

High Country News

Vol. 2, No. 12

Friday, March 20, 1970



Roll on to Oregon! Here at South Pass, the Oregon Trail crossed the backbone of the Nation. Located in what is now Fremont County, Wyoming, this historic spot was a landmark for those thousands of pioneers who journeyed West in search of new homes, gold and adventure.

Oregon Trail Featured in Movie 'The First Road West'

THE FIRST ROAD WEST is a new, 16 mm, color movie produced by the Wyoming Recreation Commission on the Oregon Trail through Wyoming. It was filmed by Randall Wagner in a period spanning two summers. It was historically researched by Paul Henderson, the recognized authority on the Trail.

The film was premiered to capacity crowds at Lander, Wyoming, on March 16. The following is the introduction as presented by the Recreation Commission:

Early in the 1840's a wagon train rolled westward from the Missouri River and crossed Wyoming's Great South Pass on its way into history. This was the Bidwell - Bartleson Party, the first organized emigrant wagon train to travel THE FIRST ROAD WEST. While the names of the men involved in the journey have dimmed, the route that they followed has not, for they traveled one of the most famous of all emigrant roads -- The Oregon Trail.

The discovery of the route of the Oregon Trail is generally credited to Robert Stuart and the returning Astorians in the years 1812-13. In a meandering journey they followed much of what was to become the Oregon Trail, passing through

the Trail's major feature, South Pass, in October, 1812.

In 1824 a new party of mountaineers and fur trappers led by Jedediah Smith traveled westward from the Missouri on a mission of rediscovery. They located Stuart's "South Pass" and crossed it to reach the fur-rich upper Green River basin. From that year on, traffic over the Oregon Trail was annual with such famous fur trappers and mountain men as Greenwood, the Sublette brothers, Bridger, Clyman, Carson, Fitzpatrick, Hastings, Vasquez, and others constantly pioneering improved routes, shortcuts and cutoffs.

With its "natural" route following the valleys of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Feeding Game Is Costly Program

Wyoming's numerous game herds have recently been the object of complaints by some Wyoming ranchers. They have said they will ask for compensation if populations are not controlled. They particularly point to competition from antelope.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department says deer and antelope numbers are down statewide from previous highs a few years ago. Research by the Department and the University of Wyoming shows competition between deer or antelope and domestic livestock is not great except under conditions of severe overgrazing.

Wyoming law now provides a form of compensation for landowners. They can collect coupons attached to the antelope hunting permit for every antelope harvested on their land. The redemption value of the coupons is \$3 from every \$5 resident license and \$5 from every \$35 non-resident license. Wyoming ranchers have been collecting between \$55,000 and \$60,000 each year for the past several years.

In order to alleviate game

problems on private lands, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has purchased or acquired lands. These lands generally are in areas of critical winter range where one key area may sustain a large number of animals. Most areas are acquired for elk and deer range but recently one 24,000 acre area was purchased for antelope use.

Wyoming landowners are also directly compensated for damages to hay stacks and to standing crops. However, the Game Department usually tries to move game animals away from the problem areas. In 1968, the Department spent \$100,165 for game damage control, damage claims, and contingent expenses.

In addition to all of these, the Wyoming Department maintains feed grounds for large numbers of elk. When man's activities pushed the elk off the plains and out of the foothills into the mountains, the animals were put in a precarious position. Deep snows cover the mountains and make feed unavailable. The elk have to come out into the foothills to sur-

(Please turn to page 3)



CAMPERS OF THE WEEK. 'From Arizona to the High Country', and these newlyweds could see only one way to accomplish the journey. With their house attached, two weeks to pass freely, and no place in particular to go, they blissfully passed through Lander, Wyoming, totally unaware that a snowstorm was following in their path. With any luck at all, they are now snowed in - - - someplace!

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Economists and social planners have a job to do in our society that is not really appreciated for its importance. Either our country takes a new direction or at some future time our posterity will live in a Hell on Earth. The economists and the planners are the professionals who can change that direction.

Ours is an economy essentially based on constant growth. And the basic growth is placed on sheer numbers of human beings.

Too many people, even in high places, look at our country as our forefathers did at the time of Daniel Boone. To them, there was that empty land beyond the mountains just waiting for settlement. As one writer so aptly put it, our national philosophy became one of counting the wagons through. If more wagons were entering the settlement than were leaving for greener pastures, that was good.

It continues even today. I have before me several newspapers that illuminate the philosophy.

THE BILLINGS (Montana) GAZETTE says, "State's Growth Plagues Forrest," a reference to Governor Forrest Anderson's lament concerning his state. The article said his main concern was "ecology and its perspective in Montana." Quoting from the article, "Anderson said that the people of the country have been 'blundering idiots for 30 years.' He said Montana taxpayers will not be appeased until the population is increased and the per capita income rises." It would appear that he equates the one with the other.

The CASPER (Wyoming) STAR-TRIBUNE headlines, "\$20 Million Mine, Mill Plans Told," in announcing a new uranium complex. And Wyoming's Governor Stanley K. Hathaway says, "It's great to think of another 100 families or maybe 175 in the area."

In an irony of ironies, the same Casper paper carries a Holmes Alexander column entitled Nixon and Population Control. I consider Alexander to be about as conservative as they come. So it is with a good deal of satisfaction that I read, "He (Nixon) wants legislation on environment and family income, on inflation and galloping 'growthmania.' They all amount to the same question - How to make America livable.

"Growthmania is defined in a brilliant essay 'The Population Challenge of the '70's' which runs in the February issue of Population Bulletin. The word means 'the compulsive increase in production of power and goods, their consumption and the consequent generation of waste products'"

Alexander says much more but the gist of his column is that with uncontrolled population and the concomitant need for food, services, education, etc., we could lose our freedom and our vaunted liberties.

The economists and the planners must determine for us how we can have a viable economy with a stable population. There must be a way. There has to be a way. If not, conservation of natural resources and the maintenance of a quality environment become empty, mocking words.

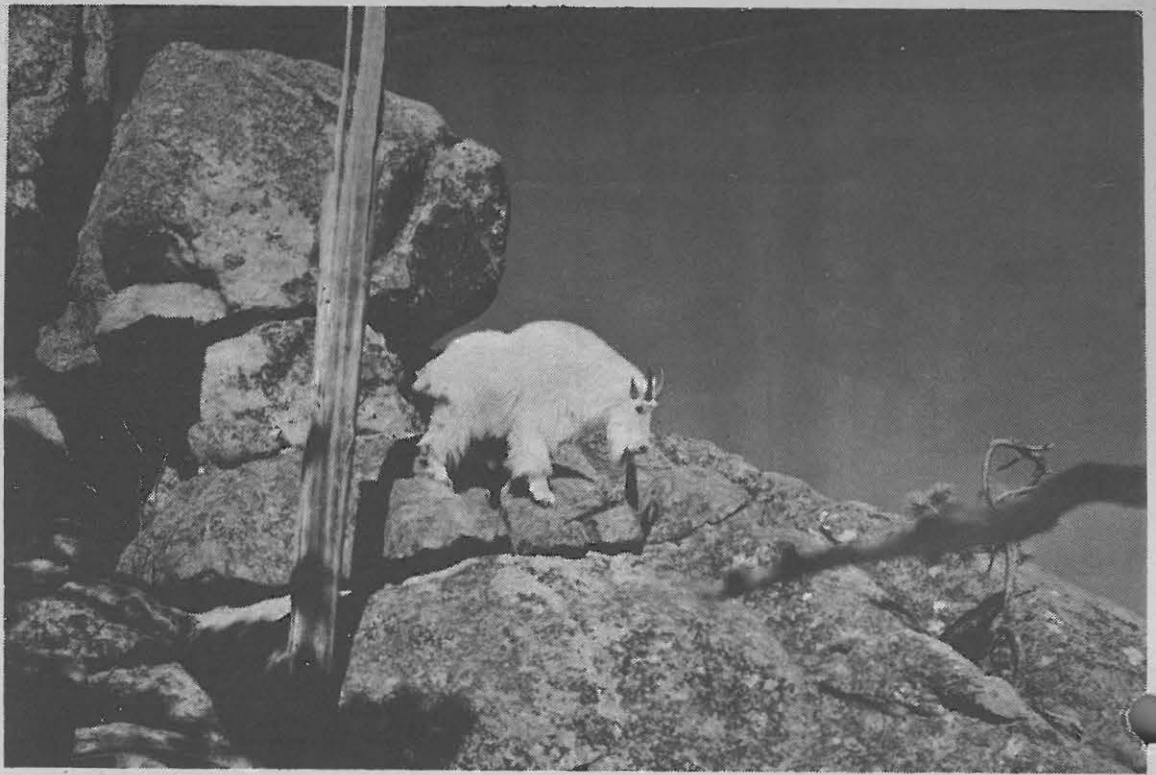


Photo by Bob Gage

Our wildlife, like this beautiful mountain goat in the Black Hills of South Dakota, require a special habitat. Sometimes small changes in the environment can eliminate a species. The human being is a species of animal, biologically no different in many respects than our fellow species who share this planet with us.

Have YOU Seen Any Wildlife Lately?

By Robert J. Legoski

Director, Conservation Center for Creative Learning

"Seen Any Wildlife Lately?" at first sounds like a simple-minded question, but in context with today's problems, it's loaded. If you live out in the country (which most Americans don't), chances are you can say, "Sure. Just this morning I saw . . ." and start naming animals. If you live in a model city or one of the better-planned suburbs, you may have seen a variety of birds, some squirrels, and maybe a raccoon or a hawk; or luckier yet, you may have unpolluted water nearby where you caught some fish last weekend.

