

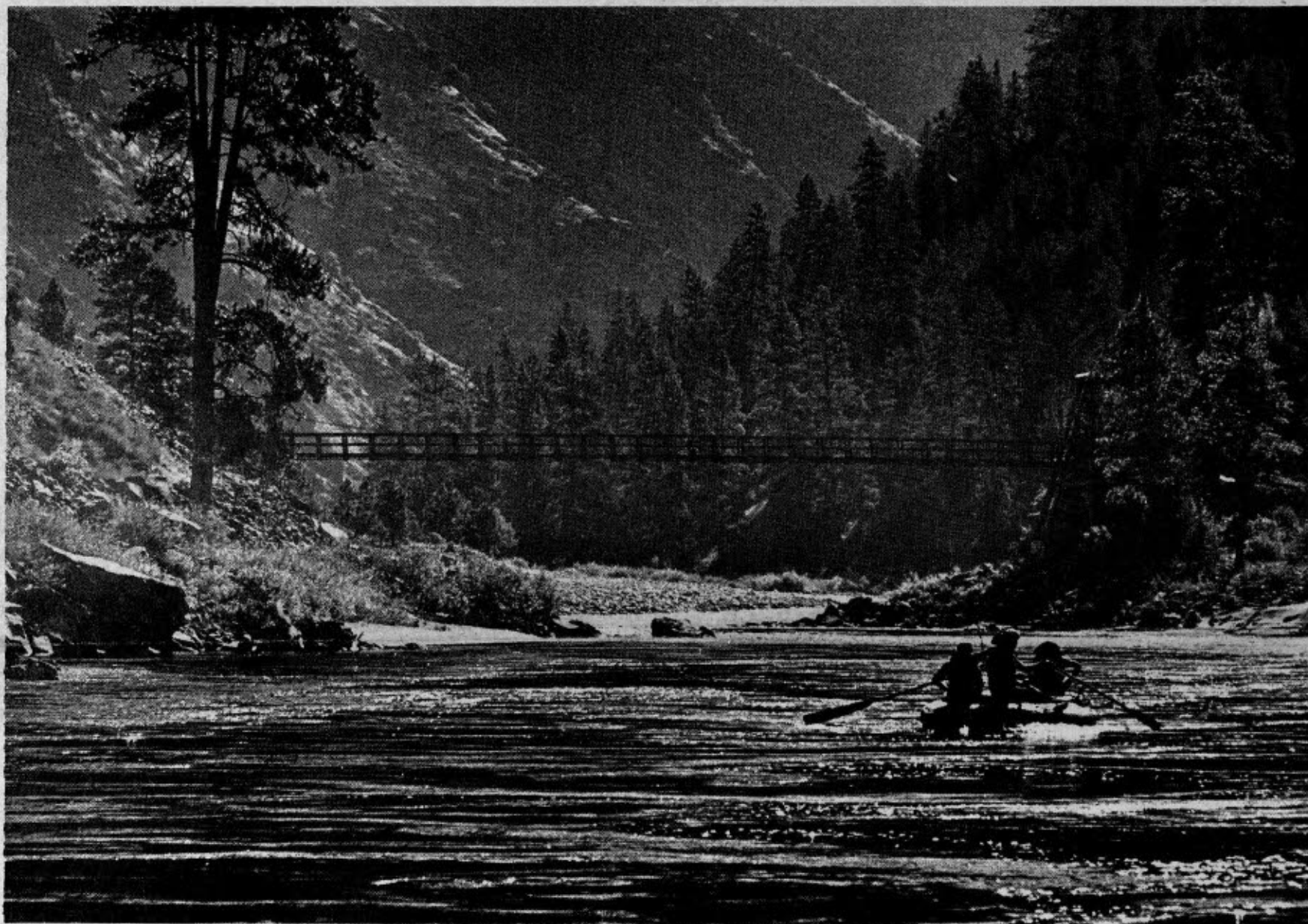
# High Country

# The Outdoor and Environmental Weekly News

Vol. 2, No. 35

Friday, November 6, 1970

## Upland Game Issue



Salmon River Canyon in Idaho - good chukar country.

Photo by Jim Tallon

### Opening Day Woes or Chukars Don't Come "Cheep"

Editors Note: On Thursday morning before press day, we received an Air Mail Special Delivery package from feature columnist, Jim Tallon. The contents, therein, now make up most of this front page. Mr. Tallon came through with this bases-loaded hit to clear our previously scheduled story and photo right off the page.

Just a few days ago I ran into an old hunting and fishing friend, Harley Worthit, in the parking lot of a discount sporting goods store. Harley was distributing handbills, putting them under the windshield wipers of vehicles in the parking lot. I read the ad before I ran Harley down. It said: MADAM EVA. FORTUNE-TELLER. SHE CAN POINT THE WAY. CUT RATE FOR HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN.

"Harley," I called. "I mean, what's with this fortune-telling bit, and how come you're circulating advertisements these days?"

"Oh, I just do this on my lunch hour," he said. "You know, a little extra money for shells and lures. As for Madam Eva, she's a real psychic when it comes to hunting and fishing."

"Look," I said. "I'm not very sharp on hunting chukars. Do you think Madam Eva can help me?"

Twenty minutes later I pushed aside a set of astrology-  
(Please turn to page 13.)

### Environment Not Yet A Strong Election Issue

The environment and environmental issues made some gains in Tuesday's elections. But environmental conditions existing at present did not make much impact on most voters.

An exception may be in Idaho where Democrat Cecil Andrus defeated incumbent Republican Governor Don Samuelson. Andrus campaigned on a promise to try to save the White Clouds. These are some of North America's most beautiful mountains, threatened by open pit mining operations for molybdenum. Andrus also had a very respectable legislative record on environmental issues. He was backed by the Idaho Environmental Council and the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council.

Senator Gale McGee of

Wyoming won easily over Congressman John Wold in a bid to wrest the seat from the incumbent Democrat. McGee has staunchly supported conservationists on a number of important issues. Wold lost sympathy with environmentalists by his sponsorship of the National Timber Supply Act.

Teno Roncalio, former Democratic congressman from Wyoming, won a bid for re-election over Harry Roberts, a rancher and present State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Roncalio was looked upon with mixed feelings by conservationists. However, he had the better record and is expected to be sympathetic on environmental matters.

Senator Frank Moss of Utah won re-election over

Congressman Laurence Burton. Moss does not have an outstanding record on environmental issues, but he is conceded to be better than Burton. The latter was a congressional member of the Public Land Law Review Commission and an outspoken advocate for commodity interests.

Representative Byron Rogers of Colorado did not make it through the primary election. He was a target of the League of Conservation Voters. His record on environmental matters was very poor.

In Wyoming's legislative races, at least three avowed environmental candidates lost out. All ran on the Democratic ticket in heavily Republican districts. Several  
(Please turn to page 3)



# HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The Red Desert is one of my favorite areas. It exemplifies all that is wild and free and unrestricted by space limitations. It still remains much like most of the Great West was when Jim Bridger might have climbed the Oregon Buttes and looked out upon the vast expanse.

It is still relatively undeveloped. To be sure, man has intruded upon it with roads and fences and even sophisticated electronic communications cables. But it is so huge, the marks go nearly undetected. For how much longer this condition will last is only a matter of time.

Its primitive nature is slowly being eroded. The bulldozers, the drilling rigs, the four-wheel drive vehicles, the dune buggies, the motorcycles, and even snowmobiles are penetrating almost every nook and cranny.

Elsewhere in this paper, is an account of wild stallions being ignominiously shot. They once roamed the far reaches of the Red Desert. Someone who could not appreciate their wild, free nature ended their existence. No one will ever know whether their deaths resulted from malice, from spite, or from pleasure in seeing a magnificent wild thing die.

Whatever the circumstance, we should take steps to protect the remaining wild horses. Where once there were thousands, now there are only hundreds. And most of these go unprotected for lack of laws and regulations. It is as if we didn't care.

But there are many people who do care. There is already a Federal law prohibiting chasing or rounding up wild horses by the use of aircraft. The law should be extended to cover chasing or harassing by motorcycle or other land-roving vehicle.

Wyoming should have a state law providing for the recognition of the wild horse as a heritage of the past. The law should provide for permits to take wild horses only under supervision and only after findings that they are too numerous for their own good in the particular area in which they are found. Indiscriminate killing should be prohibited.

Of even greater importance in the protection of the wild horse in the Red Desert is the habitat itself. The wild horse is only one of many values to be considered in the public interest. This huge desert area is also the ancestral home of great herds of pronghorn antelope. And with them as companions in this great, wild area are the predators—coyotes, bobcats, eagles, as well as lesser birds of prey.

The open, free, untrammelled desert is necessary for the well-being of its natural residents. Yet, the threat of its destruction grows stronger each passing year. Action is necessary.

Two years ago, in July of 1968, Carroll Noble of Cora, Wyoming, and I went to Washington to personally intercede with then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. We asked him to appoint a study committee of Federal and State officials to evaluate the resources of the Red Desert and propose a plan of management.

As a result of our visit and the threat of more sheep-tight fencing in the desert, he appointed some of his BLM men and Fish and Wildlife Service people to make a study. The report was good but the politics were wrong. Nothing happened—except that no more fences have been proposed for the desert.

Now, we can wait no longer. We need more people with a national overview on a study team. We also need more Wyoming people on the team who are not on the BLM State Advisory Board.

The Red Desert is a national treasure. It deserves national consideration and more attention to its natural resources than a limited group can give it.

## Conservation Fund Gets \$300 Million

Public Law 91-485, amending the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, was signed by President Nixon on October 22, 1970. The new legislation increases the level of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to \$300 million annually—an increase of \$100 million from the present level.

Also affected by this amendment is Section 203 of

the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, whereby surplus lands can be conveyed to states and local governments for park and recreation purposes at up to 100 percent discount. Previously this discount was limited to 50 percent of the fair market value of the property.



Photo by Ron Johnston

Shoshone Lake in the Wind River Mountains west of Lander, Wyoming, lies in a beautiful mountain setting. Here, the view from Cyclone Pass is breathtaking in its sweep of majestic peaks.

### Letters To The Editor



**Editor:**  
Wife and I enjoy your paper very much. Please notify me in advance of expiration date of my subscription as I do not want to miss an issue.  
Thanks,  
N. S. Garman  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Editor's Note:**  
We assure you Mr. Garman, that we won't let you miss an issue of High Country News.

\*\*\*  
**Editor:**  
I would like to express my pleasure in receiving your publication. I am sorry that the Jackson Hole Villager ceased to exist, but I find your paper an excellent substitute and I enjoy it very much. I have long been a lover of things western, especially Wyoming. Your newspaper does a great deal to keep me up to date on what is going on in one of my favorite parts of the country.  
Good luck and keep up the fight. I think you publicize and support many good causes.

Sincerely,  
Louise O. Regelin  
Chehalis, Washington

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**Editor:**  
I am recycling your paper bag. (High Country News is sent to subscribers in a "paper bag" mailer. Miss Inman wrote us this letter on the paper bag in which she received her copy of HC News.) I sent a check to the Jackson Hole Villager (High Country News took over the mailing list of this paper that is now out of business) for a three year subscription. But now I think your paper is outstanding and am actually very happy to have fallen to it by default. I hope to be residing again in Wyoming as soon as I finish my M. A. in biology here at the University of Michigan, and will again be on the front lines of conservation.  
Yours truly,

Mary J. Inman  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Editor's Note:**  
We already think you are on the front lines of conservation by your recycled letter to us. Good idea! Every litter bit helps. We are just as happy to have you for a reader as you are to have us for a source of straight-scoop outdoor news. . . . . even if it is by default.

\*\*\*  
**Editor:**  
Have just joined your long list of admirers. A friend sent me the September issue with rock hunter's guide. Please send me your information on rock hunting. I also wish to subscribe to High Country News. Hope to make Wyoming my home part of the year in the future.

Thank you,  
Eleanore Faris  
356 E. College  
Oberlin, Ohio

**Editor's Note:** Thank you for joining us. We welcome you into a growing family. Your name goes on our list of interested rockhounds to receive our separate Rock Hunter's Guide, now in the works.



**Editor:**  
In your issue of September 25, 1970, attention was called to your article about the great bucking horse, Tipperary. Having seen many, many bucking horses and having been connected with the ranching business all my life, I agree that he was one of the great ones.

However, I would call your attention to some of the article. Namely, I saw Yakima Canutt ride Tipperary, and qualify on him at Belle Fourche in 1919 or 1920. There were three or four jumps that no one but "Yak" will ever know if he was spurring him or grabbing him. The judges however, gave him a qualifying ride. I know many of the fellows who knew Charlie Wilson (Tipperary's owner) said that it about broke Charlie's heart when Yakima qualified on Tipperary.  
Sincerely,

Frank O'Rourke, Sec. - Treas.

Old-Time Cowboys Memorial Museum, Inc.

**Editor's Note:** Thanks, Old-Timer, for throwing an interesting side light on a great horse and a good cowboy.

**Editor:**  
Would you please send us your free "High Country Rock Hunter's Guide"? I am a subscriber to High Country News and enjoy every article. We visited Wyoming this last summer and really enjoyed ourselves. You've got a beautiful state.

Sincerely,  
Wm. R. Weimer  
129 Park Ave.  
Eagle, Wisc. 53119

**Editor's Note:** You are on a long and growing list of rockhunters interested in the Rock Hunter's Guide. Glad you like Wyoming. The latch string is always out here.



# Guest Editorial



## WYOMING

by A Concerned Wyoming Mother

I am only a small part of the good earth; 97,000 square miles of western North America. I am very old and yet I am young to man. I have steamed under moist and tropic air; I have frozen under moving glaciers of ice. Through eons of time I have changed from sea to sage. My mountains rose a hundred million years ago and grew for a million more. Thus, nature sculptured me, changing my shape and character often, but never once destroying my life-giving qualities.

I have nurtured life in many forms for hundreds of millions of years. The saber-tooth tiger, the hairy mammoth and the dinosaur lived within my boundaries. Herds of buffalo and prehistoric man roamed my valleys and plains. For thousands of years small groups of men found my food and shelter good, and lived in harmony with my environment, using only what they needed to survive. Their stay was barely felt and little noticed. Only hand-hewn implements of stone, buried in my soils and sands, tell of their long tenure.

Then a hundred years or so ago, you came. You came with metal tools and guns, maps and books. You praised my beauty and my wealth - blowing waves of knee-high grass, streams of crystal water, native trout, rugged mountains, forests, prairies full of wildlife - and claimed them for yourself.

