

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News



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as the wilderness goes,
so goes the grizzly



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

One more ski development or undeveloped skiing? Ski Yellowstone forces choice

by Mike Cross

Montana has something big brewing. An idea proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association could sweep the nation, setting a precedent for environmental action everywhere.

At issue is Ski Yellowstone, a proposed real estate development and ski area just west of Yellowstone National Park. On 1,000 acres of private land between Mt. Hebgen and Hebgen Lake, Ski Yellowstone, Inc., wants to build 695 condominiums, 254 single family residences, 375 units for overnight lodging, a shopping mall, lounges, cafes, a marina, stables, and lots more.

The developers have also asked the U.S. Forest Service (FS) for special permission to cut ski runs and to place 13 chair lifts, a gondola, roads, and a day center on 6,932 acres of public land on Mt. Hebgen.

Everything was following the developer's plan until a few months ago when a citizens' group, the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA), stepped in. After a brief look, the organization saw Ski Yellowstone for what it really was—an extravagant use of natural resources and energy; a partially planned, second home subdivision that threatened watershed, wilderness, and wildlife, including the disappearing grizzly bear.

The Ski Yellowstone proposal itself isn't unique—or even uncommon. Similar schemes are underway all across the scenic Rockies. But when MWA members sat

down to decide what to do about the development, someone did come up with something unique—a better idea.

Instead of just opposing the development, the MWA reacted positively and suggested a non-mechanized winter recreation area as a reasonable alternative to Ski Yellowstone. The group recommended setting aside 20-30,000 acres (including Mt. Hebgen) exclusively for non-mechanized, non-consumptive winter sports such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snow camping. The proposal doesn't cover summer use, but MWA volunteers predict hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, hunting, and other sports will remain popular.

On July 4, 1974, the MWA made its intentions official by applying for a Special Use Permit from the FS to make a feasibility study of the project. They informally recruited experts in many fields to help with the study. Everything was set—only the FS permit was needed.

Permission to study a proposed use of federal land was apparently semi-routine, so MWA workers didn't expect any problem. However, the FS cast out the first stumbling block by initially denying the study permit.

The MWA objected, noting that Ski Yellowstone, Inc., was granted a similar study permit on the same day they applied. Months of correspondence followed, but to no avail.

By requesting this permission, the MWA has asked the FS to wait until June 30, 1975, before it begins environmental assessment of any other use of this public land—

and especially Ski Yellowstone. The group feels its study would be an invaluable part of any environmental statement for this area. But apparently, the FS won't wait for it.

In frustration, the MWA appealed the decision from the Hebgen Ranger District to Gallatin National Forest Supervisor Lewis E. Hawkes. The MWA wasn't exactly optimistic about the upcoming decision, though. Hawkes has already remarked, "Everyone knows (the MWA proposal) is nothing but a blocking action."

Faced with this, the environmental group charges that the FS is ignoring its responsibility to recognize all feasible uses of the land in question. "Since the FS won't even consider our alternative proposal," notes Rick Applegate, leader of this MWA effort, "we can only assume that they are moving towards approving Ski Yellowstone."

Shortly thereafter, though, the FS did indeed grant a special study permit. The public agency insisted that they couldn't grant two special use permits for the same area. In his letter, Hawkes said he had asked Ski Yellowstone developers if they wanted the MWA to study this public land. Not surprisingly, Ski Yellowstone declined. So the FS allowed the MWA to only study the public land around the development site.

Granted, MWA members would prefer to see Ski Yellowstone refused, but still, they consider their idea much more than a "blocking action." Some members even call it (continued on page 4)

Letters

MILKWEED ALERT

Dear HCN,

I'm pleased that you're covering the wild foods picture, but not pleased by the context in which your two authors are presenting the information. While giving good recipes for *Asclepias speciosa*, showy milkweed (see HCN, 4-25-75, page 9), they failed to note that many of the milkweeds in the West are poisonous and that a beginner could easily misidentify them or assume that all milkweeds are edible. What works in the Boulder, Colo., area as "easily recognizable" might not hold true elsewhere where *speciosa* is absent or co-existent with other *Asclepias*. Have someone check plants like that.

Gary Nabhan
Tucson, Ariz.

PLANS FOR WILDERNESS

Dear High Country News people,

I am hoping you can provide some news emphasis for the Great Bear (Mont.) Wilderness bill. The Senate hearing was held May 20. Letters can be included in the hearing record up to two weeks after the hearing.

The Great Bear effectively links the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier Park into one magnificent northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem. Aside from its scenic and wilderness values, the significance of such an area is immeasurable in promoting the survival of such species as the mountain goat, wolverine, westslope cutthroat trout, northern Rocky Mountain timber wolf, and grizzly bear. These creatures need wilderness to survive, and the free-ranging wolf and grizzly need a large undisturbed area if they are to recover their numbers.

We are encountering more opposition than we had expected on the bill. The timber people actively lobbied against it and the snowmobilers sent six delegates to oppose it in Washington. This, despite the fact that most

of the Great Bear's timber is marginal and would require fabulously expensive and environmentally disastrous roads to exploit. This, also despite the fact that it is overwhelmingly rugged, roadless country and of very little potential to the snowmobilers.

Letters can be sent to Montana representatives or to the hearings officers, Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.), Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Sincerely yours,
Douglas H. Chadwick
Montana Wilderness Assn., Flathead Chapter
Swan Lake, Mont.

ASTONISHING COMPARISON

Dear HCN:

Russell Boulding's superior article on Western coal leasing (HCN, April 25) allows for some astonishing comparisons between the lease cost of oil and coal. In Alaska, oil companies paid \$900 million for leases to what was estimated as 15 billion barrels of oil. Since there are 5.8 million Btu (British thermal units—a standardized measure of heating value) per barrel, we can easily figure that each lease-dollar bought 97 million Btu.

For Wyodak coal, if we assume there are 18 million Btu per ton of coal, we can calculate using Boulding's figures that each lease-dollar bought 23½ billion Btu. That means Alaska oilmen paid 243 times what Wyoming strippers did for the rights to an equal amount of resource. If we then consider that reserves of Alaskan oil were less sure than reserves of Western coal, and remember the immense difficulty and expense of bringing Alaskan oil to market, we realize just to what extent we were taken by the coal leasers.

Sincerely,
Charles Calef
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, N.Y.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Jane Bell

One of the more rewarding features of moving to a different climatic and geographic area is the changing panorama of the natural world around you. The Northern Rocky Mountain region which I came to know and love so well is distinctive. So is the Pacific Northwest.

This is not to say that there aren't certain similarities. Mountain and foothill terrain has somewhat the same aspects. Many of the plants and animals, you see are cosmopolitan across the West. For instance, mule deer browse in big sagebrush here as well as in Wyoming or Colorado.

But there are many outstanding, as well as subtle, differences, too. And this is what makes it interesting to someone who has always lived close to the land.

Now that tints of spring are moving across the broad tapestry of the land, it is an exciting time. Each new flower is greeted with awe and wonder, and each familiar flower face is like a long-lost friend.

Last week, my son, Vic, came in to tell me of some pretty yellow flowers in the upper part of the pasture. So we went to see the yellow fritillaries which I had only read about before. (These occur in the Rockies but I had never been in the right place at the right time to see them in bloom.) They are common here.

Curious about the other little yellow flower I saw so abundant in the sagebrush along the highway between here and Richland, Ore., I stopped to investigate one day. I should have known it would be the sagebrush buttercup. A *Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* (Craighead, Craighead and Davis; Peterson Field Guide Series) says, "When this harbinger of spring is in full bloom it gives the sagebrush flats a golden hue; eggs of great horned owls are hatching, rockchucks are coming out of hibernation, cock pheasants have established crowing territories, and ruffed grouse are drumming. In Yellowstone National Park it is the first showy flowers to

greet black and grizzly bears as they emerge from their deep sleep of winter."

As an added bonus I found myriads of the delicate, little, pink springbeauty (*Claytonia*). It is one of my favorites of early spring.

Just in the last few days showy bunches of balsamroot are also beginning to show up across the expanse of hills. One of the species of biscuitroot, or desert parsley, shows up in great numbers along the highway cutbanks. It is there I also saw the first bluebells two weeks ago.

Several days ago Vic and I were searching for mushrooms in the woods along a stream. We didn't find any mushrooms, but God's flower patches are certainly coming into their own there. A delicate flower which I can only assume is Dutchman's breeches is already in full bloom. But many curiosity-arousing leaves are poking up through the leafy ground-thatch. I am going to go back to those woods for a look at the flowers as they develop.

As spring progresses into summer we are looking forward to occasional forays into the hills and mountains. One of our reasons for being there will be the enjoyment of seeing the beauties of wildflowers.



Search
for
Peace



ZPG DISPUTE

Dear HCN:

I was dismayed by a news item published recently in *High Country News*, entitled "Zero Growth for Some," which reported that West Germany, France, Canada, and the Netherlands have all reached zero population growth or negative population growth. There has been much confusion on this issue and because the implications are so great, I think that it should be cleared up.

According to the 1975 *World Population Data Sheet*, published by the Population Reference Bureau, no country has a 0% or negative annual "Rate of Population Growth." Very simply, zero population growth is when birth rates plus immigration equals death rates plus emigration. While a few countries have birth and death rates that are equal or nearly so, the effect of immigration causes their population to increase yearly. Although this Data Sheet is a good general guide, you might notice that it uses U.N. projections and gives an average of the 1970-75 period. Thus, it is automatically outdated by 1975 and necessarily depends on opinion to some extent.

I looked into the latest available figures based on actual birth and death registrations and got the following figures based on those countries closest to ZPG and those which were mentioned in the article. They are from a report compiled jointly by the International Statistical Program Center of the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Office of Population of the U.S. Agency for International Development, dated April 11, 1975. (They do not include net migration figures.)

Countries at or below ZPG (not including net migration): East Germany (-2 growth rate); West Germany (-3 growth rate); Luxembourg (-1 growth rate).

Countries claimed by the National Institute for Demographic Studies to be at ZPG (in addition to West Germany): France (.5 growth rate); Canada (.9 growth rate); Netherlands (.6 growth rate).

With immigration rates for some of these countries, notably Canada and West Germany, the actual growth rate is much higher.

The two most common mistakes made in reporting progress towards ZPG are: confusing this situation with replacement level fertility and not considering immigration. Thus, although the U.S. has been incorrectly reported to be at ZPG, it is a long way off in time and numbers. In 1974, the birth rate was 15.0 and the death rate 9.1, giving a natural increase of .59%. Counting legal immigration of about 400,000 per year, the growth rate of the U.S. is over .7%, adding 1.6 million people each year to the population. While it is true that the U.S. has dropped below replacement level fertility (women are averaging less than that average of 2.1 children), the built-in momentum of population growth still causes yearly increases, and immigration levels would cause the population to grow even when the natural balance was achieved.

I hope you will consider printing the enclosed information compiled by the leading recognized authorities in the field. Assumptions that this important goal has been reached gives a sense of unwarranted complacency and hinders efforts of those attempting to deal with the population-food-resources problem.

Judy Senderowitz, director
Organization Liaison Division
The Population Institute
Washington, D.C.

GOD'S DOG

Dear News Staff,

Thank you for another year of hard work and devotion. You are all doing an admirable job in a field that seems to be marred with a new pitfall daily.

I would like to recommend a new book I've just read. Hope Ryden's, *God's Dog*, is a profoundly beautiful and enlightening book and should be read by all.

I believe we could all benefit from her knowledge of the West's most maligned creature — the coyote.

Steve Garner
Casper, Wyo.

Editorial



Balance issue haunts clean air debate

The tremors of trepidation that many of us felt as we listened to President Gerald R. Ford's energy and economy message in January were warranted, as the events of the spring in Washington are proving.

The word "balance" is a scary term when used by people whose judgment we know differs from ours. Ford told us then that he would sign a strip mining bill if it would "strike a balance between our desires for reclamation and environmental protection and our need to increase domestic coal production substantially over the next ten years." Although some changes were made in the bill at his request, it did not meet that balance, in his eyes, and he vetoed the bill May 20. Now some conference committee members are angrily charging that the Administration is "falsifying" the figures on the unemployment and reduction in coal production to result from the bill, and Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) has scheduled a hearing on the Administration's allegations prior to taking a vote on overriding the veto.

The question of balance is also an issue at the hearings now being held in both houses on amendments to the Clean Air Act. Ford let us know in January that he considered the amendments necessary for a balance between environmental and energy goals. Many of the amendments provide for further federal pre-emption of stricter state air quality controls. Already under the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act, states and localities are restricted from enforcing air regulations against electric power plants that have been ordered by the Federal Energy Administration to convert from oil or natural gas to coal, according to Conservation Report.

Again, the figures used to explain the necessity for this are being disputed. David Hawkins of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. testified against federal pre-emption at Senate hearings. He said such pre-emptions are unnecessary since the Federal Energy Administration has recognized in a recent impact statement on coal conversions that sufficient coal supplies and control technology would be available by 1980 to permit both coal conversions and compliance with state air regulations.

Through amendments, the Ford Administration is seeking further control over states. Presently, Section 116 of the Clean Air Act permits states to adopt emission limitations more stringent than those imposed by the federal government. Several states have exercised that authority. The Administration has proposed a Clean Air Act amendment which would allow the federal government to pre-empt such standards when it finds such action "in the national interest." The Administration would like to extend compliance deadlines and disallow citizen suits. The citizen suit proposal would prohibit citizens from bringing suit against a polluter which is under a state variance or a state or federal enforcement order.

A Pacific Power & Light Co. attorney, George D. Rives, testified for the change, saying that standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency are "adequate to protect public health and welfare." He said several states, including Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Washington, have adopted emission limitations "far more stringent than necessary. . . ." He said, "The SO2 limitations which have been cited almost seem to reflect a competition among the states to see which can adopt the strictest limitations."