Unfortunately, if you are like the average American, the place where you live has had too much "Progress" for any of this to be possible. Pigeons, sparrows, and rats are wild, after a fashion, but they are about all that's left in the polluted air and in and around the filthy water and miles of concrete most Americans call home.

"Seen Any Wildlife Lately?" It's a good question, because wildlife is a measure of the quality of man's environment.

Who needs wildlife? In the sense that many wild creatures are a step ahead of us in their sensitivity to polluted air and water, chemical pesticides, and the absence of naturalness -- in essence an indicator of environmental quality -- we all need wildlife for our survival. For when these other creatures are gone, what's left is a squalid environment for us.

Americans are belatedly awakening to the dangers of their self-induced blanket of poisonous gases and garbage heaps, pesticide-infested surroundings, sewage-choked waters and the sterility of paved-over landscapes. We could have recognized the dangers sooner had we paid attention to the warning signals -- that fewer birds were around as the air got foul, fewer squirrels as the greenery was paved over, and no trout, bass or shrimp as waters became open sewers.

"Seen Any Wildlife Lately?"

Many places are so crowd-

ed with people, vehicles and concrete that it would be silly to think raccoons or squirrels or deer could ever survive there again. But if we act soon enough, it is possible that air and water pollution will eventually be controlled so that birds and fish are once again abundant even in and around the city. Future highways, cities, jetports, and shopping centers can be planned and built without pollution and with a diversity of trees and green spaces. We need all of these things and we need wildlife. The important thing is that we can have them, if we insist on it. Man's true progress will be measured by the ultimate good he has done for future generations. The presence of wildlife is certainly one way of measuring it.

National Wildlife Week,

March 15-21, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliates, asks, "Seen Any Wildlife Lately?" The answers are vitally important, because abundant wildlife is more than America's heritage; it's our key to survival.

TV Feature

PIERRE -- Korczak Ziolkowski's Crazy Horse Monument and Mt. Rushmore will be shown on the NBC-TV special, "It Couldn't Be Done," April 2 at 6:30 p.m. (CST).

The special tells stories of men and their amazing works.

The program is sponsored by Bell Telephone and is narrated by actor Lee Marvin.



Photo by Verne Huser

A young great horned owl, more fuzz than feathers, exhibits the large cat-like eyes and the facial disc characteristic of its kind. The hooked beak can dispatch a rat or gopher, a mouse or mole, instantaneously; the strong, sharp talons of the feet are used for a better grip on the prey.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published every Friday at
160 South Fourth Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

Entered as second class matter, August 26, 1969 at the Post Office in Lander, Wyoming under the act of March 3, 1879.

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Subscription rate: \$5.00 Yearly

Single Copy Price 10c

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Movie . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

North Platte and Sweetwater Rivers up a gentle grade all the way to the high, flat plateau of South Pass, the mountain man's trail was ready-made for covered wagon traffic. In the 1840's the Oregon Trail opened a treasure chest of national expansion and development into the Pacific northwest. In 1846 the ill-fated Donner Party pioneered a new wagon road into the Salt Lake Valley in search of a shortcut to California. A year later Brigham Young led the advance party of Mormon pioneers along the same track through Wyoming to start one of history's great religious migrations, settling and civilizing a part of the west bypassed by previous parties.

The discovery of Gold in California turned the Oregon Trail into a highway through Wyoming as the "49ers" joined the emigration by the thousands. By 1852 as many as 50,000 Americans would go "westering" along its path each travel season. Two-way traffic now became more common as stage coach lines and various commercial traffics became established to serve the new western population. In July, 1860, the Pony Express thundered West from St. Jo and East from Sacramento carrying the mail through Great South Pass. It seemed that the mass of annual activity would never end.

Yet, as the completion of the first transcontinental telegraph brought an abrupt end to the Pony Express, so the linking of rails at Promontory Point ended the need for the Oregon Trail. In 1869, transcontinental wagon traffic suddenly was obsolete.

For the past 100 years this vital Oregon Trail pathway of the American pioneer has been slowly fading -- from the dusty face of Wyoming's vast prairies and from the memory of its citizens. The Trail sought to bring civilization to the west and that same civilization has since been busy with plow, bulldozer, building brick, and pavement, erasing all sign of the old Trail.

Feeding . . .

(Continued from page 1)
vive.

The Game and Fish Department has found that in some areas there is no other way to maintain elk herds than to feed them. The famed Jackson Hole elk herd is one of these. A recent count showed 8,421 animals on the Jackson Hole National Elk Refuge. Altogether, the Department feeds about 16,000 elk on several feed grounds at a yearly cost of approximately \$224,000.

Some of the game problems in Wyoming continue to arise because of continued public land acquisition through desert land entry laws. Ranchers are still able to acquire public land simply by filing for the desert land entries.

This subject will be discussed in another of this series.

Of all creatures, birds are the best adapted to mountain living since they are the most mobile. Abrupt changes in altitude seem to have little effect on them.

Endangered Species Abound in Hawaii

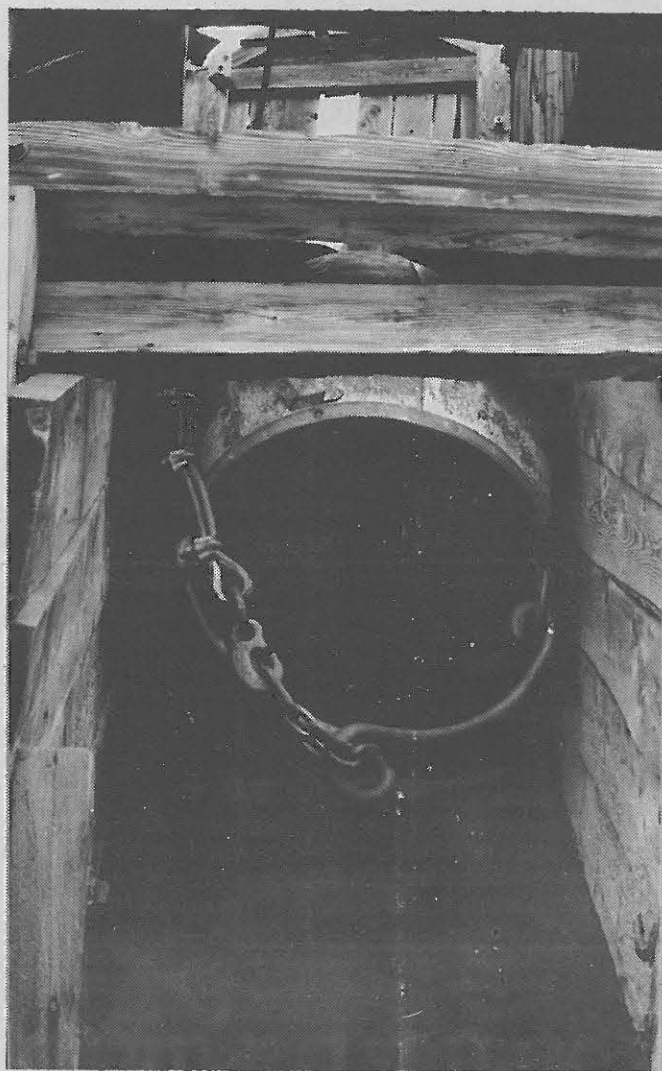
Over one-half of the endangered wildlife species of the United States are found in the State of Hawaii, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. This dramatizes the fragile ecology and close relationship between plants and animals on the limited land mass of the islands.

Officials of Hawaii and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife met with conservation leaders on Honolulu last December to define the problems and plans to preserve Hawaii's endangered wildlife.

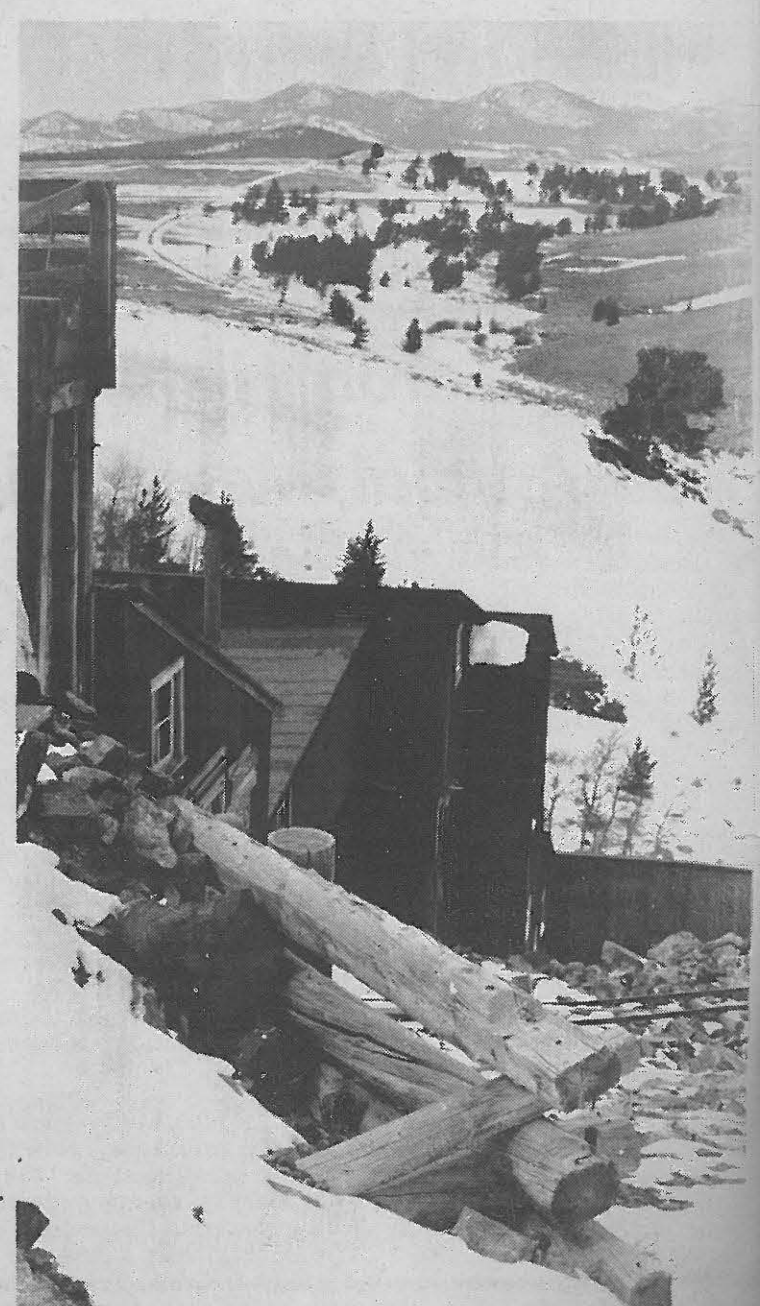
Many factors are involved in pressure on island creatures, ranging from introduction of predators and disease to destruction of essential habitat as farm lands,

