blue Mountains. The interview with Thomas took place just a few days before he left for Washington, D.C., in his cluttered office at the U.S. Forest Service Range and Habitat Lab in La Grande.

Although he left Texas long ago, you'd never know it from his voice. The burly, deep-voiced Thomas is still marked by a distinctive southern drawl.

He's the kind of guy who might quote Shakespeare in one breath and tell a down-home joke in the next.

With the weight of his new job approaching, and the burden of his wife's cancer upon him, his usual upbeat manner is muted until he begins to talk about Leopold and ecosystem management.

"We're going to move to some yet-not-quite-crystal-clear concept of management called ecosystem management," he says. "I think everyone in the natural resources management field in govern-

ment will be struggling with bringing that philosophical position into actual land-management practice."

That's his mission, Thomas says: Building a sustainable future for the nation's forests by trying to manage for all of the forest's parts, not just the trees.

Watch for the agency's funding priorities to shift more toward fish, wildlife, research and endangered species programs. Watch for fewer clearcuts, less attention to timber harvest targets and more focus on retaining biodiversity and the overall health of ecosystems. To help define the concept, Thomas paraphrases Leopold:

"The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save every cog and wheel," he says. "If you throw away pieces, sooner or later you're going to throw away the drive shaft ... So now, we're trying to shift away from thinking about how, in the forestry sense, do I cut down this stand of trees and generate it, to thinking about what does this stand of trees have to do with the entire system?"

"And how do I not only cut it and regenerate it once, but how do I do it 100 times, how do I do it

1,000 times, and then how do I do it and still maintain the integrity and beauty and functions of the ecosystem?"

"That may sound rather esoteric, but I don't think we've thought about it that way in the past."

Thomas admits that man does not fully understand the complexities of the forest, and so he will advocate that the agency proceed cautiously to save "every cog and wheel." He recalls Frank Egler, "one of my heroes," a pioneering ecologist who says, "Ecosystems are not only more complex than we think, they're more complex than we can think ... So we're operating from an incomplete textbook."

Thomas is no stranger to textbooks. With the aid of many other scientists, he has either written or edited several texts on which modern forestry and wildlife management are based. He co-authored the book, *Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests*, which prescribed the needs of wildlife in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington.

He also was co-editor of *Elk of North America — Ecology and Management*, voted the outstanding academic book of 1982-83 by *Choice*, the review publication of the American Library Association.

As chief of research at the Range and Habitat Lab in La Grande, he has overseen research projects on the effects

of livestock grazing on riparian areas, the value of riparian areas for fish and wildlife, and resolving conflicts among timber harvesting, elk, deer, livestock and man. He's also overseeing a forest research project in Poland.

Thomas says even as the agency rethinks its mission it will have to use forests to meet some societal demands. He recognizes, for instance, that Americans' appetite for wood products is increasing. At the same time, over-harvesting, endangered species restrictions for spotted owls and salmon, and other factors have reduced the cut from national forests from a peak of 11 billion board-feet in 1989, to about 4 billion board-feet in 1993. Forest Service timber officials do not expect harvest levels to increase much beyond 4-5 billion board-feet for at least the next several years, a period of readjustment.

Research and science will help frame the options for development, Thomas says, but ultimately the decision on how to proceed is a political one shaped by the people, the Congress and the executive branch, he says.

"We're going to exploit that system, but how do we do it responsibly?" he asks. "We're searching for the balance between exploitation and long-term survival. Whoever comes after us will have to live on this planet, too."

Thomas recognizes that ecosystems have not been fully defined. He suggests that watersheds will be the first point of reference as the "building blocks" of larger ecosystems. Larger-scale studies will help determine the broad boundaries of ecosystems such as the Great Basin, coastal forests and Northern Rockies.

To help guide the agency toward ecosystem management, Maser hopes that Thomas will write a new vision for the Forest Service and outline an implementing strategy for that vision. Pinchot's version — "the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run" — is out of date, he says.

"Jack needs to define the components of a sustainable forest, decide how to reinvest biological capital in the forest, and determine how much we can remove for our use in a sustainable manner," Maser says. "It needs to be like a figurehead on the bow of the ship so everyone in the agency knows the preamble."

Thomas says an immediate problem is that polarized political interests have battered the Forest Service. He calls their representatives "gladiators" — full-time paid professionals who "fight hard and sometimes dirty."

In order to move beyond the saving of individual species while ignoring or damaging others, Thomas has suggested weakening the Endangered Species Act, National Forest Management Act or National Environmental Policy Act, or all three. That, of course, would be controversial with environmentalists.

"We cannot continue along our present path of dealing with the assured welfare of individual species as constraints, and outputs of goods and services as objectives," Thomas said in a recent speech at Oregon State University.

Thomas is cagey when asked if heads will roll. Many of the agency's 30,000 employees will bend with the new direction, he predicts, and those that don't may want to take early retirement or move on.

gist in La Grande, Ore., and a close friend, says he showed Thomas his first Rocky Mountain elk in 1973. "I realized this guy is worth spending some time on. He'll absorb it and take it from there. He's a brilliant man who doesn't let it show."

Part of the education was drinking 190-proof alcohol mixed with Tang in elk camp in the Wallowa Mountains of northeast Oregon. Brown and Thomas have brought many high-powered Forest Service officials and politicians into their favorite spots in the woods to speculate about the future.

After the two took then Forest Service Chief Max Peterson on an elk-hunting trip in the 1980s, the chief tripled funding for fish, wildlife and recreation, and it cleared Congress. The following year, the Pacific Northwest region went from having one fish biologist to 66, Brown recalls.

On these lobbying trips, "Jack's the cook and I'm the packer," Brown adds.

Thomas is well aware that recreation trails have fallen into disrepair and desperately need attention. "When the new chief has to walk on a trail that he's afraid to ride a horse on, you've got to figure that he knows what the problems are and that something might happen," he says.

Thomas started his new job in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 1. He'll oversee an associate chief, six deputy chiefs (one each for research, administration, state and private forestry, international forestry, and programs and legislation). Also under his command are eight research stations, nine regions, 155 national forests, 20 national grasslands and 71 experimental forests in the 191.5 million-acre national forest system.

It's a tall order, especially given the kind of transition that's expected.