But you believed my nature should be changed, subdued, and tamed. That everything upon my surface and below was yours to reap. Time may prove your thinking wrong. You have not learned the lessons of the past.

You waged the bloody battles for my land and killed the buffalo. You trapped the beaver nearly to extinction and only change of 'style' usurped your greed. You plowed my soils and planted crops that could not grow, and through poor seed cultivated weeds where flowers grew.

You use my "public" lands to graze your cows and sheep - too many for too long - the land is tired. You cut the trees and burn the "slash" and build the dam and dig the ditch and pave the road and throw your trash, at your convenience - everywhere. You tap and sell my oil and gas, mine my uranium, trona, copper, harvest my trees the cheapest way you can. You strip my fossil fuels, developed slowly over millions of years, in minutes, days and weeks.

Your leaders shout; "Progress!", "Development!", "Industry!". Your Councils are full of fools who do not know the meaning of these words. Real progress cannot be bought and sold - it must be earned with wisdom. Real development would make me fuller, better - what

they mean is to use-up, to take away, destroy, strip, empty! Don't be fooled by dreams of grandeur at my "Development" on their terms. Your "Industry" has reached the point of no return and "Wise-Use" has never been applied - though a few have tried.

You call me the "Oil and Energy Capital of the Rockies", the "Leading 'Sedimentary mining' State in the Nation", the "Energy Capital of the World". What will you call me a short 50 years from now when all these things are gone? What will you call me, or will you care, when I am stripped of life, character and beauty - stripped of everything but blowing dust? When my natural forage is gone, my streams and rivers dammed and clogged with silt, my air befouled, my wildlife dead, my land cluttered with the trash of man - when I die - for your short-term "Economy" and by will of your short-sighted leaders, what will be my epitaph? Was I born to be a monument to your unsated greed?

You would trade my precious RENEWABLE resources of wildlife, plants, trees, grasses, streams, watersheds, air, topsoil and natural, beautiful, quiet places for the questionable profit in stripping and selling my NON-RENEWABLE minerals to other states and other countries. A short 50 years from now where will you go, where will your children grow?

Yet you continue to destroy. When these life forms are gone, no matter how much digging you do in my depths, no matter how much wealth you acquire in the doing - what good will it do you? There is no other clean new world to which you can escape, no other land rich in nature's bounty to exchange for a wasteland. You can no longer move on and forget your mistakes. You do not know all of nature's secrets and the ones you know you've not used well. You must deal with these things here and now if you and I are to continue to exist.

It matters little to me what you do, but it should be of great concern to you. I will stay and watch the ages come and go but you must think of time and life to come.

### THE FACTS

Outside interests are planning to build thirty-four (34) electric power plants, seven (7) carbonizing plants, ten (10) gasification plants, fourteen (14) bentonite plants three (3) elemental phosphorous plants and at least one sulfate pulp and paper mill - IN WYOMING - besides enlarging many of our present plants. Most of these industries will use strip or open-pit mining. They will produce monstrous slag heaps. These industries will want all our rivers dammed as

they will be using most of our water for their production. Millions of acres of public lands will be dredged with the resultant loss of our fragile topsoil. Wyoming has no land-use planning and no effective laws for restoration (if it were possible). Unfortunately, technology has not yet learned how to manufacture new topsoil - which is necessary for the growth of any kind of cover. Ideally, forage and water are necessary for the propagation of many species of life, other than human. I think it is time we asked ourselves just WHERE we think we are going?

The Mining Acts of 1866, 1872, and 1897, have allowed this to happen to us, along with the far reaching effects of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

What Wyoming people should be pushing for is research to find the means of harnessing solar energy - that would leave the land intact; and as Col. John D. Craig, oceanographer, suggested - put one tenth of the money spent on the space race into extracting deuterium from the sea and the country would no longer need to burn petroleum products. There ARE other ways.

**LAND IS LIFE! IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MERE MONEY.**

## Look at Ducks

LINCOLN, Nebr. - Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area closes to hunters every Wednesday throughout the goose season, but on those days, the public can take tours to observe the thousands of geese and ducks resting there on their annual fall migration.

Located at the junction of the Platte and Missouri rivers, this Game and Parks Commission area harbored a population last week of about 12,000 geese and 2,000 ducks, and more birds have been arriving in the meantime. Most of the geese using the area were snows, but some Canada, white-fronted, and Ross' geese were also on hand.

Main reason for the Wednesday closings is to give birds a break in hunting pressure and to allow area personnel to do necessary maintenance work and make waterfowl surveys. But, the tours are also conducted on these days to allow some extra recreational use of the facility.

Visitors will be driven through the area in a bus capable of holding up to 35 adults. Tours will be scheduled for 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. each Wednesday. Groups interested in visiting the area should make advance reservations by writing the Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area, Box 525, Plattsmouth, Nebr., 68048 or calling 296-3494.

## Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

### Let's Take the Wraps Off

Any woman will tell you that it's almost impossible to keep house without a sort of middle-sized screwdriver stashed away in some hidden corner of the kitchen. Not so much for tightening up loose screws (and vice versa) - most of us are pretty handy at taking care of those with a stainless steel table knife, or half of that pair of scissors that so mysteriously showed up in two separate pieces. But there's nothing like a sturdy screwdriver for a real job - like cleaning the leaves and bugs out of those grooves between the windows; or flipping the little spring catch loose when the garage door gets stuck; or for prying frozen steaks asunder; or even opening up a can of paint.

So, naturally, when the screwdriver at our house turned up missing, I went hunting for a replacement. I finally found one just the right size and shape. It was fastened onto a brightly colored piece of heavy cardboard and encased, like a jewel, in a clear plastic bubble. Proudly, I carried it home - and then my problems began! The cardboard was too tough to be torn away, and the plastic bubble seemed to have turned to steel. The only piece of the scissor I could find was the half without any point. So I finally decided that I would have to stab the bubble with my favorite kitchen paring knife. Result: the bubble remained undaunted (and undented), but now the knife doesn't have a point on it, either!

In desperation, I went next door and borrowed a screwdriver, with which I pried cardboard and plastic apart. At last, I had liberated my new screwdriver from its prison! With a distinct sense of accomplishment, I put it away in its proper place - on the top shelf of the bread box, behind the saucer full of slightly used thumb tacks and rubber bands.

As I gathered up the torn cardboard and jagged pieces of plastic, it suddenly dawned on me how incongruous the whole thing is. Here we are, finally starting to be concerned about the nation's over-abundance of waste products, and yet a simple screwdriver comes packaged like a Christmas present! Now, I can understand why things like gauze and band-aids should be carefully packaged. But who needs an antiseptic screwdriver?

Next time you are in a store - any kind of store - take note of the many things that come individually wrapped. Pens. Shirts. Apples. Rubber balls. Teaspoons. Erasers. Slices of cheese. Combs. Even greeting cards! Why do the manufactureres do it? Probably because they are convinced that the buyer likes it that way. Women do most of the buying, and every woman loves a fancy package! Is it more convenient? If your answer to that one is "yes," you have not yet encountered the impregnable bubble! Does it save you money? Well, guess who is paying for the miles of paper and cardboard and plastic and cellophane that we rip off and throw in the waste-basket as soon as we get it home.

There should be some way we can convince the manufacturers that we don't need or want all this extra packaging. Letters might help, but unfortunately, by the time we unwrap all our purchases and haul out the garbage, it's time to fix dinner or take care of some other household task. So there's no time left to write that many letters.

Perhaps if enough of us complain to the retailers, they, in turn, might carry the word to the wholesalers; eventually the news might reach the ears of the manufacturers. It would help if we all make a determined effort to purchase merchandise that is not encased in layers of extra wrappings. When manufactureres find that many of us are eager to buy their goods without the excess packaging, they just might take the wraps off!

I'm certainly not advocating that we do away with ALL packaging. Surely we prefer to buy dried prunes and many other food products in a nice clean cellophane bag, rather than from a fly-specked barrel. And I, for one, don't want to carry home a bunch of unwrapped cornflakes in my coat pocket! On the other hand - do I really need that separate insulated sack to transport a box of frozen berries five blocks home from the grocery store? (I probably won't even manage to get them thawed out in time for dinner anyway!) Oh yes - about that broken paring knife. I'm going to try to replace it - if I can ever find a plain old naked one, just the right size and shape!



## Environment Not Issue...

Republican legislators who have environmental leanings won office and several incumbent Democratic legislators were returned to office.

It now remains to be seen how much effective environmental and con-

servation legislation will come from Congress and the state houses. Meanwhile, in two years many environmental situations will have worsened. Environmental candidates will find easier going with each passing year.





Photo by Charles J. Farmer  
A small, woodland pond is a good resting place for mallards and lone pintail.

## Yank Duck Defects to Russky

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department learned this week that one of its ducks was shot down over Russia in May of 1969.

The duck, a female pintail, was last seen when she was tagged with a leg band by Wyoming Game and Fish personnel near Garland, some four miles east of Powell in October 1965.

Notification of the duck's death was relayed to the Game and Fish Department by the USSR Academy of Sciences Zoological Institute in Moscow through the United States Department of the Interior's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland.

The message said the duck was killed May 22, 1969 near Omsuckchan in the Magadan Region of Russia some 1,500 miles (as the duck flies) from the western coast of Alaska.

A Department spokesman would not acknowledge

whether the duck was on a high flying reconnaissance mission but did say, "the last time we saw the pintail she was traveling lightly and must have veered slightly while flying a regular migratory pattern."

## House Supports Seashore

The House has passed and sent to the Senate H.R. 10874, to provide for the establishment of the Gulf Islands National Seashore in the states of Florida and Mississippi, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The seashore will contain

18,100 acres of land—about 7,750 acres in Mississippi and 10,350 acres in Florida. It would include three islands in Mississippi and a portion of Santa Rosa Island and Perdido Key in Florida as well as some old forts, an old lighthouse, and the Naval Live Oaks Reserve.

## Outdoors Omnibus

by Jim Tallon

### Don't Be A Waterfowl Quack

One of my friends is so far removed from duck and geese hunting that he believes "waterfowl" to be an exclamation garbled by excited baseball fans. Fortunately, most of us who pursue waterfowl know a bit more. But the dead-serious duck and goose hunter might be considered on a par with a dry-fly purist, especially regarding the habits and habitat of their quarry.

With practice nearly any hunter can turn a flight of ducks or geese into their decoys, or learn the proper shotgun lead, or build an acceptable blind. The real test comes when you pry into the disposition of these birds' characters and provide your mind with a liberal backlog of information on how the birds act and re-act in relation to modern times. It pays off in bag limits, and satisfaction, just as "matching the hatch" does for the flycaster.

To begin with let's consider waterfowl painting. Have you ever seen one that didn't depict a marsh-like landscape? Surely they exist but my memory just can't seem to place one. Anyway, for the most part, these paintings pretty much tell it like it is. Marshes and waterfowl generally go together like hot biscuits and milk gravy.

Let's back-track a bit to 1918 when the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 placed bag limits on waterfowl. At that time duck and geese habitat was pretty much natural and attractive to the birds, especially in our reasonably undeveloped southwest. Indiscriminate shooting of the birds came under control but at the same time commercial interests came to bear on waterfowl habitat. In Arizona, for example, early-day cattle growing and beaver trapping imposed such an adverse effect on waterfowl habitat that it still hasn't recovered in spite of modern management techniques. The birds depended to a great degree upon water control afforded by beaver dams; cattle obliterated shoreline vegetation such as spikerush, millet and smartweed by overgrazing and trampling. Waterfowl had to look elsewhere for feed and resting places. A period of extravagant erosion began.

When reservoirs were developed for irrigation and mining use, some restitution for waterfowl populations was indirectly made. But such reservoirs fluctuate periodically because of drawdown for such agricultural and industrial purposes. THEY DO NOT AFFORD THE HABITAT THAT THE AVERAGE WATERFOWL HUNTER-LAYMAN EXPECTS. Certainly, a big body of water would seem inviting enough to waterfowl. But the fluctuating factor makes it difficult for reservoirs to grow aquatic plants necessary for attractive habitat -- food and cover -- to become established. Still, using Arizona for our example, the restitution point in favor of the reservoir in relation to waterfowl is: If these artificial lakes lay near agricultural areas that produce foods the birds like, they will influence waterfowl populations, and provide some shooting for the waterfowl buff.

When I was a kid in Kentucky, we "jump-shooted" along the banks of the Ohio River and small streams south of the river because we were too poor to own a boat. A lot of you may remember those depression days. We hunted to supplement our meager larder. Jump-shooting is a good way to hunt waterfowl in Arizona, and other western states for that matter.

A few years ago I flew with the Arizona Game and Fish Department on a waterfowl survey. We skimmed the deck, seldom more than 50 feet above the ground of water or flush the birds (you can't count birds hiding in the tules). Unbelievably, thousands of birds popped out of brushed-in holes invisible to us in the airplane. Some of these holes could have been no bigger than a cowboy hat. Over the Bill Williams' arm of Lake Havasu where the Colorado River divides Arizona and California, I heard the waterfowl biologist remark: "One thousand Canada's."

One thousand Canada geese! In one spot in Arizona? I saw them but I just couldn't believe it. The flight was a revelation in where waterfowl rest and feed.

Here in Arizona the waterfowl artist would be limited because of our sparse supply of marshlands. (Some of the best around Topock Gorge, the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation have fought "vile-lently" to eliminate). He would have to look to the stock tanks and potholes (some artificially created) as well.

Generally speaking, stock tanks may be numerous but waterfowl foods produced by them are relatively poor. The tanks serve primarily as resting places. If the waterfowl hunter can find stock tanks that maintain constant level from being spring fed, he is usually in business. Aquatic foods and cover grow around such stock tanks and attract ducks regularly.

Of course, the best hunting still comes from the natural shallow lakes with the typical marsh look, providing nature has placed it within range of the flyways. Here, traditional decoy spread and duck boat and blind techniques can be applied.

These few notes hardly touch the subject known as waterfowl. The waterfowl hunter must apply specifics to the birds of the area in which he plans to hunt. Few of us can afford to travel to the "great waterfowl hotspots." But we can glean up-to-date information for nearby lakes and streams and potholes. With the constant man-influenced changes being made on the ecology, waterfowl, like the entire outdoors, demands a continuing study -- for cooking a goose, and to keep from killing the golden goose.

## Christmas comes but once a year

High Country News comes twice a month!

Send a gift that will last all year.

All gifts will be announced with an appropriate card  
Gift Subscriptions will be accepted until December 15  
and will start with the Dec. 18 issue.