resort sites and homes are developed. Hawaii's extinct and endangered wildlife covered a wide range of habitat from coastal marshes to the highest mountains.

The outlook for survival of most of the endangered birds is good, providing people care enough. They did care about the Nene goose, the Kaloa duck and the Laysan teal. These species can be reared artificially and released in habitat from which they had disappeared. Some other water birds and most of the forest birds do not respond to this technique. Habitat may be the key, but until studies now under way are complete, just what habitat must be preserved is not always known.



The rustic look of a rusted ore bucket, the deserted, miner's shack, and the view across the valley from the old, Duncan gold mine are reminders of a colorful past. The mine is located between South Pass City and Atlantic City in the historic mining area of central Wyoming.



MRS. NIMROD'S COOK BOOK by Jessie French

BRAISED RABBIT

2 rabbits, thawed and cut into pieces.
Flour
Salt and pepper
Butter
1/4 c. left-over pickle juice
1 1/2 c. hot water
1 c. chopped celery

Roll pieces of rabbit in flour. Season with salt and pepper. In a heavy iron skillet, brown meat thoroughly in butter.

Add remaining ingredients; cover and simmer over low heat until tender.

Yield: 6 large servings.
Serve with buttered noodles, glazed parsnips, and cherry pie.



Water Report Is Released

The National Water Commission has released its Annual Report for 1969, its first since it was created by Congress two years ago, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

The Commission was set up to make a five-year study and recommendations to the President and Congress on the nation's water needs, resources, and problems. The four-part report is a summary of its first year's activities.

Of particular interest is an appendix report by the Commission's Panel on Ecology and the Environment dealing with some ecological principles and interactions between uses and the environment. Copies of the report are available from the Commission at 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Flaming Gorge Is Between Seasons

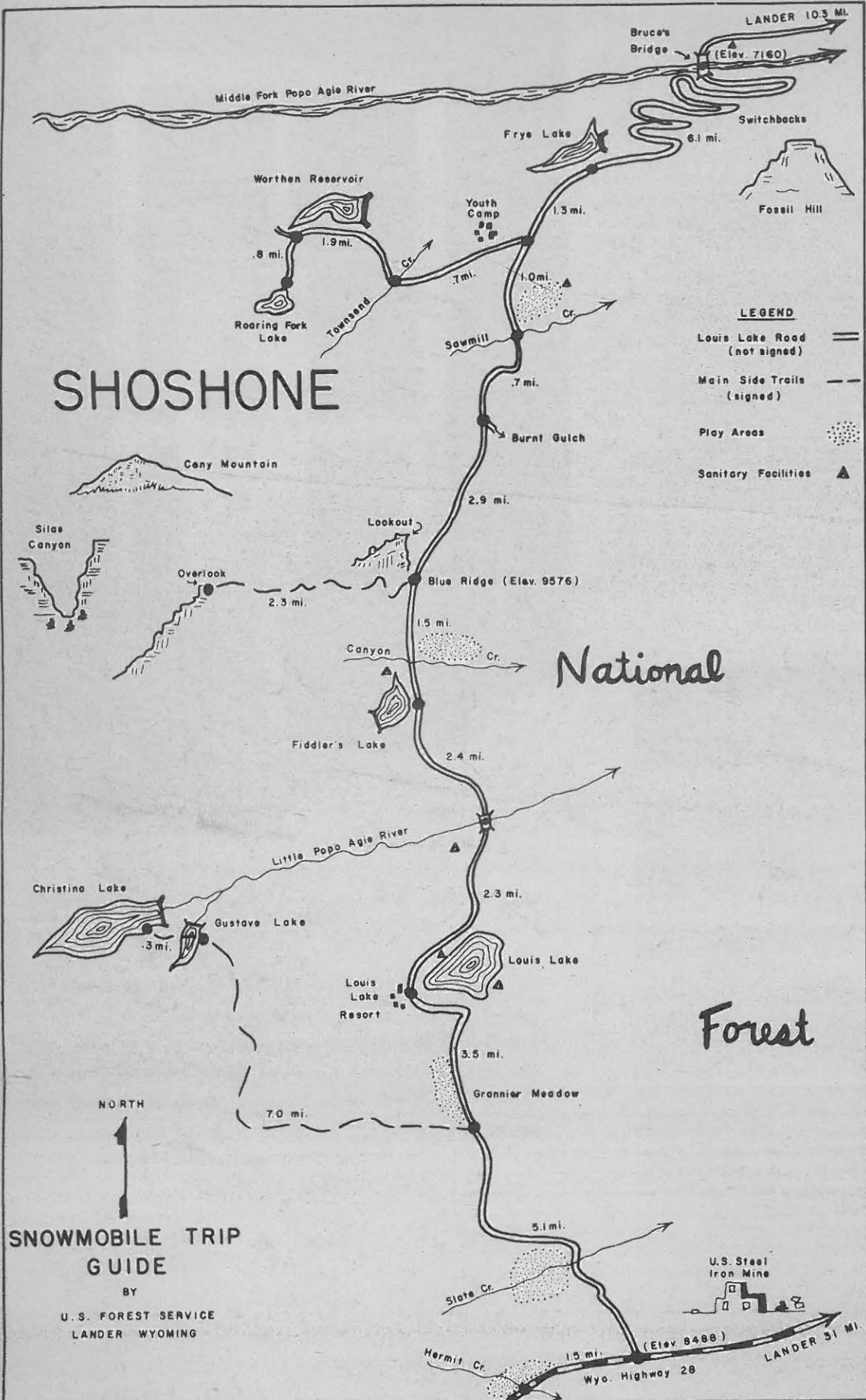
Early spring travelers visiting Flaming Gorge will encounter cold and snow one day and warm sunshine the next; typical March weather. Ice on the reservoir is rapidly disappearing. Shore fishermen can now find open water at Lucerne, Antelope, Dutch John Draw, Cedar Springs and Sheep Creek Bay. Ice in the Wyoming portion of Flaming Gorge is breaking up and shore fishing will be possible at many locations in a few days.

For boaters, courtesy docks are in the water at Lucerne, Dutch John Draw and Cedar Springs. Boaters can launch easily at these locations. A word or two of caution for boaters, however: the marinas are not yet open so gas and oil are available only at area service stations. Tentative plans call for some marina

facilities to open in mid-April, weather permitting. Also there are areas of floating ice chunks in the Wyoming portion of the reservoir and in the areas of Horseshoe and Kingfisher Canyons in Utah. Caution should be used for the next week or two when boating in these sections.

Camping units are open at Deer Run, Mustang Ridge, Antelope Flat and Lucerne. However, water is available only at Antelope and Lucerne; and there just in the restrooms that are open.

Motorists will find dry paved highways at Flaming Gorge, but should check gravel roads before venturing onto them. Sudden storms can make them rather muddy. Anglers should avoid driving close to the lake shoreline as mud in this area is extremely soft.



Miles and miles of mountain scenery are reduced to the flat dimensions of one small map. But the possibilities for adventure are all there, beckoning those who wish to get off the beaten track.

Grand Teton History Assoc. Has Annual Meeting in Moose

The Board of Directors of the Grand Teton Natural History Association held its annual meeting in Moose, Monday night, March 16. Acting Superintendent Frank Betts said that the meeting was held to fix plans for the 1970 business year. Serving as directors are: Chairman, Conrad Schweiring, Moose; Dick Barker, Moose; Dr. Donald McLeod, Jackson; and Harry Weston, Jackson, treasurer. Chief Park Naturalist, Chuck McCurdy, Moose, is Executive Secretary; and Gladys Plummer, Jackson, as bookkeeper.

"The Association is a non-profit organization, explained Betts. Its purpose is to make available publications which help visitors understand and enjoy Grand Teton National Park." An act of Congress in 1946 authorized the National Parks Service to cooperate with such educational societies.