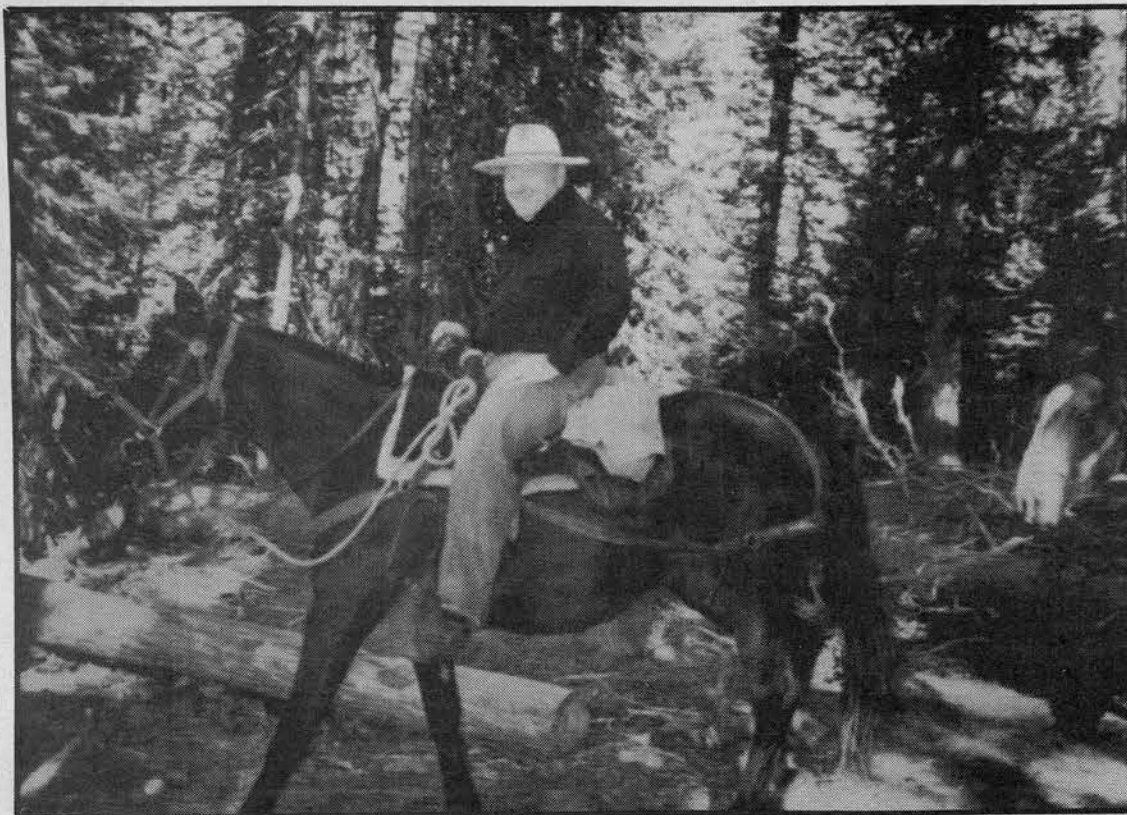
"This is Jack's moment in history," says Maser. "If Clinton and Gore will stand behind him the way Roosevelt backed up Pinchot, I know Jack can do this. I believe in him."

Margaret Thomas plans to join Jack in Washington after the Christmas holiday. With the help of President Clinton, she has been made eligible for the best medical treatment possible, and has begun some experimental therapy to improve the quality of her life, Thomas says. "That still doesn't improve her life expectancy."

In an interview with *The Oregonian*, Thomas told Kathie Durbin that his wife is "as tough as wet leather."

Meg, as friends call her, hopes that the chief's job will help keep Jack occupied when she dies. "He can work through his grief through his work," she said. "This is one of the reasons I encouraged him to do this. It's important to him and it's important to me." ■

Steve Stuebner writes in Boise, Idaho.



Jack Ward Thomas on "Shadow" in the Eagle Cap Wilderness

Bill Brown



Thomas in his La Grande, Oregon, office at the Range and Forest Wildlife Habitat Lab

Steve Stuebner

ty. "The questions are bigger and more complex ... We must learn to prevent the creation of threatened species rather than performing heroic management feats to pull species back from the brink of extinction."

Dissension within the agency

Within the Forest Service ranks, some employees are reportedly excited by Thomas' appointment; others, including some of the 70 supervisors who signed the letter opposing his appointment, may be anxious.

Some critics, such as Jeff DeBonis, founder of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, have suggested that the new chief needs to clean house. "Most of the regional foresters should be changed, and a lot of the forest supervisors," he urges.

The agency employs a number of people who are at retirement age, and they may leave regardless of whether they fit in. "There will be a significant turnover and a lot of people retiring, but that should not be interpreted to mean that I'm running around with a broadsword," Thomas says.

Thomas expects to replace those who retire "with the best and the brightest that I can get ... We need people with all kinds of talents in all kinds of places, and the service is full of them."

As for other programs, such as recreation on national forests, Thomas is likely to be an advocate, but says he'll look for partnership projects and innovative funding ideas. Thomas is an active whitewater boater, horse packer and hunter.

Bill Brown, a retired wildlife biologist

Ranger prods and pulls her district in a new direction

by Nan Chalat

Melissa Blackwell, 38, thinks of herself as part of a historic shift at the U.S. Forest Service.

The shift began two years ago, she says, when her agency celebrated its 100th birthday and issued new marching orders: Move from commodity production to stewardship of the land.

This came just as Blackwell was taking over as district ranger on Utah's Wasatch-Cache National Forest, perhaps a textbook example of an area experiencing conflicts over traditional use and new demands. Trying to turn the agency's priorities into action has not been a breeze, Blackwell admits. One local rancher declared "she couldn't pour pee out of a boot if the instructions were written on the sole."

Friends taped that line, quoted in a local newspaper, to an old cowboy boot and presented it to her for Christmas. She keeps it in her office as a reminder that stress levels are high and that "a sense of humor is a must."

Ranchers were the first to feel the effects of the new forest policy, but recreational users won't be far behind, Blackwell says. She runs the Kamas District, which encompasses the most heavily used parts of the spectacular Uinta Mountains. For generations its wooded slopes have provided timber, water, minerals, forage and oil. At the same time the Uintas have become a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts from Salt Lake City.

When Congress passed the Creative Act of 1891, setting aside a network of forest reserves managed by the Department of Agriculture, those lands were perceived mainly as storehouses for various commodities, Blackwell says.

"There was a whole era when ... a range conservationist's focus was red meat and timber," she says. Now as a "new guard" moves into management positions, a collision is inevitable. "It's a value system, and that doesn't change easily. It's almost like religion."

