

The Environmental Bi-Weekly



High Country News



Vol. 8 No. 19

Lander, Wyoming

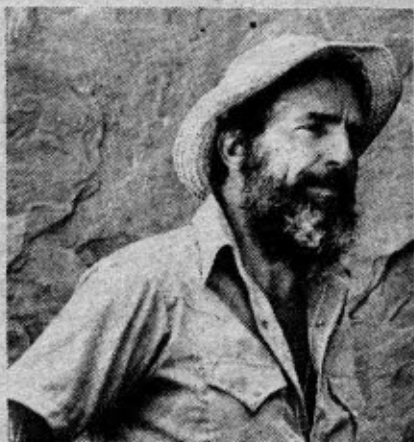
Friday, September 24, 1976



Scrub oak leaves photo by Judy Sumner. For another peek at the natural world through Sumner's eyes, see the centerspread.

Joy, shipmates, joy!

(Survival with honor in the Rocky Mountain West)



Edward Abbey, "wild preservative."

The following article is excerpts from a speech by Edward Abbey, author and (in his own words) "wild preservative" of the American West. The speech was delivered at a conference in Vail, Colo., last month.

For the past five years, Vail has been sponsoring conferences dealing with environmental problems in the region. During the week of Aug. 17-22 Vail sponsored its sixth annual symposium entitled,

"Anatomy of Change: The Human Dimension." Focusing on change and human settlements, it examined the recommendations and findings of HABITAT: The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver, Canada, earlier this year. The Vail conference attempted to relate information from HABITAT to the Rocky Mountain region.

—the editors

I say the industrialization of the Rocky Mountain West is not inevitable and that to plan for such a catastrophe is to invite it. . . .

©1976 by Edward Abbey

I am pleased to be invited to Vail to speak (once again) about overpopulation, overcrowding, war, pollution, urban squalor, mental anguish, social injustice, vanishing wildlife, the breakdown of the family, starvation, civil war, ski resorts, and women. World misery is my favorite subject, and I am always happy to talk about it.

Let mesay at once, however, that I am an optimist: that is, I believe that no matter how wretched the human situation may presently appear, it is not nearly so wretched as it is going to be. In other words,

(continued on page 4)

2-High Country News — Sept. 24, 1976

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Here on our tilted acres, the growing season has been a good one. We were a little better organized (although far from ideal) and our timing was also better for most things. Being so long accustomed to Wyoming's shorter, cooler growing seasons, we find it difficult to change old habits.

This area in Eastern Oregon has long been recognized as a good tomato growing area. There once was a tomato cannery here. So, as you would expect, tomatoes ripen earlier and the season lasts longer.

I planted seeds in our makeshift greenhouse on March 8 and 24. The planting included 11 varieties of tomato, two varieties of sweet pepper, three varieties of cabbage, and a few other assorted plants such as husk tomato (ground cherry), eggplant, and garden huckleberry. The timing seemed to be about right. We sold about \$50 worth of started plants by May 15 and planted our own in the garden May 16. This year we could have planted three weeks earlier for the peaches and apricots were blooming then. We picked the first ripe tomato from Burpee's hybrid Big Early variety on August 4, 80 days later.

I not only wanted to try a number of varieties but I also wanted to test a method of growing. Two of each variety of tomato were planted, one of each with old auto tires placed around them. The tires really do make a difference. The earliest ripe fruits came from those plants protected and warmed by the tires.

One of the pleasant surprises this year was a tomato planted only because I happened to have saved some seed nearly 25

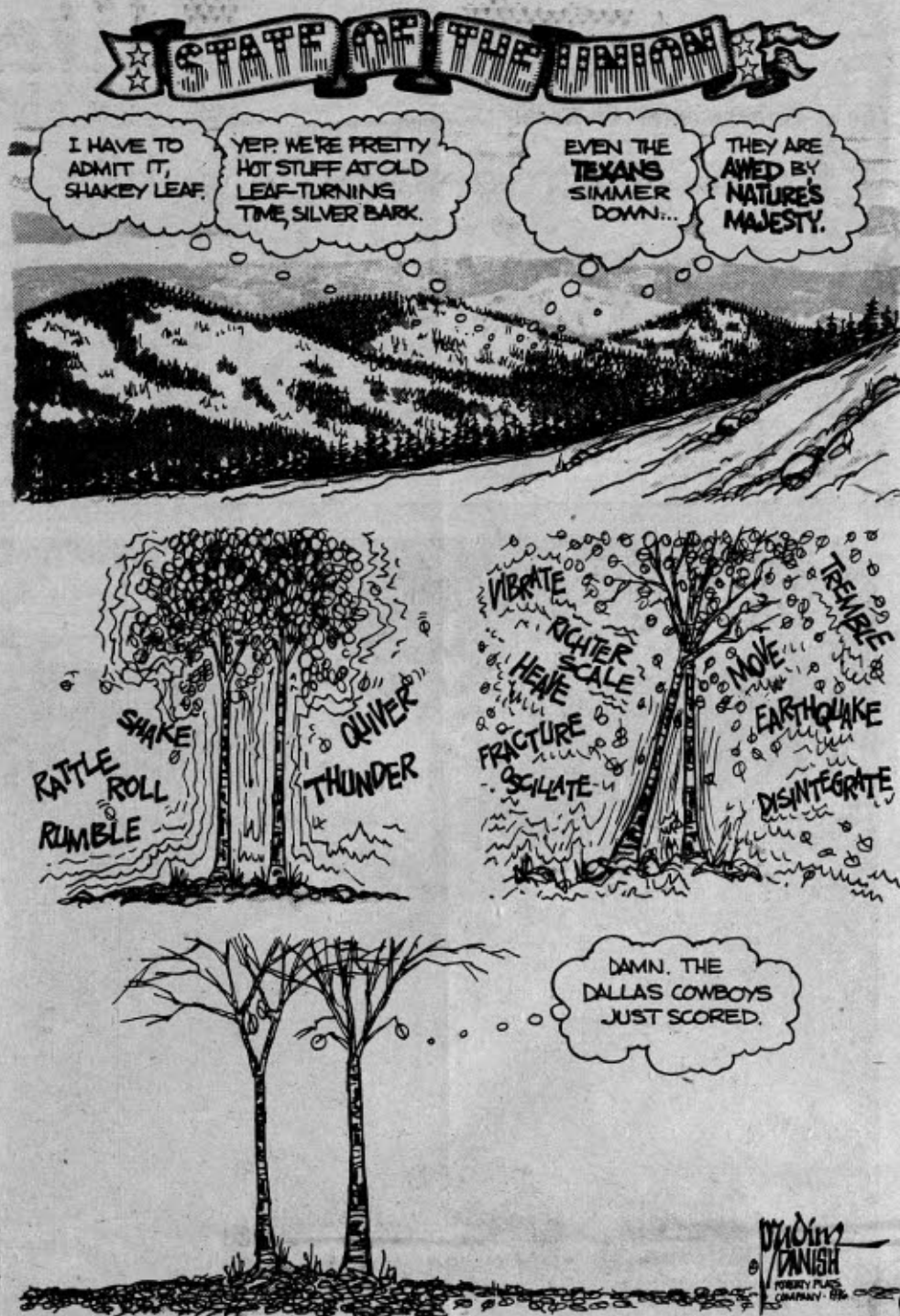
years ago. A man who was an agronomist for Holly Sugar Co. at Sheridan, Wyo., had developed for himself a high-acid tomato adapted to that growing area. He gave me some seed which I stuck in an envelope. It surfaced this spring and I planted a number of seeds out of pure whim. Imagine my surprise to have about five seeds germinate. They produced vigorous plants and ripe fruit in 87 days. The plants are very productive with a zingy, tasty flavor.