Send a gift subscription to:

Name	Street	
City	State	Zip
Name	Street	
City	State	Zip
The gift is from:		
Name	Street	
City	State	Zip
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Gift Subscription	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)	





# Our Editor Says...

Down with the Meek  
And Mild

by Charles J. Farmer

There was a time when sportsmen were not really concerned with politics. They were under the false impression that they did not need a voice in local, state or federal government. After all, the golden wheat stubble of pheasant fields, and the fragrant pine smell of elk country, were far removed from the smoky backrooms and legislative cloakrooms.

Today's sportsman must be a politician if his outdoor rights are to be protected. Sportsmen are defined as the hunters, fishermen, campers, hikers, skiers, rock hunters, back packers, and conservationists. These are the groups that fight for the outdoors.

Don't let the term sportsman - politician scare you. When I say that sportsmen should be politicians, I don't mean all outdoorsmen should run for public office, although this would be a great help. What I do mean is that sportsmen... all sportsmen, should care enough about the outdoors to speak out - write out on all issues that concern the outdoor world.

Sportsmen have been talking to each other for a long time. It is time they talk to those who oppose their recreation. It is time they talk to those persons who can help their cause. For example, rather than waste two hours griping to your fishing buddy about the proposed dam on your favorite trout stream, why not take 30 minutes to write your governor, senator or congressman concerning your peeve?

If you believe that a logging outfit is ruining your elk or deer hunting, let the governor and state representatives know about it. Most of them will appreciate your comments. And it is their responsibility to answer you promptly and honestly.

How important is your letter to a state representative? Not long ago I heard a prominent Wyoming politician say that he favored the individual, personal letter from his constituents rather than the hordes of "duplicated news release letters" that show little feeling or personality. Petitions, decorated with the names of interested persons, seem to be popular tools of groups wanting to make their representatives aware of a situation or problem. The reason for this I'm sure, is that most politicians have been accused of reading only that material stamped by large numbers of voters.

I have never been a petition man. Somehow, I believe that most petitions are taken lightly regardless of the issue. Petitions make it easy for "concerned" sportsmen who do not want to take the time to write a personal letter. A personal letter by an individual sportsman or by a group of sportsmen will be

better received by representatives.

## We've been taking a Back Seat

Sportsmen in my state of Wyoming have been taking a back seat to ranchers, oil men, lumber men, mining companies, economic developers and land developers for many years. These various interests make their feelings known to the right persons. They have representatives trained as lobbyists. Their men are skilled in the art of friendly persuasion. I see absolutely no reason for kowtowing to the men responsible for overgrazing our public lands. It's time for sportsmen to realize that there are some oil companies that degrade antelope, hiking, fishing and rock hunting lands in favor of money.

The miners gouge our land, the land developers trade it off to the rich. When are sportsmen going to realize that the fight for land -- outdoor sports habitat -- is a tough, sometimes dirty, battle. Isn't it time that the meek, mild-mannered lover of the great outdoors be heard over the lowing cattle, the bleating sheep, the oil drills, the chain saws, the bull dozers, and clanking Judas silver?

## We've Been Fighting Each Other

Hunters don't like bird watchers. Fishermen don't like water skiers. Rifle hunters don't like bow hunters. Residents don't like non-residents. Back packers don't like horseback riders. Tent campers don't like mobile home dwellers. Hikers don't like trail bikers.

Isn't it about time that we put it all together! Let's stick up for each other. If we do, our outdoor force can be as powerful as any ranching, oil, mining or land interest.

## How to put it Together

Our guiding forces in our battle for the sportsman are sportsmen's groups. They can be as large as the National Wildlife Federation, the National Rifle Association, the Audubon Society or Sierra Club. They can be as small as your local rod & gun club, skiing club, back packing group, or rock hounding society. The essential ingredient for strength is that all sportsmen must LIVE an everyday, get-involved, active part in the betterment and protection of the outdoors.

If you depend on your state or federal conservation agencies as the guiding stars that will protect your land and your sport, please wake up. Too many conservation agencies are guided by

politicians and play according to the rules of politics. It is the conservation agencies that depend on the sportsmen's group to aid them under political fire. A case in point happened recently in Montana. Montana Fish & Game Director Frank Dunkle, came under fire from the Governor and his appointed Fish & Game Commission. The sportsmen believed in what Dunkle was doing and backed him to the hilt. According to newspaper reports, they saved his job.

Some conservation agencies seem to have little to do with sportsmen's groups except when the state legislature meets. At this time, the game and fish departments urge the support of individuals and groups of sportsmen. The departments realize that independent sportsmen can act, where they are all but muted by the power structure of state government. (Speaking of getting it all together. I think it's about time that a two-way road of communication be opened up between sportsmen and conservation agencies.)

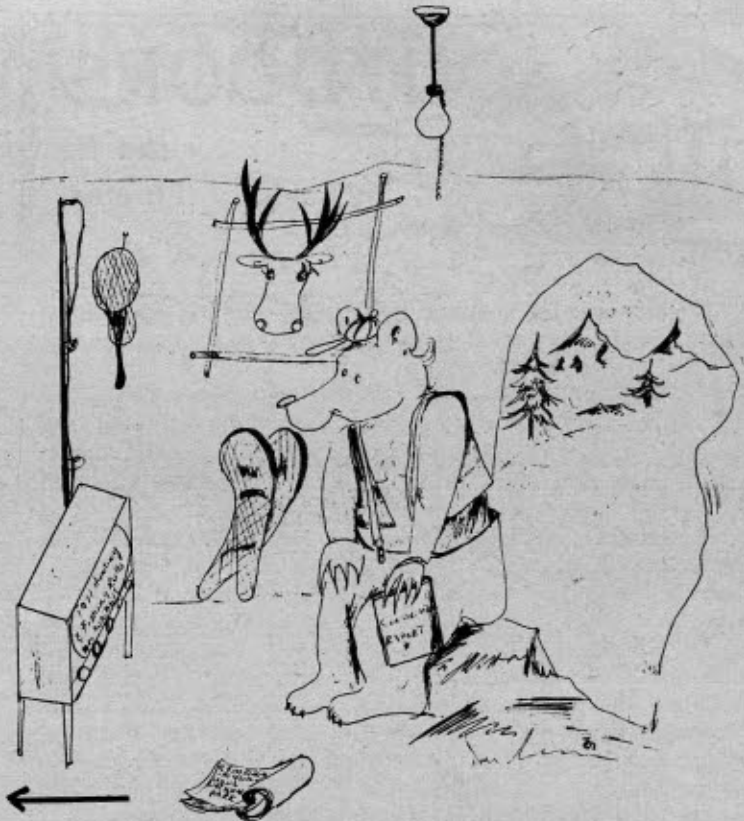
You may now have a new governor, senator or congressman in your state. Or your representatives may have been re-elected. In either case, they have definite goals ahead of them. So do you. Watch them like a pointer eyeballs a pheasant. Guard your outdoors by reading newspapers, watching television and listening to the radio. Subscribe to conservation legislative reports and news. As a true, concerned sportsman, it's your duty to be informed. You owe it to the great outdoors.

## Offer Reward

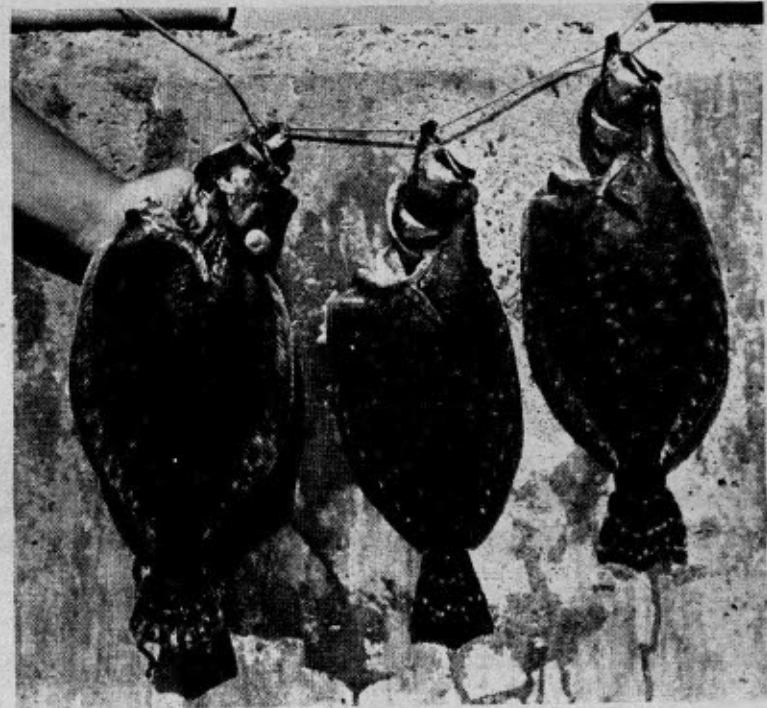
A \$300 reward offered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has been matched by a Worland area rancher in hopes of obtaining information regarding the slaughter of six antelope in the Gooseberry Creek area about 35 miles southwest of Worland.

Worland game warden Eddie Burns, Thermopolis game warden Jim Johnston and rancher John Rankin found the animals October 21. None of the animals were dressed out but one doe's throat had been cut. Two bucks and four does were found.

Rancher John Rankin has offered an additional \$300 reward. These sums will be rewarded for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who killed and left the antelope. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact the nearest official of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission or game warden Eddie Burns in Worland.



Meek and Mild Sportsmen must turn into Bears. Television, magazines, newspaper and conservation reports can keep sportsmen informed.



This trio of flounder will add some excellent flavor to the table of the lucky angler who caught them. Cold weather has triggered the fall's first flounder run in Texas.

Flounder or flatfish are easily caught from the bank, without the need for a boat. They are almost strictly a bottom-dweller and tend to follow the bay and channel shorelines while migrating from the coast's inshore waters into the Gulf of Mexico where they spend the colder winter months.

## Park Visits Increase

Visitation to the nation's first national park has steadily risen. Today over two and a quarter million people annually seek the spiritual refreshment of a park experience.

Yellowstone National Park is essentially an untouched wilderness managed to preserve the natural integrity of the area. Unfortunately along with increased use, park officials have observed an ever increasing display of litter. Heavy use areas such as river banks which attract thousands of fisherman and picnickers are the main problem areas for litter. Today the sparkle of bottles and cans are commonly observed in the depths of the Yellowstone River as it flows from Yellowstone Lake. (All that glitters is not gold.)

River cleanup has presented a problem since water craft are not permitted on rivers and streams in Yellowstone. In 1967, Superintendent Jack Anderson approved the first cleanup campaign for the Yellowstone River. Since that

time the river cleanup has developed into an annual affair. The cleanup point begins at Fishing Bridge as the canoes move downstream approximately eight miles. Bottles, cans, monofilament line, and other debris are removed from the river bottom with spiked poles. The river shoreline also receives a grooming in the cleanup process.

October 15 marked the date for the 1970 expedition in which many employees and wives participated. Along the way, park trucks collect the bags of litter which accumulates in the canoes.

District Ranger Dale Nuss who originated the idea states that people are becoming more aware of the need to protect the environment, but sheer numbers and masses of people are creating unsolvable problems. Congestion has affected the environmental quality of cities and the same principal applies in Yellowstone. The river cleanup is one step in offsetting the deterioration process.



# OUTDOORS

with  
Charles J. Farmer

If you curse the opening day crowds hunting pheasants at public shooting areas, now is the time to make plans for the November opener.

It seems that everyone turns bird hunter on the opening day of pheasant season. For some, this will be their first and last day in the field during the year. I have my own opinion about these shooters. If nothing else maybe an appreciation for the outdoors will be re-kindled in one day.

Crowded hunting conditions are not typical of Wyoming. For example about 20 hunters at the most, opened the duck season at the Table Mountain Waterfowl unit in Goshen County. For the size of the area and the quality hunting it offers, the pressure is low compared to standards of surrounding states. On the other hand, the opening day pheasant hunting pressure at the Table Mountain Unit and at the neighboring Springer Hunting unit, is extremely high. I promised myself two seasons ago that no pheasant in the field was worth the hassle of season openers at these units. Harvesting a couple of ringnecks is only part of a day in the field for me. Just as important to this hunter are outdoor bonuses like peace, solitude and a relaxing day with a hunting buddy or dog.

I dislike racing another hunter, or a mob of hunters, to the lone rooster in the middle of the wheat strip, that someone blasted from the sky. I don't mind being showered by rain, but buckshot storms are too much. Tromping a crowded "battlefield" somehow takes the luster from a crisp, November day in the upland game fields.

Complaints without solutions may hold true in war and politics, but the Wyoming bird hunter can lick the opening day crowds. Here's how.

#### Contact Landowners Now

The majority of landowners welcome pheasant hunters who have obtained permission to hunt well in advance of opening day. That means that now is a good time. Obtain permission in writing so that you have permanent proof of your courtesy to the landowner. Visit the farmer or rancher at an hour when he is not sleeping, eating or conducting business. Call him by phone if necessary for an appointment. There is an excellent article in the September, 1970 issue of Field & Stream magazine titled "Deteriorating Rancher-Sportsman Relations" by Hank Rate. It gives many of us non-landowners an insight on the problems of the landowner.

The hunter that fails to obtain permission to hunt on private land or who has no regard for the private life of a landowner, hurts all of us in our quest for uncrowded hunting.

Hunters should remember that the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission plants pheasants on private lands only where the landowner has consented to allow hunting. . . provided a proper permission is obtained by hunters. Respect for the land is part of the deal.

#### Public Hunting Areas

Not all public hunting areas are crowded. Those with the least amount of pressure are not neighbors to large population centers. One of the finest public hunting areas for upland game in the state is the Yellowtail Wildlife Unit near the town of Lovell in Bighorn County. Good hunting for pheasants, Hungarian partridge, chukar partridge, ducks and Canada geese is available on 3,000 acres of prime, public upland game bird habitat.

For further information on season openings and bag limits, contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Information & Education Division, Box 1589, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001, 777-7735 or the nearest District office.



Photo by Charles J. Farmer

Turkeys frequent areas thick with pines and grasses. This tom was "shot" near Guernsey, Wyoming.

## Turkey Hunt On

November 1 marks the opening date for the hunting of Wyoming's largest upland game bird, the Meleagris gallopavo, or more commonly the wild turkey.