When Blackwell arrived in Kamas, Utah, in 1990, she found a small ranching community with one grocery, a movie theater, two gas stations and three sawmills.

Working ranches surround the town on the north, south and west. To the east lie the Wasatch-Cache and Ashley national forests. The busiest intersection is the turnoff to Highway 150, a 70-mile-long scenic byway that traverses the forest to a height of 10,600 feet, providing access for people who fish its hundreds of alpine lakes or hike or ride its trails.

Scattered among the fun-seekers are those who make their living from the forest: timbercutters, sheepherders and ranchers, all of whom pretty much regard the rest of the activity as a nuisance.

An environmental impact statement documenting the effects of multi-

ple use — and of cattle grazing in particular — was already under way when Blackwell took over as district ranger. Two years of study of current grazing practices on just a portion of the Kamas District had already produced reams of data and heated public hearings.

Nevertheless, Blackwell sent the experts back into the field for another year of study while she met with each rancher and other special interest groups.

The studies, summed up in a 250-page environmental impact statement, documented environmental deterioration in the most heavily grazed areas of the 72,000-acre allotment. As most of the terrain is steep and rocky, cattle tend to congregate in meadows and along mountain streams that form the headwaters of the Provo River and Beaver Creek. Cows have trampled the plants whose roots held streambanks together, causing erosion.

On Jan. 14, 1993, Blackwell issued a decision. From six alternatives, ranging from no reduction in permits to elimination of all grazing, Blackwell chose a plan that requires the 13 cattlemen who hold grazing permits to reduce livestock numbers by 47 percent. They would also have to practice much stricter controls over the animals.

Some areas formerly within the grazing allotment will be off limits until streambanks and meadows are rehabilitated, and in other areas cattle must be moved before they completely deplete forage.

Blackwell estimates that the changes will bite off about half the rancher's profit margin.

The alternative preferred by environmentalists called for a 60 percent reduction in livestock. Rancher Ken Woolstenhulme charged that these critics weren't much concerned with the land. "They are just afraid someone will go up the trail and step in a cow turd. That's what it amounts to."

During the EIS process it was clear that campers yearned to spot an elk or moose but not cows, which many said "detract from a quality recreation experience." Some said limited forage should be reserved for their pack animals, and others worried that cattle will leave nothing for wildlife to eat. Ranchers said campers leave gates open and pull down their fences.

Blackwell's decision tried to mitigate the conflicts by reducing cattle from 1,255 to 731, by requiring three full-time riders to keep the cattle within permitted areas, by installing fences to further control the cattle, and by removing some of the most popular recreation areas from any grazing until after Labor Day.

No painless answers exist, Blackwell says. "The traditional mode was you just put the cows up there in the spring and when it starts snowing they come down. Now we are talking about intensive management. Yes, I agonized. I've tried to be real honest and I've tried my best to explain I'm not doing this to hurt them. But it is my obliga-



Nan Chalat

Kamas District Ranger Melissa Blackwell

tion to take action to improve resources."

Blackwell's decision was perhaps tempered by her rural Missouri roots. Growing up as a small-town city manager's daughter in the Ozark Mountains left her with genuine empathy for ranchers who storm into her office in cowboy boots and weathered Stetsons to argue their cases.

At the same time, this botanist-turned-forest administrator grew up with a reverence for the environment. Blackwell remembers how her mother loved to pile the four children and assorted cousins into the station wagon for camping trips to Colorado and Wyoming.

"My mother was an incredible nature lover. She knew all the plants' names. That is when I fell in love with the Rocky Mountains. I look at her as my inspiration. She molded my love of the natural world."

During those trips, Blackwell also remembers meeting Forest Service rangers and thinking, "That's gotta be the ultimate job." I had no idea I would ever be able to do it."

She worked up through U.S. Forest Service ranks in the Salmon, Bridger-Teton and Targhee national forests, serving first as soil scientist, then forester, resource assistant, management analyst and now district ranger.

"The reason I moved from being a soil scientist into management is because I felt I could make a much bigger difference in a decision-making capacity than I could in an advisory capacity," she says.

More decisions on the Kamas are coming: the entire forest plan is due for revision in 1995. That means loggers

and recreational users are next on Blackwell's agenda.

"The Kamas District has been heavily timbered in the past, and to be frank, we are scrounging now to find places where we can harvest and still meet environmental constraints."

If it comes down to a choice between the closing of a lumber mill and violating watershed standards, Blackwell says there is no question how her decision will come down. Recently, the Kamas District turned down two timber sale proposals.

"To be honest, I don't think this area can support four mills — not from public lands, anyway," she says.

Recreation issues may turn out to be more knotty than the timber. Last revised in 1988, the Forest Travel Plan maps out which segments of the forest are open to motorized travel and which are not.

Hikers don't want to be trampled by horseback riders, who in turn are irritated by mountain bikers. Bikers don't want to ride alongside ATVs, and cross-country skiers don't want to share the trail with snowmobiles. Firewood cutters and hunters claim to need off-road motorized access; environmentalists disagree.

Furthermore, a growing community of private landowners, whose second homes line the forest boundary, are becoming increasingly intolerant of trespassers — regardless of their mode of transportation. All these users, by no coincidence, are drawn to the same scenic meadows and streams.

"There is no doubt about it. Recreation is by far the single biggest use of this district," says Blackwell. "This district is just outstandingly beautiful, and

that's part of the trouble. If it was just rolling sagebrush it wouldn't attract all the people ... and the more we see improvement of the roads between (here and) Salt Lake City, the more accessible it gets."

The growing crowds have already taken a toll in places like Washington Lake, where the ground is bare, tree roots are exposed, and sanitation is a concern. Up to now, the area has been designated for "dispersed recreation"; there aren't any picnic tables or established campsites. That will change this summer with construction of a family and group campground.

Maybe grazing has had a partial "free ride," but, Blackwell says, so has recreation.

"The fees we collect in our campgrounds do not pay for the costs of operating and maintaining them. And it is not because they aren't full. They are full all summer. Our maintenance supervisor figures we would have to charge \$35 a night to cover the true costs. So that's subsidized, too. Our public lands have never been managed with the motive of profit. I know there are a lot of taxpayers that want to debate that."

According to Blackwell, it's time to look at the forest in terms of ecosystems, watersheds and biodiversity rather than single commodities. "I feel we have to be very conservative, because there is so much we don't know about what effects our actions may have."

To cheer herself up one day last summer, Blackwell drove up to Mirror Lake on one of the busiest weekends. "It just made me feel really good to see how much people were loving it up there. People stopped to ask us questions; it was obvious they were city people that hadn't ever been up here before."