The eight varieties of cantaloupe were planted out too late this year. Even so, the Kazakh Honey Dew, obtained from Gurneys, is putting on a bumper crop. Burpee's Crenshaw and Burpee's Hybrid are also showing good fruits.

Our test planting of three varieties of strawberry isn't conclusive. We should know more by next year. But so far Ogalala is still the favorite. It doesn't produce as many big fruits as Superfection or Streamliner, but it is more consistent with a better tasting berry.

The coming and going of the seasons is a fascinating thing. Nowhere is it more intriguing than out on the land. When a tiny seed is planted, you can't wait for it to grow and produce. The satisfaction of picking your own ripe tomato can't be matched by any delicacy in a supermarket. And when the last fruit is picked, you go back to the seed catalogs in keen anticipation of the rich, warm soils of spring when the seeds go in the ground once more.

A wise man once said, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Nowhere is that hope better fulfilled than when you stoop to pick that first red strawberry or come upon the first ripe tomato.



HCN Letters

INTERPLANETARY WILDERNESS

Dear HCN:

The Sept. 10 issue was great. I'll have to revise my story that there was nothing at Jeffrey City when I first passed that way in the mid-'30s. My memory did not include Home on the Range.

State of the Union cartoon points out the need for revision of western water laws. Denver Water Board will now claim first rights to Mars because they placed a sign (hex!) there in 1976, but I believe that it was some 10 years ago when I was Chairman of the COSC Wilderness Workshop that we submitted a proposal to several agencies, including NASA because we weren't sure of who had administrative jurisdiction, to preserve Mars as the first Interplanetary Wilderness — the whole thing!

The Powell picture on page 7 is reversed. My memory is certain in this case. Even though it was a dimly-lit night with clouds scudding across the moon when we met a few years ago in Powell Basin of what is now the Eagles Nest Wilderness, we did shake hands, left in his case, on a vow to protect that magnificent land.

In exploring funding for the un hunted, proponents of a tax must be wary of taxing such things as bird feed and feeders that directly aid the un hunted. I've already had

warranted negative reaction from our Evergreen Naturalists on that point.

Bill Mounsey
Evergreen, Colo.

IMPOSTER?

Dear HCN:

One of the men pictured in your Sept. 10 story about John Wesley Powell, is not John Wesley Powell.

The man on page six holds a pen in his left hand; the right sleeve is empty. The man on page seven holds his mount's reins in his right hand, and the left sleeve is empty.

I am sure others have spotted the difference. However, just in case...

Sterner Remple
Pueblo, Colo.

Editors' confession: There was nothing so devious as an imposter on those pages last issue. Actually, the poor managing editor just flipped over a negative to keep John Wesley Powell's horse from running off the page, never realizing what she was doing to J.W.'s arms in the process. (see HCN 9-10-76, p.7)

In addition to the two letters printed above, we received an astute phone call from Cedar City, Utah, on the matter. After a summer of relative quiet around here, things are hopping again. Once in a while on a late paste-up night, we're tempted to think, "Why strive for perfection? Nobody notices anyway." You've cured us of that delusion. We know now, you are watching.

PENNY AND EMIL

Dear HCN,

I want to compliment you on the great article about Penny and Emil Keck (HCN 9-10-76). I was a green college kid that somehow got a job as a lookout the summer of 1967 at Moose Creek. By the end of the summer, Emil's influence had changed me into a more confident back country person who wasn't afraid of hard work.

I remember during fire school, we were all watching Penny to see how she would do. I should say that Emil gave us all a hard time, rather than just Penny, but she handled it better than any of us. She was the unluckiest, being stationed within a day's hike of the main ranger station, allowing Emil to pop in for inspections. He never inspected my lookout, although I'm sure he would have if I had lasted all summer. Instead, I transferred to a fire crew and a new guy took my place. My replacement had one fire within five miles of the lookout that he didn't report until five hours after Penny reported it from over 50 miles away. She certainly was sharp.

The beautiful Moose Creek area is certainly in good hands with the Kecks.

Tim Spangler
Salt Lake City, Utah

MORE CONTROVERSY PLEASE

Dear HCN People,

I have missed Marge Higley for about three months. Has she gone? Her articles were always the upbeat or shiny side of a

rather gloomy picture that gets presented each time, and I always turned to them first. Your in-depth reporting is always excellent and as full of facts as any reporting that I have ever seen. Strive to keep it that way. I like the articles on people.

When you do an article such as the clivus multrum how about a paragraph or two on how the words got chosen to name this object. I found the article most interesting but highly unadaptable to those of us who have cement slab foundations under our houses.

Controversy is what most of us thrive on, believe it or not. Your article on Floyd Wilson and how to treat the wilderness contained many things with which I wholeheartedly DISAGREED, but he must be admired for standing up and presenting his ideas. Perhaps if those of us who use wilderness areas could have used this article as a basis for an open discussion we would all have upgraded our standards and would tread more lightly in the wilderness next time. Bring on more controversy please.

Sincerely,
S. R. Skaggs
Santa Fe, N.M.

Editor's note: Marge Higley has taken a leave of absence from HCN's distaff corner. We miss her, too. While she's taking a rest, Myra Connell has been helping us out by writing "Thoughts from the Distaff Corner."

Clivus multrum is Latin for inclining compost room. The name refers to the waste bin below the toilet which is set at an angle.



Editorials



Sept. 24, 1976

Power plant foisted on public

Learning from the bureaucratic delays which held up the ill-fated Kaiparowits Project for so long, a Utah utility has discovered an efficient way to foist a power plant on the American public.

UP&L has been building its Emery Power Plant in southeastern Utah without waiting for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to complete an environmental impact statement on the project. The plant is being built on private land, but federal permits will be needed for utility rights of

way on public land. With the project more than 25% complete, BLM last month issued a draft impact statement on the Emery Project. In the EIS the agency goes through the exercise of evaluating the merits of the project and proposing alternative sites for the existing plant, but nobody seriously believes UP&L will be denied the needed permits. Too much money and resources have already been invested in the existing site.

"We tried to analyze six alternative sites

without being influenced by the existing plant," says the leader of the BLM team which wrote the impact statement, Carl Thurgood.

"We told them they were sticking their necks out and that we wished they'd stop working on the plant, but they decided to gamble," Thurgood says. "We told them we were concerned that they might be violating the spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act (the federal law requiring the preparation of impact statements)."

Now it looks like Emery will be begrudgingly approved. What else could we do? Tell UP&L to dismantle the plant and move it?

Tell the utility it can't hook the power lines up to its new power plant?

UP&L gambled, and it appears to have won. The government and the public have been outfoxed — excluded from a decision that we should rightfully participate in.

Thurgood says UP&L is now considering building other units and "we hope we can get ahead of them in the game." He says BLM has asked the utility not to jump the gun next time.

But who can stop UP&L or any other utility from building a power plant on private land? And once it's built, will anyone have the nerve to pull the plug? —BH

Timber must remain renewable

Timber: the renewable resource. But if some members of congress get their way, wood will become one more of the list of resources that this country is depleting in its suicidal, short-sighted strivings for growth.

Representatives of the timber industry are now hanging over the shoulders of congressional conference committee members as they finalize the timber reform bill. Many of the members of congress who have sought — and earned — environmentalists' acclaim in other areas are now key to the future of the Western wild lands, and need to be contacted immediately, according to Brock Evans of the Sierra Club.

Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.), a hero for

his efforts with the strip mining bill, has been the worst. Evans says he has been a "handmaiden of industry" in sponsoring a bill that rejects the concept of sustained yield and doesn't protect timber on marginal lands. Sustained yield has been Forest Service policy for years — it means that you cut no more than the annual growth. The resource thus has a chance to renew itself. Marginal lands restrictions prevent cutting in specific areas where trees can't be grown again.