Witnesses speaking for states' rights said any governmental unit should have the right to protect its citizens as it sees fit, without federal pre-emption, unless "overwhelming national interest" dictates otherwise. John Bartlit of New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water (one of the states cited by Rives) said that if New Mexico air standards were not stricter than the federal government's, his state's 100 mile visibility would deteriorate to 12 miles.

PP&L attorney Rives emphasized throughout his testimony the economic factors, saying that "unreasonable state emission standards are inflationary in the truest sense of the word, since they add to the cost of goods and services without producing any commensurate public benefit." He said that they put a severe burden on interstate commerce since the costs are transferred to consumers in other states.

Finally, he says that strict regulations in one state may deprive a sister state, with more pollution problems, of

pollution control devices since the devices are in short supply.

So the juggling of rhetoric continues as each witness tries to define "national need," "necessary controls," "unreasonable standards," and "public benefit."

From our perspective, as we balance one argument against the other, the answer has to be adequate, federal controls which allow states to adopt stricter controls — suitable to the wishes of the people of the state and to the individual conditions in each state.

Does this solve the question of national interest — and of interstate commerce and control equipment shortages mentioned by Rives? A Sierra Club observer says it could if the Administration and the utilities would give serious consideration to the concept constantly pushed by environmentalists and other residents of coal-bearing states — that of exporting the fuel to be converted into electricity closer to the energy users.

Thus the pollution control equipment could be concentrated in the areas where the pollution problems are the

greatest; the consumers will be paying rates for equipment that affects the air where they live; and conservation would be promoted since there would not be the tremendous electricity loss associated with transmission lines thousands of miles long.

Now that's balance. —MJA

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Write your representative and chairmen of the subcommittees which are holding the hearings to voice your opposition to weakening amendments to the Clean Air Act. You could also express your support for a bill aimed at strengthening the Clean Air Act, sponsored by Reps. George E. Brown (Calif.) and Richard L. Ottinger (N.Y.), HR 4369. This bill would, among other things, revise standards for fine particulates and make monetary charges for either emissions in excess of standards or emissions that lead to the formation of new, more dangerous pollutants in the air. It encourages use of energy conservation to reduce pollution.
Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Health and Environment is Rep. Paul Rogers (D-Fla.). Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution is Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine).



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Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520

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(Continued from page 1)

"their development." They believe it could mature into a profitable, nationally publicized cross-country ski area. However, the MWA quickly points out some big differences.

"Our development protects land values," notes Doris Milner, MWA president. "Hopefully, we can make it self-sustaining, and if we ever actually make a profit, every penny will go right back into the environmental movement."

"The Forest Service doesn't seem to realize that we would propose this development even if Ski Yellowstone didn't exist," she emphasized.

Applegate says the MWA feels strongly that "a public agency must represent the broad public interest. And we think 'public interest' means what's best for the land and for people everywhere — after all it's **their** land — and not what appears best for a few private developers and local businessmen."

Some of those working on the non-mechanized area see a familiar trend developing. In fact, some have first-hand experience.

Five years ago, Chet Huntley brought his Big Sky resort to the same area. Many far-reaching impacts such as energy consumption, overloaded schools, natural resources shortages, water quality degradation, airport and highway improvement at public expense, and new roads and power line corridors through roadless lands weren't considered. Now, the real impacts of placing a large development in a semi-primitive area are becoming painfully obvious. During the Big Sky debate, these impacts were conveniently ignored by the FS and the developers.

Ski Yellowstone resembles Big Sky — only it doesn't have as many bedrooms and covers less private land. But it will — with minor changes — have similar impacts, which again seem to be ignored despite Ski Yellowstone's pride in good planning. And again, the FS holds the key. The federal agency can spur Ski Yellowstone to reality, just like it did Big Sky.

TIGHT SPOT

The citizens' group fears Montana's beautiful and wildlife-rich Gallatin Canyon will follow the lead set by other scenic regions in other states. A rural life style is rapidly replaced by a near-urban, ski resort strip — several large, "well-planned" developments linked by miles of trailer camps, hamburger stands, bars, gambling

joints, and real estate offices. For example, Vail, Colorado, grew from a sleepy sheep ranch to a recreational city of 20,000 in just 12 short years.

"We can't let this happen in the Gallatin," Milner remarks, "I know these big resorts have some high-class planners, but they just don't seem to care about what happens to the entire region."

In its brochure, Ski Yellowstone says, "little peripheral development is foreseen." Disagreeing, Milner recently asked the FS, "Can the Forest Service in good conscience grant a 7,000-acre special use permit to a private corporation knowing that the permit is the key that will trigger massive second home recreation development on contiguous private lands, thereby setting off secondary spirals of energy-intensive subdivisions and commercial development? Witness the impact of Big Sky." She was referring to the numerous spin-off developments that already dot the Gallatin Canyon in the Big Sky vicinity.

Ski Yellowstone will also adversely affect the area's wildlife, including one of America's most admired animals, the grizzly bear.

Apparently, wildlife problems have the developers in a tight spot. They've expressed concern, studied the situation, and met with the Montana Department of Fish and Game. Except for the on-site protection of habitat, however, the only way they can really protect wildlife values is to not build Ski Yellowstone. And they aren't considering that option.

The grizzly offers a good example of why this is the only alternative as far as wildlife is concerned. The great bear

that nothing be done in this unit to jeopardize this wildlife resource," he wrote, "but rather that the management prescription be tailored to maintain and enhance grizzly bear habitat."

Concerning Ski Yellowstone, Ellig wrote, "Our option does not include a ski development on Hebgen Mountain. We must oppose a recreation development in the center of key grizzly bear habitat. It is our feeling that if such a development were allowed on public land, it would clearly be a step backward in any attempts to preserve key grizzly bear habitat."

The developers dispute the department's findings. But they would be hard pressed to find a grizzly bear authority who would say Ski Yellowstone **would not** have a negative impact on the bear.

Ski Yellowstone's own environmental assessment clearly states that grizzlies inhabit the development site.

Just last summer, researchers saw several grizzlies in the Cabin Creek drainage, about two miles from Mt. Hebgen. Grizzlies range many miles (up to 50) in a single day. So at the very least, the real estate complex would remove a vital buffer zone that now cushions the bear from civilization. Besides reducing the grizzly's room to roam, the resort would also increase bear-man conflicts, where the grizzly almost always loses.

Today, the cry to save the grizzly echoes loud and clear across America. But how many grizzly admirers know that a public agency may allow Ski Yellowstone, Inc., to develop another slice of the bear's already sparse habitat?

The MWA knows and plans to take a stern stand in defense of the bear's home. The members believe public agencies must protect valuable public resources — and especially those of national significance like the grizzly.

The group had the grizzly in mind right from the beginning. In the original Special Use Permit application,

In its brochure, Ski Yellowstone says, "little peripheral development is foreseen." But the Wilderness Association sees "secondary spirals of energy-intensive subdivisions and commercial development."

requires vast wildlands, uncluttered with man's works. Without this wilderness habitat, the grizzly won't survive, or to use a common Montana adage — as the wilderness goes, so goes the grizzly.

Ski Yellowstone would be in an area presently used by grizzlies, according to experts from the Department of Fish and Game. Representing the department, Leroy Ellig made this very clear in his comments on the Hebgen Lake Multiple Use Plan, filed by the FS in April, 1974:

Ellig strongly recommended that the FS give grizzly habitat top priority. "It is our primary recommendation

Milner clearly stated the MWA would quickly withdraw its request if it affected the grizzly. Later, Hans Geier, executive vice president and head promoter for Ski Yellowstone, Inc., was asked if his company would also withdraw to protect the grizzly. In his response, Geier refused to even address the grizzly issue, calling the question "hypothetical."

The Interior Department (through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) is considering classifying the grizzly as either "threatened" or "endangered" under the federal



The Montana Wilderness Association's alternative proposal would provide for a 20-30,000 acre winter sports area where people could enjoy non-mechanized sports such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and winter camping.

Photo by Judy Sumner

Endangered Species Act of 1973. If the grizzly is designated in need of such protection, then federal agencies would be prohibited from taking actions that would lessen the bear's chances of survival. Section seven of the act requires all federal agencies to insure that their actions do not result in destruction or modification of habitat determined "critical" to threatened and endangered species. State and federal wildlife departments are supposed to reach a joint determination on which areas are considered critical habitat.

Nonetheless, the FS is still considering approving Ski Yellowstone. The resort may get its permit even though (1) it will negatively impact the grizzly, and (2) a viable alternative — the MWA proposal — is available.

WINDFALL

Economics has also become a big part of this debate. The developers predict a virtual economic windfall if Ski Yellowstone wins approval. Granted, this large destination resort might provide some local economic stability, but most likely not to the extent hoped for by the developers.

Testifying to this, a FS economist, Robert Lovegrove, recently shot Ski Yellowstone's market and economic analysis full of holes. In an official FS memo, he explained how the developers failed to consider several important factors. After detailing his reservations, Lovegrove said he felt, "this country is on the threshold of significant economic and social changes, i.e. shortages of so many products, especially energy."

"The accelerating rate of inflation, along with these other factors, may be expected to significantly alter the relative demand for distant recreational opportunities and second homes," he continued. "The market for these types of developments is rapidly reaching the saturation point and projections based on historical trends are very suspect."

Shortly after Lovegrove filed his memo, the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences released some confirming facts. The department said at least 12 other recreational subdivisions exist (or are proposed) for the Hebgen Lake area. These subdivisions add up to 621 lots — only about 49 of which are developed. This leaves about 573 uninhabited second home plots in the vicinity — even without Ski Yellowstone.

On the other hand, the MWA project would foster some economic benefits for the community. Most cross country skiers stay in motels, eat at cafes, and use gas stations, just like other tourists. The non-mechanized area may be advertised nationally in conservation publications to encourage visitation. The opportunity for such recreation is very limited. And interest in enjoying the winter world completely free of automobiles, snowmobiles, gondolas, etc. is skyrocketing.

The MWA isn't against downhill skiing. In fact, many members view it as excellent outdoor recreation. The problem with alpine skiing began about 20 years ago when "ski areas" became "ski resorts" because they made more money that way. Skiing became big business, with pink ski boots, electric gondolas, \$60,000 condominiums, and mountain-top hotels. The ski hill of days past was demoted to a simple promotion for real estate sales and commercial services. Instead of providing wholesome family recreation, as claimed by promoters, developers built playpens for the affluent in the most scenic mountain retreats.

The end result of this madness is the urbanization of remote regions and a long-lasting and far-reaching environmental impact, especially when the cumulative aspects of all associated developments are considered.

Perhaps Charles Bradley of Bozeman, Mt., expressed this best in his letter on the Hebgen Lake Multiple Use Plan.

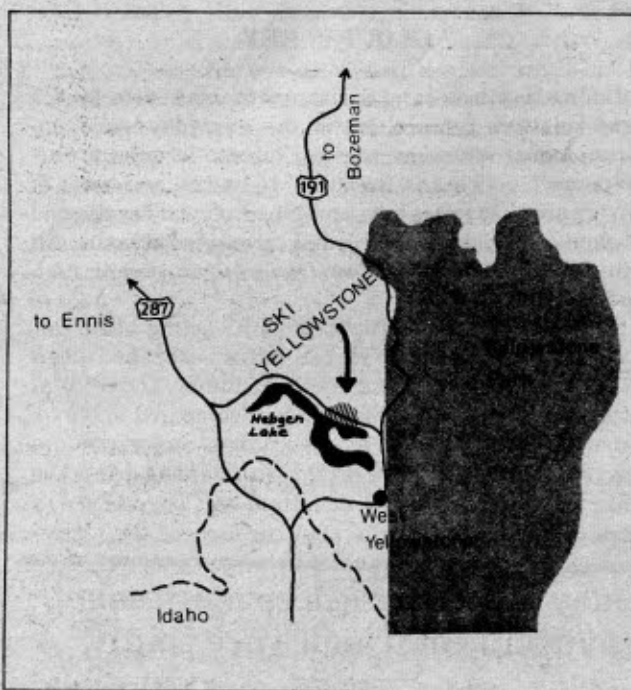
"I would rather know the existence of a wild lake than own a cabin on its shore," he wrote. "Is all development a



Big Sky Ski Resort offers electric gondolas, which are becoming one of the essentials of downhill skiing in the '70s, along with pink ski boots, \$60,000 condominiums, and mountain-top hotels, according to writer Mike Cross. Photo courtesy of Montana Dept. of Highways

one-way trail toward ultimate degradation of land? Can, or will, our civilization ever have the wisdom and self-restraint to stop the forward rush to develop every nook and cranny? Do we have the strength to pull back from any area of commercial expansion and deliberately invite or re-establish wilderness in a formerly trammled area?" he asked.

"If the answer... ever turned out to be 'yes,' I could go to my grave happy in the thought that America had learned something terribly important about the Earth and people and the continuity of life."



What you can do

Ski Yellowstone developers are working hard to win approval of their development.

To date, they've managed to get supporting letters from many high officials and politicians — from President Gerald R. Ford on down. They've convinced Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) to delete Mt. Hebgen from a wilderness study bill supported by many Montanans. They've offered to make free copies of any letter supporting the project for the congressional delegation and the FS. They've urged support from all Montana realtors. They've painted the Montana Wilderness Association members as "outsiders" who don't really care about Montana. (Ironically, Ski Yellowstone is a Pennsylvania-based corporation.) And they've apparently convinced the FS to at least seriously consider destroying forever a small slice of scarce grizzly habitat.

All this means — as it often does in such situations — that high-powered, high-paid private promoters present overwhelming odds for citizens working part-time for Montana's future with small budgets and no expense accounts.