Last year the Association

sold over 33,000 books and maps. One of the most popular items is the "Creation of the Teton Landscape." Published by the Association in 1968, it was specially written by U. S. Geological Survey geologists, J. D. Love, and John Reed, and prepared by specialists from the U. S. Geological Survey and National Park Service. Other favorite items are the park folder, which includes an excellent map for motorists, topographic maps, and "Teton Trails" a booklet for hikers also specially produced by the Association.

The Association produces a handbook, "Mountain Search and Rescue Operations," which has become a standard reference. Now in its fifth printing since 1958, it is used by rescue organizations across the nation. It was originally written by a group of Grand Teton rangers among them the present Assistant Chief Park Ranger,

Doug McLaren.

Plans for next year include the reprinting of four publications. "Creation of the Teton Landscape," will go into its second printing at 10,000 copies. Five thousand "Campfire Tales" will be produced. And, 10,000 copies each of nature trail leaflets for Jenny Lake and Colter Bay will be ordered.

Volcanoes may be responsible for the air we breathe and the water we drink. Along with the noxious gases they exhale during eruptions, they send out the basic ingredients of the earth's atmosphere - nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon dioxide. Volcanoes are also sources of water, producing it by combining hydrogen and oxygen in their furnaces and ejecting it as blasts of steam.

Fishing Hotspots

Those in the know say late winter fishing is excellent at several locations. Snowmobilers have been going to Christina Lake for ice fishing amidst the beautiful mountain scenery. (See map at left.) Good catches of mackinaw up to 17 inches are reported.

Cameahwait Lake on the west side of Boysen Reservoir runs hot and cold. Some fishermen report good fishing for the big rainbow and others go away skunked.

The Green River from Big Island to Fontenelle Reservoir is producing tolerable brown trout fishing. Lunkers up to 8 1/2 pounds are reported being caught with many in the 4-6 pound range. Anything under two pounds is considered small. Good catches are reported by float fishermen.



Photo by Pat Hall

What have we here? A gold nugget? An Indian arrowhead? Or just a pretty rock? It's all very fascinating to young men prospecting in the footsteps of the pioneers.

WANTED - HIGH COUNTRY NEWS wants articles and photos of camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, or other outdoor experiences in the Rocky Mountain area. Also features on historic sites, scenic areas, geologic areas, or other sites of general interest. Should appeal to vacation travelers or outdoor recreationists. Short articles with good photos preferred. If you are interested or desire more information, write Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

Bighorn Sheep Hunters Are Not So Successful

The 1969 bighorn sheep harvest report has been completed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and estimates that hunters brought home 113 rams during last year's hunting season in Wyoming. Statistics on the season were compiled by the commission from postcard questionnaires sent out to hunters just after the season closed.

The 388 permit holders were asked the number of days they hunted, the age and sex of bighorn sheep they saw during their hunts and their successes. Three hundred and sixteen hunters returned their questionnaires making the harvest report possible.

Statewide hunter success for 1969 -- 32% -- was the lowest recorded in five years. Laramie Peak, a newly opened area in 1969 saw good success with seven hunters harvesting five sheep while no sheep were reported to have been taken in the South Big Horn, Sheep Mountain or Temple Peak areas.

The 1969 bighorn sheep

season was established by area with seasons beginning as early as August 15 and running as late as November 20. A drawing on July 15 determined which of the 2,187 applicants would receive the 388 sheep permits.

Small Game Season Ends

The winter small game hunting season is drawing to a close in Wyoming and will officially end March 31, 1970.

Bag limits permit 10 cottontail rabbits to be taken each day and no more than 20 are allowed in the hunter's possession at any time. There are no firearm restrictions when hunting rabbits in Wyoming.

The winter small game season began on January 1 with shooting hours from daylight to dark. The season will not open again until August 29 and will remain open until December 31, 1970.

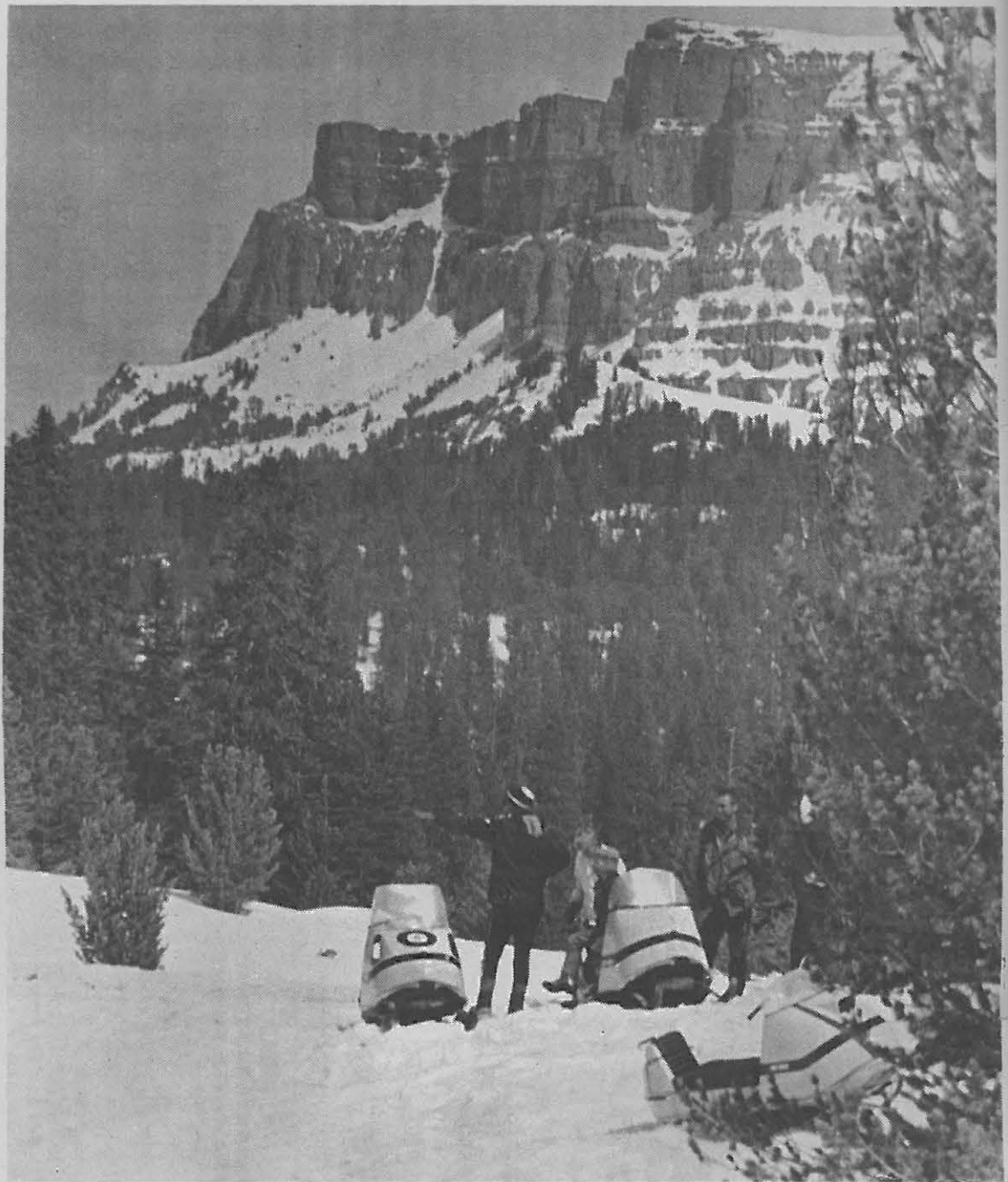


Photo by Jeff Clack

The warm days of March are perfect for riding the high country on snowmobiles. Here, the Lander, Wyoming, Snowdrifters pause beneath the cliffs on Togwotee Pass along Highway 287 near Dubois, Wyoming.

Public Land Values Getting Attention

The Public Land Recreation Act and two other bills of great importance to the future use of public lands have been introduced by Chairman Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

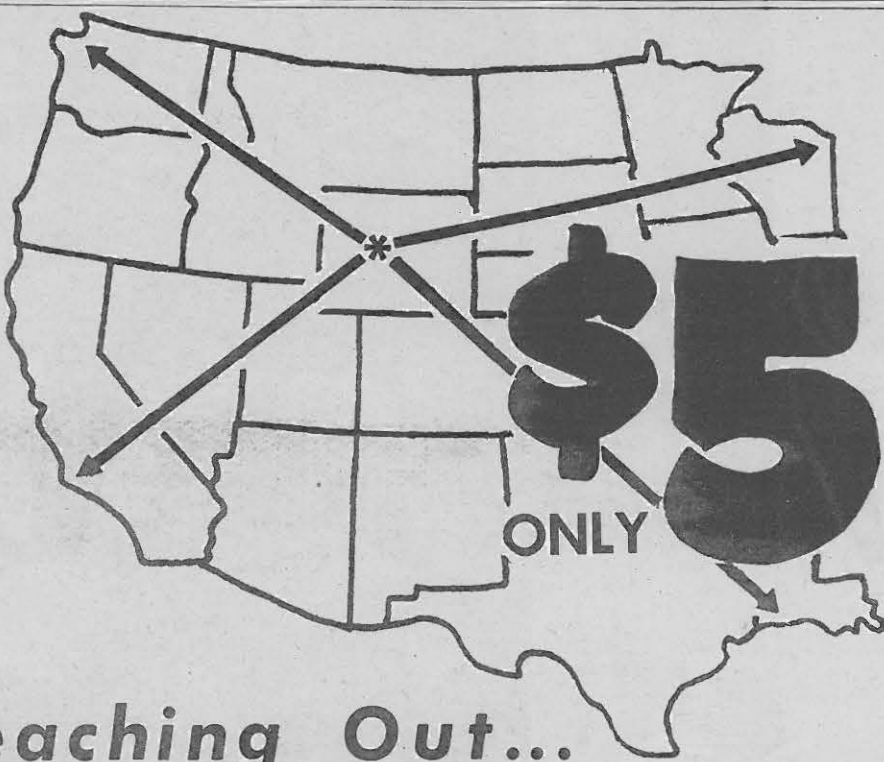
The Public Land Recreation Act, S. 3389, authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain programs for recreation on the public lands. The bill provides for no funds, saying that such funds as are necessary remain available. The other bills, S. 3390 and S. 3391, would make permanent the Classification and Multiple Use Act and the Public Land Sale Act. These expire six months after the Public Land Law Review Commission makes its report, which is due on June 30. The bills were referred to Jackson's own committee.