Sens. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), Frank Church (D-Idaho), and Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) are cited by Evans as key votes on the conference committee. He says they might cave in to oppose both the sustained

yield and the marginal lands sections of the bill (see story on page 13).

The four men all come from heavily timbered states and are no doubt facing tremendous pressure from some of their constituents who fear the loss of jobs. Church has, so far, been resisting the ploy of Boise Cascade, which at this crucial time for forest policy making, announced closure of a mill in McCall, Idaho, blaming Forest Service timber cutting restrictions for its decision.

Now is the time for these good men to aid their states by demonstrating leadership. While perhaps an unpopular stand at the moment, they must realize that loggers and sawmill workers are best served by a policy that assures a long-term supply of timber. A panicky rush into the forests now to keep a marginally-economical sawmill open for a few more months or to ease the housing industry through this year's crisis won't really solve anything. There's no reason these men should think they have to choose between environmental and employment goals. Ultimately, in this bill's case, they're the same. —MJA



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION NOTICE

(Act of October, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

- Title of publication, **High Country News**.
- Date of filing, October 1, 1976.
- Frequency of issue, biweekly.
 - A. No. of issues published annually, 25.
 - B. Annual subscription price, \$10.00.
- Location of known office of publication, 140 No. 7th St., Lander, Wyoming 82520.
- Location of headquarters of general business offices of the publishers, 140 No. 7th St., Lander, Wyoming 82520.
- Names and addresses of publisher and managing editor, Thomas A. Bell, RFD Box 80, Richland, Oregon 97870 (publisher), Joan Nice, So. of Lander, Lander, Wyoming 82520 (managing editor).
- Owner: **High Country News**, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.
- Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 (one) percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
- Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average No. Each Issue	Actual No. This Issue
A. Total No. copies printed	4,000	4,500
B. Paid circulation, 1. Sales		
—dealers and counter sales	215	500
2. Mail subscriptions	3,140	3,340
C. Total paid circulation (A&B)	3,355	3,840
D. Free distribution	190	200
E. Total distribution (C&D)	3,545	4,040
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1. Office use, left-over	230	210
2. Returns from news agents	225	250
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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.
October 1, 1976
s Joan Nice

NO LULL IN WIND

Dear HCN,

Your report that, "Interest in wind power has slowed down dramatically since the Arab oil embargo, according to wind expert Henry Clews" (HCN 8-27-76) comes as quite a shock to those of us who are, on a daily basis, working to help people harness the vast potential of the wind. Grassroots interest has, if anything, increased quite markedly since 1974 and continues to grow as more and more people realize that dependence on foreign fossil fuel supplies is only a short term solution for our future energy requirements.

Henry Clews bases his judgments on his own personal experiences with his company, Solar Wind, which was one of the first to offer wind energy systems in this country. Since he began, however, many new companies have entered the field, and it is no longer necessary for everyone to direct their inquiries to Solar Wind. I would estimate that the total number of inquires to all wind-related companies today far exceeds the 1,000 inquiries a week Henry was receiving back in 1974. Henry gave up his franchises for two foreign-built wind generators over a year and a half ago (because of the high cost of these systems) and has been quite unenthusiastic about the whole subject ever since.

Since 1974, the number of wind power installations has increased from a mere handful to over 2,000, according to even the most conservative of estimates. This number does not include the many old pre-REA wind generators that have been recovered and restored, nor does it include

the countless number of home-built wind machines of every imaginable configuration. In all there are probably over 3,000 electricity producing wind generators in operation at this time. It is estimated that there are an additional 10,000 water-pumping windmills also in operation.

There are over 30 companies now active in the field of wind energy systems. There are others who will also be entering the field in the near future with promising wind generator designs of their own. As the experience with wind machines grows, the quality and reliability of hardware available to individual home-owners is also improving. Several states and the federal government have all recently passed tax legislation which will provide owners of wind energy systems with up to \$3,000 in tax credits and incentives. On Oct. 21 thru 24 of this year people on the East Coast will be able to view working demonstrations of many, if not all of the available wind generators on the market, at a first-of-its-kind Wind Energy Exposition in Warren,

Vt., sponsored by the American Wind Energy Association.

All in all, I would say that the general interest in wind power has never been greater, and the activity in the wind energy field never more promising. I point this out to help discourage any notion that windmills and wind power are about to fade away. I suspect that as long as the wind blows there will be people with the foresight to try to tap the power the wind delivers to their fingertips.

Have a windy day,
Mike Evans
Editor-Publisher
Wind Power Digest
54468 CR 31
Bristol, Ind. 46507

High Country News

Published biweekly at 140 N. Seventh St., Lander, Wyo. 82520. Telephone 307-332-4877. Second class postage paid at Lander.

Publisher	Thomas A. Bell
Managing Editor	Joan Nice
News Editor	Bruce Hamilton
Associate Editor	Marjane Ambler
Office Manager	Mary Margaret Davis
Advertising Manager	August Dailer
Circulation Manager	Georgia Nations
Editorial Assistant	Sarah Doll
Design Consultant	Jeffrey Clack

Subscription rate \$10.00
Single copy rate 35¢

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HCN ad runs in Pennsylvania

In the May 7, 1976 issue of HCN we printed some ads and asked our readers to place one of them in their local paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. H. Gentry of Chadds Ford, Pa. have sponsored an HCN ad in their local paper. (We've already received a response from that ad.) Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Gentry.

We've reached 10% of the states so far. Let's keep it up! We've received more than 30 responses from your ads.



4-High Country News — Sept. 24, 1976

Joy...

(continued from page 1)

I regard the problems of this world as hopeless. Utterly hopeless. But — as the composer John Cage once said — when the situation is hopeless, there is nothing to worry about. Let us proceed.

Do not imagine that I am so morally callous as to be indifferent to the sufferings of others. I am as conscious as the next person of the tyranny in Russia and eastern Europe, the suppression of the human personality in the territories of China, the degradation of life in India and Africa, the hunger, torture, and strife in most of Latin America. But my attitude toward these problems is essentially one of *laissez-faire*: hands off, let be, do not meddle. We in America cannot solve the problems of other nations and should not attempt to do so. Not only should we stop supplying military aid to all the vicious little right-wing dictatorships around the world, but we should phase-out economic aid as well. Not only economic aid but even the giving of what we think is good advice — which I regard as a form of arrogance and cultural imperialism.

No man is wise enough to be another man's master. No nation is clever enough to manage the affairs of another. No technology is sophisticated enough to straighten out difficulties which are political, social, biological, and cultural in origin and nature. Give them enough room and time and they — the people, the ordinary, common citizens of the so-called undeveloped, under-developed, or developing countries — will find a way. (Ridiculous phrases — our country is over-developed.)

I see I'm starting to lapse into a sloppy utopianism again, instead of dealing with the grim actualities confronting us today in Vail, Colo., imported cheese capital of the Western Slope. But as I said I'm an optimist; I have complete confidence that our present society is cracking up and will soon self-destruct, to be followed, inevitably, by something simpler, cleaner, freer, better. I have absolutely no faith in government and little faith in conferences such as this — but I do have faith in the common sense and practicality of working people — farmers, musicians, ranchers, waitresses, craftsmen, teachers, mothers, even novelists. Even actors. Even town managers. (But not city managers.) Where does this spirit of good cheer come from? Well, I've been doing pretty good at poker lately. Yes, we've got an informal little poker club over there in Moab, Utah, right in the heart of Brigham Young country, and there's something about winning at poker which restores my faith in the innate goodness of my fellow man. (Furthermore — baby needs shoes.)