Three areas will be open this fall, the Sheridan-Johnson, Black Hills and the Laramie Peak areas. The longest season—in the Black Hills area—will be open the entire month of November. Laramie Peak's season will run from November 1 through November 9 and the Sheridan-Johnson season is one day shorter closing November 8.

Wild turkey permits are still available for the Sheridan-Johnson Counties

area and are being issued on a first-come, first-served basis by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Application for a turkey permit must be made on the special form available and the applicant must hold a valid 1970 Wyoming bird hunting license.

Shooting hours for wild turkeys are from sunrise to sunset and shotguns not larger than 10 gauge plugged to permit no more than one shell in the chamber and two in the magazine are legal firearms. Rifles using center-fire cartridges or rifles of .22 magnum caliber may also be used to hunt wild turkeys.

## Montana Good for Openers

Game managers over most of Montana are optimistic about the approaching pheasant season and sum up hunting prospects as "improved" over the last year or two, according to Wynn Freeman, game management chief for the fish and game department.

The ringneck season will get underway at noon, Saturday, October 24 and will end November 29. Shooting hours will be from noon till sunset on the opening day, and from one-half hour before sunrise till sunset the remainder of the season.

The daily bag limit, statewide, will be three pheasants, one of which may be a hen. After opening day, the possession limit will be

six pheasants, two of which may be hens.

Pheasants may legally be hunted with a shotgun not larger than 10 gauge, or long bow and arrow. The feet and one wing should be left on field dressed birds for purposes of identification and aging.

## Nebraskans Double Up

LINCOLN, Nebr. — Hunters in Nebraska will tote their shotguns and bows to the northwest part of the state for a crack at a wild turkey on opening day, Saturday, October 31.

This year, 1,700 permits were authorized for the fall hunt, and all 1,200 of the Round Top Unit licenses have been sold out for several weeks. As of October 22, only a few of the Niobrara Unit permits remained.

The 1970 turkey season runs through November 15, overlapping the opening weekend of the deer season and giving hunters a chance to double up with two big-game trophies on the same trip.

Turkey hunters have the option of using a shotgun 10 through 20 gauge or a bow and arrow. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

Last year, nearly 2,000 permits were issued in the two units, and hunters bagged 860 birds for a success ratio of 43 percent.

**ENGLISH PASTIES**

For Hunting, Rock Hounds or just plain camping:

Mix diced potatoes, onions, diced lean meat or hamburger. Salt and pepper. Make a crust richer than Biscuit dough, but not as rich as pie crust. Roll out into a pie pan or individual pot pie pans. Put ingredients in and one or two tsp. oleo or butter. Seal with another layer of crust or with aluminum foil and bake in a med. oven for about 45 minutes or until juice bubbles out. For extra convenience make the pie(s) and freeze. Then you can take them along cold and cook at the campsite.

by Mrs. Neil Gose

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# WYOMING OUTDOORS

Official Newsletter of

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.

Thomas A. Bell, Editor

Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520



## Area of Action

One of our readers, Mrs. Keith Brigham of Pardeeville, Wisconsin, stopped by our office last week. She had been working on fall roundup of cattle on the Sweetwater River. She had a sad tale to tell us.

During the roundup, two wild stallions were found - shot. She had seen one of them, a steel grey and in her words "a magnificent animal." The other was a bay. There is no way of knowing who shot them.

She also told of the ranchers seeing motorcyclists coursing wild horses on the Red Desert. The results can only be conjectured. But several cyclists could run horses until they dropped.

Wild horses have no status in Wyoming. Therefore, they have no protection. A Federal law provides only that they cannot be herded or chased by aircraft.

The Red Desert, or in a smaller sense the Great Divide Basin, in Wyoming is a rather unique area. It is one of the few continental basins which has no drainage to any sea. The basin itself comprises several million acres. The entire area, known generally as the Red Desert, constitutes an area of roughly five million acres. It is located off the southern end of the Wind River Mountains. Travelers on Interstate 80 across southern Wyoming pass through a portion of the southern Red Desert.

The Great Divide Basin is a naturally unique, topographic area. The Continental Divide itself divides on the northeast boundary at Oregon Buttes and completely encloses a vast basin. It completes the circle at Bridger Pass, south of Rawlins, Wyoming.

Though it is a true desert, it has many values. Its forage was so good in the early days that millions of domestic sheep were grazed upon it. By the 1930's, overgrazing had caused severe damage. The desert has never recovered.

It is the ancestral home of thousands of pronghorn antelope. It is so important that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has acquired lands to prevent fencing of important winter range and to maintain vital migration.

It was once home for great herds of buffalo and could be the home for small, well-managed herds today. Steamboat Mountain, northeast of Rock Springs, is the site of what was once a great buffalo jump. Here, the Indians constructed rock wings to divert the buffalo over the steep cliffs. A small elk herd now inhabits this area and the adjacent sand dunes area.

The area has great historical and archeological value because of the evidence of pre-Columbian man. The Red Desert is a mecca for arrowhead and artifact hunters. There are important Indian petroglyph sites.

Vast amounts of petrified wood and other semi-precious stones are found scattered throughout the area. Needless to say, it is also a mecca for rockhunters.

The Oregon Trail runs along the north edge of the desert, past Continental Peak and the Oregon Buttes. Historic South Pass is near the Buttes. Three historic gold mining towns and a number of old gold mines are nearby.

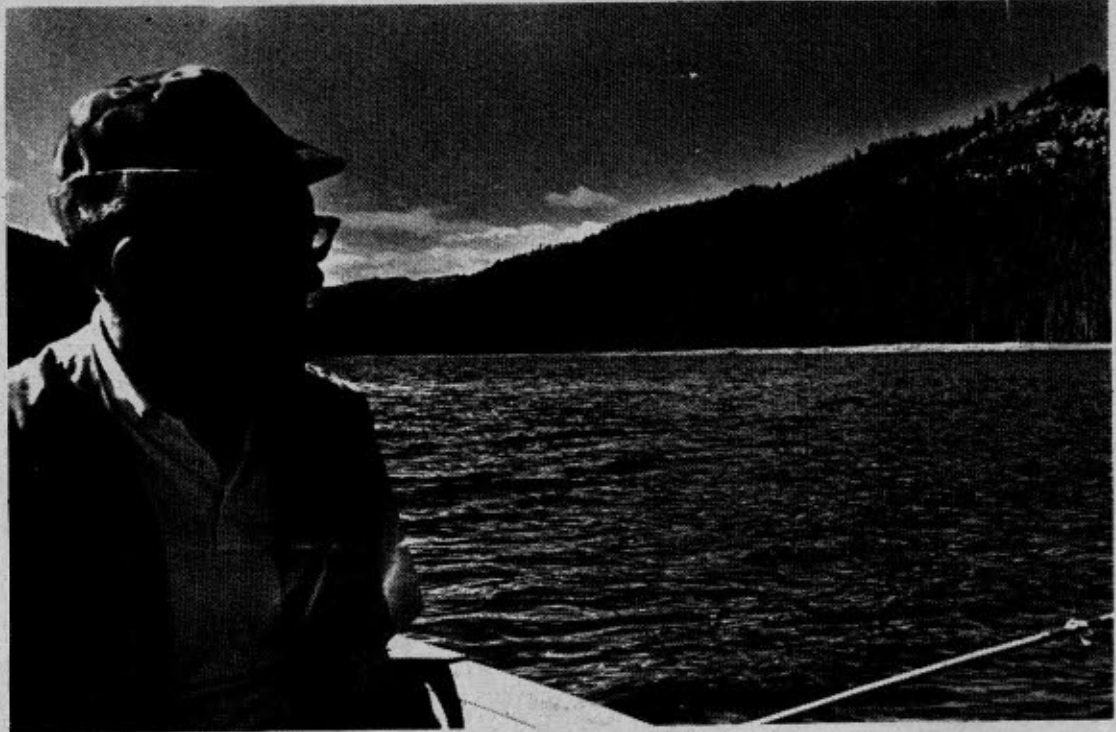
Wild horses have run in the area for as long as horses have been known in the West. Their numbers have been increased by strays and escapees from ranches surrounding the desert. Their numbers have also been greatly decimated by horse hunters. As recently as 1966, a reported 200 head of horses were rounded up on the desert and shipped to Nebraska for dog food. At that time, the FBI and the United States Attorney were called in to investigate charges of horse roundups by plane. Nothing ever came of it.

This week, Dan Baker, State Director of the Bureau of Land Management for Wyoming, announced a study committee for the Red Desert. It is composed of six men, four of whom represent commodity interests. The six men are to help the Bureau evaluate livestock needs, mineral development, and recreational use. It is to report by June, 1971.

Thousands of uranium mining claims cover vast areas of the desert. Huge deposits of coal underlie some of it. Oil shale lies beneath vast acreages. Numerous bands of sheep still graze back and forth across it. Their owners would like to fence and cross-fence the desert to ease their labor problems.

The Red Desert remains one of the largest, relatively undeveloped areas in continental United States. North of Interstate 80 and the railroad lands, it is almost exclusively public. It belongs to all the people; it should be so managed.

The great natural resources of this area need to be protected from exploitation and over-development. A study team should be drawn to include other national figures. The Wyoming team now includes a national vice president of the Izaak Walton League of America, Burton Marston of Laramie. The team should also include Tom Kimball, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation, and Mike Frome, conservation editor of Field and Stream Magazine. Both of these men have exhibited great personal interest in the area and both are familiar with it. There might also be consideration of including Bob Smith, Chief of



Recreational use of water is a beneficial use in a state which depends so heavily on a burgeoning tourist and recreation industry. This is in addition to the quality of environment afforded state citizens. Wyoming law should recognize recreational use as a beneficial use. By so doing, the State could lay claim to unused waters. The claims would be in anticipation of the day that increased population would require the waters be used for a higher public benefit, if any there be.

## KUDOS

To Governor Stanley K. Hathaway and the Wyoming Highway Commission for acting promptly in protecting the scenic and aesthetic values of Interstate 80 between Laramie and Walcott Junction.

Those who appreciate and enjoy an uncluttered, unrestricted view of Wyoming's countryside should extend a thanks to the Governor and the Commission.

## Scenery Gets Needed Break

Wyoming Highway Commission Chairman, Gus Fleischli, Jr., of Cheyenne, has announced a voluntary program of billboard control along 80 miles of Interstate 80. Fleischli said the Commission and the Governor will contact landowners along the newly opened stretch and ask that they cooperate in restricting signs and billboards.

Fleischli said the Commission and the Governor "believe that an effort should be made to keep the view unspoiled."

## Bighorn Sheep Have Habitat Protected

The U. S. Bureau of Land Management has issued a final notice classifying some 2600 acres of land in Fremont County for multiple use management. The lands are in Whiskey Basin, near Dubois, critical winter habitat for the largest bighorn sheep herd in the continental United States.

BLM State Director Daniel P. Baker said the area will be closed to mining claim locations and all forms of appropriation under the public land laws.

Baker said BLM has completed an agreement for cooperative management of the area with the Wyoming

Game & Fish Commission, and the U. S. Forest Service, which manages adjoining national forest land.

A complete legal description of the lands involved, along with related documents, is available for public inspection at the BLM Lander District Office and the State Office in Cheyenne.

The classification shall become final upon expiration of a 30-day period for administrative review by the Secretary of the Interior. BLM previously provided a 60-day period for public comment on the classification action, and all comments received were favorable.

## Wildlifers Form Group

A four-state wildlife and environmental council has been formed by Directors of the state game and fish departments of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The purpose of the organization, officially named CANU Environmental Wildlife Council, will be to examine and develop cooperative approaches toward solving environmental and ecological problems common to the four states. The first objective of the council will be in the field of wildlife disease research and diagnosis. Arizona Department Director Robert A. Jantzen was named chairman and New Mexico Director Ladd S. Gordon will serve as vice chairman of the council.

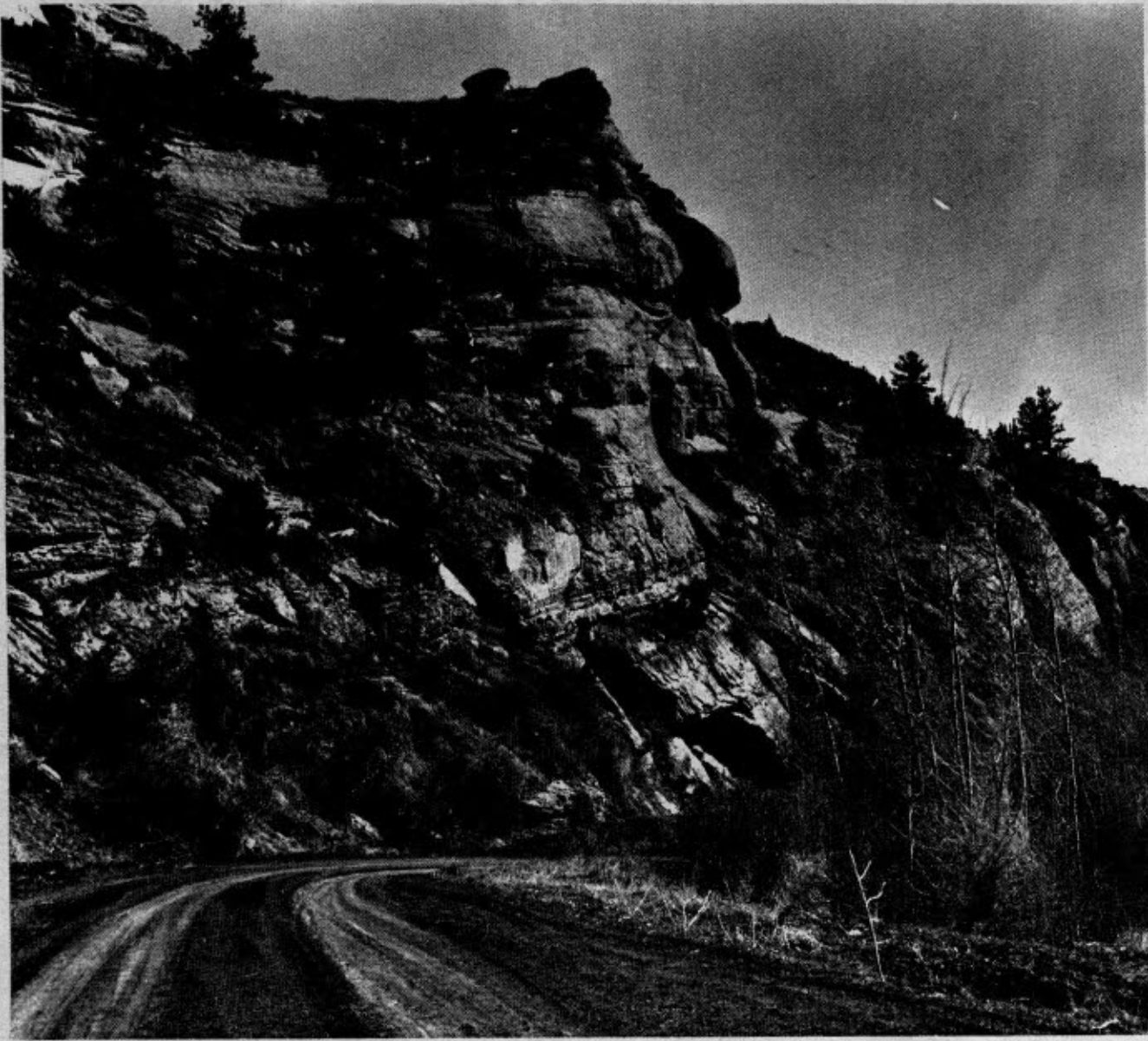


the Wildlife Staff in the Washington office of the BLM, and Maurice Arnold, Mid-Continent Regional Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in Denver.