In introducing his legislation, Jackson said recent figures show that more than 30 million recreation visits are made annually to the public lands and that 50 million visits are projected by 1974. Despite this increasing demand on the public lands, he said, today's appropriations for the construction and operation of recreational facilities is about one-twentieth the amount provided for the national parks two decades ago when annual visits there

were equal to what the public domain lands receive today.

"Years of neglect have created many problems on the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management," the Committee chairman said. "The lack of regulations and enforcement authority have resulted in wanton vandalism and destruction of resources. The lack of sanitation facilities has created health hazards . . . "Overuse, littering and neglect have created unsightly blights on the landscape. The lack of public access has 'locked up' millions of acres of public land for the private use of but a few, and many outstanding hunting, fishing, and other opportunities are not now available. The lack of enforcement authority and lack of interpretative and restoration work has resulted in the loss of irreplaceable archeological values," Jackson said.

Despite his name the fisher (*Martes pennanti*) rarely eats fish, except from traps. He is also known as black fox, black cat, pekan, Pennant's cat and fisher marten. The fisher appears to be the only animal that habitually dines on porcupine. He flips porcupine over and into the unprotected throat or belly.



Reaching Out...

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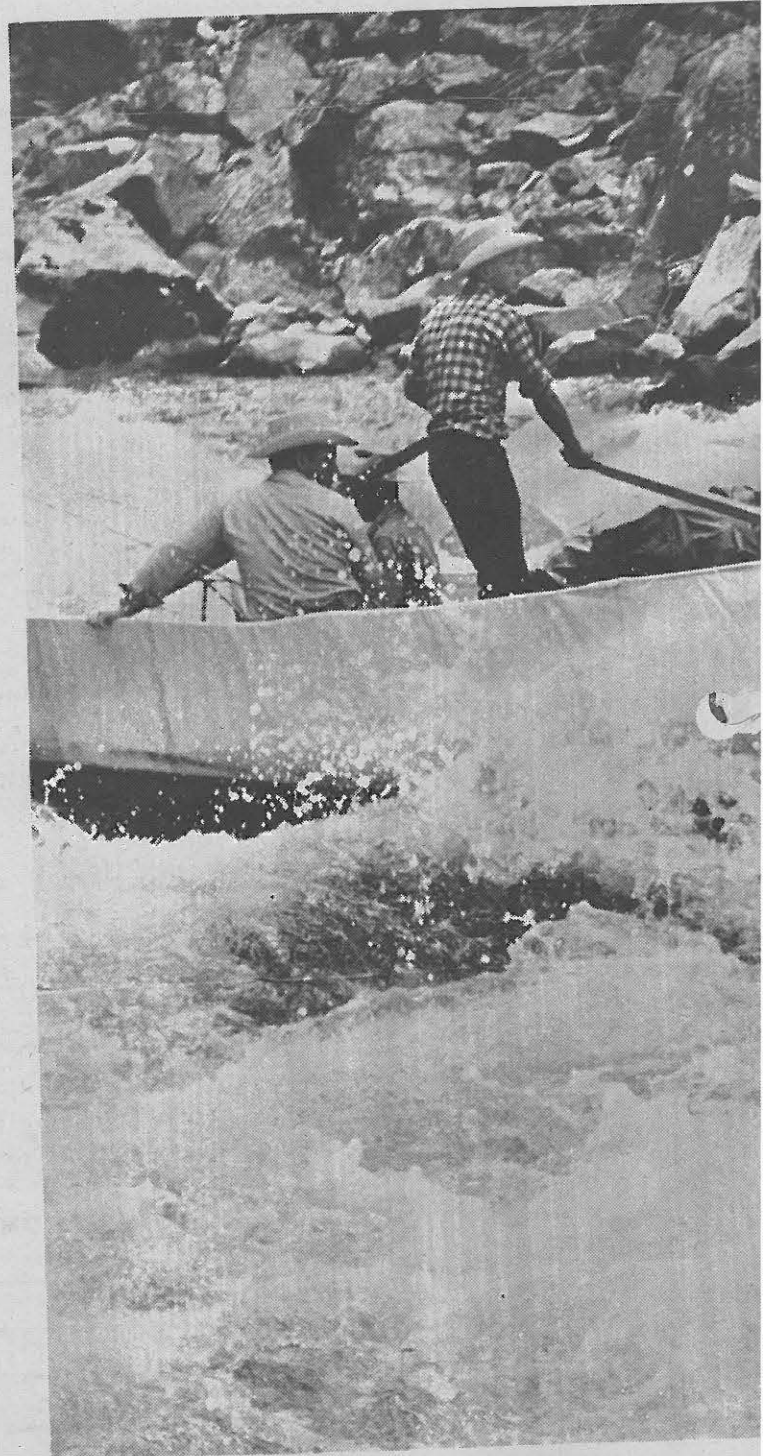
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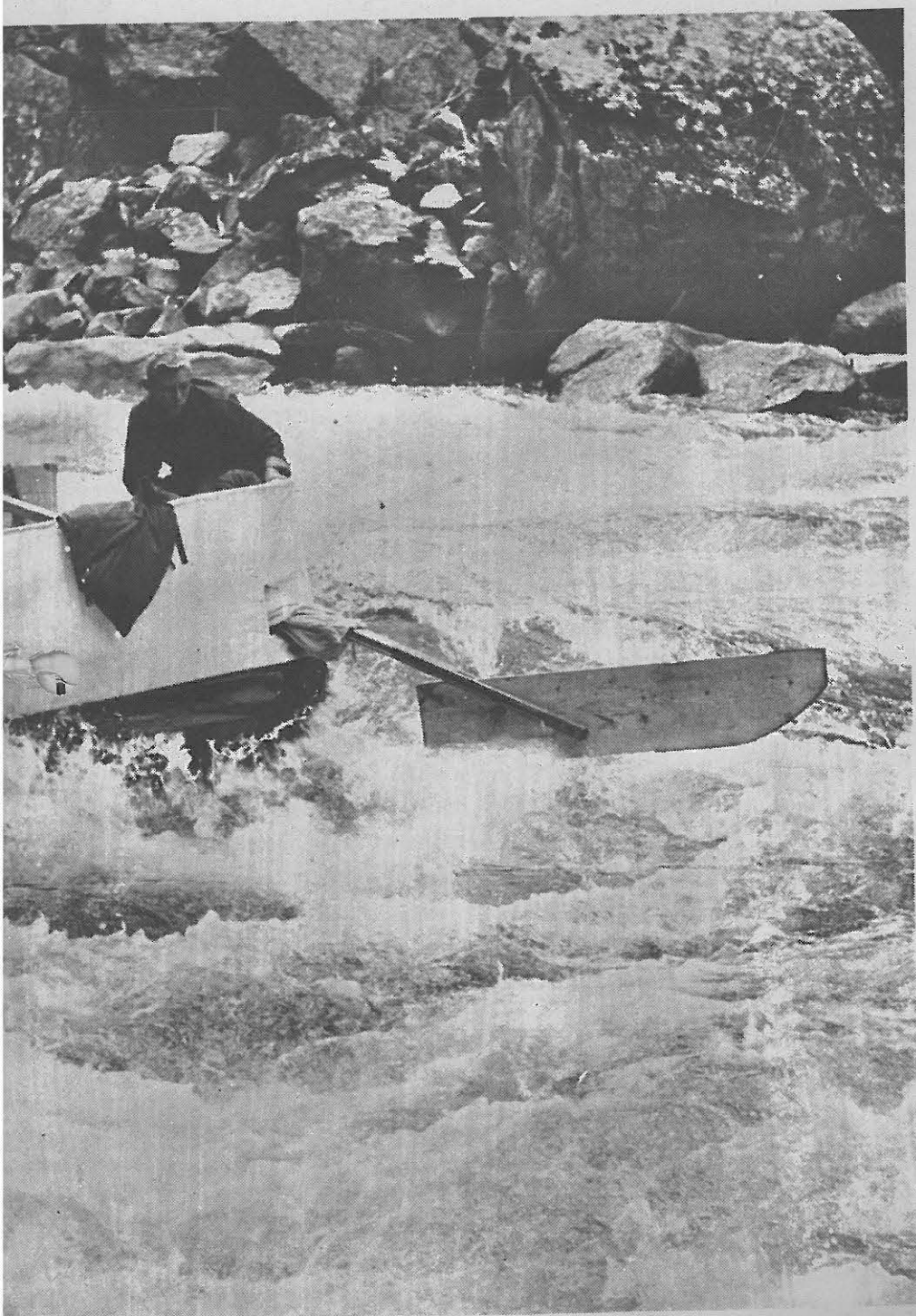
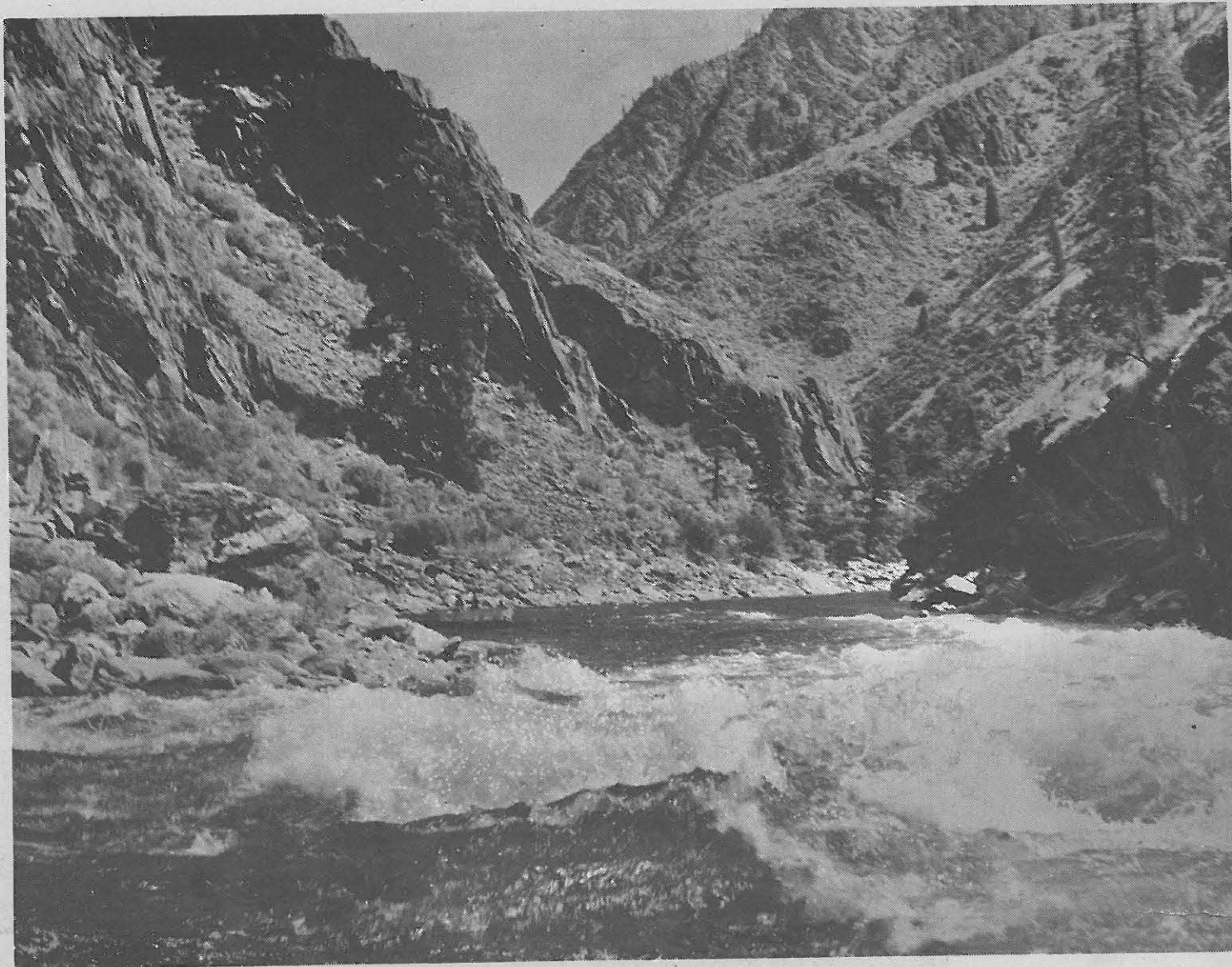
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Photos by Ernie Day



THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER IN IDAHO IS ONE OF THE DESIGNATED WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS FAMOUS FOR ITS STEELHEAD FISHERIES AND FOR THE RUNS OF BOTH STEELHEAD TROUT AND SALMON GOING TO THE HEADWATER SPAWNING AREAS.

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CAMPER'S MARKET
High Country News
Classified Ads

Mountain Sculptor Gets Demonstration

CUSTER -- The University of California at Berkeley has a reputation as a haven for long hair and noisy political demonstrations. But right now at Berkeley a quiet demonstration is being staged for South Dakota's mountain sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski.

Last June a group of Berkeley students visited the Crazy Horse Memorial near Custer and became intrigued with what Ziolkowski was doing. They were especially impressed with his future plans for an Indian Cultural Center.

After returning to California they formed the "California Friends of Korczak Ziolkowski, the Crazy Horse Mountain Memorial and the North American Indian Center," a registered student organization on the Berkeley campus.

Pictures and printed material were displayed at a booth during the semi-annual Activities Fair on the campus. The students distributed Crazy Horse literature and tried to raise funds for the project.

John Welborne, founder of the "California Friends," recently sent the booth's collection of \$11 to Ziolkowski with the promise of more to come.

Immediately following Welborne's letter, Ziolkowski received a letter from the club's new president, Jed Bullard, who was interested in receiving not only

a film of the work being done on the Crazy Horse Memorial but one "in which the Indians win."

The students have pledged their continued support to Ziolkowski and sent him a photo of their "demonstration" on the Berkeley campus.

Fishing Stopped Because of Elk

Burnt Lake, a small lake nestled in the foot-hills of the Wind River Range just east of Pinedale, has been closed to fishing by an emergency order of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The closure is in effect from March 9 through April 30, 1970 and from December 1-31, 1970.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner James B. White said this emergency closure was made in an attempt to reduce harassment of elk on the commission's Fall Creek elk feed ground by over-snow vehicles and four-wheel drive vehicles. Persons fishing in Burnt Lake travel through or near the feed ground.

White said traffic through this areas has repeatedly driven elk from the feed ground onto adjacent private land and resulted in sizeable expenditures of money and manpower in trying to control the elk.

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Storm clouds gather over the Wind River Range in Wyoming. It was the first major storm of 1970. The

mild, open winter has been a blessing to wintering game animals throughout the West.

Did You Know?

The busiest animal above timber line is the pika, a small relative of the rabbit. It spends the summer reaping hay for winter use. This it does by cutting grass and piling it in tiny haycocks to cure in the dry mountain air outside its rockslide home.

Bears have thick, hairy coats, walk flat-footed, possess keen scent, strong claws and shearing teeth. They eat less flesh than wolves or foxes. Except for the polar bear, they are vegetarians much of the time.

Among the insects that populate the American deserts, the harvester ants follow a singularly well-organized and stable life pattern. Their colonies build permanent living quarters 15 feet or deeper underground. They live on seeds which they gather from the desert and store in their underground granaries.

The mink is a solitary rover. Fiercely aggressive, it seeks its kind only during spring mating. Active both day and night, the restless mink is equally at home in the forest or on the water.

Cougars have a wider distribution than any other American mammal. They are found on plains near sea level, on high mountains, in the foggy, chilly rainbelt of the forested northwest, on the burning sands and deep in the dense growth of the tropics.

Public Lands Important

From The Utah Farmer, January 15, 1970.

Speaking of taxes, there is often some question as to the effect on tax rates of the very large block of federally-owned land in Utah. Something like 70 per cent of the total land area of the state belongs to the federal government. Now, it appears, this may not be at all bad. According to a recent

report from a special taxation committee of the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, it may actually be to Utah's advantage. The state is now receiving anywhere from three to four times as much money from the government - from its share of mineral leases, grazing receipts and other benefits - as it would if it had all the federal lands on the tax rolls, the report indicates.

Keep It Beautiful

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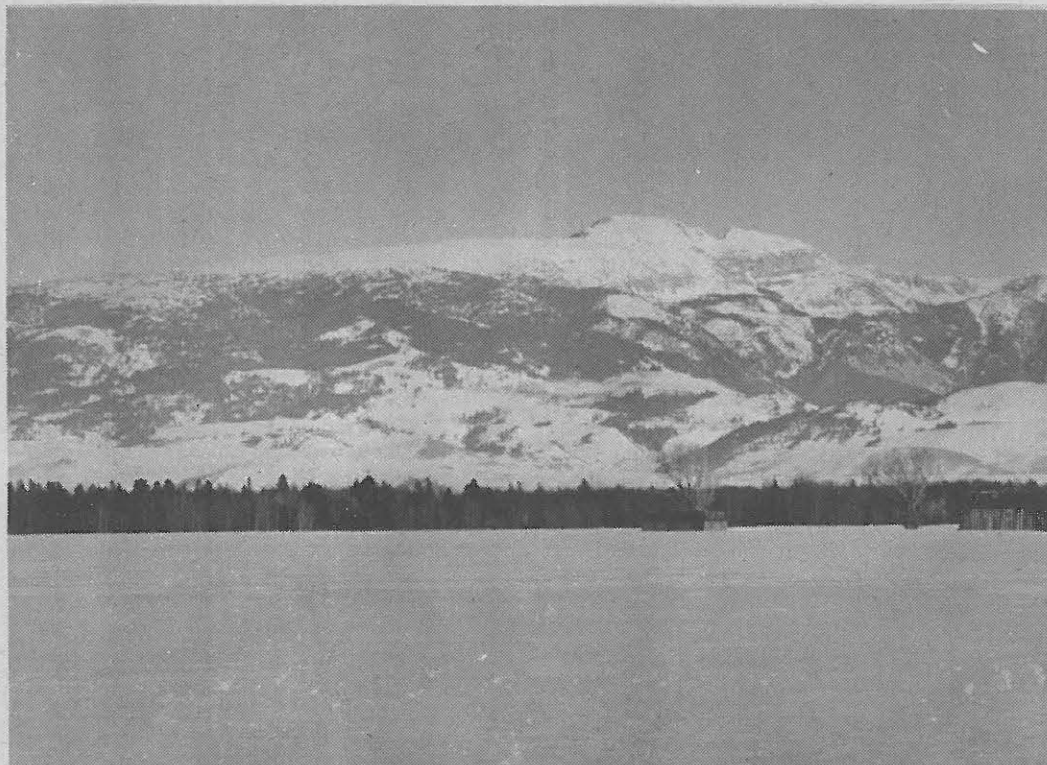


WYOMING OUTDOORS

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.