I see that I have strayed a bit from the assigned topic, which is, I understand, "The Anatomy of Change and Human Settlement in the Rocky Mountain West." Good. The topic suits me. I consider myself a savage, vicious, embittered, utterly irresponsible critic of our society and for years, in my writing, I have been cultivating the art of the arrogant sneer, the venomous put-down, the elegant hatchet job. I want to be feared; I want to be hated. I find it most frustrating that everywhere I go people sit around laughing at me. Nevertheless, we must carry on, each in our appointed course, however humble.

Some say that the industrialization of the Rocky Mountain West is inevitable and therefore that we must plan in order to make the best of it. I say the industrialization of the Rocky Mountain West is not

inevitable and that to plan for such a catastrophe is to invite it in all the more readily. Planning for growth incites growth, encourages growth. To plan for growth is to concede defeat before the battle has been fully joined.

We must not plan for growth but plan for war — a war against the strip miners, against the dam builders, against the power plant builders, against the pipeline layers, against the freeway builders, against the model-city builders, against the forest killers, against the coal-gasifiers and oil shale processors. A war against that whole array of arrogant and greedy swine who, if we let them, will level every mountain, dam every river, clearcut every forest, and obliterate every farm and ranch and small town in the American West before they'll admit to any flaw in their insane religion of the ever-expanding economy.

A normal organism grows to a certain optimum point and levels off; we call that



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maturity, adulthood, wholeness, health. But an organism which keeps growing beyond the optimum is sick, diseased; it is a freak and a monstrosity. The endless multiplication of cells within an organism is cancer in action; and cancer destroys both itself and its host. Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.

In Japan, Russia, Europe, and North America industrialism long ago reached and passed the point of diminishing returns. Industrialism has become the cancer of the Northern Hemisphere, and it sickens the entire planet.

My own reasons for opposing the further industrialization of the Rocky Mountain West are purely selfish. I live here, and I like it the way it is. I like the relatively clean air, open space, wild rivers, uncrowded roads, productive countryside; I

like most of all the more or less sane, healthy, happy, independent people who live here.

The only sick ones I know are paranoids like myself, and the greedy few who would sell out their birthright and sell off their heritage for a few measly million bucks. These are the types (and we have them in every community, dominating every Chamber of Commerce meeting) who would sell their mother's grave if the price is right, who would sell the old lady herself for a decent markup. . . .

Selfishness, yes. But if I lived in some other part of America, I would still want to defend the Rocky Mountain West from the rapacity of the industrial machine. Why? For many reasons: because the West offers room for the recreation of the urbanized multitudes; because the national parks, forests, and public lands of the West are the rightful property of all Americans; because the West still provides a model of what a sane, balanced, agrarian-based economy can give to human beings, what it looks like, feels like, smells like; because the West contains the last great clean-air reservoir in the 48 United States; because the West offers at least a temporary refuge to desperate escapees from the sweltering industrial jungles of the East, the Midwest, the South, and Texas, and poor old blighted, sinking California. This is not blind

I'm merely hinting that survival alone is not enough — what we want is survival with beauty, survival with freedom, survival with honor.

opposition to change, but quite the opposite. By defending the West against industrial growth, we are helping promote change in American society as a whole. For the sooner the industrial monster is halted, the sooner the American people will perceive the need to change the very basis of our growth-crazy economy.

Yes, I know, there are many bright and well-meaning people with technological solutions to our sociological, political, biological problems. I think of that gifted man Paolo Soleri down in the Arizona desert, erecting his ghastly Soleriums of poured concrete. The designs are ingenious; a mile-high ultimate high-rise with cells enough for 50,000 people; but my God who would really want to live in such a thing? And how will they eat? Who will they eat? No matter how high the structure, the inhabitants cannot live on air or window-box gardens or greenhouses or bathroom fish tanks. They will need land — and not desert land either — but many square miles of arable farm and range. Yet Arizona is already overpopulated; like India or Russia, the state of Arizona cannot feed its present population, but has to import most of its food.

Then there's that fellow Gerard O'Neill who wants to pack as many earthlings as possible into what he calls space colonies, huge hollow cylinders of glass and aluminum orbiting our mother earth. Can you imagine rattling around in the universe in a giant garbage can? All too easily — and the prospect does not please. These would not be space colonies but penal colonies, crowded like submarines and operated, necessarily, under military discipline. And yet there seems to be no lack of technical beavers eager to build these space dirigibles; "Humanity Unlimited," some industrialist from Lockheed called the scheme, in the pages of *Newsweek*.

Anything, anything, rather than face the truth; anything rather than acknowledge the need to give up gluttony, waste, conquest, and expansionism in exchange

for a steady-state economy, a thrifty conservation of natural resources, a stabilized and much much smaller human population.

Haven't I overlooked somebody? Oh yes, there's R. Buckminster Fuller — what is that humorless old crackpot, that senile old fart doing these days? Well, as far as I know he's still up in a Boeing 747 orbiting the globe himself, arms loaded with wrist-watches, going like hell all the time and never getting anywhere. Fuller likes to boast that he has flown around the earth 250 times or more. I don't doubt it; but the man would understand more about the world if he had taken a walk, once in his life, on foot, from his front door to the village post office.

Perhaps it's unfair to attack a famous engineer and mathematician for his physical weaknesses; yet I think there's a clear connection between Fuller's eye problem — his visual myopia — and the barren, arid, abstractness of his ideas; the man has no feel for reality, no feel for flesh, soil, land, human beings.

The geodesic dome is the perfect illustration of Fuller's philosophy: a rigidly-symmetrical plastic wart — alien, fake, ugly no matter what the setting, saprophytic as a fungus, leaking at every joint. Yet these pale polyurethane polyps littering

the American landscape (like so much other non-biodegradable garbage from the Age of Junk, the Plastic Plague), constitute R. Bunkminster Fuller's chief claim to fame. Of course he also invented the Dymaxion car — that's the one that looks like a cross between the old Airflow Chrysler of 1935 and an Edsel; and was never put into production.

And now I notice in a recent issue of *The Co-Evolution Quarterly* that Fuller claims to be the inventor of the concept of our mother earth as a spaceship. Maybe he was, but the analogy of earth to spaceship exemplifies the typical Fullerian blindness. A spaceship is a machine, like a submarine or a tank or a rocket-powered moon capsule, a man-made artifact absolutely dependent upon the earth for fueling, subsistence, purpose, and a safe return.

The earth is not a machine — not a spaceship at all — but rather a kind of organism, a living being, of which iron, granite, and basalt may be said to form the skeleton, soil the flesh, water the blood, air the breath, the human mind . . . its late-evolved consciousness, and environmentalism, finally, the conscience. Does my analogy seem fanciful? Perhaps; but it is more faithful to reality, I think, than that picture of the earth as mere raw material for exploitation — a machine for living, in

We must not plan for growth but plan for war.

the words of Walter Gropius. Be true to the earth, said Nietzsche — before he went mad. I'll take my stand with Nietzsche, and against the space cadets.

So much for Fuller — really a nice old man, I know, much loved and admired by many, but queer as an abalone, one whose ideas and books are long overdue for a

rigorous critique by someone more competent than I. (Buckminster Fuller — his books — that prose that oozes down the page like crankcase sludge in January.) I attack him merely as a symbol and a symptom of the kind of blind mechanical rationalism which has already made so much of the planet, so much of America, unfit for human life — and which now threatens our own beloved American West — last refuge of the bighorn sheep, the pronghorn antelope, the long-horned cow, the buckhorn deer and — the unicorn man.

What shall I say then to the theme of this conference? How address myself to the question of "The Anatomy of Change and Human Settlement in the Rocky Mountain West"? As implied before, I take that question to mean, how can we best adapt ourselves to and prepare for the coming invasion of our region by the growth-crazy industrialism of the corporate state? My answer can be summed up in two words: **oppose it.** And if opposition is not enough, **resist it.** And if resistance is not enough, **subvert it.**

My attorney tells me that sabotage is illegal. But he's in jail again himself, so why should we listen to him? Therefore I say: if political means are not sufficient to halt the advance of the iron juggernaut, if economic pressures do not serve us, if reason and loud argument and moral persuasion fail, then we are justified in resorting finally to certain limited forms of violence. Violence is after all the traditional way of settling serious disputes in this country, as American as pizza pie.