If you believe in the MWA's non-mechanized winter sports concept, in protecting threatened wildlife, and in the basic need to adjust to less wasteful life styles that conserve energy and natural resources, you can help. Express your views by writing to:

Lewis E. Hawkes, Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, Federal Building, Bozeman, Mont. 59715.
Sen. Lee Metcalf, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.
Rep. Max Baucus, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.
Gov. Tom Judge, State of Montana, Helena, Mont. 59601.

To contact Ski Yellowstone, Inc. write to:
Hans Geier, Executive Vice President, Ski Yellowstone, Inc. Box 487, West Yellowstone, Mont. 59758.
Board of Directors, Ski Yellowstone, Inc. Smith & McCleary, 124 East Market Street, York, Penn. 17401.

For more information on the MWA proposal or to contribute to this effort, write to:
Rick Applegate, Box 931, Bozeman, Mont. 59715.

New pipeline design would protect permafrost

A new method of transporting petroleum in the Arctic is being developed that could prevent some of the serious problems predicted for the Trans Alaska Pipeline from occurring on future projects.

Current technology calls for a "hot oil line," which might melt the Arctic's permafrost, and a separate "cold natural gas line." To avoid permafrost melt pipeline designers propose to elevate parts of the pipeline which may block caribou migration.

The newly developed method, designed by the Stanford University Department of Petroleum Engineering, involves manufacturing methanol from the natural gas and then dispersing crude oil in the methanol. This "cold

crude oil-in-methanol dispersion transportation system" would require one pipeline instead of two and can flow at temperatures below 0° C so that melting permafrost is not a problem and the pipeline would not have to be elevated.



6 'Log it or leave it'

— Escudilla battle eco-tactics explored —

by Peter Wild

(Editors' note: The September 13, 1974 issue of HCN featured an overview of the fight on the part of Arizona conservationists to save the state's third highest peak from logging. Much has changed since then. The following is an update on developments by one of the participants, with comments on tactics which could be generalized to other citizen efforts.)

Ordinary citizens weary of city life, as well as geologists, silviculturists, and educators, come to the 10,912-foot Escudilla Mountain for study and respite. Because of a variety of scientific and aesthetic values, Arizona's third highest peak is a unique part of the state's natural heritage. Aldo Leopold lauded the mountain's mixed conifer forests, cliffs, and alpine meadows, and captured some of its mystery in his classic, *A Sand County Almanac*. For him the great mass thrust above the surrounding plateau was a symbol of man's relationship with the universe. Fortunately, despite a fire 20 years ago and some badly managed logging, the huge shell of a volcano remains much as it was in Coronado's day or in the days of the Indians before him who worshipped there, whose turquoise beads still bubble out of one of the springs on its slopes.

From the summit the hiker looks out to the south over hundreds of square miles of pine-covered ridges on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. To the north the cloud shadows shift continuously as they pass over the vast grasslands of the Hopi and Navajo. Yet because the rest of the world has changed radically in the past few decades, Escudilla now is an island, a refuge for the state's dwindling eagle and bear population, one of its last quiet places.

In 1970, however, the Forest Service announced the Watts Timber Sale, a plan to log off some of the most fragile parts of Escudilla. If carried out, the sale would sacrifice the mountain's long-term values to all future generations for the short-term monetary gain.

Yet scientific and aesthetic aspects aside, an economist would be pressed to justify the Forest Service proposal. An early estimate of the cost for the roads needed to bring out the timber was half a million dollars, a whopping one-third the value of the sale. Undoubtedly, the ratio has grown more unfavorable with the rising expenses of road construction and the recent tumble in timber prices. Why the Forest Service conceived of the sale, or why in the face of these circumstances the agency has continued to defend Watts, are questions that remain unanswered.

ENTER THE YOUENS

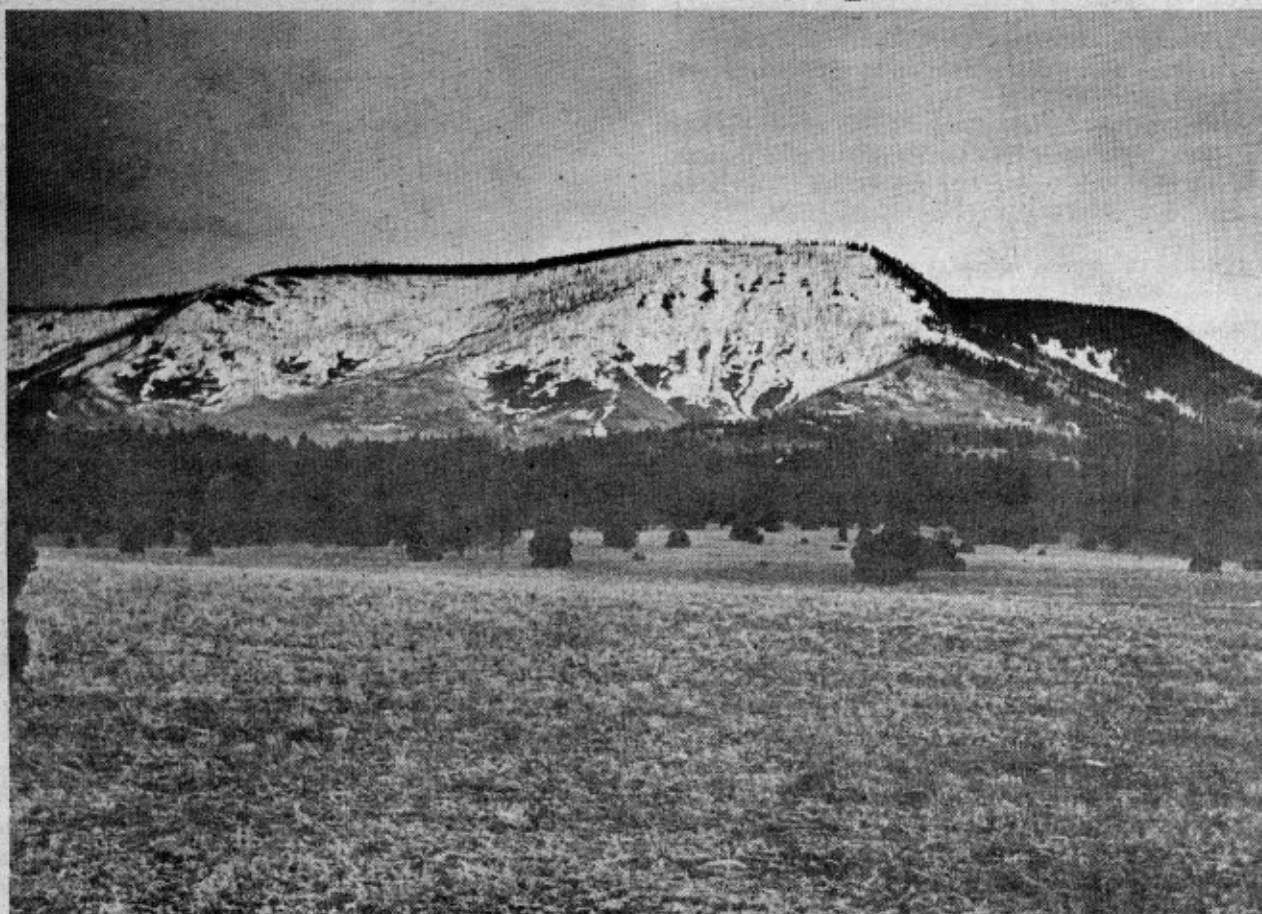
Alarmed at what appeared to be both an environmental and a financial boondoggle, two residents of the area, Ernest and Mary Anne Youens, decided to press the Forest Service for details. At the time neither was active in conservation organizations; their immediate concern was for the future of the mountain behind their home.

However, in that isolated country the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest was unaccustomed to justifying programs to concerned individuals and brushed the retired couple aside. As a result, the Youens put out a plea for help to the state's citizen groups and unintentionally

Dedication to a sane environment may stem from a deep spiritual concern, yet in the everyday world, environmental issues are political issues.

sparked off one of the most heated environmental controversies in Arizona's history. Although after five years of toe-to-toe negotiations the situation is not resolved and may well go to the courts, in one sense a victory has been achieved already. Despite the financial resources and political might of the Forest Service, Escudilla stands untouched by the Watts Timber Sale, thus breaking a pattern and perhaps setting a precedent for future controversial sales.

When I read in the *Canyon Echo*, the state newsletter of the Sierra Club, of the Youens' situation, I was perhaps somewhat typical in thinking that conservation battles were won by groups of lugubrious-eyed citizens who rallied to sit in the threatened trees of parks as the bulldozers arrived or who paraded before polluting chemical



Snow covered Escudilla Mountain. The mixed conifer forest (dark areas) and aspen stands (lighter areas) provide scientists with an opportunity to study forest succession at a high elevation.

Photo by Douglas Kretz

plants, holding high appropriate signs. There are times when such tactics are necessary and do work.

However, after three years of meetings, hundreds of letters, desperate phone calls, road trips, and not a few nights of hand wringing, I've concluded that actions other than public protest are essential to lay the bases for effective environmental campaigns. Though the circumstances of individual cases differ widely, below are some observations on the effectiveness of the Escudilla struggle that should apply to other situations.

CLOUT IS KEY

Dedication to a sane environment may stem from a deep spiritual concern, yet in the everyday world, environmental issues are political issues. In order to survive, most politicians, leaders of industry, and heads of government agencies take a practical view. They respond to clout — steady, reasoned, and calculated pressure. All things follow from this. Two are foremost, organization and persistence.

ORGANIZATION: The individual acting alone can have only limited effect. He can write letters and otherwise voice his opinion, but his time, money, and political impact aren't very significant when compared to the resources that a government agency or a corporation can muster. In the Escudilla case, organizations across the state generated hundreds of letters to Congressmen, a score of newspaper articles, and encouraged their mem-

Trust Fund, reflects the need for staying power. In our case, the Forest Service wasn't willing to sit down and talk until we had demonstrated that we were in it for the long run, for however long it would take.

ISSUES. Human nature being what it is at time, you'd better get used to shuffling off abuse. Although abandonment of the relatively small sale would have little impact on the economy of the region, the local weekly newspaper ran a number of inaccurate pieces of the "taking-the-food-from-the-mouths-of-our-babies" variety. At the public hearing, conservationists, who had traveled hundreds of miles at their own expense to testify, took a certain amount of flak from residents who indicated that the out-of-towners should go home and mind their own business, that the public land of the Forest Service was their bailiwick to exploit as they saw fit.

My suggestion in such circumstances is to smile while gritting your teeth and console yourself that their tactics eventually will backfire. Meanwhile, keep speaking to the important thing, the issue at hand.

EXPERTISE. There's nothing like accurate documentation and the guidance and testimony of authorities in various fields to back up your position, whether on polluted conditions for workers or a wilderness proposal. John McComb, Southwest Representative of the Sierra Club and a veteran negotiator, proved indispensable in advising when to play, or not to play, political and legal cards.

Scholars from the Arizona Academy of Science and the state's universities showed enthusiasm in contributing time and knowledge to build solid arguments against the Watts Sale. If the case goes to court, we will hire the most experienced lawyer we can afford with the pooled resources of the recently formed Escudilla Legal Defense Fund.

ALTERNATIVES. Environmentalists are against the destruction of the natural legacy. A far better way of putting it is that they are in favor of quality in our lives. Because of the proximity of virgin stands to burnt-over sections, the mountain offers unique potential for understanding forest succession at high elevations. For this, as well as other reasons, scientists are studying Escudilla. Educational groups regularly use the mountain as an outdoor laboratory, taking advantage of its varied arboreal habitat and alpine meadows.

Although some old roads rule out wilderness status, our counterproposal, formulated under the Forest Service's own natural area regulations, is to preserve the mountain's remarkable qualities by creating The Escudilla Natural Area for Scientific Research and Educa-

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS
by Zane E. Cology

Mount Hebggen tourist McPhee,
Met a grizzly which caused him to flee.
He escaped on the run,
To his condominium,
Where he's safe until bears learn to ski.

NON-MOTHERS DAY. Mothers Day was celebrated in the Oak Park, Ill., Unitarian-Universalist Church as "Non-Mothers Day" by the Rev. Gerald Krick. Krick said childless women have been made to feel inferior and unnatural when, in fact, the world needs fewer children, not more mothers. "We must recognize and encourage such women and the men who support them in their decision. . . We are doomed to fighting larger and larger crowds, higher taxes, depleted resources, and increased pollution unless there are women who are brave enough to resist social pressure and choose not to have children," he said.

LAND USE — AIR USE. The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release regulations in late May or early June requiring certain areas to implement land use controls to maintain air quality, according to **Land Use Planning Reports**. The regulations would be required for 188 Air Quality Maintenance Areas — areas where current air quality or growth projections might exceed the national air standards within 10 years.

PLAN OVERRIDES ZONE. Zoning ordinances must conform to comprehensive plans, even if the plan was adopted subsequent to the zoning, ruled the Oregon Supreme Court. The decision will force counties and cities to rezone to conform with master plans, says **Land Use Planning Reports**.

RECYCLABLES RIDE CHEAPER. Most recyclable commodities won't be affected by a recent seven per cent rate increase granted to railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The commission exempted the recycling industry in the name of conservation, saying recycling was "suffering greatly from the nation's economic downturn."

TRAIN WINS AWARD. The National Wildlife Federation has named Russell E. Train, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as "Conservationist of the Year." The award was made for his "determined effort to protect the nation's environment in the face of strong opposition."

SUIT TO PROTECT OZONE. The Natural Resources Defense Council has threatened to take the Consumer Product Safety Commission to court for failure to act on the question of whether aerosol sprays are destroying the earth's protective layer of ozone.

Colorado sulfur reg delay nixed

The Colorado attorney general has refused to approve an air regulation passed by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission in March.

The regulation would have extended the deadline for reduced emissions of sulfur dioxide by seven years.