Thomas A. Bell, Editor

P. O. Box W, Lander, Wyoming 82520



The Sleeping Indian lies high in the Gros Ventre de facto wilderness area on the east side of the Jackson Hole in Wyoming. It is areas such as this that will be considered for wilderness status in the years ahead.

Does The Public Have a Right To Know?

Recent developments in both Montana and Idaho point up a situation which also exists in Wyoming, and, I suspect, a number of other states.

An editorial in The Billings Gazette (March 18) goes right to the heart of the matter and so I take the liberty of quoting it in its entirety: "The State Fish and Game Commission has clamped a muzzle on an important spokesman for the blue of Montana's skies and waters and the beauty of its land. "The ban on statements by Fish and Game Department Director Frank Dunkle should be removed immediately.

"Dunkle is the professional in this field. No matter what their qualifications for being on the board, the commissioners are still amateurs.

"One statement made by a commissioner, as reported in the minutes of a telephone conference, asserted that the commission members must consider not only pollution and harm to the environment but industrial development as well.

"May we respectfully disagree. Industrial development is not one of the considerations of the Fish and Game Department except that it should study and report on the impact of industry on a specific environment.

"It is not up to the Fish and Game Commission to withhold environmental facts if those facts indicate an industry may harm the environment, nor to withhold facts favorable to an industry.

"The Fish and Game Commission's duty is to wildlife, sportsmen and recreationists. The Commission has no right to adopt a policy to hide facts to (help) or

hinder industry. And that's what its present policy seems to be pointing toward.

Just what do you want to keep under cover, boys?"

The Boise Idaho Statesman carried an article on March 12 in which Governor Don Samuelson was accused of muzzling state employees. The article said Travis S. Roberts of Portland, Oregon, acting regional director of the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, contended pollution from mining could destroy salmon runs in the East Fork of the Salmon River.

The article then quoted John Chapman, a Boise attorney, "We don't believe the Governor has directly imposed any limitations on state employees but we feel that his presence in the governor's chair has prevented state employees from speaking out on this matter.

"For instance, why haven't we heard from the Idaho Fish and Game Commission on this problem of pollution? Why haven't we heard from the Idaho Department of Health and the Idaho Water Resource Board?

"We feel they should have brought this matter to the attention of the public before this. We have had to depend on a federal agency to inform us of the danger of pollution in the area. So we feel that because of the governor's unreasonable position he has prevented these state agencies from acting."

The problem is not unique to Montana or Idaho. Wyoming's state departments find themselves muzzled to a great degree unless they happen to be associated with industrial development or the livestock industry.

We could well ask, why does the Game and Fish De-

partment not publicize the damaging effects to valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat of dams on the Upper Green River? The public is told much about the values of big reservoirs if they should be built. Why not the damages?

Why has the Game and Fish Department not been allowed to speak out on the losses incurred, the possible

(Please turn to Page 11)

Wyoming Issues

There are a number of conservation and environmental issues in Wyoming at the present time. Recent actions and developments are as follows:

Washakie Wilderness

Last Fall, Senator Gale McGee toured the DuNoir areas proposed by conservationists for inclusion in the Washakie Wilderness near Dubois. Following his inspection, in conversation with District Ranger Harold Wadley and myself, it was agreed that no further moves would be made until the Forest Service came up with a new timber management plan.

That plan has been made and proposed by Mr. Wadley and his immediate superior, Shoshone Supervisor Jack Lavin, after much work and careful study. I have kept checking back and found the plan has been to Denver for the third time and to Washington at least once. But it has not yet been finally accepted by either the Denver Regional Office or the Chief's Office in

The Politics of Ecology

Three speakers before California's Planning and Conservation League recently gave some advice on "The Politics of Ecology." The three were John Zierold, conservation lobbyist for the League, and two State Assemblymen, Pete Wilson and Alan Sieroty.

Zierold said, "There will be no change in the environment without first enacting legislative change."

They advised: ORGANIZE - stop acting as individuals and unite.

Meet with legislators face to face "to develop mutual respect and get across information."

They set forth 10 cardinal points for legislative success:

- Remember that environmental problems are a new thing for legislators. They need information.
- Remember that a legislator's prime concern is getting re-elected. Associate your cause with his.
- Communicate as a member of an identified organization rather than as an individual.
- Pool campaign contributions in an organization which can channel them among candidates.
- Establish a relationship of mutual respect. Don't challenge a legislator's good faith.
- Don't wait for formal hearings before familiarizing legislators with your facts and arguments.
- Frame proposals that call for affirmative governmental action even if it has to be preceded by a "study."
- Maintain "high visibility" for environmental causes.
- Keep the spotlight on legislator's actions as a measure proceeds.
- Be militant, but remember that success requires "a unique combination of patience and impatience."

Notice

There will be a Wyoming Outdoor Council Board of Directors meeting in Laramie on April 4. It is to be held in the United Presbyterian Church at 11th and Grand beginning at 9 AM. Officers for the coming year will be elected and directors elected or re-elected.

Wyoming's First Environmental Congress at Casper on May 16 will feature Mike Frome, Conservation Editor of Field and Stream, as luncheon speaker and Dave Brower, President of Friends of the Earth, as banquet speaker.

In the meantime, the Washakie Wilderness languishes because we can come to no agreement on the best use of the DuNoir Basins. Nothing has changed. The elk habitat would still be in jeopardy of the areas were to be roaded for either timber or developed recreation.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department still believes the elk herd involved here is of greater long-range economic importance than either the timber or the recreation developments.

Laramie Peak

The Laramie Peak de facto wilderness is slated to be proposed as a wilderness area. Representative John Saylor has said he will propose the area in an omnibus bill of a number of de facto areas. Such a move will give added recognition to this small but important area in eastern Wyoming.

Soapholes

Desert land entries filed by ranchers in the Soapholes area along the Green River in Sublette County have been held up for investigation. Congressman Henry Reuss of Wisconsin requested a delay in any further

(Please turn to Page 11)

Environmental Eavesdropper

The Montana Wildlife Federation issued a statement saying it "resents recent accusations by industrial promoters that environmentalists are blocking economic development." The statement added, "The Montana Wildlife Federation will support introduction of industry that does not pollute or otherwise degrade the Montana environment. We are convinced, however, that additional controls are needed to assure orderly development of Montana's resources and that comprehensive land use planning must precede zoning implementation."

* * *

Congressman Arnold Olsen of Montana was recently quoted in The Billings Gazette as saying, "I think any industrial development is desirable, but I think we're at the point in Montana where we have to make some of them (the industries) behave . . . We should absolutely demand high quality performance (by industry) in Montana."

* * *

The Laramie County, Wyoming, Democratic Party has called for the creation of a state department of ecology as a means of controlling and maintaining the quality of environment in that state. The Fremont County Democratic Party has called for continued creation of wilderness areas in the state and passed a resolution condemning Governor Stanley K. Hathaway, a Republican, for his hypocrisy in first fighting air quality standards and then taking credit for their adoption.

* * *

The U. S. Forest Service in California says about 1.3 million ponderosa pines in the San Bernardino National Forest are dead or dying from the effects of smog. The Service predicts all of the affected trees will be dead before the smog can be eliminated.

* * *

The Boise, Idaho, STATESMAN has editorially commented on the statement by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that potential pollution from mining on the East Fork of the Salmon River could destroy important salmon runs. The paper says, ". . . both state and federal agencies should know more about the potential danger, and the possible way to limit or control it, before mining is permitted to proceed . . . Under existing law Idaho's basic approach to water pollution is to step in and try to limit it after it occurs. The law should require advance consideration of plans for mining and other activities. The burden of proof that pollution will not occur should be on the potential polluter."

* * *

The U. S. Geological Survey reports 11 land areas in Arizona are sinking. The cause is given as a receding water table being sucked dry by irrigation wells. A 60 square mile area around Eloy has sunk an average of three feet between 1948 and 1967. Meanwhile, in the Eastern Columbia Basin in the state of Washington, hydrologists say underground water stores are becoming depleted with no chance of recharge from surface waters.

Wyoming Outdoors Continued. Right . . .

(Continued from Page 10)

land entries in the Soaphole area along the Green River? Why does this information have to be pried from state pollution, and the environmental damages of desert and federal agencies?

Why don't we hear more from the Game and Fish Department on the detrimental effects of timbering on big game habitat? And on the value of wilderness areas to protect habitat?

Why have some Game and Fish employees been taken to task because of statements they made or facts they presented? Are we getting our money's worth out of trained, professional public employees when they are effectively prevented from telling us what they know?

What happened when public hearings were being scheduled on air quality standards for Wyoming? Why didn't we hear from state

employees and Air Resources Council members? How much pressure and coercion was being tactfully applied?