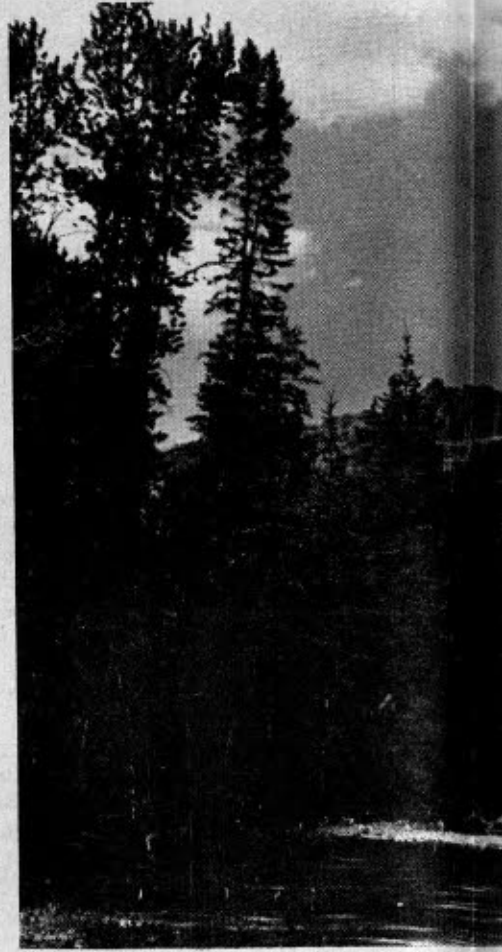
Write to Boyd Rasmussen, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Interior Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20240. Request that he ask for the Wyoming study team to be expanded to include some of the national conservation leaders and spokesmen such as Kimball and Frome. Both Smith and Arnold are familiar with the area and its values. Both could be very helpful to the study team. Ask that they be included. Send copies of your letter to Senator Gale McGee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510, and to Congressman-elect Teno Roncalio, Hynds Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.



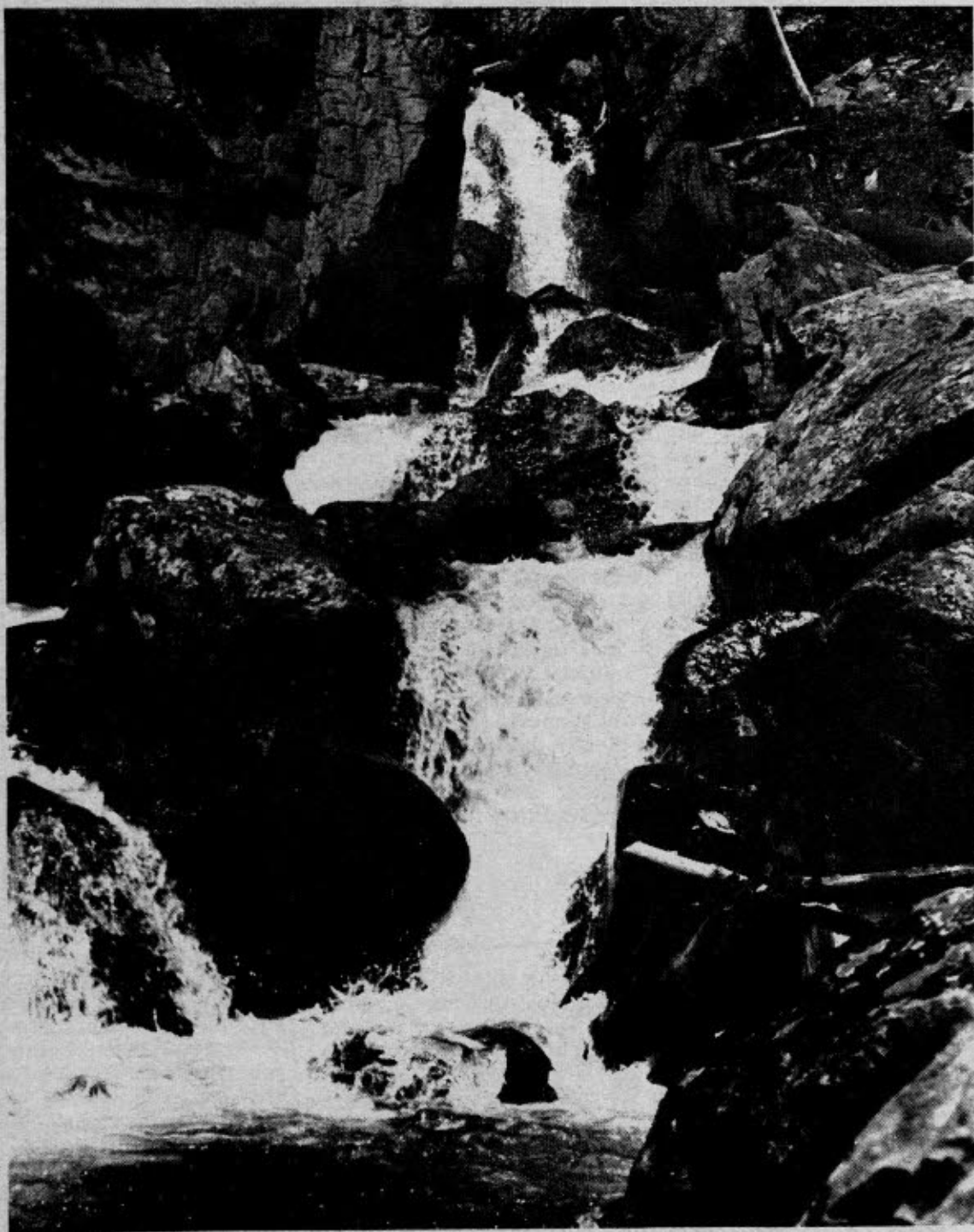




Where will it lead--that winding road  
That beckons me to follow?



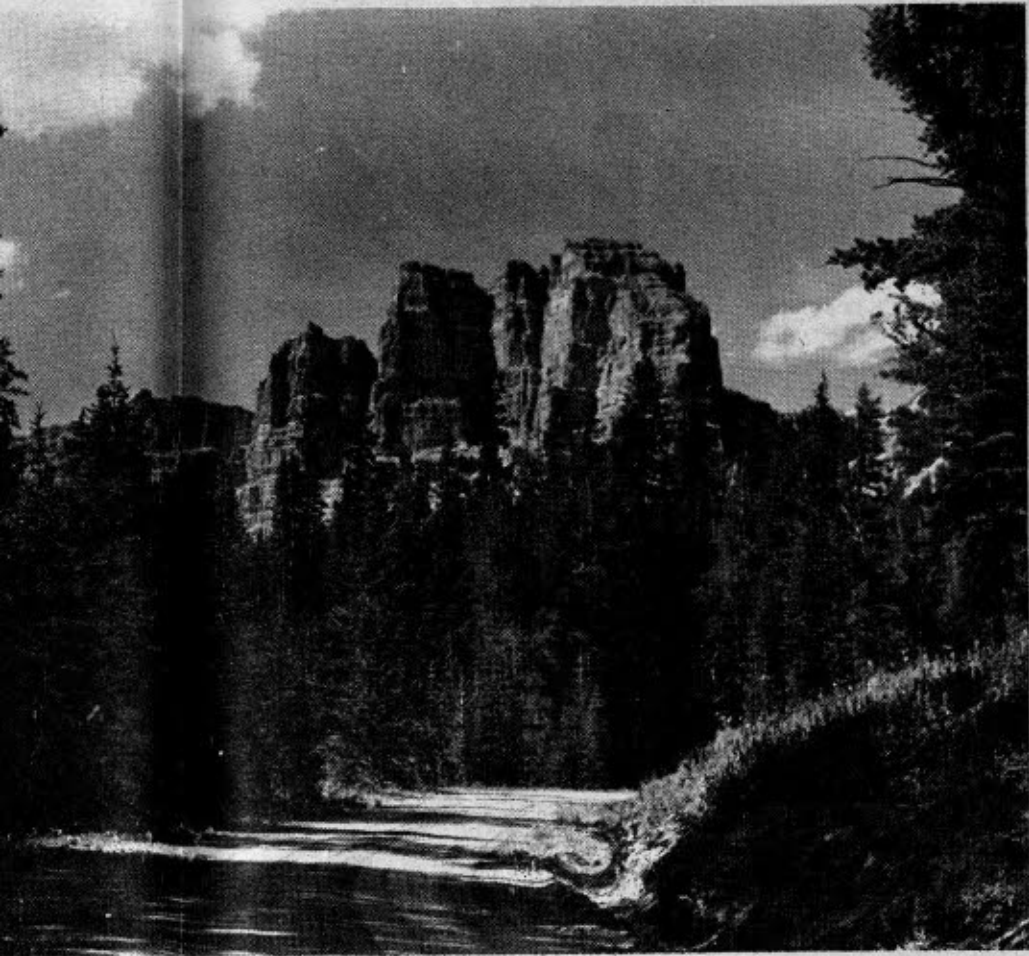
Does it scale  
Or dip le



Will it reveal a waterfall -  
Or a quiet, reflective p



## The Winding Road...



Does it scale a lofty mountain-side,  
Or dip leisurely down through the hollow?



al a waterfall -  
quiet, reflective pond?



Wherever it leads, that winding road  
Cries out, "Come see what's beyond!"





Pheasants feed in a wheat strip.

## Nebraska Pheasants Show Good Increase

Nebraska's pheasant hunters can look forward to a 1970 season that should be "generally much better than last year", according to Willard R. Barbee, director of the Game and Parks Commission.

Surveys run this summer by game technicians showed only a slight statewide in-

crease in pheasant numbers of about 5 percent, but the Commission's men in the field report sighting good numbers of ringnecks in many areas as the November 7 season opener approaches.

November 7 is also opening day for the quail season, and prospects on that front are at least as bright.

## Tallon Has Fish Story

High Country News feature columnist, Jim Tallon, has brightened the November pages of Outdoor Life Magazine. Jim takes his readers on a fishing trip to the Navajo country of Arizona. Jim and his wife, Vicki, have teamed up on "Make a Reservation for Trout."

# Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"These germs," said Professor McKay,  
"Will kill off the foe in one day.  
It's the weapon we seek -  
Come, just take a peek -  
Oh! DRAT IT! They all got away!"

\*\*\*

A recently released U. N. statistical survey said the world's population of more than 3.5 billion will double in 36 years if current growth rates continue. Experts say such a growth rate will make it very difficult for various countries of the world to raise their living standards. They also say rich countries will have difficulties in providing housing and social services.

\*\*\*

George Brown, director of the Census Bureau, said the population bomb in the U. S. is being defused. He said census predictions now range from a low of 266 million in the year 2000 to a high of 336 million. He personally estimated a 1985 population of 240 million and the probability of 285 million by 2000. He cited as reasons "the current concern with the effect of population growth on the environment" and increasing legalization of abortion.

\*\*\*

Mercury concentrations in seal livers has been found to be up to 172 parts per million. The FDA's maximum safe level is 0.5 ppm. The seal livers were being used to manufacture blood-building pills.

\*\*\*

U. S. News & World Report says Africa has one more worry - saving its big game. The Africans have found the game animals - or just the sight of them - to be one of the continents' greatest economic assets.

\*\*\*

The Casper, Wyoming, City Council is looking into the possibility of an ordinance requiring a special tax on disposable bottles and cans where they are sold. The Council is also exploring the feasibility of underground telephone and television cables.

\*\*\*

Glenn Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, anticipates considerable increase in nuclear generated power. He says that by the year 2000, over one-half of the nation's total electric power will come from nuclear installations.

\*\*\*

A form of bacteria from the Amazon jungles may soon be used to attack and break down certain compounds used in detergents. The compounds are some of the most troublesome in causing water pollution.

## Oregon Hunters Have Full Slate of Game

The Oregon Game Commission reminded hunters that beginning at 8 a.m., October 17, they will have almost a full slate of hunting seasons to select from. The time and date marks the opening of the statewide pheasant and quail seasons, to go along with the buck deer, chukar and Hungarian partridge, and waterfowl seasons already underway.

In Klamath, Lake, and Harney counties upland bird hunters will start the season at one-half hour before sunrise and hunters in the rest of the state will have similar shooting time schedule following the opening morning. Shotgunners should check the timetable calendar in their upland game and waterfowl regulations booklet.

The season on pheasants will extend through November 22. The quail season in western Oregon will also close on that date but in eastern Oregon gunners may continue after quail through January 24.

Game biologists around the state predict only fair hunting for ringnecks but excellent for quail. The best pheasant hunting is expected in the Columbia Basin, the Umatilla area, and in northern Malheur County. Quail hunters are expected to do very well, especially in much of Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties, as well as most other quail-producing areas in eastern Oregon. Mountain quail numbers are generally high through southwestern Oregon.



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## Grasshopper Mystery Waits for Summer

High Country News editors receive unusual requests from time to time. The following letter was received by Editor Tom Bell from a friend who is a physicist at the University of Utah.

Some explanation is in order. Gannett Peak and the surrounding peaks in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains are the base (or source) of some of the nation's largest, living glaciers. They are the remnants of huge glaciers that once extended all the way to the valley floor of the Wind River. Evidence of these ancient glaciers can be seen today in the moraines which extend from the Wind River Indian Reservation to the vicinity of Dubois, Wyoming.