"They were just astounded by the beauty of it. It was exciting." ■

Nan Chalat is a writer and photo-journalist living in Oakley, Utah.

Agency inches toward diversity

Melissa Blackwell cites her own career and that of other women foresters as proof the Forest Service is changing — dropping gender barriers as well as shifting priorities.

Blackwell was hired in the 1970s when the National Environmental Policy Act began to encourage the Forest Service to take on other disciplines. At the time, Blackwell, who grew up in rural Missouri, was a soil scientist.

Affirmative action worked in her favor, she admits. "Yes, when it comes to promotions, it's a benefit. But I like to think it's my skills, too."

According to statistics from the U.S. Forest Service, the number of women in its work force has nearly doubled since 1976, growing from 22 to 41 percent. Among those women, there has been a steady increase, though not as dramatic, in the professional ranks.

That doesn't mean the glass ceiling has been shattered, Blackwell points out. In Region 4, the Intermountain Region, where Blackwell has been district ranger for the Kamas since 1990, few women have risen professionally outside of the support staff desk jobs traditionally held by women. Of 16 forest supervisors in the region, one is a woman. Out of four deputy forest supervisors, one is a woman. And Blackwell is among only seven women in a field of 76 district rangers.

In Montana's Region 1, all 13 forest supervisors and all four deputy forest supervisors are men. Of 69 district ranger positions, 14 are filled by women.

Colorado's Region 2 has the first and only woman regional forester in the Forest Service, Elizabeth Estill, appointed in August 1992. Of this region's 12 forests, two are supervised by women. Two of the region's three deputy forest supervisors are women; seven of the region's 67 district rangers are women.

In Southwestern Region 3, of 11 forest supervisors, one supervisor and one acting supervisor are women. Of their four deputies, two are women. In the 61 ranger districts in Region 3, seven are headed by women.

In California's Region 5, where a collective action lawsuit in 1973 charging sex discrimination led to a negotiated consent decree approved in 1981, more women have been promoted to professional positions. Under Regional Forester Ron Stewart, two of three deputy regional foresters are women; of 18 forest supervisor positions, six are held by women; two of 10 deputy forest supervisors are women; and of 79 district rangers, 25 are women.

In Region 6, the Pacific Northwest, all 19 forest supervisors are men; three of the 12 deputy forest supervisors are women; and of 85 district rangers, 25 are women. In addition, six women hold director jobs at the forest level, jobs traditionally held by men.

Blackwell says that getting the job is only half the battle. Getting it done may be made especially tough by resistance to a female administrator in the predominantly male organization.

"I'll be in a meeting and make a suggestion; it isn't heard," Blackwell

says. "Five minutes later a man makes the same suggestion and everyone jumps on it."

Her solution, like that of other women in similar positions, she says, is to learn to laugh about it.

In many cases, she believes, gender bias manifests itself as passive resistance. "I've encountered men both inside and outside the organization who won't make eye contact. They kind of ignore you."

Blackwell's solution? Send a man. "Why waste a bunch of energy if he can't deal with it? All I have to do is get my male peer to present it and he will do it." (Blackwell hastens to add that many of her male associates are very supportive.)

That solution means, though, that Blackwell may not get credit for her initiatives. To that, she replies: "What I really care about is that this gets accomplished. If you focus on that, you feel gratified, especially if you did it in spite of the obstacles."

In general, Blackwell's policy is to downplay the gender issue, to avoid "making a big scene." Ironically, she adds, "If the same things were said about a black person, we wouldn't let it go ... It just shows how ingrained gender bias is. We've grown tolerant of it."

In Blackwell's case, patient is more apt than tolerant, as she soars just below that glass ceiling.

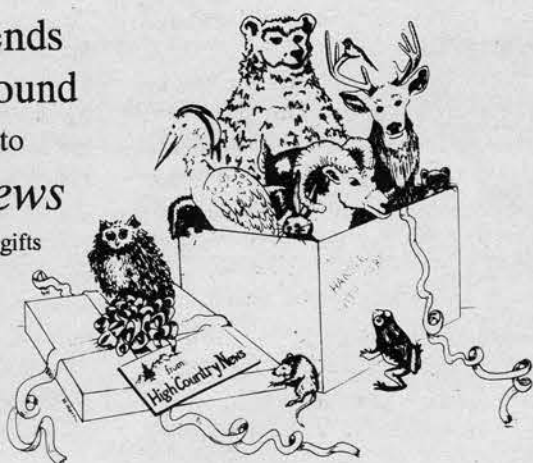
But, she points out, "Right now, the whole Forest Service is in transition ... It takes a long time to turn a big ship."

—Nan Chalat,
Marion Stewart, HCN reporter

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Vol. 25 No. 23

WHO'S DOGMATIC?

Dear HCN,

David Hogan's letter Oct. 18 told us "in the North American puzzle of life ... (t)here is no place ecologically for the sheep or cow." We humans had also better pack off this continent back to Europe, Asia, Africa where — it's more presumable — we have an ecological "place" (and where we should learn a thing or two about coexistence from the Serbs, Croats and Bosnians).

I have more wish for the wild than for civilization. Humans aren't my favorite form of life. My temper cooks a little further onward when I hear the dogma and sense the core of nature-blind wise-ass — sorry; wise-use — vindicators, or religious absolutists.

But I find that I really seethe when I hear an ecologist preach from ideology equivalently as idiotic as those from the other "fundamentally different belief systems that do not allow for compromise."

"Don't listen to anybody else but us scientists" — is that what he's asking? I don't especially like saying so while too many humans overrun the house, but ecology — the truth that Mr. Hogan studies — entails compromise.

Mark Mumper
Santa Cruz, California

GET TO THE BOTTOM OF TROUBLE'S DEATH

Dear HCN,

I was disturbed to read that a hunter had found the escaped grizzly, Trouble, and killed her (HCN, 10/18/93).

From what I have been able to learn (I can't seem to get phone calls returned), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no interest in pressing charges against the overzealous hunter who knowingly and deliberately killed an endangered animal.

They say that the injured bear was a threat to local residents (couldn't the bear have been tranquilized and relocated?) and that the bear was charging when the hunter killed her (only after the hunter climbed a ladder and literally dropped into the bear's den, forcing a confrontation).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with protecting endangered species. Private citizens must not be permitted to gun down endangered animals indiscriminately. This incident deserves a full investigation.