Every significant development in American history — independence from England, the settlement of the frontier, the abolition of slavery, the enactment of civil rights, the withdrawal from a hated war in Southeast Asia — has been aided, abetted, and promoted through violence. Now we in the West are confronted by regiments of armored monsters grinding toward us — bulldozers, drill rigs, draglines, power shovels, giant earth movers — which promise violence of the most ruthless kind toward our plains, our rivers, our mesas and canyons and mountains, toward our homes, our lands, and our people.

Are we not morally obliged to fight back this threat by any and every method which may be necessary? I say that we are; and I believe that a demonstration of resolution and courage may be all that's needed to send those iron crocodiles crawling back to where they come from, back where they belong, in the junkyards of Gary, Ind.; Omaha, Neb.; Toledo, Ohio; Houston, Tex.; Euclid, Ohio.

Now I know that most of you came to this conference-symposium to hear some practical suggestions on dealing with complex problems, not a call to apocalyptic battle. Okay; I'm merely hinting that survival alone is not enough — what we want is survival with beauty, survival with freedom, survival with honor. Toward that end, therefore, I offer my one simple and practical suggestion:

Wherever you go in your auto travels among the wonders of the American West, always carry a few gallons of shellac with you, and a bucketful of fine clean sand. What for? Well, the shellac for the fuel tank and the sand for the crankcase, what else? Not your own of course — but theirs.

Enough of this seditious grumbling.
God Bless America — Let's Save Some Of It. Long Live The Weeds And The Wilderness Yet! (Joy, shipmates, joy!)

ANNOUNCEMENT: You are all invited to an all-night party at Jerry Ford's house. No peanuts will be served. B.Y.O.B. If security gives you any trouble, tell them Abbey sent you.

New BLM proposal

Ranchers weigh grazing rules

by Joan Nice

The Wyoming Woolgrowers are skeptical about the goals of new grazing regulations proposed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, applauds the goals, but doubts that BLM can achieve them.

The proposed regulations, the first revisions of BLM grazing rules in 40 years, are aimed at streamlining BLM procedures and "emphasize consideration of environmental values and all potential uses to assure that the national resource lands will be used in the best possible interests of the public and the environment," according to BLM.

An editorial in the September issue of *Wyoming Woolgrower* magazine indicates that some ranchers fear the new regulations might ultimately force private livestock operators off the land.

At issue is a system which BLM calls "intensive management."

In its proposal BLM sets up two kinds of management areas: "custodial areas," where the effect of livestock grazing on other resource values and the environment is minimal; and areas where "intensive livestock management" is needed.

Where public land is intensively managed, a grazing plan (allotment management plan) must be "cooperatively developed" by the grazer and the government, according to the proposed rules. If a plan cannot be agreed upon, BLM takes over and implements a plan of its choosing.

The woolgrowers contend that this, and other procedures outlined in the proposal, will be too costly and fees will go up.

"Intensive management will require a government overseer on any public lands used for grazing, costs will be prohibitive, and more private livestock operators will be forced off the public lands," their recent editorial states.

A Wyoming BLM official says these fears are unfounded. The grazing fees which ranchers pay BLM for the use of public land are not based on the amount of effort BLM puts into the land, says Nyles Humphrey, chief of the Wyoming BLM's division of resources. He says the fees are primarily based on the price of livestock.

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED

Johanna Wald of the Natural Resources Defense Council praised BLM for revising its grazing regulations and placing emphasis on the environment.

She added, however, that "the proposed regs still need substantial improvement before they can achieve the BLM's own goals."

Wald said she disagreed with BLM's decision to emphasize intensive management. She said BLM rules should place more emphasis on care of the majority of allotments, where allotment management plans have not been completed.

"District managers need guidance during this interim period, until allotment management plans are implemented," she said.

Wald also cited a need for an automatic review of leases at the end of each leasing period.

MORE FLEXIBILITY?

One provision which BLM says gives more flexibility to ranchers has the woolgrowers worried about losing their allotments on public lands to outsiders.

Current regulations require operators to produce enough feed on their private lands

to maintain livestock for a two to six month base period. Under the proposed regulations, that requirement would be scrapped and operators could grow whatever crop they feel would be profitable. Only land ownership would be required, relieving the BLM of the time-consuming job of checking the capabilities of each operation.

"Now the livestock operator could, for example, raise sugar beets on his private property and use part of the profits to buy hay, if that seemed to him the most economical way of running his business," says Paul Andrews, BLM district manager in Worland, Wyo.

Woolgrowers don't believe this change will necessarily work to their advantage.

"Livestock operators are concerned that the elimination of commensurability requirements could open up leases for competitive bidding," says the woolgrower magazine editorial.

Humphrey contends that existing allottees are no more vulnerable to a challenge of their rights to graze certain public lands than they were in the past.

REGULATIONS SUMMARY

The proposed BLM regulations also include the following:

—Management or custodial permits and leases would be issued for periods up to 10 years. Regular permits and leases would be issued for periods up to three years, or until management or custodial permits and leases could be developed. The permits and leases would be renewable.

—Permittees or lessees convicted of violations of the wildlife or conservation laws and regulations in connection with their grazing operations on public lands would be subject to suspension, reduction, or revocation of their grazing privileges.

—The penalty for trespassing (putting unauthorized animals on the public lands) will be the cash value of the forage consumed, costs arising from damage to public land, and the expenses incurred by the government to gather the animals when it is necessary.

The new regulations also specifically prohibit certain actions which were only implied violations previously. Among the prohibitions:

—Cutting, burning, spraying, destroying, or removing vegetation without authorization;

—Placing feed or mineral supplements for livestock on public lands without authorization;

—Violating any federal or state law or regulation concerning the conservation or protection of natural and cultural resources or the environment including, but not limited to, those relating to air and water quality, protection of fish and wildlife, and the use of chemical toxicants.

The proposed rules were published in the July 28 *Federal Register* and copies are available at BLM offices. Comments should be sent to the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C., no later than Oct. 1.



NEW RULES. Proposed grazing regulations are aimed at streamlining BLM procedures and taking better care of the environment. Both woolgrowers and environmentalists are raising questions. Photo by Pat Hall

6-High Country News — Sept. 24, 1976

Never Summers never crowded

Would park status save or destroy the solitude?

by Mark Peterson

For several years heated controversy has surrounded the proposal to add the Indian Peaks area to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (See HCN 12-5-75). This would be a major addition, enlarging the existing park by 77,000 acres—about 30%. Because of the Indian Peak's size and its problems brought on by heavy use, it has become the center of attention in the park expansion proposal.

However, there are five other parcels of land, equally as beautiful but smaller, also included in the expansion proposal. Overshadowed by the Indian Peaks, these areas have received little attention in the expansion controversy. Yet the five areas total 50,400 acres and would increase the park's size by 21%.

One of these spectacular over-looked areas is the Never Summer Mountains in Arapaho and Routt National Forests. The Never Summers are a precipitous north-south chain that adjoin the western boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. They form a natural continuation of the park's renowned breathtaking beauty, with several peaks towering well above 12,000 feet.

ISLAND OF SOLITUDE

Sheer cliffs form the backdrop for deep glacial lakes that dot the high country. These mountains provide habitat for threatened species such as the bald eagle, osprey, and marten, while more common animals such as deer, elk, and bighorn sheep also roam its large expanses.

It has been described as "an island of solitude amidst a sea of confusion" because it remains relatively unknown by the public.