Atty. Gen. J. D. MacFarlane ruled that procedures followed by the commission to make the change violated state laws. When the commission published a notice of the public hearings it contained only the current sulfur dioxide regulation. MacFarlane says that the commission should have included proposed changes in the regulation so the public would have an idea of what to react to.

The attorney general says a new hearing notice will have to be published, a new hearing held, and another vote taken on a regulation. The new hearing can be limited to information not already on record, however.

tion, a designation that would protect the mountain from such varied disturbances as timber sales and snowmobiles. To back us up, we are gaining support from Arizona's political, educational, and scientific community. The Forest Service will have the opportunity to make public its choice of being either for or against science and education on Escudilla.

PUBLICITY. Though most bureaucrats will plead otherwise, the truth of the matter is that they cringe at thorough public discussions of their policies. Naturally enough, Arizona's conservation publications offered wide exposure to the controversy. Better still, the **Tucson Daily Citizen**, along with other large newspapers, recognized the public-interest value of the issue. After the Escudilla stir was brought to its attention, the **Citizen** ran two large spreads, "Conservationists oppose logging," and "Lumber controversy grows over Escudilla Mountain."

Both were accompanied by telling photographs, one of the placid, snow-covered peak and the caption, "Escudilla Mountain: Log it or leave it?" Another struck at the guts of the issue, and explained how things would go for Escudilla if the Watts Sale proceeded by showing a great, inhuman machine at work in the forest ingesting logs: "Mighty trees turned to chips."

Additionally, a couple of conservationists placed their own articles in out-of-state magazines and newspapers. The upper echelons of the Forest Service in Washington began to take note of the poor publicity coming from Arizona.

LEGAL TOOLS. Under the Forest Service "Appeal Regulation" (36 CFR 211.20-211.37), 11 organizations and an equal number of individuals officially protested

the Watts Timber Sale as environmentally unwise and financially wasteful. Though the Forest Service sits in judgment of itself as the appeal moves through the chain of command, the point is that there are legal channels available within most government agencies that can delay a questionable program and focus attention on it.

Our hope is that continuing the appeal will become unnecessary as the Forest Service recognizes that the value of Escudilla, to the public and to itself, as a natural area will far outweigh the return from a single timber sale. In the meantime we have delayed the destruction of one of Arizona's remaining refuges for both people and wildlife. Looking ahead, we also have gained time to broaden public support and to gather further solid documentation in a possible court battle.

Peter Wild, author of the above article and HCN's book reviewer, has published a book of poems entitled **The Cloning**. The book, the second in a trilogy, reflects his feelings for the Southwest and his involvement with conservation work. It is dedicated to Buzz and Mary Anne Youens, two people who have led Arizona environmentalists in the battle to save Escudilla Mountain. **The North American Review** called **The Cloning**, "A kind of marvel. Poems that are unmistakably American — rich with the sense of heritage, of the tragic directions we have followed in taming the land, of our all-too-careless links with the whole of life. This is the real thing. . . ." **The Cloning** can be ordered through most book stores or by mail directly from Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York 11530, \$2.95 for the paperback, \$5.95 for the hardcover.

Wild teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Arizona.

Helena's tips on Farmers Market

by Sue Bryan
and Laurie Abbott Lamson

This summer the second annual Helena Farmers Market is opening on the "Golden Gulch" in Montana's capital city. The market provides top quality local produce at reasonable prices. It also serves as a downtown meeting place for Helena residents. It is one example of an alternative for Helena that is backed by residents who want a quality downtown environment.

The Helena Farmers Market is patterned after other markets in the country, especially the Missoula, Mont. market. Organizers found three basic ingredients were necessary: (1) incorporation as a non-profit group, (2) liability insurance and operating licenses, and (3) advertising. These three ingredients need not be expensive or complicated, especially with the help of a resident lawyer and volunteer poster-makers. Funds for the expenses can often be raised from local businesses that will profit from the additional downtown traffic. Additional funding for market maintenance can be raised from charging seller's fees at each weekly market.

The Helena residents also found a set of rules for sellers to be helpful. These rules state the types of food that can

be sold according to Health Department regulations, and set the seller's fee and basic bartering procedures.

Helena residents are looking forward to another successful market this year, with a longer market season and the addition of arts and crafts to the list of usual items sold. People are already planning on expanding their gardens to have a surplus of items that can be sold each week.

Due to the acceptance of the market, the original organizers are excited about expanding. Ideas include a city garden project, an organic restaurant, and a food cooperative. The most likely next step will be the food co-op, as a coalition develops between original market organizers and other interest groups with common goals.

Helena's "Golden Gulch" will soon be a lively place to spend Saturday morning. Children selling marigolds and zucchinis will gather among older people exchanging their favorite recipes. All will stop to discuss their favorite organic gardening tips.

(For more information on the Helena Farmers Market or setting up a market, please write Sue Bryan, President, Helena Farmers Market, 1015 Peosta, Helena, Mont. 59601.)

Corps discharge regs issued and disputed

On May 6 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published four proposed sets of regulations expanding its authority over dredging and filling operations in U.S. waterways. The most stringent Corps proposal has farmers and politicians up in arms and environmentalists accusing the Corps of using scare tactics. The new regulations were proposed as the result of a successful environmental lawsuit seeking to extend Corps permit jurisdiction.

Montana Gov. Thomas Judge flew to Washington to protest proposals that "would give (the Corps) authority over every lake, river, stream, marsh, irrigation ditch, or stock pond in the nation." He said, "To require every farmer to get a permit from the Corps before plowing fields adjacent to a body of water would have a catastrophic effect on Montana's and the nation's agricultural economy."

The Corps was ordered by the U.S. District Court to expand its authority from controlling dredging and filling of "navigable waters" to "waters of the United States." The Corps maintains that to comply they must regulate "virtually every coastal and inland artificial or natural body of water." A Corps spokesman told the Associated

Press this could mean federal permits for filling backyard swimming pools or constructing new sand traps on a golf course, under the most stringent proposed rules.

The environmental organizations which filed the suit are charging the Corps with using scare tactics to gain public support for one of the less stringent alternatives. "With the outrageous scare threat that they are going to police the plowing of fields and construction of farm ponds across the nation, Corps officials are inciting an uninformed backlash from citizens. . . It has absolutely nothing to do with a farmer's spring plowing or the rancher's stock pond. The regulation will govern spoil disposal from dredging operations and also the filling of wetlands for commercial or other development," say the organizations.

A Natural Resources Defense Council spokesman told AP that the Corps jurisdiction would be expanded only to include those waters already regulated for industrial and municipal pollution control by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Proposed Corps regulations appeared in the May 6 **Federal Register**. Comments may be submitted to the Corps up until June 6.

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geranium



phlox

Photo by Charles W. Smith

high super

*Is it not by his high superfluosne
Our God? For to equal a need
Is natural, animal, mineral: but to
Rainbows over the rain
And beauty above the moon, and
On the domes of deep sea-shells,
Not even the weeds to multiply wi
Nor the birds without music. . .*



composite



blue

superfluosness

gh superfluosness we know
equal a need
, mineral: but to fling
e rain
e the moon, and secret rainbows
deep sea-shells,
ds to multiply without blossom
out music. . .

Robinson Jeffers
"The Excesses of God"
BE ANGRY AT THE SUN

Photos by Marge Higley



apple



blue columbine



cow parsnip

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Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

"This is not a perfunctory proceeding. At a minimum, I expect it to be an enlightening and educational experience for us all." — Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), Jan. 15, 1969, in his opening statement on the confirmation hearings of Walter Hickel to be Secretary of the Interior.

"This is not a perfunctory proceeding. At a minimum, I expect it to be an enlightening and educational experience for us all." — Sen. Henry Jackson, April 21, 1975, in his opening statement on the confirmation hearings of former Wyoming Gov. Stanley Hathaway to be Secretary of the Interior.

An observer might have expected a perfunctory proceeding to follow, indicated by Senate Interior Committee Chairman Henry Jackson's lack of interest in thinking of anything new to say; Jackson's speech to Stan Hathaway was an almost exact copy of his speech six years ago.

However, the Hathaway hearings became anything but routine, and in fact were unprecedented in some ways, far beyond the "enlightening and educational experience" Jackson predicted.

For the first time, the Senate Interior Committee decided to publish a report to the full Senate on its recommendation. The report will include the rationale behind the recommendation, along with dissenting views. Such reports generally accompany bills to the Senate floor. Never had the committee prepared a report on a confirmation.

Preparation of the report will postpone Senate floor action on the Hathaway nomination into June, for Congress began its 10 day Memorial Day recess on May 22. It will return June 2.

Public release of Hathaway's report of his financial holdings is another first, and brought words of caution from Sen. Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.).

During his interrogation, Hathaway agreed to give the committee his financial report and said he hoped the committee would release it. Still, Hansen said he feared "the precedent that would tend to deter some able persons to serve in future administrations."

If public financial disclosure of nominees for administration posts becomes commonplace, Hansen warned, it "just might limit the ability of the President to get persons who best might be able to do a job."

Jackson disagreed, saying it is "pertinent and relevant in a Senator's mind . . . whether a person does have a conflict" between his government job and his personal wealth.

Hathaway's financial report contains little if any potential conflict. Where it might exist, Hathaway agreed to wipe it away. He has \$1,843 stock in Monsanto Co. and collects royalty off two oil wells in Goshen County he appraises at \$3,360. He agreed to divest himself of those assets because, he wrote in his cover letter, "I believe it to be as important for public servants to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, as to avoid impropriety itself."

Hathaway reported his net wealth to be \$145,245.62. The largest chunk of that is his Cheyenne home, valued at \$90,000, of which he still owes \$25,000. His quarter interest in an office building and three apartments in Torrington is worth \$25,000, of which he still owes \$3,000. Hathaway also owns a \$7,000 cabin and land in Albany County.

He owns more than \$17,000 in stocks and values several life insurance policies at \$10,000.

Hathaway reported he has about \$6,000 in the bank, plus a \$7,000 certificate of deposit.



(Editors' note: The Senate Interior committee voted May 21 to recommend confirmation of Stanley K. Hathaway as Secretary of Interior. The vote was 9-4 with Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.), Sen. James Abourezk (S.D.), Sen. Richard Stone (D-Fla.), and Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) voting against confirmation. Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) said he may vote against the appointment on the floor of the full Senate.)

Uranium producers unite

"The uranium crunch will hit in late 1979 and force a lifting of the domestic embargo on uranium importation."

Reprinted from NOT MAN APART, March 1975. Friends of the Earth, 529 Commercial St., San Francisco, California.

If an Arab can do it, so can a uranium exporter. So says *Forbes Magazine* (Jan. 15, 1975) as it probes the organization of uranium exporters.

The group calls itself the Uranium Producers Forum and represents most of the world's known uranium mines. Included in the group are Britain's Rio Tinto-Zinc, France's Uranex, Canada's Denison and Rio Algom Mines, Australia's Western Mining, and an organization of South African mines called Nuclear Fuels Corporation, or Nufcor. Uranex is one-third owned by the French government. South Africa's Nufcor is, according to a representative of the company, "a private company closely associated with the Chamber of Mines." "So closely associated," adds *Forbes*, "that it has the same telephone number."

In 1972, the price of a pound of uranium "yellowcake" fluctuated between \$6-8, or near to the actual cost of production. The impact of the Forum has

grown. This year, one U.S. producer offered uranium for delivery in the mid-1980s at a price of \$24 per pound plus a 7% annual escalation fee, beginning this year.

Big deal, say you, the cost of uranium fuel is a pittance of the cost of a kilowatt hour (14%) while oil is 72% of the cost of a kilowatt hour. Nuclear costs are basically capital costs plus interest.

As a matter of fact, this fact delights the uranium producers. Utilities with billions of dollars invested in nuclear plants would have no option but to pay.

The size of U.S. uranium reserves is a hotly debated subject, partly because the Atomic Energy Commission has probably underestimated deposits to justify the breeder reactor and plutonium recycle. Demand for uranium is expected to triple by 1980 and more than septuple by 1985.

It seems that the uranium crunch will hit in late 1979 and force a lifting of the domestic embargo on uranium importation.

Calculations performed by the AEC in mid-November 1974 showed "known" uranium reserves would satisfy no more than the lifetime requirements of reactors receiving a construction permit this year. "Potential — that is, suspected — additional reserves of 2,400,000 tons would be sufficient to supply the lifetime needs of reactors with a construction permit through 1985. These figures may justify building breeder reactors, or they may justify abandoning fission technology altogether.

The Uranium Producers Forum represents additional supplies of uranium, but the costs may be enormous. The AEC's calculation of U.S. reserves is based on a \$30 lb. cutoff, above which they claim "the economics of nuclear power go way down."

Control over the Forum is, according to *Forbes*, in the hands of the Rothschild family. Rio Tinto-Zinc, a British mining firm, is held in large part by the French Rothschild family. RTZ has, in turn, a controlling interest in Rio Algom Mines, whose Canadian holdings are the largest uranium reserves in North America. RTZ also owns two-thirds of the Rossing mine in South Africa, and a controlling holding in the new Mary Kathleen mine in Australia. These three countries have the largest supplies of uranium in the world, and the concentrated control over their major mines seems as lopsided as the world's distribution of oil.

Wyoming cited for strong land use law

Wyoming is the only state that has enacted strong statewide land use legislation this year, according to *Land Use Planning Reports*. Strong bills are still active and have a chance of passage in three states — Arizona, Michigan, and New York. *LUP Reports* says two other Western states, Idaho and Montana, have also enacted "mild" land use measures.

Both the Wyoming bill and the Arizona bill (not yet passed) provide for designation and regulation of critical areas. The Wyoming bill also requires development of a statewide land use plan. In Idaho, the proposal for a statewide plan was killed although other land use bills were passed requiring cities and counties to prepare comprehensive plans. Montana will also be requiring counties and municipalities to develop comprehensive plans. The Montana bill also has a complex property tax tie-in that will require land to be taxed according to its use.