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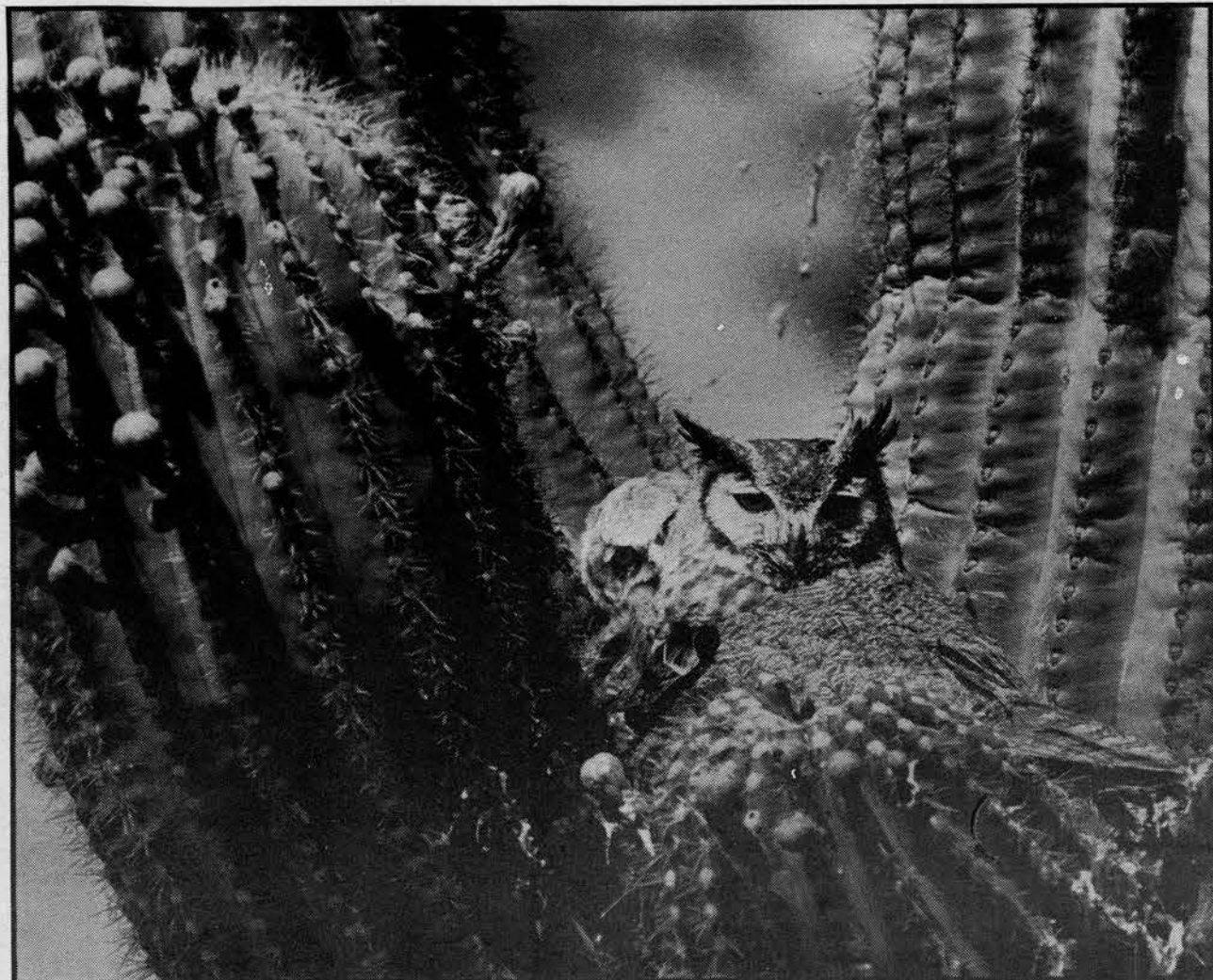
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LETTERS

RENEW AMERICA REBUKED FOR REWARDING "WELFARE" RANCHERS

Editor's Note: The letter below was sent to Dale Didion, executive director of Renew America, 1400 16th St. NW, Suite 710, Washington, D.C. 20036, a non-profit conservation group that encourages cooperation and consensus among environmental interests. Copies also went to *High Country News* and nine other individuals and groups on Nov. 15.

Dear Dale Didion:

Please find enclosed the award presented to Oregon Natural Resources Council in 1990 for its Northwest Ancient Forest Campaign. We cannot keep this award in good conscience after hearing that Renew America honored ranchers Doc and Connie Hatfield this year for range management.

The Trout Creek project, for which that award was given, is a failure in both public policy and environmental protection. Obviously, Renew America graded Doc and Connie on a curve. They are marginally more sensitive to the environment than the vast majority of public-land welfare ranchers, but in absolute terms get a failing grade like the rest of them. Livestock have done, and are doing, more damage to this Earth than chainsaws and bulldozers. No other industry is allowed the unfettered fouling and destruction of the environment that public-land grazers assume to be their right.

Andy Kerr of my staff asked that I express his appreciation to Tina Hobason of your staff for explaining Renew America's position on the award. She cited the Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Trout, Oregon Watershed Improvement Coalition, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, *High Country News*, Isaac Walton League of America and National Audubon Society as organizations endorsing the award to the Hatfields. These entities have vastly differing amounts of credibility with ONRC, and even those that we hold in high esteem on

other issues are blowing it, in our opinion, on the public-land grazing issue.

The only tangible result of the Trout Creek working group was to ask for a very large additional capital investment from the federal government to allow livestock grazing to continue. Not only does this jeopardize the endangered Lahontan cutthroat trout, it is a further subsidy to public-land welfare ranchers who pay the taxpayers far below fair-market value for their forage now. If we apply the Trout Creek "solution" to every abused federal grazing allotment (and assuming the proposed measures do protect the environment), the cost to the taxpayers would run into the billions of dollars. The last time I checked, we still had a federal budget deficit.

The most efficient choice, ecologically and economically, is to run the cows off the public lands of the arid West. Anywhere one has to talk acres per cow, rather than cows per acre, is no place to be grazing livestock.

Larry Tuttle
Portland, Oregon

The writer is executive director of the Oregon Natural Resource Council, 522 Southwest Fifth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 (503/223-9001).

The Hatfields responded to this letter Nov. 20.