The remains of large grasshoppers are found in what is now known as Grasshopper Glacier. It is surmised that they got there as they tried to migrate (or move) over the high mountain range. They are found today in huge masses, frozen into the glacier and only exposed for a relatively short time during mid-summer.

The letter follows:

Dear Tom:

A few nights ago, Pete Mehringer and I were discussing Grasshopper Glacier. Pete is a biogeographer and palynologist, and we both got rather interested in those frozen grasshoppers.

That species was once the scourge of the Great Plains, but is now extinct, although related species survive in Mexico. Historical records relate the species to great plagues of locusts in the 19th Century.

The reason for the extinction is not clear, but one line of thought is that these were mainly eaters of forbs that grew mainly in ground churned up by the bison, in wallows, etc., and disappeared with the great decline in bison.

Many years ago, Libby dated grasshoppers from the glacier at around 300 years old, as I remember it.

Now Pete suggests that if he can get hold of some of those 'hoppers, free of external contamination, he can extract the pollen from the gut content and find out pretty well what they had been eating. For my part, I'd like to redo that C 14 date.

Now I don't know how accessible Grasshopper Glacier is, or anything about it, so I thought I'd bother you as the nearest person of my acquaintance who might have knowledge of the area and be a little interested in the problem. With miraculous luck, it might even happen that some of your contacts in the Forest Service or Fish and Game might be going into the area, although it's getting late in the season for that.

We'd like to take a quart thermos and carefully fill it with frozen grasshoppers and some of the ice in which they occur (to preclude pollen from other levels getting mixed in), bring it down to where the hoppers could be packed in dry ice for transportation to the lab. In a styrofoam box, they could make it easily.

Now, could I prevail upon you to check into the ac-

cessibility of the glacier and some idea of the time required to make a collecting trip? I would greatly appreciate any help you could provide.

Incidentally, I wonder if Ward's Supply House would be interested in some specimens of these extinct hoppers? It might be a way to recover some of the costs.

At any rate, it seems like a fun problem, and I'm hoping it's feasible.

Donald C. Grey  
Associate Director  
Laboratory of Isotope

Geology

Editor Bell answered as follows:

Dear Don,

Your request is most unusual and very interesting. I have often wondered about those grasshoppers myself.

The arrival of your letter seemed most propitious, even if somewhat tardy for success. Mitch Michaud, the climber who set out to scale all of the highest points in the 50 United States, was leaving for Gannett Peak just two days after the arrival of your letter.

I contacted the two young men from here who were to guide and accompany him and his son. (See accounts this page.) They told me if it were possible, they would try to obtain some specimens for you.

Sorry to say, they found severe, winter conditions which precluded any chance of obtaining specimens. They suggest the most opportune time would fall in late July or early August. At that time, all of this season's snowfall would have melted down to expose the grasshoppers.

If you wish, I can follow through and see if someone going in next summer could get them for you. Better yet, why don't we go get them ourselves? I'm game if you are.

Tom Bell



## People Like New Center

Travelers from all fifty states and fifteen foreign countries visited the newly completed Beach Tourist Information Center in North Dakota this past summer. The Center is located along Interstate 94 approximately one half mile east of the Montana-North Dakota border. It was opened to the traveling public June 1, 1970, and is the first of its kind in the state. It is administered through the Travel Division of the State Highway Department.

Visitors from foreign countries who registered at the new information center were from England, France, Germany, Morocco, Costa Rica, Israel, Denmark, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Scotland, Thailand, Yugoslavia and Australia.

Typical comments were: "Beautiful, fantastic!" "Nice road." and "Don't let anyone change it!"

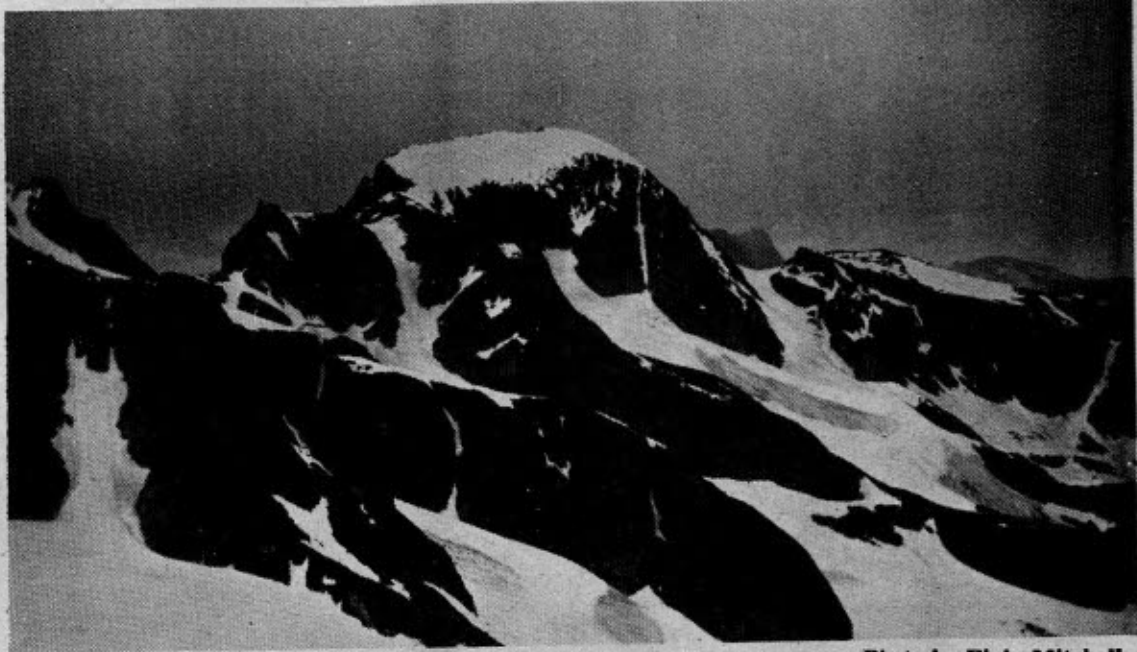


Photo by Finis Mitchell

Gannett Peak, Wyoming's highest at 13,785 feet, was recently climbed by a team of two. They made their successful climb on the north face, not shown in this photo. That approach is behind the right shoulder of the peak from this view.

## On Top of the Mountain . . . Cold-Frostbite-Deathlike

The following accounts are related by the two young men who accompanied Mitch Michaud and his son, Peter Erickson, to the top of Wyoming's highest peak on October 18 and 19. Michaud, 40-year old Oregonian, set out earlier this year to ascend the highest point in each of the 50 states. Following his successful climb of 13,785 ft. Gannett Peak, he reportedly had only nine more states to visit.

Mike Romine is an 18-year old Lander native and Jeff Heath a 20-year old New Yorker. Both have been associated with the National Outdoor Leadership School directed by Paul Petzoldt. There, they got their training for the type of experiences they relate here.

Mike Romine: We got off to a bad start because of car troubles. We pulled into Cold Springs (on the Wind River Indian Reservation) late in the afternoon. Even so, we decided to go to the high timber below Horse Ridge that night.

Our next camp was our base camp, below the glacier. From there, we got a late start in the morning. It was a good day for the climb.

We trudged through about 18 inches of snow. Our trail led through boulder fields and stunted evergreens to the base of the glacier. From there we had to rope up because of the dangerous crevasses and ice falls. Our decision was to try the north face.

By the time we were 700 feet from the summit, we had only two hours of daylight left. Bitter cold had begun to bite our faces. We didn't have enough time to make it to the top and return to base camp before darkness. We decided to return to base camp and make a try for the summit the next day.

We were up long before daylight the next morning. We retraced our steps to the turn-around point of the previous day. It was now snowing and bitter cold. From here, we needed cramp-ons and Peter did not have any. I stayed with him while Jeff, the leader of the expedition, led Mitch to the summit.

When the two climbers

returned a few hours later, we began our final descent. We had to thread our way through the crevasses which were already covered by the blowing snow.

When we reached base camp, Jeff checked his cold feet and found they were slightly frost-bitten. They were bad enough that we felt he could injure his feet further if he walked on them. So Mitch and Peter went for help. A day and a half later, Mitch and Tap Tapley, a NOLS instructor, returned for us on horseback.

It was still bitter cold and snowing. However, I look back on it as one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. I am sure the others feel the same way.

Jeff Heath: Feet break through sugar snow and touch ageless rock. The wind laps at our faces and life sparks back with a warm, moist-breath reply.

At first glance, the hills and valleys appear deathlike. White cobwebs of snow are strung in gullies of umber rock; brown and yellow grasses and dormant willows in curious shades of red fill the meadows. But if you walk in the hills long enough to escape the engines' vibrations and the city's unnatural cloak, and if you sit on a rock in the cool, early-winter air, and if you feel the sun, almost lightly warm, then you begin to realize the earth is not in a death mood or even a sleep mood. It has a subtle, mellow life. My feeling is of the gentle earth, and all that lives and flows in harmony is peaceful.

We were four - brash and vain. We marched on the land in false sophistication and with a selfish pride that only a human can have. We thought only to get to the top of Gannett Peak. For the beauty and serenity which surrounded us, we seemingly cared little.

When we first laid siege on the glacier and the mountain, we climbed as though we had full power and control. We seemed to charge the ice cliffs and crevasses. I did not enjoy this day on the mountain. I felt much out of tune with this place in the world.

We climbed the glacier to

the north. It was very cold and the deep snow tired our legs as we broke through to our knees at every step. Time ran out on us. A setting sun taught us respect for the size of the mountain when we had to turn back just 700 feet from the top. Home we trudged to tumble into sleeping bags.

Hours before daybreak, we were stumbling over the moraine and once more climbing the glacier. This day was not clear like the day before. Dark, shadowy clouds hung low. Frequent snow squalls swept the glacier and burnt our cheeks.

At the previous day's high point, two of our number remained behind on the glacier. The others traversed the white shroud, and climbed the ice and rock to the top.

It was very cold. Only a few peaks could be seen through the cloud and snow: Les Dames Anglaises Warren, Doublet and Helen.

Below in the valley we could see trees and meadows.

## Park Roads Are Closed

Officials of Yellowstone National Park announced today that roads through the park will be kept open through Sunday, November 1. After November 1 the roads will be closed with the first snowstorm which deposits sufficient snow to stop vehicular traffic, with the exception of the road from Gardiner to Cooke City, which is kept open all year.

Anyone planning a trip to the park now should inquire about road conditions before beginning their trip. For up-to-date road information one should call 307-344-7381.

Officials also pointed out that closing the roads to conventional vehicles does not necessarily mean they will be open to snowmobiling. Because of major construction going on inside the park, the park will not be open to snowmobiling for sometime yet. An announcement will be made when snowmobiling is permitted.



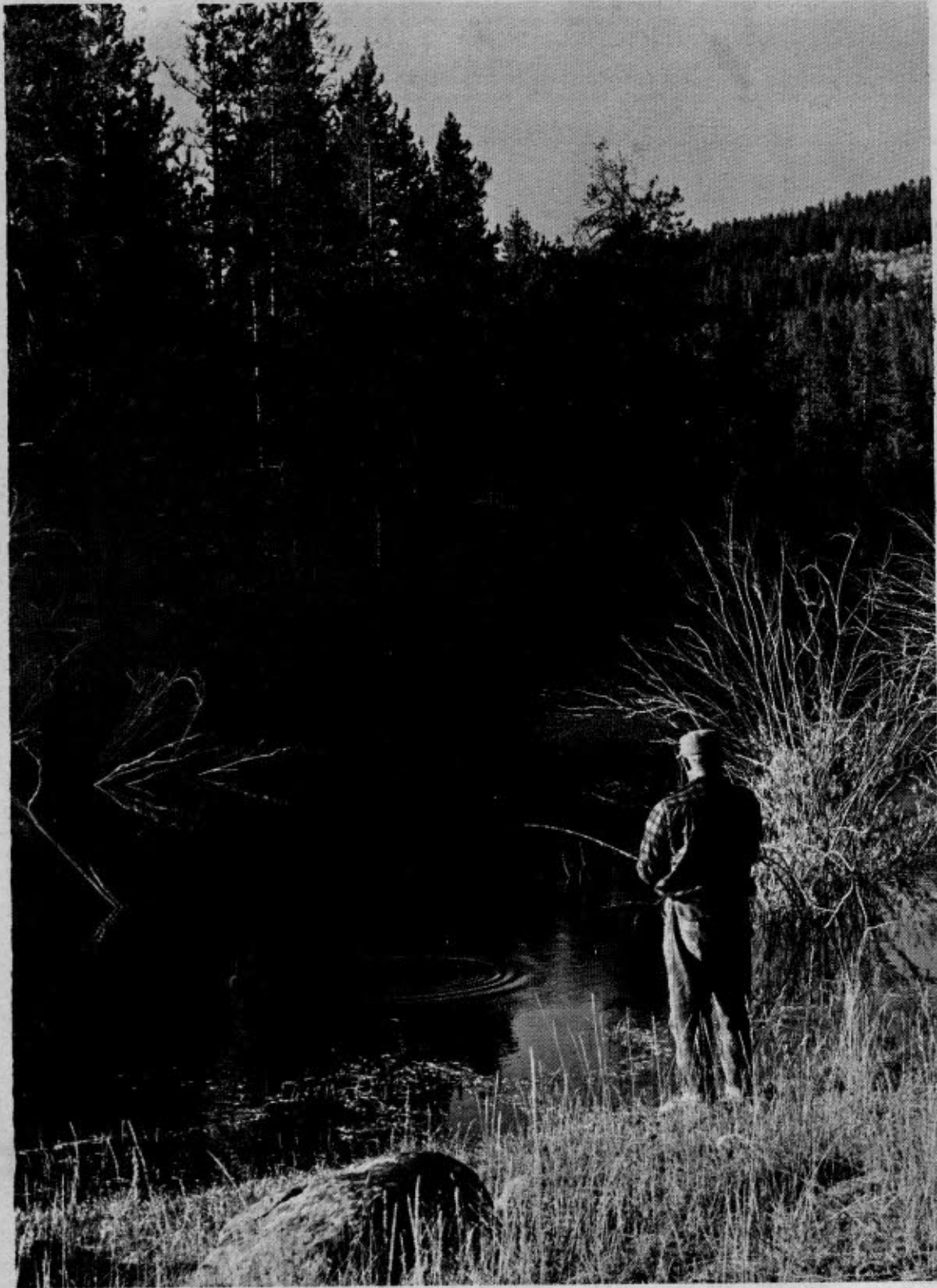


Photo by Jeff Clack

Fall in the High Country of the West has many rewards. Not the least of these are quiet moments fishing the beaver ponds. Here, the catching resulted in a tasty supper of rainbow and cutthroat.

# THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

The State of Wyoming needs to develop a land ethic. In the words of Aldo Leopold "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Much of the land in Wyoming is Federally owned, but the Federal Government often allows abuse of the land. The Myth of Superabundance—the concept that there is so much of a natural resource that it can never be used up—still prevails in the minds of many who administer Federal lands.

By 1900 three-quarters of all the forests in the United States had been cut; twenty years later 80% had been cut. Our national forests—vast as they are—comprise only part of what is left, and in many cases those forests have been over-cut even under Federal administration . . . because it belongs to us.

The American Indian had no concept of land ownership. Ike, the boy-hero of William Faulkner's "The Bear" repudiated the land he inherited because he felt that the Indian chief who had sold the land to his grandfather had no right to sell that land because it didn't belong to him.

Peabody, the "developer" in A. B. Guthrie's THE BIG SKY, says at one point "When country which might support so many actually supports so few, then by thunder the inhabitants (Indians) have not made good use of the natural possibilities. That failure surely is justification for invasion...by people who can and will capitalize on opportunity."

But when the land was under Indian control, wasn't Wyoming's land in better use than it is today? It was used but it wasn't abused. Now, I'm not suggesting that we give the land back to the Indians. The point is that the Indians didn't consider the land as theirs; they belonged to the land, and they were one with the land, and they didn't abuse it.

And it wasn't only because there were so few of them. Certainly overpopulation compounds all of our environmental problems today, but it isn't the basic problem. The basic problem is that we have lost respect for the land, and we haven't discovered man's place in the scheme of things. We try to live outside of nature. It can't be done. We try to control nature instead of participating in the community to which we belong.

Aldo Leopold called for the development of a land ethic and an ecological conscience. Too often we have no conscience when it comes to land use.

Last year I met a mining engineer, one of the men who wanted to develop that molybdenum mine in the White Clouds. He was very proud of the fact that his company had brought back to life a dead river in northern Idaho, a river that hadn't supported fish in more than 30 years. In just two years, they had returned the stream to a fish-supporting river.

I had two questions: why didn't the stream support fish for 30 years? (answer: "My company had poisoned the waters with mining waste in the 1930's,") and why did you clean it up? (answer: "There are Federal Water Quality laws now.") In other words, he was proud that he'd been forced to clean up his own mess.

Here in Wyoming the powers that be, the elected officials who are supposed to represent the people, too often represent special interests to the detriment of the public and the public lands, Federal or State.

Perhaps you know that a section of school land in Teton County that lies within Grand Teton National Park has been leased for gold and silver mining. State Land Commissioner "Bert" King allowed as how the lease had "slipped by." Gov. Hathaway explained to a group of conservationists in Jackson Hole that lands in Teton County had been flagged at his request to prevent such a terrible thing's happening again (what about lands in other counties?), where-upon King said "They've been flagged since 1947; this one just slipped by me."

"Responsible" Republican John Wold, campaigning against Senator Gale McGee, the only elected representative in Wyoming who seems to have developed an ecological conscience, tried to place the blame for the rape of our national forests on McGee and the Democratic administration. Yet Wold gave no support in the House to McGee's attempt to stop the vast clear-cutting on the high, dry forests in Wyoming—nor did "responsible" Republican Cliff Hansen (who once said "I will not question the wisdom of the Forest Service.")

I write this on Election Eve; consequently I do not know the outcome of the election. Everyone has been hopping on the environmental bandwagon, even the man who proposed the Timber Supply Act. I do not know which man has won the bid for the U. S. Senate seat or the seat for the U. S. House of Representatives, but if we can believe the politicians, no matter who wins, the environment will win in the long run. I hope so, but it is up to us to make our elected representatives—at all levels—as responsible and as responsive as their campaign promises claim they are.

As Stewart Udall wrote in his book "The Quiet Crisis" "A land ethic for tomorrow should be as honest as Thoreau's Walden, and as comprehensive as the sensitive science of ecology. . . . We cannot afford an American where experience tramples upon esthetics and development decisions are made with an eye only on the present."

"Great Ideas for Christmas"

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## A Gift Idea

The official "Wildlife of America" conservation calendar for 1971 is now being distributed by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation, with proceeds from its sale earmarked for conservation education programs. Widely used by schools and libraries, it is a handy wildlife reference for adults and children. It is a reminder to practice conservation.

The original publication of its kind, "Wildlife of America", features 12 full-color American wildlife paintings, 12 true-to-life animal histories and outdoor tips, painted and written by one of the world's foremost wildlife artists, Roger Preuss, a member of the Society of Animal Artists. A widely respected conservationist and naturalist, Preuss and his work have made many people more conservation conscious.

Other features include a daily fishing forecast - 24 pages of outdoor lore. An ideal gift for family, friends, yourself, the calendar may be obtained for only \$1.25 per copy postpaid from North Dakota Wildlife Federation, Box 1694, Bismarck, N. D. 58501. All proceeds assist conservation education and wise use of natural resources.



## Chukars Don't Come . . .

symboled curtains to see a turbaned, robed Madam Eva quickly slip a half-eaten Ruben sandwich under an eight-sided table. She wiped her mouth with the back of her hand.

"You want to know about chukars," she said, with a slight accent.

Fantastic, I thought, I hadn't even sat down and she was funneling information to me.

"Cross my palm with silver," she said mechanically.

I dropped a pair of old Las Vegas-worn silver dollars into her hand.

"These are worth a lot more than face value," I said.

"Ho-kay," she said, trying to bend the coins with her teeth.

I poured out my soul.

"Madam Eva," I blurted. "I'm a sorry chukar hunter. Those little, less than one-pound birds don't want to fly; they're worse than turkeys. All they want to do is run, run, run. Last year I hunted along the bottom of a steep-walled canyon in good chukar habitat and those birds legged it like greyhounds. I know for a fact they can run 18 miles an hour, and get out of range in a hurry. And I hate to ground-sluice birds."

"I know," said Madam Eva, solemnly.

"You know those rocky, brushy slopes they like. Well, it just takes all the steam out of a hunter. But once I climbed on top a ridge, I found the birds got nervous when they saw me above the, and some of them flushed. Then the problem was hitting them. I just shot and shot and never lifted a feather."

"Understandably," remarked Madam Eva.

"It was probably because I'm used to quail hunting and the bigger dimensions of the chukars had me popping off shells when they were actually out of range. By watching the swing of one of my hunting buddies, I saw him repeatedly shoot under the birds. This stemmed from the fast rise of the bird, no doubt.

"No doubt," said Madam Eva.

"One thing that I learned - chukars will tip their whereabouts with their call. But not exactly. You see, they can throw their voices. You know, like Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy."

"Not always where they seem" said Madam Eva.

"I also got an idea the birds were at hand by seeing their tracks in the soft dirt of the slopes and canyons. If you had several buddies split into two parties, one beating the brush along the canyon bottom and the other at the top, you might flush a lot of birds in range."

"Very possible," agree Madam Eva. "Excuse me for a moment."

She stuck her head under the table and came up chewing. An odor of corned beef, wafted about the darkened room.

"I've got this old Marlin 12 over-under I used on the chukars. One buddy sprayed shot from an old 16-gauge Sears pump. Another ran bursts of pellets from a 20-gauge auto. None of us can brag about our luck. As always, it seems the best shotgun gauge to be largely a matter of individual preference. I mean, as long as it's fitted to the shooter."

"Munch," Madam Eva mumbled.

"As far as shot, we tried everything from 6's to 9's but I'm of the opinion that number 7 1/2's might be the best, considering average range and all that."

"Considering," Madam Eva swallowed, then swigged from a bottle of Pabst's Blue Ribbon.

"You've been such a help, Madam Eva. I wonder if you might help just a bit more by pin-pointing a couple of coveys of chukars to save me from so much God-awful walking and climbing?"

"Sorry, but you've already used up your two silver dollars worth," she said. She emphasized "silver."

"Would you take a check?" I asked anxiously.

"Normally, yes," Madam Eva said, "but I must say no. Not even a great psychic like me can tell what kind of a character a chukar hunter might be."



## G & F Buys Dredge

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, through the Dingell-Johnson Fisheries Restoration Act, has purchased a 25-ton floating dredge designed to improve fisheries potential in many shallow lakes and ponds in the state.

The dredge is the first of its type to be used for this purpose in the Rocky Mountain region and is capable of excavating to a depth of 20 feet. In a day's operation, the machine can remove approximately 1,600 cubic yards of soil from a lake bottom. Rich soil removed from the lake bottoms is left nearby to dry before leveling and seeding.

Present plans call for the dredge to be used in areas of

eastern Wyoming where fishing is limited by a lack of suitable water. The equipment is currently undergoing shakedown operations and a dredge operator is being trained.

Shallow lakes are often unsuitable for fish due to severe winter or summer kill.

Increasing the depth in a portion of a lake increases the volume of water and an oxygen reserve is made available to the aquatic community during periods of low oxygen production. The increased depth also reduces the vegetation growth which can kill fish in limited volumes of water and during periods of rapid growth or decay of plant life.

## Waterfowlers Pin Hopes on Bad Weather

With a little help from the weather, waterfowl hunters can expect an excellent season, says Wynn Freeman, chief of game management for the Montana Fish and Game Department. Duck and goose hunting in the eastern part of the state, Central Flyway, got underway October 3 while gunning in the western half, Pacific Flyway, started Saturday, October 10.

Ducks Unlimited states that summer across the Canadian Prairies, from whence many of our waterfowl come, could hardly have been better for late broods. Warm, dry weather coupled with abundant water from spring runoff gave young ducks every opportunity to mature.

A check across Montana shows no big flights of migrants from the north. Some geese and ducks are beginning to trickle through on their flights to wintering grounds, but at the present, resident birds will take the brunt of hunting pressure.

In Teton County where many gunners hold swan permits, snow geese and swans are just beginning to show up at the Freezout Waterfowl Management area near Fairfield. Dale Witt, manager of the area, said that marshlands were frozen over much earlier than usual. Though the marshes are expected to be open again until weather cools, Witt expects the early freeze may have disrupted predictable movements and feeding habits of ducks.

Reports from eastern localities show small ponds and reservoirs open and providing much of the present hunting. Waterfowl move from the smaller ponds to rivers as ice takes over the smaller water areas.

## Grouse Hunters Average a Bird For Each Man

LINCOLN, Nebr. -- Grouse hunters in Nebraska during the opening weekend of the season averaged about a bird per man per day, roughly the same success as they experienced last year, according to data from 12 check stations manned by Game Commission personnel.

On the average, hunters had to put out a little less effort to down a bird, about 4 1/2 hours this year compared to 5 hours in 1969. Some 1,132 hunters passed through the check stations with 1,513 birds during the first 2 days of the season.

Preseason population surveys showed increased grouse populations in the western part of the state's grouse range, but hunter success there was slightly below last year. However, gunners fared better than expected in the eastern part of grouse country.

Data from the check stations show the Burwell and Taylor areas the most productive during the first two days of the hunt.

Photos by Wyo. Game & Fish Dept.



Marginal pheasant habitat typifies Wyoming. Game farm birds are released before the season. Quite often, the releases are made weeks before the season resulting in a drastic loss of birds. Releases such as these shown here are not advocated by real experts. This is what is known as a "hard" release as opposed to a "gentle" release. The latter is accomplished by allowing the birds to walk quietly away from the release cages in small groups so that they are not wildly scattered into an unfamiliar territory. Sportsmen could also better capitalize on their costly investment in birds, bitter weather wipes out most of the artificial plantings.



The Hungarian partridge is a wild flusher and doesn't hold well for bird dogs. There is very little of Wyoming suited for these game birds. It is a waste of sportsmen's money to raise these birds in a bird farm to be released in areas where few shooters will ever get a chance to bag one.



## Husker Archers Score on Deer

LINCOLN, Nebr. -- A record number of archery deer hunters are in the field across the state, and so far, they have taken nearly 400 animals.

Some 4,450 archery deer

permits have been issued, surpassing the 4,122 issued during the entire 1969 season. And, archers have nearly two full months of the season remaining to surpass last year's harvest of 761 deer.



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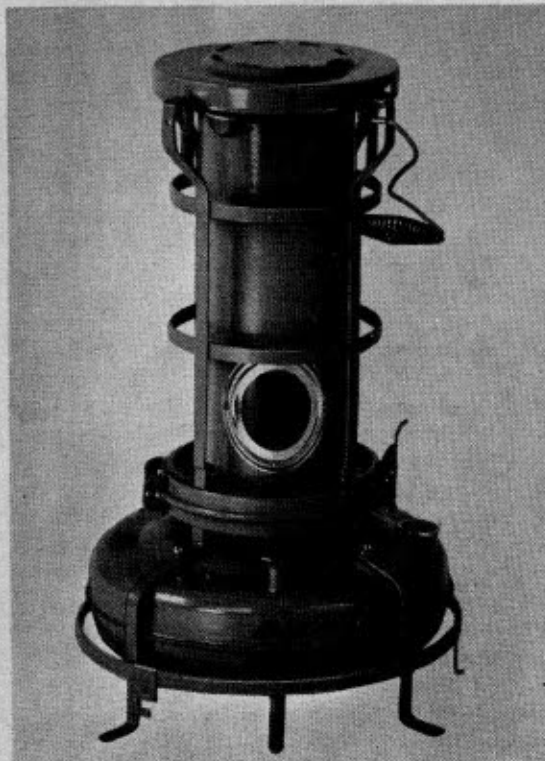
ICE FISHING SHELTERS, New amazing instant - nothing to assemble. Nothing to take apart, 10 second set up or collapse. Write Quick Hut Mfg. Co. 1311 So. 16 St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53204.