Elsewhere in the West, a South Dakota bill died and Washington and California have little hope of passing land use bills. Washington legislators want federal financial help. California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. is reportedly interested in "action" programs, not in planning, according to *LUP Reports*. Therefore, a bill to prevent development on prime agricultural lands except in rare cases is receiving attention.

Colo. Senate panel kills severance tax

Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm's severance tax on minerals extraction went down to defeat along with the rest of his tax package. The Senate Finance Committee killed the package on a 5-4 party-line vote with the Republicans voting against the measure. Lamm had projected that the graduated severance tax on the mining industry would raise about \$20 million and help finance tax breaks for the elderly and low-to-moderate income persons.

Lamm said he'll try to pass similar legislation in next year's session, and if that fails put at least part of the package on the ballot in November 1976.

SKI TAX

The Colorado House passed, 45-20, and sent to the Senate a bill to allow ski-area cities and counties to levy taxes on lift tickets, ski equipment rentals, and skiing instructions. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Nancy Dick of Aspen, is designed to help local governments pay for extra social services needed to accommodate non-resident skiers. The maximum total city and county tax allowable would be seven per cent.

CALL FOR POISONS

Both the House and the Senate passed a resolution urging relaxation of the federal executive order banning predator poisons from public lands. The resolution, which doesn't have the force of law, is part of a national effort to get western state legislatures on record supporting the lifting of the ban.

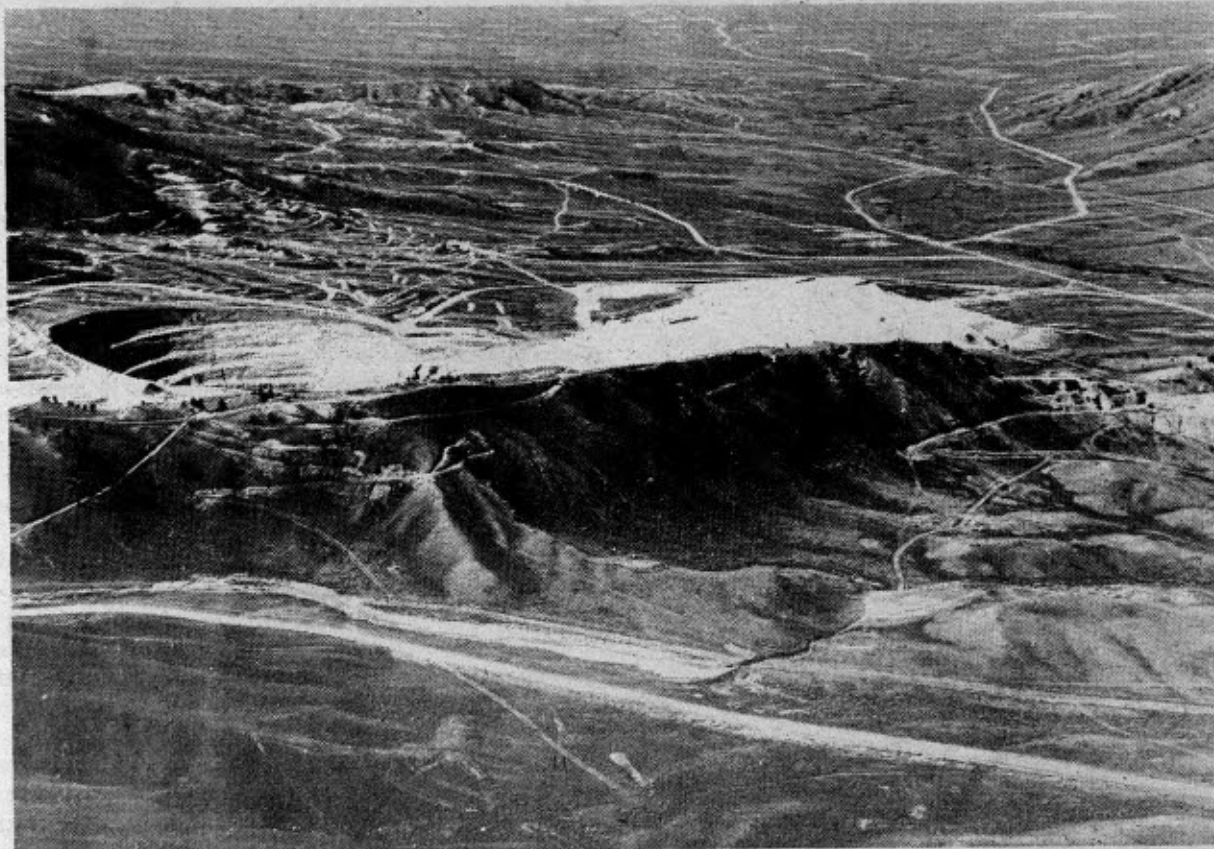
UNHOLY ALLIANCE

Rural agricultural and urban environmental lawmakers have formed what state Rep. David Gaon (D-Denver) called an "unholy alliance" to secure passage of a water bill. The bill, HB 155, would help protect agricultural water from untimely condemnation and help regulate urban growth.

HB 155 passed the House and is now in the Senate. It provides that in water condemnation cases by municipalities, a three-member commission would weigh the cities' requests to insure that the water is needed and won't be wasted. Municipalities proposing water condemnation would have to prepare a community growth development plan and a statement detailing: 1) water rights to be acquired, 2) economic, social, and environmental effects of changing the water use, and 3) alternative sources of water supply.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Walt Younglund (R-New Raymer), told urban legislators, "You can still steal agricultural water — but this establishes guidelines on how you steal it."

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URANIUM DEVELOPMENT INTENSIFIES

Two significant announcements in recent weeks are indication of the push for uranium development which is being encouraged to provide fuel for nuclear power generation. Burlington Northern and a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp. have announced an agreement to explore BN lands and adjacent area in eight states for uranium and other fissionable materials. Wold Nuclear Co. has purchased 300 claims on 60,000 acres in the Red Desert Basin in southwestern Wyoming from Amax Uranium Corp. Geophysical and drilling operations will begin in a few weeks on the claims which include two proven ore bodies.

Photo shows an open pit uranium mine at Crooks Gap, Wyo.

Photo by Tom Bell

The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

BOSTON GARBAGE. Boston communities have banded together to send their garbage to a General Electric plant which will begin operation in August. The plant will use 1,200 tons of refuse per day to heat water and generate electricity with the steam.

OIL SHALE SUBSIDY NEEDED. The Interior Department's director of energy research and development, Harry R. Johnson, says that the government is going to have to subsidize private oil shale operations if this country is to have a shale oil industry in the near future. Johnson says he doesn't think companies will put up the \$500 million to \$1 billion needed to develop a plant without government aid. "The bottom line is that if we want an oil shale industry, the government is going to have to share some of the risks. We are in the process of looking in some depth right now at how this might be accomplished," he says.

POWER-PRESS POLITICS. Utility executives will have to be more open with the press and the public in the future, according to Washington D.C.-based advertising executive Don C. Curry. Curry told the Northwest Electric Light and Power Association that the post-Watergate press has become more combative and skeptical of organizations not motivated primarily by a desire to protect the public interest. He said the energy crisis may mean utilities will have to ally with consumers against fuel suppliers, or provide fuel stamps to the poor to offset higher energy prices.

TVA WANTS GUARANTEED SUPPLIES. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) says it felt it had to bid for purchasing Peabody Coal Co. from Kennecott Copper Corp. At Congressional hearings earlier this month, TVA general manager Lynn Seeber said, "The intention was not for TVA to go into the coal business as such," but to safeguard an essential supply. United Mine Workers President Arnold W. Miller objected to the proposed purchase, saying Peabody and TVA are already too powerful and use their power without regard for the public. The Federal Trade Commission has ordered Kennecott to sell Peabody. The TVA purchase offer is the best of three pending, according to an attorney representing Kennecott who was quoted in the *Rocky Mountain News* story.

CARLSBAD NUCLEAR STORAGE. The federal government is resuming plans to store nuclear wastes in underground salt beds near Carlsbad, N.M. Construction of a pilot plant is expected to begin by 1979, with actual storage due in 1981, according to Sandia Laboratories which is conducting the preliminary phase of the project. The project, which was abandoned last year, doesn't require state approval, but it has the support of Gov. Jerry Apodaca's science advisor, Dr. Gilbert Cano.

FPC CAN'T REGULATE PLANTS. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Federal Power Commission (FPC) lacks the authority to regulate steam power plants. Indian and environmental groups had sought to require FPC licenses for six steam electric generating plants in the Four Corners area of the Southwest. The high court ruled that although the Federal Power Act required licensing of power plants on navigable waterways by FPC, the intended subject of regulation was hydroelectric generating plants and not thermal steam generating plants.

PLUTONIUM BAN? The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recommended banning plutonium as a fuel for electrical power generation until adequate safeguards are developed, a United Press International report says. If finally approved, the new NRC proposal could postpone until mid-1978 any decision on whether to allow the use of plutonium-uranium mixtures in light water nuclear power reactors. The NRC wants to ban plutonium use until safeguards are developed to prevent "loss or diversion and illicit use." Plutonium is the deadliest element known to man. The NRC decision is provisional and subject to public review and comment.



Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



CROW COAL SURVEY. A scientifically random sampling of Crow Tribe members indicates that almost half (47.7%) of the tribe favors opening coal strip mines on the reservation. More than 77% said the tribe does not have enough coal-related knowledge now, and 81% said they would favor a moratorium on coal development until more is learned. A majority said they would seek employment in the mining, construction, and allied trades. They felt strongly (75.8%) that a non-Crow population boom would be bad, and they opposed coal plants on the reservation (46.4%) more strongly than they opposed strip mines (36.3%).

NUCLEAR PLANT IN ARIZONA. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (a branch of what was once the Atomic Energy Commission) has recommended approval of construction permits for Arizona's first nuclear power plant, pending environmental considerations. The commission recommended the permits for three nuclear reactors west of Phoenix. The \$1.9 billion plant is a project of six utilities from Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The first nuclear reactor is expected to be in use by 1982. Officials said they expect a final public hearing on the plant to be held in Phoenix next November, according to the *Associated Press* story.

NO DOLLARS FOR DETONATION. The federal government will not spend federal funds on nuclear explosions to stimulate natural gas development, according to Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.). Roncalio opposed the federal project which is known as Plowshare. He said the decision by the Administration not to request funding in the budget for the coming year indicates that those working closely with Plowshare recognized the questionable economics of stimulation. He also believes Plowshare helped create public opposition to nuclear activity such as nuclear power generation, which he supports.

BELGIUM SEEKS WYOMING COAL AND OIL. The consul general of Belgium, Guido M.R. Vansina, recently expressed interest in more intensive export of coal and oil from Wyoming to Belgium. He told a Cheyenne reporter that Belgium exports 50% of its industrial production and imports raw materials, including oil and natural gas. Five nuclear plants help provide energy for manufacturing, heating, and power.

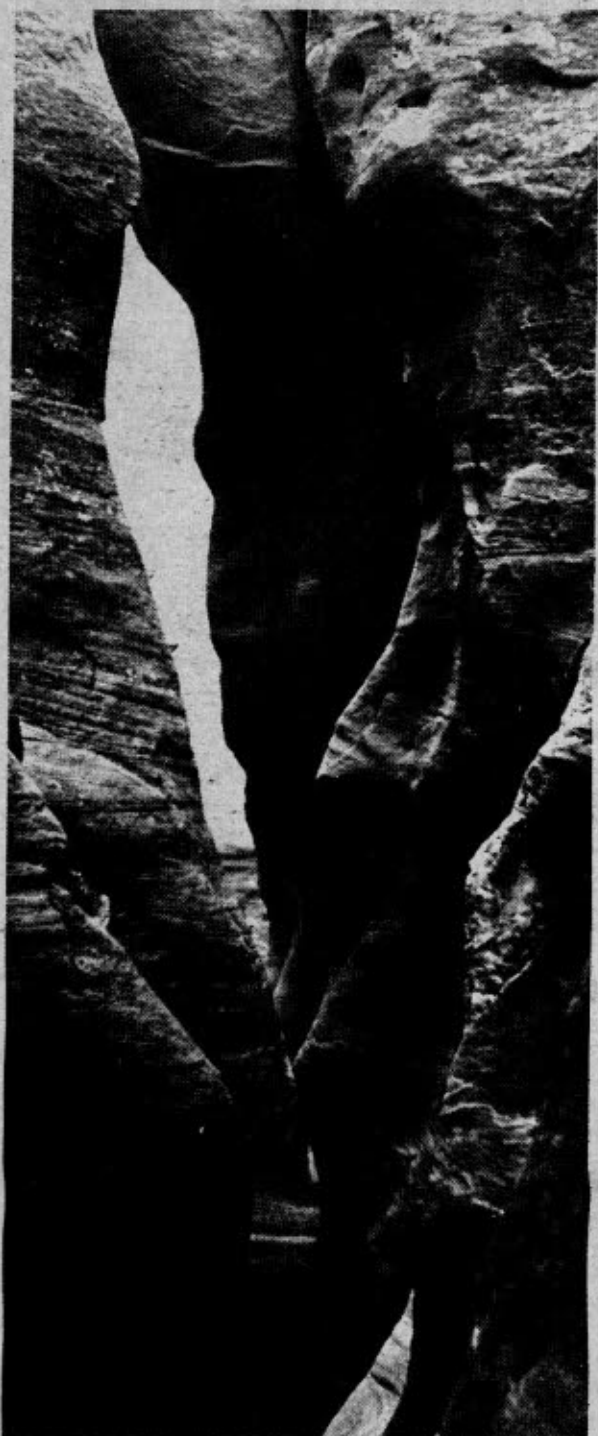
OIL SHALE NOMINATIONS SOUGHT. The Interior Department has asked industry to nominate tracts of oil shale lands for two possible lease sales tentatively set for mid-1976. The energy companies are asked to submit proposals for "in situ," or in-place underground, development. The department's prototype oil shale program began in 1974 with leasing of two tracts in Colorado and two in Utah. Two Wyoming tracts had no bidders. Each tract is approximately 5,120 acres.