Dear Larry Tuttle:

Thanks for sending us a copy of your letter returning ONRC's Renew America Award. We are very aware that the Trout Creek Mountain Working Group's results do not aid ONRC's political goal to "run the cows off the public lands." As for tangible ecological results, if the mountain could speak, it

might mention that it appreciated the rest when 3,000 mother cows were voluntarily removed from its upper-elevation pastures and streams in 1989, 1990 and 1991. It might say it was delighted to find, after being grazed in 1992 and 1993 under a program designed specifically for the benefit of the endangered Lahontan trout, thousands of new willows and aspen growing on over 100 miles of its stream banks. It undoubtedly would mention that it is relieved to have its best (privately owned) meadow land still producing wild hay instead of being used for condominiums or heavily grazed rented summer pastures.

The endangered Lahontans might tell you that they appreciate the extra shade and cooler water. And because the riparian system is so much healthier now, the modest flood in the spring of '93 helped rather than hurt the streams. Besides scouring out the silt and deepening the pools, this silt was deposited on the stream banks, making the creek narrower, deeper and cooler.

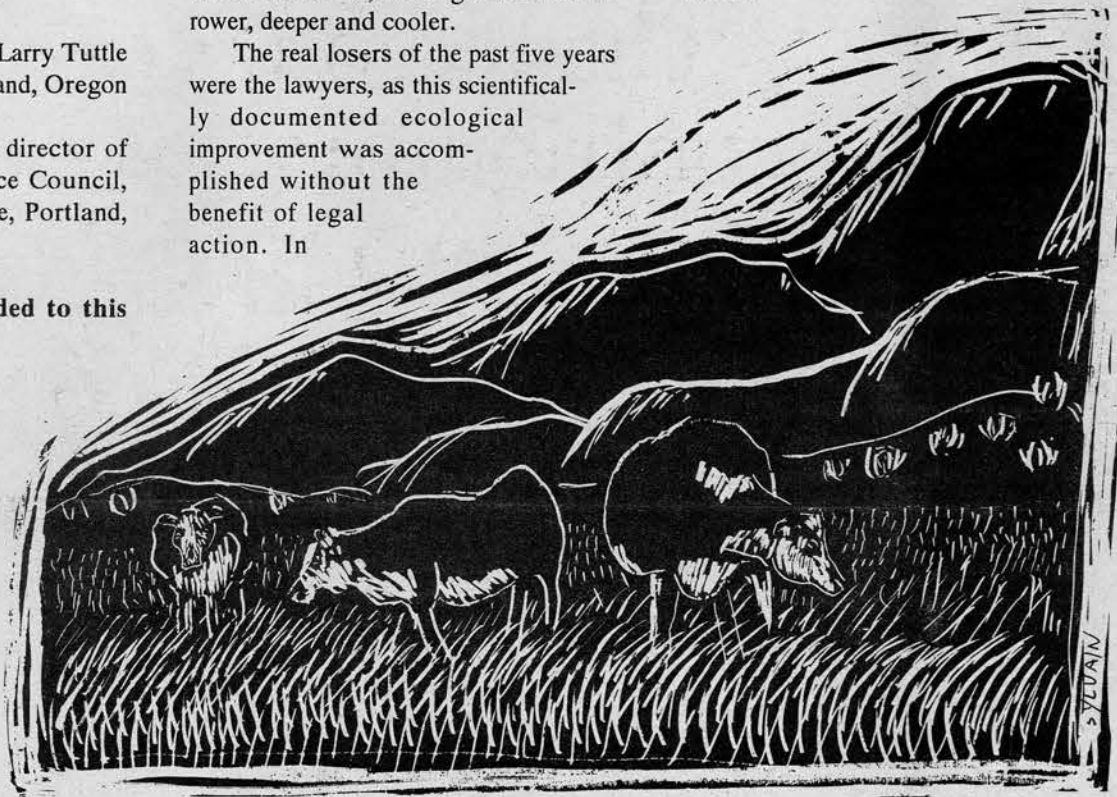
The real losers of the past five years were the lawyers, as this scientifically documented ecological improvement was accomplished without the benefit of legal action. In

any event we hope you keep hammering away. ONRC's reaction to our award has been of immeasurable benefit in bringing more thinking ranchers and thinking environmentalists together to develop solutions for the land and people.

Doc and Connie Hatfield
Brothers, Oregon

P.S. We are enclosing a booklet on the Trout Creek experience printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste. We noticed your recycled paper is only 50 percent post-consumer waste, and thought you might like to know the 100 percent is available at Peacetree Paper Company in Portland.

The 25-page brochure, *A History of the Trout Creek Working Group*, by Doc and Connie Hatfield, is available from the Hatfields, 503/576-2454 or by writing to them in Brothers, Ore., 97712.



ATTACKS ON THE FOREST SERVICE WERE OFFENSIVE, NARROW AND WRONG

Dear HCN,

I have been an avid reader of your paper for a long time. I have been in agreement with and found fault with your articles, but always found them thought-provoking and challenging. I find myself especially supportive of your views on American Indians and wolves. I have admired you for your support of my friends and fellow forest supervisors Jim Nelson, Orville Daniels and Tom Kovalicky.

You have focused three recent editorials on the U.S. Forest Service and its employees and I must take issue with your use of information and your statements of "fact." The "Clearcut the Forest Service" article was offensive and narrow, but I didn't feel compelled to respond. Then you made statements about Gunnison National Forest Supervisor Bob Storch that were totally unfounded, and you have been made aware of your errors but no corrections have been made. The last straw was your most recent editorial Nov. 15.

Your statement that Dr. Jack Ward Thomas "has intense opposition from at least two regional foresters, from 70 out of 120 forest supervisors, and from Robertson's predecessor, Max Peterson" is not just a mistake but a downright lie. Had you read the letters from the super-

visors, regional foresters and Peterson, you would have easily seen the opposition was to changing the position from career civil servant to political appointee. Jack Ward Thomas is a highly respected professional and is supported by Forest Service employees throughout the nation. I have followed his work for years and look forward to his leadership.

Forest Service employees are always thinking about the future, and our concern was: Who would be next? Would it be an attorney with the timber industry that would read in our literature that we were growing 30 billion board-feet per year and therefore want us to cut 18 billion board-feet? Would it be someone who could not support any commodity use of the forests, including downhill skiing? Again, our concern was with who came next, not with Dr. Thomas.

You then speculate as to why we oppose Thomas — his science or his lack of field supervisory experience. Again, you are so far off base as to not even be in the ball park.