Part of these questions are easily answered. A state administration bent on "developing" the state (whether it be Wyoming, Montana or Idaho) will go to almost any lengths to attract big industry. They will brook no interference with their plans. And if the environment gets mangled in the process, chances are the mistakes can be passed off as ignorance of what would happen.

Those who are charged with the responsibility of protecting the natural resources and the environment can be effectively muzzled by the power of the governor's office and those close around him, including his appointees.

The public can demand that it have all the facts before irrevocable decisions



Photo by Ernie Day

Bighorn sheep find needed winter range in the steep-walled canyons of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. This area now has the protection of wild river designation.

Idaho Has 'Wild River'

The Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho has now become a "Wild River" by designation of the U. S. Forest Service. Congress placed the Middle Fork in wild river status by legislation and then directed the Forest Service to manage it as such.

The designation withdraws all land on either side for one quarter mile from mineral entry. Any valid, existing mining claims along the length of the river will still hold but no new claims will be allowed.

The Idaho Legislature recently passed legislation which prohibits dredge mining on any part of the Middle Fork which lies within the designation. However, the Forest Service says there is a question as to whether the stream is navigable or not and, therefore, whether the streambed is federal or state property. This question may only be settled through a court test case. The Forest Service will

manage the river until such time as a test is made. It will put two patrol boats on the river to help administer and protect the resources.

Salmon National Forest Supervisor F. E. Powers said, "There is a growing need for cleanup, maintenance and additional improvements to take care of the people using the river, both from the standpoint of fire prevention and helping them to enjoy their trip."

In commenting on increased use of the river, Powers also said, "We do think that sometime in the future there may be such a saturation of people trying to travel the river that there will have to be some limits placed on the number of people going down at any one time so they will have a reasonable chance of enjoying the trip."

Much is made of the great fisheries and scenic values of the Middle Fork of the Salmon, but Dr. Maurice Hornocker has emphasized another important value.

(Dr. Hornocker is the leader of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Idaho.) He says the great canyons of both the Salmon and the Clearwater Rivers are very important for big game winter range. Since winter range is a critical factor in maintaining big game numbers, these areas fulfill an important ecologic function.

Economic surveys indicate the Middle Fork may be worth about \$883,000 to the State of Idaho. Forest Service figures show the direct and indirect economic benefits were made by 12,300 visitors to the area. Predictions are that by 1975, the economic figure may easily go over \$1 million.

How do people in the area feel about having a "Wild River" in their backyard? There is the usual split between those who would like to see more roads and development and those who think the river should be kept wild and free.

are made. The environment is what we must live with today. But more important than that, it is what we pass on to our posterity.

Issues . . .
(Continued from Page 10)
ther action by the Secretary of the Interior. He also requested all pertinent information on the area for review by his House subcommittee.

Reuss took the matter up after it was called to his attention by the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council. The Council had earlier filed a formal protest with the Secretary of the Interior which had been rejected. Authorities point out that

the lands in the area are so alkaline and are of such generally poor quality that they cannot qualify, that irrigation of these lands would create a salt pollution problem in the Green River and soil erosion problems on the lands, and that the lands are a part of a critical deer winter range.

Air Quality

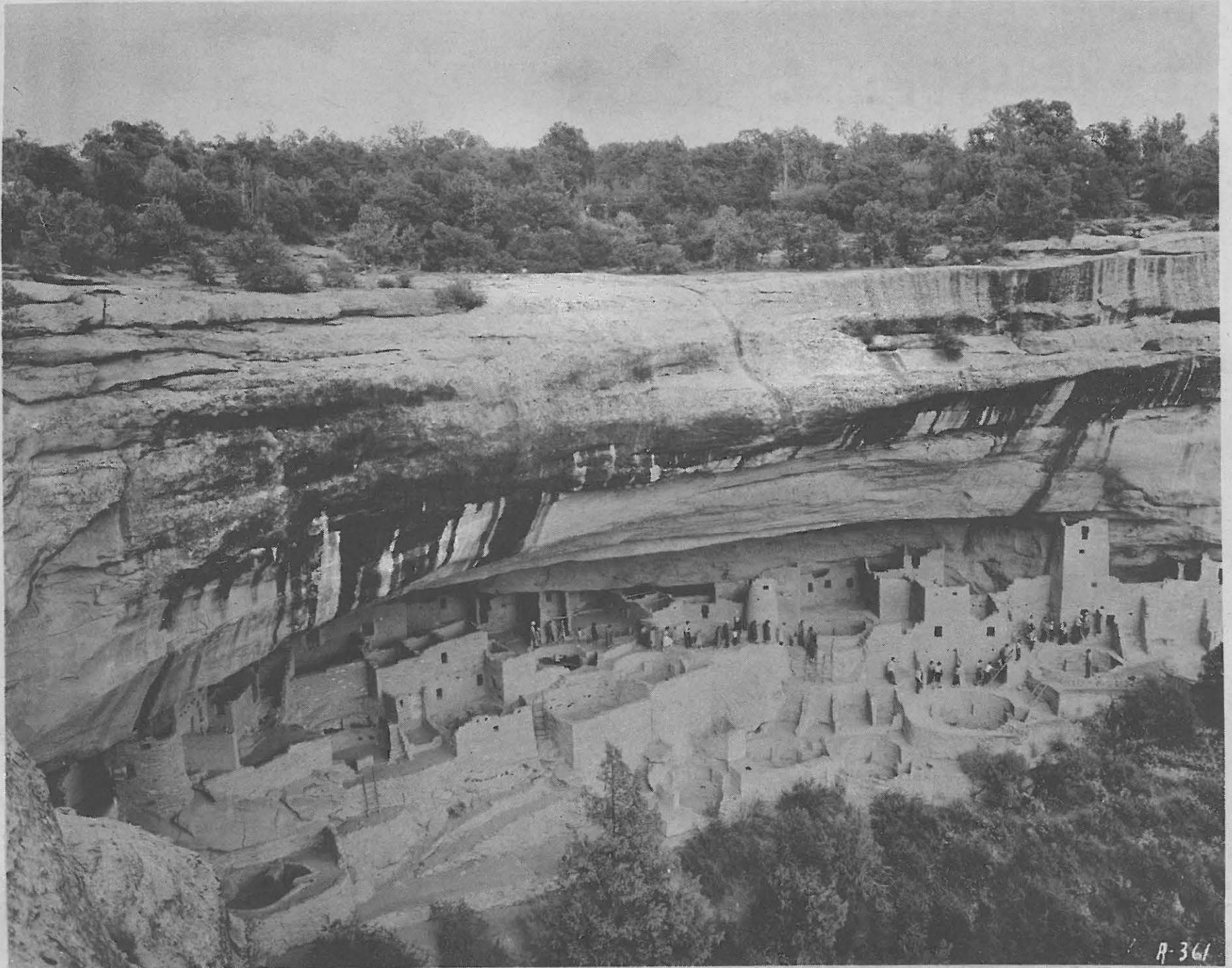
Wyoming has a set of air quality standards but no money to see that they are implemented or enforced. That situation will prevail until the Legislature can meet and appropriate funds in 1971.

Robert E. Sundin, Director of the Section of Indus-

trial Hygiene was recently queried. He said he would have no money for travel or inspection. Neither would he have available funds for even answering correspondence which has increased in volume about six to one in recent months. He said correspondence would have to be handled by one secretary.

Sundin said federal funds are available on a two to one matching basis but the state has no funds with which to match.

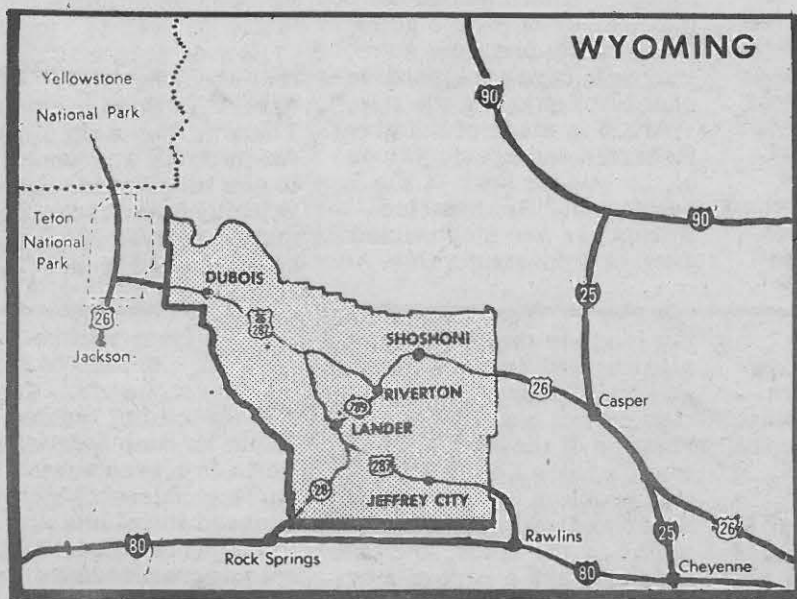
Sundin verified that Governor Hathaway had reappointed Dr. Don Lamb of Laramie, and Robert Olsen of Casper to the Air Resources Council.



Mesa Verde National Park, in southwestern Colorado, contains the well-preserved ruins of an ancient Pueblo Indian civilization, dating to 1 A.D. Cliff Palace, hanging

on the sandstone cliffs as a giant eagle nest, was abandoned by the mysterious cliff dwellers about 700 years ago. Guided tours are conducted through the ruins.

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