COLSTRIP TO SUPPLY SOUTHWEST? About two billion kilowatt hours of electricity — the equivalent of production from the two Colstrip plants under construction — has been transmitted from the Pacific Northwest to the Pacific Southwest so far this year, according to a story in *The Missoulian*. An engineer with the Montana Public Service Commission made the calculation which reinforced the PSC's opposition to the construction of Colstrip 3 and 4. The utilities which want to build the Colstrip plants have justified them by saying the power is necessary for use within the region. The transfer of power to the Southwest was made possible this year by heavier than average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest.

BUREC LISTENS TO LAMM. The Bureau of Reclamation has indicated it will comply with Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm's request to redesignate water from the Dallas Project. Lamm's request came when he learned that 24,000 acre-feet of water from the proposed project in west central Colorado had been optioned to Kemmerer Coal Company of Wyoming for a power conversion facility. Lamm's letter said the policy of the state was not to encourage development of such a power generating facility at the expense of agricultural development. *Ouray County Plaindealer* editor Joyce Jorgensen, who has taken a strong stand against the Kemmerer option, says the BuRec decision doesn't mean the battle is over. She cautions that the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users could option the water now and sell it for coal production later.

12-High Country News
Friday, May 23, 1975

Glen Canyon hearing pinpoints possibilities



Escalante Country. Photo by Jack McCallan

by Joan Nice

A valuable piece of public land is at stake. At a hearing held in Salt Lake City last week, that land generated talk of roads, airports, and marinas. Talk of the need for oil, gas, and power plants. Talk of boosting local economies. All are part of the potentials of this piece of public land, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Conservationists saw other potentials for the Glen Canyon NRA. They talked of its grandeur and asked, no matter what the temptations, that officials minimize development and classify much of the area as wilderness.

Sitting in judgment at the proceedings, a parade of possible futures for the canyon country, was the National Park Service.

The Park Service calls the area "the heart of the rugged, relatively remote and inaccessible canyon country of northern Arizona and southern Utah." The NRA includes the Escalante Canyon region.

The most controversial proposal was a road which would cut deep into wild areas, bridging the Escalante River near Stevens Arch. The road is described by its proponents as a "low-speed, scenic parkway" which would connect Lake Powell's two biggest marinas, Wahweap and Bullfrog. The highway was authorized in the 1972 bill creating the NRA, but it hasn't been funded yet. That leaves it "still in the talking stages," according to Glen Canyon NRA superintendent Temple Reynolds.

Ruth Frear, speaking for the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club, said that any attempt to minimize travel time would degrade a tourist's experience in the NRA. "It's a place to explore, not a place to dash from point A to point B," she said.

Peter Hovingh of the Escalante Wilderness Committee objected to a proposal to construct an airport in the NRA.

He said he didn't think recreation areas "should be turned over to the jet set."

LOST A DECADE AGO

A number of conservationist speakers admitted that they felt they had lost the most important round in the battle to protect the Glen Canyon area over a decade ago. In 1963 Glen Canyon Dam was erected to provide electrical power. As a by-product, the dam provided a reservoir and motorized boating on 163,000 acres of water which swamped some of the finest canyon lands in the country.

Author Edward Abbey reportedly said he'd be willing to allow the trans-Escalante road — if the Park Service promised to drain the dam's reservoir. This unlikely compromise, however facetiously proposed at the Park Service hearings in Kanab, Utah, underlined conservationists' deep regrets about the dam.

Nevertheless, conservationists did turn out in large numbers at the hearings, to save what a Sierra Club spokesman called "the remnants of Glen Canyon." Hearings were held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Kanab, Utah, Page, Ariz., and Phoenix, Ariz.

At the Salt Lake hearings, the largest protected area was proposed by Ed Dobson, who represented Friends of the Earth and the Montana Wilderness Association. Dobson asked that a 1,032,000 acre wilderness in the NRA be combined with Bureau of Land Management lands along the Escalante and San Juan Rivers to form a "Glen Canyon Memorial National Monument."

The Park Service's maximum wilderness alternative encompassed about one million acres.

The debate goes back 40 years. In 1935 the National Park Service proposed a 4½ million acre "Escalante National Monument" — a scheme that would have included eight per cent of the state of Utah. "The bitterness and suspicion that proposal created among southern Utah livestockmen have persisted, in varying degree, to this day," according to an article in the *Deseret News*. Later both Robert Marshall of the Wilderness Society and Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes pushed for the protection of large blocks of the southwestern canyon country.

In recent times the dimensions have shrunk. The Park Service offered six alternatives, which would provide 79%, 47%, 26%, 16%, 6% and 0% wilderness in the 1,236,880-acre NRA. None of these proposals were "locked in concrete," they said. They simply wanted to let the public choose between a range of unweighted proposals.

Although the pick-a-plan system drew many praises, one speaker rejected the approach, saying that no information about the ability of the land to sustain the differing levels of development had been provided by the Park Service. The speaker, Dan Green, is a student in land use planning at Utah State University. He charged that the agency had shown "no sound basis in judgment for these alternatives. They should go home and do their homework more thoroughly before presenting us with a master plan."

RAMPTON'S STAND

The state of Utah has no lands classified as wilderness, although Gov. Calvin Rampton said in a statement presented at the Salt Lake hearing that he "wholeheartedly" endorses the Wilderness Act. Rampton's statement on the Glen Canyon NRA called for about 16% wilderness. Most of the business interests and public officials who spoke backed the governors' stand. Most other citizens at the Salt Lake hearings backed Park Service alternative No. 1, which would "maximize" wilderness by protecting 68% of the NRA immediately and 11% later, when incompatible uses were phased out.

U.S. Senator Frank E. Moss of Utah admonished the pro-wilderness majority of the audience: "We need to use our natural resources in a balanced way," he said, suggesting that backpackers in the crowd might be advocating wilderness classification for selfish reasons. We want to preserve these areas "so our people can enjoy them," Moss said. "But not by just one group of people."

Wayne County Commissioner Dwight Williams warned, "You've got us fenced in if these proposals go."

HALF OF PRUDHOE BAY

Energy companies who spoke at the Salt Lake hearings included Gulf Oil Co. and Altec Oil Co. Dean Rowall, who

spoke for Gulf, pointed out that the Orange Cliffs area of the NRA contains tar sands holding the largest undeveloped deposit of heavy oil in the U.S. He estimated that the deposit could produce 6-7 billion barrels of oil, "nearly half of what Prudhoe Bay in Alaska now has," he said. "It seems to me like it's kind of a waste to just leave it there."

Maximizing wilderness was also attacked by speakers who supported the trans-Escalante road and other forms of mechanized recreation. Mark Dean, a Utah Parks and Recreation Dept. employe who said he was speaking for himself, urged the Park Service to maximize the opportunities for the most people. "Are we civilized if we're turning our back on the people who can't walk?" he asked.

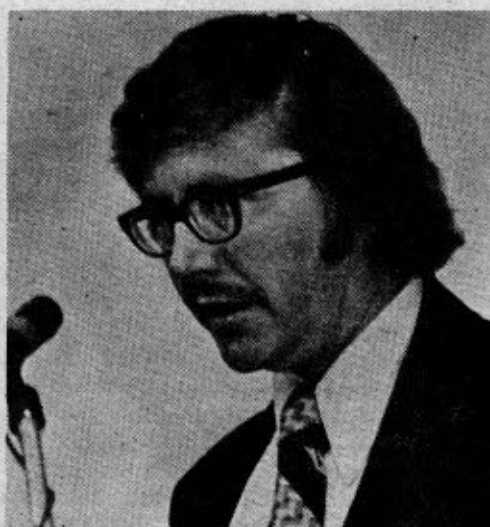
Noel deNevers, speaking for the Wasatch Mountain Club, tried to answer that query. "There are a lot of things in this country which aren't available to everybody," he said, citing wilderness areas, glee clubs, and pro-football teams as examples. By opening some experiences to everyone "you are going to destroy them," he said.

The hearing record on Glen Canyon NRA wilderness and master plan is open until June 19. The next step will be for the Park Service to propose policy and write a draft environmental impact statement. That statement is expected to be complete by about mid-August of this year, when public input will again be solicited.

For more information write for the Park Service's "Master Plan and Wilderness Study Alternatives, March 1975 — Glen Canyon NRA" Interior Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20240. Contact the Wilderness Society, 1901 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, for a "Wilderness Hearing Alert — Glen Canyon NRA."



Ruth Frear, Sierra Club — It's a place to explore, not a place to dash from point A to point B.



Dean Rowall, Gulf Oil Co. — It seems like kind of a waste to just leave it there.



PEABODY COAL V. SANDHILL CRANES

On May 5 there was a showdown in Colorado between Peabody Coal and the greater sandhill crane's protectors — the Division of Wildlife. Peabody had announced plans to build a coal haul road from a new mine to the Hayden Power Plant near Craig, Colo. The road Peabody had staked and flagged bisected a "dancing ground" of the greater sandhill crane — a subspecies classified as endangered in the state. Wildlife director Jack Grieb notified Peabody that "based on our study we must insist that the haul road not be constructed across the area." The May 5 meeting was set to settle differences.

According to the division's non-game bird specialist, Walter Graul, the area under question is especially critical since it represents "the major traditional dancing ground for the Colorado nesting population. When the birds arrive each spring they gather on this particular site and stay for about three weeks. During this time, they feed on the area and perform dancing displays characteristic of cranes. During dancing, the birds alternately bow and spring up, flapping the wings and calling."

Graul emphasizes that the exact impact of the proposed road is impossible to predict, but that the division predicts "several possible adverse effects" and so is recommending selection of an alternative road site.

At the meeting Peabody agreed to look for an alternative road site, but would not commit itself to pulling up stakes on the dancing ground.

Division land use coordinator, Robert Hoover, told the ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS that they hope the county will apply pressure to insure that Peabody finds an alternative route. If that doesn't work and Peabody reverts to its original plan, then the state could file suit to protect the cranes, Hoover told the NEWS.

Photo of sandhill cranes by George D. Andrews and courtesy of the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Two Forks dam issue opens again

The Bureau of Reclamation's recommendation to construct the Two Forks Reservoir on the South Platte River near Denver has been withdrawn, according to **Colorado Business**. "The question of the site, or even the decision whether or not to build any dam anywhere, is again open," BuRec planner Larry Nelson told **Colorado Business**. BuRec is soliciting comments on the dam proposal, which would store Denver's proposed future transmountain water supplies, until June 1.

Oil, gas impact on Flathead studied

An environmental impact statement is being prepared on oil and gas leases proposed for the North and South Forks of the Flathead River in Montana. Texas Pacific Oil Co., through its Calgary, Alberta, office, has applied for oil and gas leases on about 175,000 acres of Flathead National Forest lands on the rivers. The statement should be ready for release about June 1. Because of the location of the lease applications, much concern has been expressed as to what could happen since the areas are near Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the proposed Great Bear Wilderness. The rivers are also under consideration for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Senators won't cut Eagles Nest area

The Denver Water Board's request to delete some 3,000 acres from the proposed Eagles Nest Wilderness area has again been rejected by the Senate Interior Committee, according to Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.). The board claims it will significantly increase the cost of the proposed \$222 million Eagle-Piney water diversion project near Vail, Colo. Haskell recommended against the deletion. He said, the "presumption must be in favor of wilderness values and for a very simple reason, preservation of wilderness is reversible and destruction of wilderness is not," according to a **Rocky Mountain News** story.

Western Roundup

Hells Canyon protection progresses

A House Interior subcommittee voted a favorable recommendation for a bill to create a system of federal wild river, recreation, and wilderness areas on the Middle Snake River below Hells Canyon dam. The bill would ban construction of any dams on a 68 mile stretch of the river, which has been the subject of controversy in Congress for several years. The subcommittee approved an amendment by Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.) to give further study to 33 miles north of the Oregon-Washington border which is bordered largely by private land. The subcommittee rejected a "compromise" amendment by Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) to allow two dams. Roncalio claimed that building two more dams below the present Hells Canyon dam and upstream of Dough's Bar would protect about 60 miles of scenic, white-water recreational area while supplying needed hydroelectric power. Rep. Meeds disagreed, saying any dam construction in the area "is not a compromise but a defeat."

Eagles transplanted to protect lambs

Ranchers and a federal wildlife agency have reached an agreement in southwestern Montana which they hope will reduce lamb losses to eagles while still protecting the birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is trapping golden eagles in the area and moving them to other areas. This spring's program is a continuation of an agreement reached last June between the ranchers and the agency in which the stockmen withdrew their requests for authority to kill the birds. A biologist for the agency said preliminary studies indicate the number of lamb kills by eagles is unusually high in Beaverhead County. Another agency biologist said little is known about eagle behavior or the possible results of the experiment. At least one of three eagles trapped last year and moved about 100 miles away has returned. He said additional eagles might move into the area at any time.

Lead feared in Kellogg garden food

Residents of Kellogg, Idaho, have been warned not to plant vegetable gardens because of the danger of lead contamination. Kellogg is the home of Bunker Hill Co. lead and zinc smelting operations. Dr. Lee Stokes, environmental administrator for the Department of Health and Welfare in Idaho, said the recommendation was based on high lead levels found in samples of beets, carrots, and lettuce grown in the town and neighboring towns last summer. He said that one normal serving of the vegetables would have lead content greater than the recommended maximum daily amount, according to the Associated Press story. Bunker Hill has been in the headlines many times because of high lead content in the blood of children living near the smelter and because of high sulfur dioxide emissions.