Now comes the best part. You use that excellent tool — 20/20 hindsight — combined with personal opinion to determine what the Forest Service should have done to move into "harmony with the public." You state the Forest

Service "does not have the right to oppose the national consensus. Its job is to serve the values democracy forges." I don't always agree with Congress, but I have always assumed that they are the elected representatives of the American public using the democratic process. Do you know something about national consensus that is outside the congressional process?

The Forest Service has always been responsive to Congress. Our chiefs have had the almost impossible task of walking the line between the administration, powerful committee chairmen, Congress as a whole body, and the capabilities of the natural resources we manage. Congress passes legislation annually to direct that certain products and services are provided the public. The annual appropriations process and final legislation is full of efforts by special-interest groups and elected officials to get money and direction to the Forest Service. About one-half of the Forest Service staff in Washington, D.C., spend the majority of their time working with Congress and their staffers.

I am not trying to blame all the Forest Service actions on Congress, but to suggest that "society has made these decisions and it's the Forest Service's job to implement them — not resist and

second-guess them" — is to suggest that we defy Congress and the laws they pass. I make this statement assuming that you have determined another way to identify national consensus outside the congressional process. There are large segments of society with opinions similar to yours that are not yet represented in all the actions of Congress or the administration. The movement is growing, but the checks and balances and tradeoffs may never result in actions that will make you happy.

Chief Robertson was placing significant emphasis in two major areas: ecosystem management and cultural diversity in the Forest Service. To say that he, Congress, special-interest groups, or an administration is responsible for Forest Service actions is an oversimplification of a complex issue and totally ludicrous. One last question: Do you write your editorials or do you rely on others to research information and arrive at conclusions you can support? If the latter is the case, I suggest you require a more thorough research effort, as your and your paper's credibility is at stake.

Veto J. LaSalle
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

essay by David Ehrenfeld

funny thing happened to me on the road to affluence. I have talked about it with others often enough to discover that it is a common happening and an important one. But before you read any further you should know that what you are about to encounter is presented as a middle-class problem — nobody dies in an unheated garret, nobody is thrown out on the street with their meager belongings, nobody is in prison as a birthright, nobody is caught in a drug runner's crossfire. Yet for all its bourgeois setting, my story is about the aspirations of our whole society; directly or indirectly it affects us all.

What happened to me is that as I got more affluent, I didn't feel any richer. Affluence, according to my Random House dictionary, is an "abundance of money, property and other material goods." Setting aside quibbles about what constitutes "abundance," there is no doubt that I now have more money, property and other material goods than I did, say, 25 years ago — especially if books count as material goods. So why don't I feel wealthy? I can best explain by starting at what was for me the beginning.

I grew up in a nice house in one of the better residential neighborhoods of Passaic, N.J., a city composed mostly of immigrants and their children and grandchildren. The town of Clifton, a more prosperous community, began one block over — you could tell you were leaving Passaic because there was a sign. (It wasn't until I went to camp in Maine that I realized that in other parts of the country there can be space between towns.) Our house had wood siding, two stories plus an attic and basement, three bedrooms, and a garage in back. It had cost my parents \$6,600 — a good deal of money for a struggling young doctor who was helping to support his bankrupted parents.

The property, narrow and moderately deep, amounted to about one-sixth of an acre. For the first eight or 10 years of my life, there was a vacant lot next door. I remember patches of milkweed inhabited by big, tiger-striped caterpillars that turned into monarch butterflies, even in a jar. I also remember my feeling of loss when the milkweed was torn up and replaced by an ugly, yellow house. I could walk my affectionate but dim-witted beagle to the park nearby where there was a pond with a water wheel, and, once, a dozen newly hatched, jet-black snapping turtles scuttling across the lawn to the water.

Whenever I was home sick from school, I got to see the daily events of the household. Time never dragged — there was always somebody coming to the door. The side door, next to the kitchen, got the most traffic. I made a fort out of the heavy, white-painted, hardwood kitchen chairs, and watched the arrivals from my protected vantage point. First was the milkman from Sisco Dairies, wanting to know how many bottles of pasteurized, unhomogenized whole milk to deliver, and whether we needed any light or heavy cream. Then the truck from Dugan Bakery pulled up: Did we need a coffee cake, hard rolls with poppy seeds or Danish pastry? The soda man brought cases of seltzer water, black cherry, and the fluorescently colored orange soda to which I was addicted. In the late morning or early afternoon, Mr. Cohen, the fruit and vegetable peddler, showed up.

"What's good today?" my mother would ask.

"I got beautiful broccoli — and cheap," he answered.

My mother looked suspicious. "All right, let me see it." Then Mr. Cohen would walk to his truck and bring back a head of broccoli and maybe a cauliflower (which I hated). Haggling would begin; there were more trips back and forth to the truck; eventually, fruit, vegetables and money would change hands.

In my early years, the iceman would arrive every few days, carrying a big block with his wonderful tongs. By the time I was in third or fourth grade, a gas refrigerator replaced the icebox, and the iceman stopped coming. That a gas flame should cool things off seemed unnatural to me. It still does.

Sometimes the side doorbell would ring and a shabbily dressed man with a stubble of beard would stand at the door.

"How do you do, ma'am?" he would say, and maybe I would get a nod.

"Just a minute and I'll fix you something," my mother answered. Then she would make a hefty sandwich of whatever leftovers we had from the previous night's dinner — I remember pot roast — and pour a glass of milk. The man sat outside on the side steps to eat, and later knocked on the door to return the plate

self and her family, as well as any medicines and X-rays that were needed. My mother occasionally complained to my father about the salary, but he saw a great many patients a day at \$2 for an office visit, and we could afford the expense.

Why tell about these things? I guess it has been long brewing, but what set it off was watching a woman make a phone call. As I was driving through New Brunswick I saw her on a street corner holding a telephone receiver to her ear. At first I thought it must be a call on a police or fire emergency phone, the kind attached to utility poles; then I saw, next to her, a small plastic wind screen, about two feet square, with the New Jersey Bell logo on it. It was passing itself off as a phone booth! A biological analogy popped into my head: The phone booth has become vestigial, like the human appendix. Our society can no longer afford to provide real, outdoor phone booths, with doors, to shield callers from wind, traffic noise and garlic-eating eavesdroppers.

I began to think about some of the other things we cannot afford. Two mail deliveries a day (soon we will be down to five or less per week), and ordinary first class mail that arrives the day after it is sent. Furniture made out of solid wood, not chips glued together. Useful services that people need, where they live. Affordable helpers in the home who can work with dignity and for fair salaries and benefits (although this was admittedly rare in the past). Medical care individually designed with each patient's total well-being in mind. A house to live in when one is starting a family and doesn't have a big income. The time for casual visits with friends. The time to take care of a dog. The peace of mind and security to open one's kitchen door to a hungry stranger.