One backpacker familiar with the area said of the Never Summers, "It's an indescribable feeling to be able to walk a ridgeline and know that there isn't another human within miles." This area's tranquil, pastoral atmosphere stands out in stark contrast to the heavily used and impacted backcountry areas surrounding it—Rawah Wilderness, Rocky Mountain National Park, and the Indian Peaks.

These areas have experienced an explosion of backcountry use in recent years. Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks backcountry use alone has skyrocketed nearly 400% since 1967.

The public's inattention to the Never Summers is also shared by the U.S. Forest Service. Its neglect has stemmed from a lack of funds and manpower in recent years. As a result, enforcement of regulations deemed necessary for preserving the Never Summers' unspoiled character have been non-existent. Also, trails have neither been maintained nor patrolled, much less expanded or improved. Trailheads are currently next to impossible to find and access to some parts of the backcountry can only be gained by going through the Rocky Mountain National Park entrance and paying the entrance fee of \$2.

In addition, regulations have not been enforced. One Forest Service official observed, "Cattle grazing has occurred in extensive areas outside of their allotments. Hunters' camps were located everywhere they wanted them—with no respect for the land. It's been sort of a private playground for the few guest ranches located nearby." One guest ranch reportedly had estab-

lished a permanent hunting camp in the backcountry which at one time contained up to 100 people on a given day.

Yet the Forest Service personnel in recreation who manage this area have their hands tied in attempting to reverse this assault. Recreation is not high on the Forest Service's totem pole of priorities and money is tight. Without more funding for recreation, these managers can only hope to meet the most urgent needs. Therefore the Forest Service is focusing its efforts on the Indian Peaks area (where it is struggling to stay on top of severe problems created by heavy use) and work in the Never Summers has been postponed indefinitely.

A lack of planning also contributes to the inadequate maintenance of this area. A Forest Service official concedes, "We are five to six years behind in planning for all functions in the area."

Arapaho National Forest managers have just begun conducting a land use survey of the roadless area within the Never Summers to determine its potential for timber harvesting, mineral development, and wilderness protection. The Forest Service claims that no development can proceed until these studies are completed. "This is not guaranteed by law," points out Martin Sorensen the chairman of the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter.

In Routt National Forest, the Never Summers has been designated a wilderness study area. However, it won't be until 1978 or 1979 at best before this determination is made.

SKI RESORT PLANNED

The neglect shown by the Forest Service has not been shared by all interests. Grand County, in which a portion of the Never Summers lie, sees big money to be made there. Envy of the success of nearby towns that have developed profitable ski areas, Grand County is eager to cash in. The county feels that a ski area in the Never Summers would convert its summer-only resort area into a year-round, profitable business creating a more stable economic base.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s the Forest Service and other interests conducted ski development feasibility studies



SKI SITE? This tranquil glacial valley may be transformed into a bustling ski resort if promoters in Grand County have their way.



UNCERTAIN FUTURE. Are the Never Summer Mountains (pictured above) destined for timbering, ski development, wilderness designation, or inclusion in Rocky Mountain National Park?

for the area. The results of these studies indicated that four separate areas in the Never Summers may have ski development potential—three in Arapaho National Forest and one in Routt National Forest. Estimates show that the loss of wilderness quality lands involved would amount to about 5,700 acres as a direct result of the ski area alone.

Forest Service officials are viewing these plans warily. One Grand County plan calls for chairlifts carrying skiers to the top of a prominent ridge. The Forest Service believes that the severe weather on that ridge would make a ski area undesirable. Another plan puts the ski area in a more remote valley further south. The Forest Service is cool to this suggestion because of the prohibitive expense involved in building an access road. In any case, it appears that ski development is at least several years away.

Because of the neglect these mountains have received and the conflicts that are looming ahead and clouding their future, many conservation groups are supporting a bill which would incorporate a portion of the Never Summers, along with other areas such as the Indian Peaks, into Rocky Mountain National Park. The Rocky Mountain Park Expansion Society (RMPES) has been formed to encourage this idea. Their members have helped draft a park expansion bill (H.R. 8360), which has been introduced in Congress this session by Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.).

MILLS PIONEERED IDEA

The idea is not new. As far back as the early 1900s, Enos Mills, naturalist, writer, conservationist, and philosopher, worked towards the creation of a Rocky Mountain National Park, including many of the surrounding mountains. He envisioned a larger park than exists today, encompassing the Indian Peaks and other highly scenic lands along the Continental Divide such as the Never Summers. However, due to political concerns, a smaller version of Mills' concept was adopted as Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915. Since that time repeated efforts have been made to enlarge the park and get its boundaries to conform to natural boundaries—mostly along mountain tops and ridges—rather than the straight-lined boundaries existing today. All these expansion efforts have failed.

In order to make this proposal less controversial and more attractive for quick passage, only 11,500 acres of the northern portion of the Never Summers, lying mostly in Routt National Forest, is proposed for park inclusion in the bill. This would leave thousands of unspoiled backcountry acres open to timbering, mining, and ski area development. Other parts of the Never Summers have already been mined or clearcut to such an extent that the Forest Service will not consider these portions for wilderness designation.

Yet even this limited proposal for these mountains has met with considerable opposition, because under national park status hunting would be prohibited. The Never Summers contain one of the last bighorn sheep hunting areas in the Northern Front Range and there is strong opposition from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) and organized hunting groups to including this area in the park.

RMPES proponents argue that very few permits for hunting sheep are issued in the area. They go on to suggest that including the northern portion of Never Summers into the park would preclude hunter trespassing and bighorn poaching which is now common and difficult to control along the boundary of the park and the Never Summers.

Other officials at DOW feel park inclusion for the Never Summers would also cause the population of the 700-head elk herd to mushroom. According to DOW, this would require park rangers to trap or shoot elk to keep their numbers down.

Roger Contor, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park has disputed this, arguing that the park wouldn't be expanded into winter range lands where most of the late season hunting takes place. He said he didn't think rangers would have to shoot or trap elk, according to the *Denver Post*.

LOCALS OPPOSE EXPANSION

Local opinion also seems against the expansion bill. People in towns on the Eastern Slope such as Nederland, Gold Hill, and Ward worry that the larger park will be more attractive to tourists and traffic would increase in their areas. Residents of towns on the Western Slope such as Granby and Grand Lake feel the Park Service is too restrictive in its approach to

growth. They would prefer to develop their tourist industry to the greatest extent possible. There are, of course, locals who disagree. However, the residents that favor park expansion are not as vocal or as well-organized as expansion opponents.

Martin Sorensen, doubts that H.R. 8360, introduced over a year ago, will ever be voted on. He feels "it has taken a backseat to priority issues" and may never be reported out from the House Interior Committee. Rep. James Johnson (R-Colo.) whose district encompasses three-fourths of the expansion area, isn't prepared to support Wirth's bill. Furthermore, neither Sens. Gary Hart nor Floyd Haskell, both Colorado Democrats, have plans to introduce legislation supporting the bill this session. Sorensen believes that its rein-

roduction in the next session of Congress "is doubtful."

So the splendor of the Never Summer Mountains remains in limbo. Being of small size it cannot command much attention. And the people who have enjoyed the Never Summers and its brand of solitude, hope that too much attention isn't brought to it. Attention, they fear, will bring with it crowds of backcountry users ultimately compromising the area's beauty.

Yet there are others who say that this area, and others like it, are only safe as long as people knowing about them are willing to fight for them. Without some public attention demanding an active program for preservation, the grandeur that is part of the Never Summer experience could become only a pleasant memory.



NEARBY VALLEY CLEARCUT. Less than a mile from the roadless area of the Never Summers lies a valley denuded by the chainsaw and bulldozer. Its potential for wilderness has been forfeited.