Gov. Andrus supports Clean Air Act

Idaho Gov. Cecil D. Andrus has protested Ford Administration plans to gut the Clean Air Act in a letter to Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine). "Virtually the entire state of Idaho enjoys air quality that is better than the minimum national standards and we would be irreparably harmed by an erosion of this national policy," he said. "We believe that over-all public health and welfare is enhanced by a national policy to preserve and maintain high quality air from significant deterioration. . . . We strenuously oppose a retreat from this national effort."

Non-game stamp sale disappointing

Only about 800 Wildlife Conservation Stamps were sold in Colorado's first year attempt to gain support for non-game wildlife programs. About \$4,000 was collected. Some conservationists in Colorado are disappointed at the response to the new program, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. They still hope that non-game wildlife enthusiasts will support programs for non-game species to the degree sportsmen contribute to game species management. Almost 260,000 sportsmen purchase more than 335,000 licenses and permits each year, providing Wildlife Division with more than \$4.7 million.

Grasshoppers have protozoan foe

As ranchers and farmers in the Northern Plains gear up to start combating grasshoppers with toxic insecticides, researchers at Montana State University are studying a protozoan that may make the poisons obsolete. "The only way to get rid of grasshoppers now is to use insecticides like Cabryl or Malathion. They do a fair job on the grasshoppers, but they're broad spectrum insecticides and kill every other insect in the area. They get rid of beneficial insects too," says MSU entomologist John Henry. He says the parasitic protozoan attacks only grasshoppers and a few species of crickets so it will "leave the environment in a much more stable state" at a quarter of the cost. Small scale tests have shown a 50% grasshopper reduction in four weeks. Henry predicts it will be about three years before tests are completed and the Environmental Protection Agency approves large scale use of the control method.

14-High Country News
Friday, May 23, 1975

Thoughts from the Distant Corner
by Marge Higley

Many years ago (I shudder to think how many!) I attended college in Denver. My roommates and I discovered a most interesting way to while away some of those long Sundays away from home. We would walk the four blocks to the streetcar line, (now a relic of bygone days!) board the car and ask for a transfer. At random, we would transfer to another line and ride to some of the beautiful residential sections of the city. Then we'd disembark and walk, sometimes for miles, admiring the beautiful old homes and well-landscaped yards. I regret now that my interest at that time was more in the picturesque and beautiful than in the historic, for I'm sure that many of those beautiful old homes were also of historic interest, had we but taken time to find out.

In the intervening years, Denver has grown immensely. It is surrounded on all sides by sprawling suburbs and convenient shopping centers. Many of those beautiful old buildings have long since been torn down to make room for the shopping malls, business buildings, freeways, filling stations, and parking lots. It's sad to contemplate, but is a fact of modern life. Progress, after all, doesn't thrive on sentimentality!

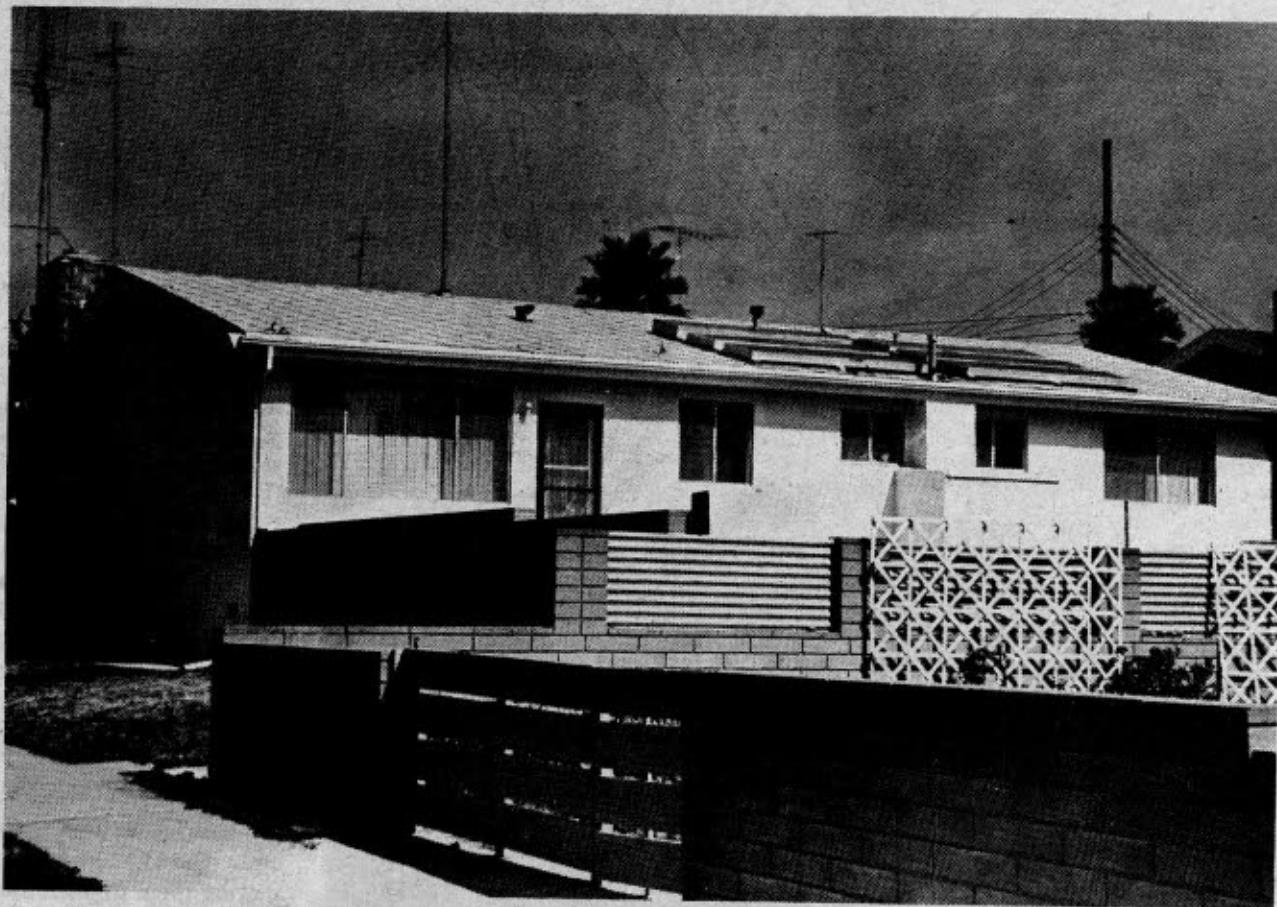
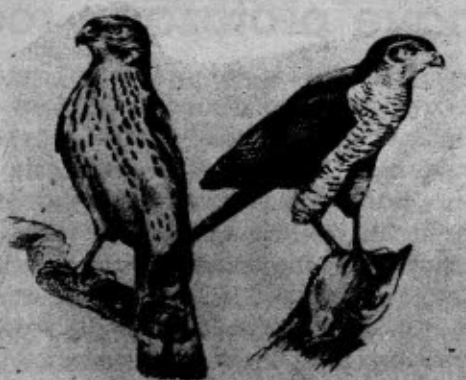
More than 100 years ago, there were some people who worried about this same problem. In the Oct. 28, 1871, issue of *Harper's Weekly* appeared a drawing of an old building (dated 1776) being demolished, along with the beautiful big trees nearby. Let me quote from the accompanying article:

"Modern progress shows no reverence for the old or the picturesque. It spares neither the work of human hands nor natural scenery. The old romantic city of Nuremberg is torn down to make way for railway depots, modern shops, and palatial hotels. There was at one time talk of leveling the lofty rock on which stands the noble castle of Edinburgh, and nothing saved it but the outcry of execration which the proposal roused from a few people of taste.

"Our own country exhibits many striking examples of this spirit. The good people of Boston, who first leveled the breastworks of Bunker Hill to obtain a foundation for the Monument now talk of abolishing the Monument to give a place to stores! In the same way many venerable structures have disappeared from our own city, (New York) as depicted by our artist in the fine sketch on page 1020. The site of the picturesque old mansion, with its Revolutionary traditions, is wanted for a modern building, and down it must go: and with it disappears another of the few links that still connect us with the past. But this is one of the inevitable consequences of progress and improvement. Comfort, cleanliness, and convenience are of more importance to society than the merely picturesque, and it is only against the needless destruction of the memorials of the past that a protest should be entered. That of the old Hancock House in Boston, for example, was an inexcusable act of vandalism which can never be repaired."

Well, that was written more than 100 years ago, and it's nice to know that since that time a great many historic and "picturesque" buildings have been renovated and saved for future generations.

Common sense tells us that the old must eventually make way for the new; it has always been that way, and will always be. And it is just possible that the "new" of 100 years from now might be influenced by a change of lifestyle. For instance, mass transportation may mean that acres and acres of parking lots across the country are no longer necessary or useful. I doubt if our great-great-grandchildren will have many pangs of regret as they plow them up, perhaps to be replaced by beautiful green parks. Or is that just unprogressive wishful thinking?



SEE THE WATER HEATER? William B. Edmondson has designed and built solar collectors for his roof in San Diego, Calif. The system provides almost all of the hot water his family uses. He has patented the set-up, which he calls "SolarSan," and is selling licenses. Edmondson claims that his system is cheaper and easier to build than others available.

SolarSan heats (cheaply) house, food, pool

William B. Edmondson has devised a simple, inexpensive, do-it-yourself solar heater. He claims his invention can heat water, a swimming pool, a house, or cook food.

A number of other heaters on the market can do all that, of course. Edmondson's is worthy of note because it is inexpensive to build — about \$1 per square foot as compared to about \$7 to \$16 per square foot for the collectors available from commercial solar energy firms. In addition, Edmondson claims his heater is easy to build with simple tools, even for "wood butchers."

Edmondson calls the patented heater "SolarSan." The 96-square-foot of home-built SolarSan collectors on his roof have supplied most of his hot water needs in San Diego, Calif., since last September. Only during a few long cloudy spells did he have to turn on his auxiliary gas heater.

Edmondson places his sun-collecting boxes flat on his sloped roof because he thinks they look better that way. They would collect more sunlight at a steeper angle facing south — but Edmondson says he prefers adding an extra 16-square-foot box or two to make up for his loss of capacity.

Each box is built sandwich-style: on the bottom, a rigid base panel, then a layer of fiber glass wool insulation covered with blackened foil, copper tubing through which water will flow and be heated, an air space, and finally one or two layers of glass or plastic. Other similar heaters are generally more expensive to produce, because of the problem of attaching the copper tubing to the light-absorbing sheet, in this case, foil. Edmondson anchors his tubing with U-brads or ordinary fasteners which draw it against the foil and form a trough. Glue in the trough, combined with the fastener make a good contact, Edmondson says, "without reverting to welding or other expensive processes."

Edmondson says he hopes that other people will put the sun to work. "We might just build enough SolarSans to reduce our demand for foreign oil to a trickle," he says.

Edmondson is editor of a monthly newsletter, *Solar Energy Digest*. He is offering licenses to build a SolarSan system for your own use for \$25. He is also willing to sell non-exclusive commercial licenses to qualified people

who want to go into the solar energy manufacturing business.

To find out more about SolarSan, write to the *Solar Energy Digest*, Book Department, P.O. Box 17776, San Diego, Calif. 92117. Edmondson will send you a booklet on SolarSan water heaters which includes clear drawings and detailed descriptions.

BULLETIN BOARD

ORV PLANS ANNOUNCED

The Bridger-Teton National Forest in northwestern Wyoming has prepared plans for off-road vehicle (ORV) management in the forest. Informational materials on the plan are available at the Bridger-Teton supervisor's office in Jackson and from district ranger offices. In June, the ORV plan will be presented in Casper (June 3, Holiday Inn), Laramie (June 4, Holiday Inn), Rock Springs, and Evanston (dates unknown). Comments on the plan will be accepted up until June 30, 1975.

WYO. WATER POLLUTION HEARING

A public hearing on the Wyoming water pollution program plan will be held at 9 a.m. June 9 in the auditorium of the State Office Building West in Cheyenne. The hearing, conducted by the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), will focus on the proposed plan and will also cover sewage treatment facility construction grants. Copies of the plan are available from county clerks or the DEQ.

WILDERNESS TRAIL PLAN

A proposed trail plan for the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana is available for public review and comment. Copies can be obtained from forest supervisor offices in Kalispell or Great Falls. The plan describes the existing trail system and suggests management alternatives to protect pristine areas and provide adequate isolation for the area's grizzly bear population. The 950,000-acre wilderness straddles the Continental Divide in western Montana, including parts of the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests.

GEOHERMAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Energy Research and Development Administration has published a bibliography of information on geothermal resources. The bibliography may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia, 22161 for \$10.60 per paper copy and \$2.25 for microfiche copy. Orders should specify the report number and title: TID-3354, "A Bibliography of Geothermal Resources Exploration and Exploitation."

(Editors' note: This article is part of a series designed to let our readers know about alternative energy equipment available for purchase in the Rocky Mountain region. If you know of a company we should mention, please send us information. We can't make endorsements, because we haven't tested the equipment. But we hope you find these introductions useful and are moved to begin your own, more thorough, investigations.)

Book review

Environmental Pollution in Montana

High Country News-15
Friday, May 23, 1975

Robert Bigart, Ed., Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Mont., 1972. \$8.50, hard cover; \$5.95, paperback.

Review by Peter Wild

In the 1890s it was not uncommon for Butte miners to lose their way to work in the sulfurous fumes of local copper smelters. Four trees remained in the blighted city.