Some features of contemporary life are wonderful improvements over the way things were when I was a child. There is, for example, much more justice in today's society, even if there is still not enough, and there is a new understanding of inequality. Nostalgia can be a deadly trap if it is nothing more than a byproduct of aging, but nostalgia is useful and necessary when it reminds us of better ways of living that are gone. I wouldn't want us to return to the world of my childhood even if we could. I do want us to reconsider, in the full light of our experience, how we are going to define affluence in the world we will live in tomorrow.

I think about this when I am standing in a department store heaped with camcorders, pocket television sets, electric knife sharpeners, video games and cellular phones, but with no salespeople in sight. These material goods do not make us affluent; they are a smokescreen to hide our increasing isolation and exploitation by corporate and political forces outside our local communities.

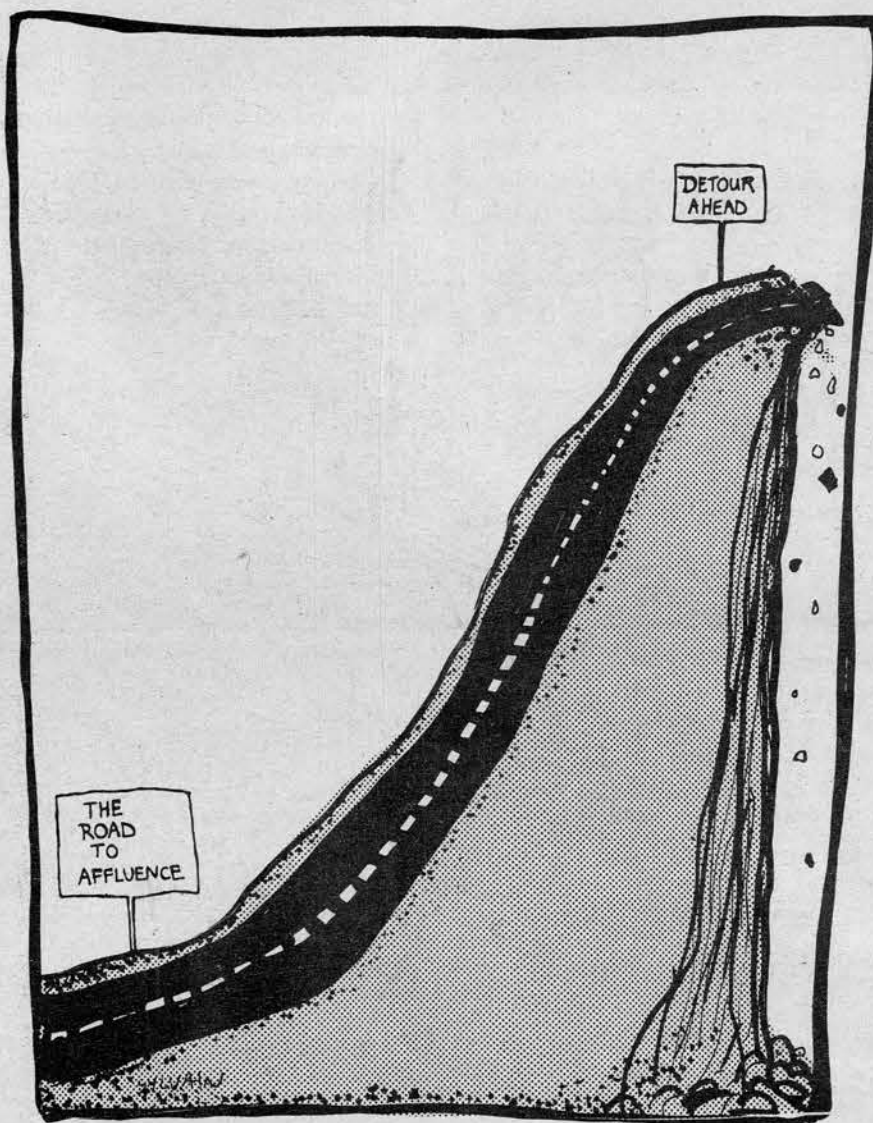
But the smokescreen is dissolving — soon we will not be able to afford even the palliative glitter that is much of what our industry and technology are able to produce. When I was a child, I remember hearing on the radio the postwar British speaking of austerity and the end of empire. They were very honest about it; even then their frankness impressed me. Now austerity is nearly upon us, too, spurred on by international trade with its massive, socially irresponsible movements of capital, and by a high technology that gives us inventions without regard for their final cost and consequences. Unlike the British, we don't speak publicly about austerity. It is coming just the same.

What will we Americans do when austerity exposes our latent poverty? The rage of 250 million spoiled, frightened children is not pleasant to imagine. I expect denial, terminal indulgence, and random, often self-destructive violence. I hope also for something better. America is a tough society: innovative, resilient, and still full of humor. There are many people, old and young, who recognize true affluence and who are already spreading its seeds throughout our communities. They may yet have their chance to demonstrate the richness that comes from a simpler, more responsible way of life. ■

David Ehrenfeld teaches ecology at Rutgers University in New Jersey. His essay was published previously by *Orion* magazine, 136 E. 64th St., New York, NY 10021.

The road to affluence

Speculation on the nature of wealth



and glass. I noticed an etiquette to these encounters: My mother never asked any questions, the men were always polite and appreciative without being demonstrative, and they expected to eat outside. Tramps were always traveling. I never saw the same one twice.

The front door was used by the postman, who dropped the mail through a little slot with a hinged, elaborately carved iron cover. He came around 10 o'clock and again, for the afternoon delivery, at 3. When I was old enough to write letters, I learned that first class mail to other parts of northern New Jersey took one or two days to arrive. Other than the postman, the front door saw a stream of visitors — aunts, uncles, friends — who came just to talk or to consult my mother about the various community service organizations that she helped to direct. And outside in the street there was still more activity. Every few weeks, on different schedules, the junk man, the rag man, and the knife-and-scissors-sharpening man would drive slowly by ringing their bells, pausing now and then so that people could have time to come out of their houses and call to them.

If my mother had an errand or appointment that took her away from home when I was sick, there was Josephine — who did the cleaning and helped with the cooking — to take care of me and to tell stories about working in factories and about rural life in North Carolina. Josephine received a high salary for those days, and also got from my father free medical care for her-