REFRESHING SOLITUDE. The Never Summer Mountains provide a refreshing solitude and peace unknown in the other areas nearby. Bowen Lake, pictured here, lies near the crest of this north-south range of rugged peaks.

Salt Lake hearings

Miners want public lands

An Interior Department hearing on federal lands protected from mining activities was dominated by mining interests in Salt Lake City Sept. 9-10.

While about four dozen pro-development speakers told the department why it should "unlock" certain federal lands protected from mining, only two representatives of environmental groups appeared to defend mining withdrawals.

An Associated Press reporter called it a "two-day assault on the federal government's public land policy."

The hearing was held by an Interior task force charged with reviewing the withdrawals of public lands from mineral exploration and mining.

A spokesman for the American Mining Congress said that withdrawals are leading to "a clear and present danger" of a "calamity of enormous proportions" in the availability of metals, minerals, and energy.

At parallel hearings held in Washington, D.C., Sept. 15, a spokesman for the state of Colorado proposed what he considered a compromise stand. The spokesman, Harris D. Sherman of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, suggested that more land could be made available for mining if the federal government established controls to protect surface resources.

"If stipulations to control mineral activities are designed for each area with the

uses and surface values of that area in mind," Sherman told the task force, "withdrawal of the land from all mineral entry will no longer serve a valid purpose."

The Interior task force was formed in response to a study conducted by two Interior Department aides and published in the *Mining Congress Journal* last year. Environmentalists criticized the study for exaggerating the amount of withdrawn acreage. They also defended the government's right to ban mining from public lands where the activity would impair other outstanding resource values (see HCN 1-16-76).

The task force is scheduled to submit a final report to Interior by Dec. 31.

Jan Johnson of the Utah Environment Center believes that while the task force and the mining industry hope to initiate a re-examination of public lands set aside in national parks, wildernesses, and other preserves, they will not be successful.

"If they really are forced to explain their intent, I don't think they'll get to first base with the public," she told HCN.

Earlier, Johnson was highly critical of the Interior Department for failing to notify environmental groups of the withdrawal hearings (see HCN editorial 8-27-76).

Synfuels face congressional dead end

The House Rules Committee has cleared the synthetic fuels commercialization loan guarantee bill, and the full House should take up consideration of it next week. Passage seems unlikely in light of the brief time before the end of the Congressional session on Oct. 2 and in the face of a highly critical report issued by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

GAO said that synthetic fuels production "is not cost-effective in that the total cost of output is not price competitive with foreign oil." The report says instead that certain conservation measures are "by far the most effective way to produce energy and therefore should have the top priority for government financial assistance."

The conservation measures cited by the GAO are: auto fuel economy standards, energy efficiency goals for consumer pro-

ducts, and voluntary state energy conservation programs.

In addition, GAO recommended other energy supply-increasing technologies as being regionally more cost-effective than synfuels. These are geothermal energy, municipal waste combustion systems, solar power, and tertiary oil recovery.

In a policy statement entitled "Mining and Minerals Policy," the Interior Department argues that improved technology and management eventually could make oil derived from shale competitive with imported petroleum.

Nevertheless, GAO's strong opposition to the guarantee program seems certain to influence several votes on the House floor. Observers in Washington say that this, combined with a lack of time, may spell the end of the legislation for this session of Congress.



A Separate Place

Charles Jones, Sierra Club, San Francisco, 1974. \$14.95, hard cover. 143 pages. Photographs by Susan Friedman.

Review by Peter Wild

Psychologists say that almost everyone has his separate place. It may be a farmer's old easy chair, a teenager's bedroom, or a quiet corner of a park where an office worker regularly eats his lunch — any retreat where the individual feels one with himself and safe from the intrusions of the world.

Charles Jones' separate place is an area south of San Francisco, blessed by redwood forests, the Santa Cruz Mountains, and the ocean, and the fact that developers so far have been kept out. *A Separate Place* celebrates what one man sees as essential to the health of his life and, by extension, to the whole of society. He points out that the society seems bent upon destroying the special places that have to do with its ecological and psychological equilibrium.

In contrast to most of the country, Jones' place is a place where the processes of life are organic rather than mechanical. There is a comfortable disorder of scattered farms around the villages of Pescadero and La Honda, unending forests, and the nearby but infinite sea, and a way of living that allows for the electricity to go out for days at a time without the residents fearing the collapse of civilization.

And there are the people themselves, who still live in a web of mythmaking. Old man Mendicco, still remembered from the last century, who spoke "three or four languages but always swore in Basque," who one night commenced firing his rifle at the ceiling just to keep folks around him on their toes, and who, they say, once fell

down the well where he kept his treasure trove of wine hidden from his family.

And the inscrutable airplane lady, who for a reason nobody seems to remember, is the only person ever to fly a plane into town. It still sits in her back yard.

But *A Separate Place* is not a slick collage of charming Americana. Rather, it is the account of the love a man feels from his very bones for his home territory. To do it justice, the lover sees the realities and pains. Far worse than the frequent and at times amusing spats among the locals are the threats from modern society, moving in with heralded promises of instant dollars from motel complexes, Corps of Engineer dams, and the kind of commonplace suburbia that is spreading over most of America.

On weekends crowds from San Francisco are taking over the beaches, necessitating asphalt and public toilets and picnic tables, which in turn attract more crowds demanding more asphalt and public toilets and... Already some of the redwoods are dying, unable to breathe because the soil has been compacted by the feet of tourists.

There is no sense in wasting a thousand words on the photography of Susan Friedman. In the sensitive tradition of Sierra Club books, her studies offer a separate but parallel comment, as she shows a country road glistening after rain, a mossy cave, the interior of a house after a fire, but mostly the insights of peoples' faces.

Like Jones' prose, they enrich because they are detailed and profound. They are born of love for the subject and avoid entirely the claptrap and clichés of the nation's cheapening nostalgia fad.

A Separate Place is for those who respect themselves and the land they will pass on to others.



Shadow on rock.



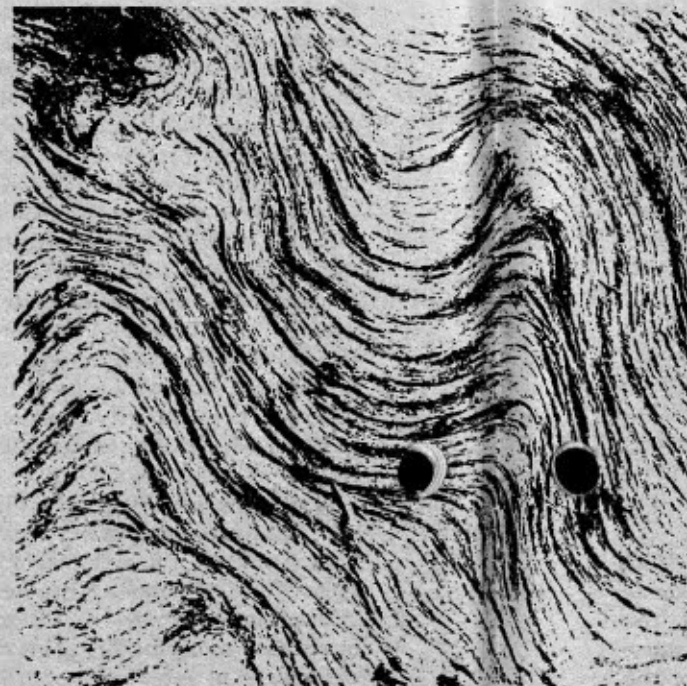
Bristlecone pine, timberline.



Bristlecone pine.

Judy Sumner has been interested in photographing outdoor time — long before she got her first camera at age 20. She's fascinated with white photography, where the elements tend to be reduced. "For together a lot of unrelated things," she says.