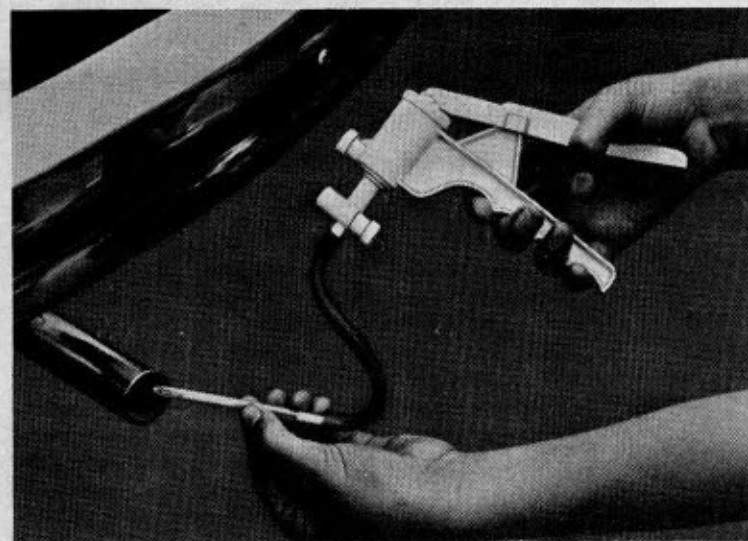
## New Products



Rich-Moor's new "Astro"; Freeze-Dried Eggs for outdoorsmen are identical to those served on the Apollo 12 Moon Flight. Back-packers also appreciate the convenience; no refrigeration is needed. For further information, address inquiries to Rich-Moor Corporation, P. O. Box 2728, Van Nuys, California 91404.



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# Prehistoric Fish Are Oddity

By Lewis Meyer Wildlife Management Specialist BLM Nevada

The Ash Meadows area of Nevada, 70 miles west of Las Vegas, is a true desert environment. The land receives little moisture, and vegetation is sparse. Sudden whirlwinds darken the sky with dust, and heat waves in summer make the horizon dance.

It can be a hostile land, for plant and animal alike, yet it is home to a species of tiny fishes, the Nevada pupfishes, that trace their ancestry to the time of the glaciers.

The pupfishes, *Cyprinodon nevadensis*, live in a number of small isolated springs and waters, but one subspecies, *C. n. pectoralis*, is so rare that its only home until recently was a spring scarcely larger than a bathtub. Listed among the rare and endangered fish and wildlife of the United States by the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, *pectoralis* is now protected by the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau also plans protective measures for a more common type of pupfish, *mionectes*, that lives in another small spring, also on public lands.

Pupfishes are the smallest members - less than two inches - of the killifish family. Killifishes are primarily tropical in world distribution, and in North America are found mostly in brackish or alkaline waters.

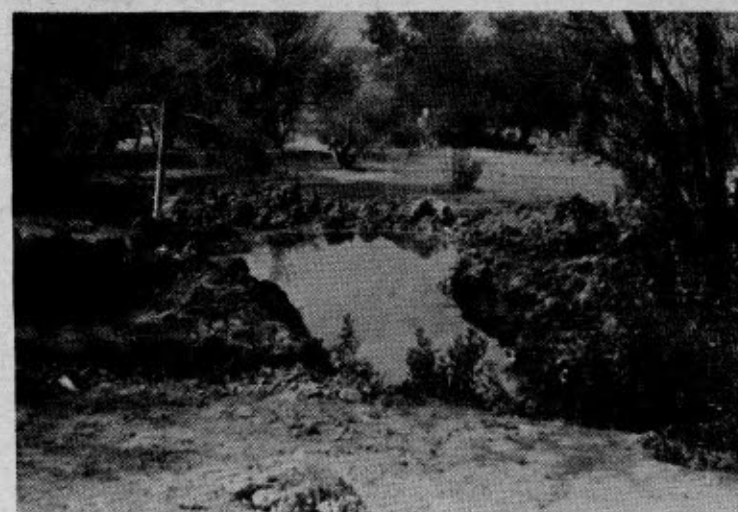
Following the Pleistocene ice age, the Ash Meadows fishes inhabited an aquatic system that included Owens Valley and the Mojave Basins in California, and Death Valley and Amargosa Valley in California and Nevada.

As the climate continued to warm and become drier, the extensive lakes and watercourses disappeared until living space for the fishes was restricted to small isolated springs and waters. Over thousands of years this isolation resulted in a great variation in the Nevada pupfishes as they adapted to their individual environments.

Thus it happened that far in the past a small spring in the Nevada desert became the last refuge of the subspecies *pectoralis*. The pupfishes apparently adapted well to the highly mineralized water and its constant temperature of 92 degrees, but in more recent times there have been new threats to their survival: other fish, animals, and man.

To protect both subspecies of the pupfish in the two springs on public lands, BLM's District Office in 1968 developed a habitat management plan. After further study in the spring of 1969, BLM biologists felt that if the subspecies *pectoralis* were to survive, that the School Spring habitat needed immediate protection. Officials of Nevada's Department of Fish and Game concurred.

The major problems identified by the study included human and livestock damage to the habitat, and the introduction of various exotic, or nonnative, fishes as well as crayfish and bullfrogs. The foreign species



were competing with pupfishes for food and for breeding and living space, and in some cases were preying on the pupfish.

Further emphasizing the need for immediate protection, researchers, from Nevada Southern University found that pupfish populations were declining rapidly and in fact, had been completely eliminated in two privately-owned springs.

Since the right to use the water flowing from School Spring was held by a local individual, BLM's first move was to work out an agreement with him. Construction then began on a 6-foot high chain-link fence to provide a people animal proof 1-acre enclosure around the spring. The objective was twofold: Fully protect the hardy little 2-inches from man and animal and thus increase their chances for survival; and maintain the fish in a suitable, isolated, protected environment for continued intensive biological research studies by the University of Nevada. Foreign fish and frogs were also removed from the spring and the bathtub-size ponded waters were more than doubled in area.

This done for the fish, BLM then provided for people. Outside the enclosure, BLM constructed another small

pond, piped water to it from the spring, and transplanted some of the pupfish. Picnic tables and restrooms are nearby, and an interpretive sign tells visitors the story of the shiny blue, energetic little fish they see in the pond.

A number of organizations and individuals contributed to the School Spring project, including Boy Scouts of Explorer Post 115 in Las Vegas who assisted in most phases of the work. Through these cooperative efforts, a rare subspecies of pupfish continues to live in the Nevada desert—a survivor of ancient climates and a relentless, ever-changing environment.

## Gig Is Up for Froggers

LINCOLN, Nebr. -- Bullfroggers in Nebraska put up their gigs and other frog-gathering paraphernalia at midnight on October 31, as that season ended across the state.

The season opened on July 1, with a bag and possession limit of 8.

Fishing permit holders may take the croakers by hook-and-line or gig. A hunting permit is required for those using bow and arrow or firearms. Either permit allows the holder to catch bullfrogs by hand or hand net.

## "Pups" Are Transplanted

A transplant of 24 finger-long fish from one small pool in Nevada to another in California doesn't seem to be much cause for excitement, unless they happen to be the nearly extinct Devil's Hole pupfish, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

A relic of an age when melting glaciers made a huge lake of Death Valley, the tiny pupfish somehow survived in isolated potholes, some no bigger than the runoff from a leaky radiator. But man's irrigation activities have already eliminated two pupfish species, and the U. S. Department of the Interior has placed the pupfish on its endangered species list.

The population most endangered is now in Devil's Hole, Nevada, where pumping from nearby wells is lowering the water table. Consequently, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to transfer the interesting little fish to a new home in California. The site selected is a spring area in the eastern California desert, where conditions are similar to those at Devil's Hole.

Biologists of the Departments of Fish and Game of Nevada and California and the University of Nevada netted 24 pupfish, placed them in a 60-gallon tank, and trucked them to their new home. The tank was filled with Devil's Hole water at 92 degrees F., and the temperature was maintained at that level to match that of the specially prepared spring

selected to receive the transplant.

The fish seemed to adapt very well to their new habitat and showed absolutely no signs of distress, said Edwin P. Pister, fisheries biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game.

At intervals throughout the fall the fish will be observed to note their condition, Pister said. And hopefully another small step will have been taken to give an endangered species another chance at a last stand.

Pupfish dramatize the habitat destruction that is the plight of almost all our endangered species. It also points out the often unnoticed role of the American sportsman in the conservation of all species of wildlife. Much of the pupfish project is supported by license fees from hunters and fishermen.

## Winnebago Bans Billboard Ads

Winnebago Industries, Inc., the nation's largest producer of recreation vehicles has urged their dealers not to use billboards (outdoor) advertising. The Company cited billboards as one form of pollution, as they clutter the landscape and reduce the quality of outdoor America.

This is a significant gesture and shows consideration for Winnebago's customers who are outdoor oriented. More businesses should realize that respect for our environment is good business.

## Many Hunts End With J. P. Visit

While most hunters are afield enjoying hunting seasons in full swing, many find themselves in courtrooms trying to explain the errors of their ways. What is the common fault of most hunters who end their trips in J. P. Court? They haven't taken the time to read hunting regulations, says Orville Lewis, chief of law enforcement for Montana Fish and Game Department.

General opening of big game seasons is always accompanied by a rash of improperly tagged game animals. Most game tags have been simplified to the point where the hunter who has downed an animal need only cut out the month and day from the edge of the tag before it is placed on a critter. "Follow instructions on game tags", advises Lewis.

Your signature should be on the tag at the time of purchase. Tag downed animals immediately and be certain you have cut out the appropriate month and date from the edge of the tag. Some excited hunters have made the embarrassing mistake of putting elk tags on deer and deer tags on elk.

Another common but deadly hunter mistake is that of firing from vehicles or from roads. Montana laws specifically prohibit shooting

game from any type of self-propelled vehicle or from any public highway.

One of the finer points of law comes from the Department of Interior and deals with transportation of ducks. The Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife is reminding waterfowl hunters that regulations covering the transportation of ducks bagged are tighter this year.

Hunters may now possess or transport only one day's bag limit of ducks between the place the ducks were taken and either:

- (1) his automobile or principal means of land transportation;
- (2) his temporary place of lodging or his home;
- (3) a commercial preservation facility such as a locker plant or a wild game processor; and
- (4) a post office or common carrier, whichever place is arrived at first.

In other words, if your buddy wants you to pack his limit of ducks out of the swamp in addition to your own, it's a no no. Don't be caught in the field with more than one daily limit of ducks.

Lewis advises that for their own protection and in the interest of good sportsmanship, hunters should study regulations carefully before going into the field.





Autumn in the Colorado Rockies is an ideal time and place to enjoy a vacation at the top of the nation which offers a well-balanced combination of relaxation and recreation. Indian summer provides warm, sunny

days and cool, restful nights. Nature paints the mountainsides with a psychedelic array of color to delight the photographer and inspire the sightseer.

## Colorado Offers Varied Recreation

Colorado offers plenty of recreation and relaxation to satisfy the active outdoor sportsman or the spectator who wants to take it easy.

For the avid sportsman there are nearly 9,000 miles of significant trout streams, 6,000 miles of which are accessible in the family car. More than 1,000 lakes which are well-stocked with trout, kokanee, crappie, bass, catfish, and perch await the eager angler. Nearly 400 campgrounds, with accommodations ranging from modern to nature's finest, are located near the favored fishing areas. Colorado also offers variety in boating from guided float trips on the Green and Yampa Rivers to yachting on three major lakes, namely, Grand, Blue Mesa, and Dillon.

There are 83 Colorado mountains towering from 10,000 feet to challenge the climber. Whether you conquer the peaks via foot or horseback, mountaineering in Colorado is a good experience.

Weathering ghost towns and silent mining camps, nestled in rockbound canyons, recall the turbulent Colorado gold rush era of a century ago. Rockhounds may do their own prospecting for a wide variety of gems, unusual mineral specimens, and Indian artifacts in the

Colorado high country. If you dig columbine, please don't in Colorado. It's illegal to uproot the Colorado State Flower. There are more than 1,000 other unusual Alpine botanic specimens to enjoy.

Rocky Mountain National Park in north central Colorado encompasses 405 square miles of mountain majesty along the Continental Divide. The Never Summer Range with more than 100 peaks above 11,000 feet is ironically an ideal summer vacation mecca for the weather-weary urbanite. Trail Ridge Road, the nation's highest continuous highway, bridges the quaint vacation villages of Estes Park and Grand Lake.

Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado contains the well-preserved dwellings and artifacts of an ancient Indian civilization dating to the time of Christ. Cliff Palace, the largest of the early day condominiums, was abandoned in 1300 A.D.

Colorado's four national monuments also offer the relaxation-seeking vacationist a wide variety of scenic and photographic opportunities. Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction displays 18,000 acres of nature's most exquisite statuary of massive ramparts, sheer-walled canyons, and delicately

sculptured spires and minarets.

Dinosaur National Monument in northwestern Colorado is a land of long ago with grotesque rock formations, water-carved canyons, and the world's biggest bone pile containing the fossilized remains of giant prehistoric creatures.

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument near Montrose is a sombre granite gorge which plunges to a depth of 2,800 feet, narrows to 1,300 feet wide at the top, and is only 40 feet wide at the narrowest point of the riverbed. Nearby is Blue Mesa Lake, Colorado's newest and largest water recreation area.

Great Sand Dunes National Monument near Alamosa is 57 square miles of restless silver sand, cradled in the arms of the mystical Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains.

Natural wonders of the Pikes Peak area include the Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, Seven Falls, Royal Gorge with its new aerial tram, Cripple Creek, Florissant Petrified Forest, recently designated as a national monument, and the famed Indian spa of Manitou Springs. Complementing the region's natural beauty are the United States Air Force

Academy, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Will Rogers Shrine, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, North Pole, Ghost Town, and May Tropical Museum.

Eastern Colorado is rich in American history. Pioneer museums and historical sites dot this fascinating land of the explorer, the Indian, the Conquistador, the buffalo, the trapper, and the gold-seeker.

Bent's Old Fort, a trading post near La Junta, has been restored as a national historic site.

Central Colorado, encompassing Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Eagle, and Vail

Village, has been appropriately dubbed the "Crown Jewel of the Rockies." This famed mining region has become an internationally known cultural center and year-around vacation paradise. It is in this area at Loveland Basin that many of the events of the 1976 Winter Olympics will be held.

For complete information on a Colorado vacation at the top of the nation, including maps, accommodations, prices, and events, write 986S State Capitol, Denver, Colorado 80203.

## Magazine Sponsors 2nd Outdoor Photo Contest

Amateur and professional photographers interested in submitting photographs in the 2nd Annual Photo Contest sponsored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission have until November 30 to enter their work.

The contest, initiated by WYOMING WILDLIFE Magazine, received national attention last year. Shutterbugs from throughout the United States entered their Wyoming photos in the competition.

Any unpublished photo taken in Wyoming is eligible

for the contest.

Subject matter will be judged in four different categories—wildlife, scenic, historical and recreational activities. Judges for the contest will be personnel of the Information and Education staff in Cheyenne.

Winning transparencies and prints will be printed in a future issue of WYOMING WILDLIFE and complete rules and details of the contest were printed in the September 1970 issue of that magazine.