Reacting to public concern, William Clark, owner of one smelter, reassured Butte's citizens that the smoke was good for them. It "... was a disinfectant destroying the microbes that constitute the germs of disease." He also attributed the high proportion of beautiful women in the area to the beneficial arsenic in the smoke that, according to him, produced delicate complexions. Then, despite the salubrious qualities of Butte's air, the death rate began to soar, boosted by pulmonary-related diseases. The city fathers responded to outcries and an eventual riot by choosing the interests of out-of-state investors over the health of the people who elected them; they refused to enforce the city's anti-pollution law.

With this historical background, *Environmental Pollution in Montana* launches a series of essays designed to help the layman assess the state's condition concerning air, water, and solid-waste pollution. The book will be of little comfort to anyone except the willfully blind. Because of its size and relatively small population, Montana is not yet as badly smudged and sickened as are other states, particularly those in the East.

Yet it won't stay that way long unless things change. Chapter after chapter documents cattle dying painfully in Garrison, Mont., and Douglas firs turning into skeletons on the Flathead National Forest — and other chemical horrors not mentioned in the propaganda of chambers of commerce.

And speaking of such organizations, the book aims at balance by presenting articles by authors with differing viewpoints. In places one recognizes the standard dosage of pabulum and PR hogwash. "Environmental Activity of the Montana Chamber of Commerce in the 1971 State Legislature," penned by its then-president, Grover C. Schmidt, is a bland masterpiece of the "yes we do no we don't" kind of double talk infecting the rhetoric of most state chambers.

Elsewhere, Mr. Don I. Osburn, owner of Osburn Kemical Co. and Pest Control Service in Great Falls, proclaims his objectivity. He then lectures the reader that all this fuss about DDT is really rather

silly. Aw, shucks. (At least he doesn't urge it on us as good for complexions.)

All in all, though, the book presents a professional rundown of the major problems, backed up with charts, tables, and photographs. The best part is the end, the section, "Politics and Philosophy," detailing the past stranglehold of outside money on the state's progress. Particularly moving is the coming-to-birth of Montanans' concern for their

heritage with the stormy Lincoln affair of 1970, a true-to-form Anaconda grab.

At this point the book nearly bursts into flame with "The Politics of Pollution in Montana," by Dale A. Burk, columnist for the *Missoulian*. He sums up the crisis of much of the West: "Massive machines pose ready to rip the state's guts open wide so eastern wealth can reap more profit from colony Montana." In short, it's time for a change.

Maine methanol project abandoned before begun

The state of Maine has apparently pulled out of an energy experiment it had once called its "Manhattan Project." Earlier this year Gov. James Longley had announced that his Office of Energy Resources (OER) would place the highest priority on converting wood waste into methanol (see HCN, March 28, 1975, p. 5).

Now the OER has closed and "the state's so-called Manhattan Project is kaput," reports the *Maine Times*.

Reasons for the pull-out are not entirely clear. Environmental, economic, and technical questions about methanol production remain. But part of the reason for the governor's move may have been political, *Maine Times* editor John Cole suggests. "Most signals point to the governor's view of Monks (former head of OER) as a political rival about to score with an energy project the governor wants to be identified with," Cole said in a recent editorial.

The economics of establishing a methanol industry may have also caused some second thoughts. Comparing three types of fuel: wood, organic wastes, and coal, a methanol expert from Massachusetts Institute of Technology points

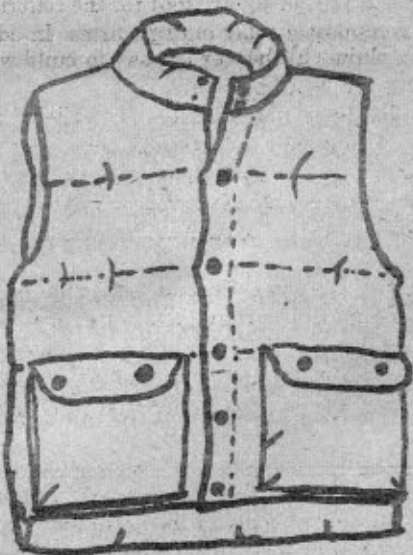
out that production costs for coal or waste plants would be about 10 cents per gallon cheaper than for a wood plant. On the other hand, it is much cheaper to build a plant for wood or for wastes, than a coal plant.

Another unanswered question is which wood technology to use. In a paper entitled "Methanol — Is It the Best Thing Since the Umbrella or Are There Still Things to Think About?" two Maine chemists point out that the processes of pyrolysis and hydrolysis would decrease the amount of fuel produced, but would increase the by-products.

Other scientists in the state have raised questions about the loss of nutrients returned to the soil by natural decay if waste wood were removed from the forest floor. They claim the state needs more information on how much wood they could wisely utilize.

Research done by the short-lived Maine OER has been compiled in a 33-page document entitled: "Collected Working Papers on the Production of Synthetic Fuel from Wood." It is available from the governors office in Augusta, 04330.

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Did The AEC Cover-up For The Elections?

by Ron Wolf
A spokesman for the Atomic Energy Commission has denied that his office delayed a potentially embarrassing announcement for two days until after the election. He also denied that the AEC's "official" release of the report on the AEC's activities in the election was delayed until after the election.

Chamber Mulls New "Sell Colorado" Campaign

Officials of the Denver Chamber of Commerce met recently last week to discuss the possibility of an advertising campaign to sell Colorado. Such a campaign would be aimed at the area who are not familiar with the state. The last time such a campaign was conducted was in 1964, according to Bill Davidson, executive director of the Chamber. The Chamber is currently planning a new campaign to sell Colorado. The Chamber is currently planning a new campaign to sell Colorado.

Miller concludes that he was "swayed" by the fact that the information was on the radio. He also notes that "the consideration did not enter into it at all." Miller points a portion of a conversation with Miller, "I'm sure that Miller didn't consider the announcement very important because 'there was no health hazard' from the event." Miller says no one was on duty at the AEC office Saturday or Sunday. He did not learn of the problem until he came to work Monday morning. He says he came to work Monday morning. He says he came to work Monday morning.

The review, he explains, "is just a matter of getting the facts and words confirmed by all the people involved in this." Those involved who participated in the review also included officials of CER and the Commercial Oil Company as well as the state.

Nuke Firm Behind Secret Move to Stop Amendment No. 10.

by Ron Wolf
CER Geonuclear Corporation is the prime mover behind a (statewide) plan which came to light last week to defeat a proposed state constitutional amendment. The plan is to defeat the amendment. The plan is to defeat the amendment.

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16-High Country News
Friday, May 23, 1975

June Viavant, Ms. Escalante

Utahn fights to save southwestern canyons

When conservationists get together to talk shop, June Viavant talks canyons. "I can only think about one thing," she says. "That's the Escalante." That particular southwestern canyon and the area that surrounds it have been her obsession since the '60s.

She entered the battle to protect the Escalante through a small group which her husband and some friends had started. While that group was still alive, her husband was asked to tour the Escalante with the Utah Highway Department. June asked to come along, too. No women allowed, she was told.

A friend accuses her of committing herself to battle then, in the name of women's liberation. But Viavant says it was the Escalante itself that prepared her for the long-term fight. On a family backpacking trip she walked for two days to reach Steven's Arch, the point deep in the backcountry where a proposed tourist highway was to cross the Escalante.

"That's what pushed my button," Viavant says. "It's just gorgeous, it's overwhelmingly beautiful."

She and two friends started their own group by printing up a brochure about the Escalante and the forces that threatened it. They mailed it to a few people in the Four Corners states. Money started coming back to them.

"That was really heartening," Viavant says.

Soon the brochure and the message about the Escalante began to reach people all over the country. In Salt Lake City they inspired a corps of about 15 dependable workers. These people later initiated the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club. That organizational step built up the conservation effort in the state, but it weakened Escalante support.

"Now all of the original people have two or three major things they're doing at once," Viavant says.

She is similarly burdened, but the Escalante remains her top priority.

ROAD HEARINGS

In 1969 the Utah Road Commission held hearings in Salt Lake City to discuss the trans-Escalante road. Opinions expressed were heavily inclined toward preservation. Two people testified for the road and 29 testified against it. Twenty-three letters supported the highway and 150 opposed it. Hearings at Kanab, Utah inspired three letters for the road and 460 against it.

Despite this showing, the Utah Road Commission approved the trans-Escalante road corridor.

Viavant is accustomed to losing battles in Utah. The Sierra Club, she says, seems "universally villainous in everybody's eyes." The feelings run so strong that Viavant and her friends have had their cars vandalized while backpacking in the Escalante — windows broken, wiring and hoses cut.

"I think it's teenage kids who are picking up the feelings of the local community, but I don't think it's an

organized effort," Viavant says.

Opposition to the Sierra Club comes from "good country people" who are trying to wring out a living on poor land and who are desperate for money, she explains. They aren't interested in preserving southeastern Utah's canyon lands. They are interested in developing whatever attractions their area has to build the local economy.

"They're just dying for power plants down there," Viavant says.

She says she can't blame the local people, however. "They don't just hold a second job; they hold three jobs. But I do blame the politicians because they've got broader horizons and they ought to know better."

GLEN CANYON NRA

Viavant worked hard on a bill which established the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Most of the Escalante drainage recommended by environmentalists for study for wilderness classification was included in the NRA. But the bill also authorized the trans-Escalante road, although no funds were appropriated.

That portion of the bill disturbs her, but Viavant says "we still have choices. The bill requires a study of the road. It does not require the secretary to construct it, unless appropriations are made for this phase of the project."

After the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area bill was passed, the environmental movement in Utah went into kind of a slump, Viavant says. But not for long. Soon proposals for the Kaiparowits and other coal-fired electrical generating plants arose. One of the giants, Utah Power and Light Co.'s proposed Garfield Plant, may include a dam on the Escalante River a few miles outside of the town of Escalante.

The latest opportunity for action to protect the Escalante came at Park Service hearings held last week in cities in Utah and Arizona (see story page 12). Viavant, who was elected to the national Sierra Club board of directors, spoke out for the club's 150,000 members.

Item by item, she commented in detail on the Park Service's master plan and wilderness proposals for the Glen Canyon NRA, which includes much of Escalante Canyon. She knows the NRA well. Over the past 10 years, she has spent 125 nights in the Escalante region, mostly on weekends, during every month of the year except August.

She asked that the Park Service choose the first of six alternatives for the area — the plan that dedicated the largest number of acres to wilderness. She hoped that her grandchildren would not have to inherit "the remnant of the remainder of what was left over of the residue" of the Glen Canyon country.

She quoted Wallace Stegner:

"Nowhere in the world probably is the transitoriness of

human habitation shown so outrageously. Nowhere is historical time pitted so helplessly and so obviously against the endless minutes of geological time. A man can walk into a canyon a block from his house and be face to face with two or three petrified minutes of eternity."

What influence will Viavant and other conservationists in the state have on the Park Service decision on the Glen Canyon NRA? Viavant's not sure.

"We have no political strength in this state," she says. "If the Park Service doesn't have the guts to make a good proposal just for the sake of a good proposal, then we are going to lose a precious resource."

Viavant is willing to admit lack of Utah support. But she feels that lack shouldn't be a deciding factor. "This is federal land and it belongs to all the people in the U.S.," she says.

It is tough working on local issues, she admits, "cringing around like a villain all the time." She finds strength through her position on the Sierra Club board of directors. They think what she is doing is useful and important. She thinks, despite the difficulties, that conservationists have made some progress in Utah. "If I really thought it was hopeless, I'd quit, because I like to backpack too well," she says.

—JN



June Viavant

Dear Friends,

Conservationists are often accused of being opposed to everything. But, in most cases, that's not a role taken on by choice. It's more a reaction aimed at unwise developments which assault cherished resource values and insult our sensitivities.

The Sierra Club emphasizes "not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress." If conservationists seem so negative these days, maybe it's because so much that is passed off in the name of progress is blind.

"Environmentalists are against the destruction of the natural legacy," author Peter Wild tells us in his article in this issue on the Escudilla battle in Arizona. "A far better way of putting it is that they are in favor of quality in our lives." All that's involved is a careful change of words, and one's outlook and public image can be changed.

In this issue's front page story, Mike Cross tells us about a group that is countering a grandiose ski development scheme by proposing an equally ambitious, but more environmentally sensitive, development. The Forest Service has labeled the alternative proposal a "blocking action," but perhaps, far from being a roadblock, it may be a detour leading to a more desirable future.

The hearings on the Glen Canyon-Escalante wilderness, reported on page 12, are another case in point. Con-

servationists at such hearings are often branded anti-development fanatics trying to "lock-up" natural resources. On the contrary, wilderness advocates seek to protect and enjoy a resource far more valuable and scarce than any oil or gas that might be found in the area — the wilderness resource.

We can import oil or we can find alternatives once the natural gas is used up. But how do you import wilderness to the overdeveloped Eastern Seaboard? Is there any alternative source of wilderness that can provide the same spiritual experience to man?

Fighting brushfire environmental battles is an emotionally-taxing and rarely-rewarded avocation. It's not the sort of pastime one takes up for fun or health. In fact, friends in Lander have told us that they are amazed how often they find one of the High Country News staff under the weather with officeitis: lack of sleep, writer's cramp, or the too-many-impact-statements-reviewed eye and mind disease. Many of you probably suffer from similar symptoms.

The antidote to this is, of course, faith in a better world. Being against everything can't fill your soul. In the long run, the successful, effective conservationist has to have a positive vision — something to work toward instead of against.

The poet Robinson Jeffers, dismissed by some critics as a cynic, called that goal "organic wholeness." He wrote, "The greatest beauty is organic wholeness, the wholeness of life and things, the divine beauty of the universe. . . ." Interestingly enough "cynic" originally meant a member

of a sect of ancient Greek philosophers who held virtue to be the only good, and stressed independence from worldly needs and pleasures.

So, cynics unite! Now more than ever society needs a guiding light — a glimpse of "the divine beauty of the universe."

Jeffers warns: "Love that, not man apart from that, or else you will share man's pitiful confusions, or drown in despair when his days darken."

—the editors

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