Sumner, who was born in upstate New York, has lived and worked in the mountains for nine years. Her goal — "to capture the tactile" on film. For more about her work contact Sumner at P.O. Box 7405, Park Hill Station, 80207.



Exposed ponderosa pine root.

Sept. 24, 1976 — High Country News-9

The language of wood

Photos by Judy Sumner



Springtime at Moccasin Creek

Out in the jackpines the wind spirit
Is singing in the language of wood,
And the trees sway on their brown hands
Where they crouch, listening, deep eyes closed.

The black dirt sleeps and dreams
Of the assimilation of the jackpines,
And the hunger of the earth
Is like the howling stomachs of black bear.

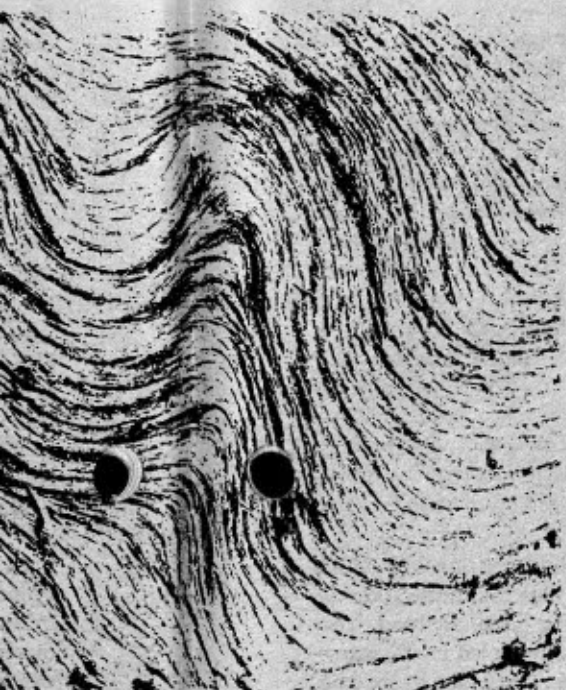
The snow folds its hands away.
Sunlight falls through the open door
Like a chopped tree, branchless,
Across this quiet table and suddenly

The forest reverberates with a thousand wings.

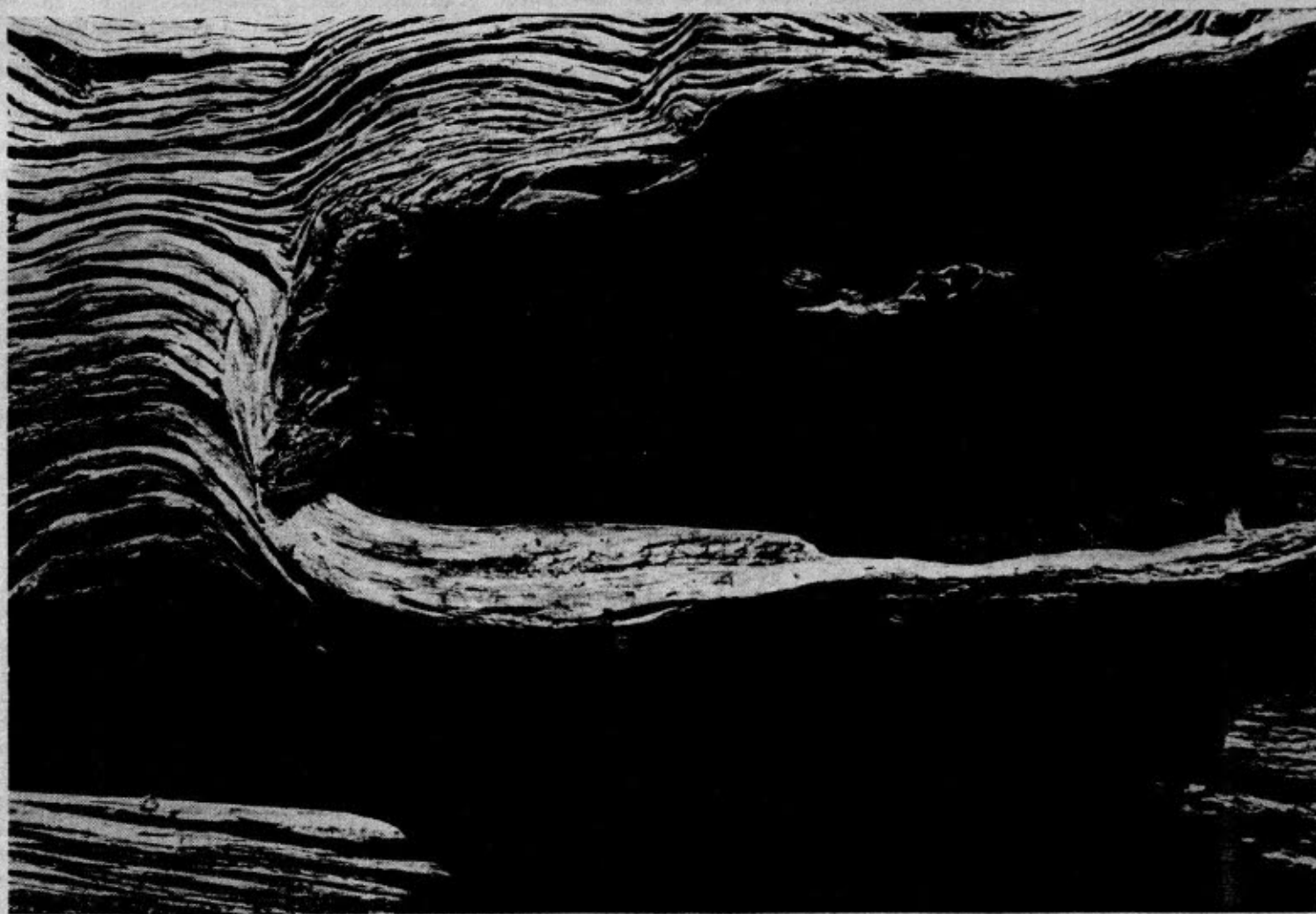
—Richard Huffstodt

interested in photographing outdoor subjects for a long
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things," she says.

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mer at P.O. Box 7405, Park Hill Station, Denver, Colo.



e root.



Fallen bristlecone pine.

10-High Country News — Sept. 24, 1976

Environmental objections Idaho rejects Pioneer plant

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has unanimously rejected Idaho Power Company's application to build the coal-fired Pioneer plant near Boise.

In the 3-0 decision, the commissioners noted: "Our primary reason for denying the application is that we are not satisfied that the plant is environmentally and ecologically acceptable in the proposed location." The plant site was to have been at Orchard, 23 miles southeast of Boise — the state's most populous and fastest growing region.

Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus, who had testified against the need for the 1,000 megawatt power plant, said, "I take no personal satisfaction in the Pioneer decision.

It is the signal for hard work. It is my hope that state and local governments, the public utilities, the private business sector and the citizens of Idaho can form a new partnership and agree on a comprehensive long-term response to the realities of decreasing physical resources and increasing costs of energy, associated goods and services."

The PUC decision was based primarily on siting considerations, not lack of demand for more power. Conservation groups in the state and other Pioneer opponents had argued that energy cutbacks due to rising energy costs and new energy conservation programs could eliminate the need

for the plant. The PUC rejected this argument.

"Based on the evidence before us, we must conclude that new generating capacity will be needed to serve our seemingly insatiable demands," said the PUC. The commission estimated that new generating capacity would be needed in Idaho by 1982 or 1983.

Idaho Power Co. President James Bruce told the *Idaho Statesman* he was disappointed with the PUC denial, but he was pleased that the need for additional generating capacity was acknowledged.

The Idaho Conservation League, a statewide environmental organization which had been fighting Pioneer for two years said, "We will oppose any new thermal power plant construction until the people of Idaho have been presented with a comprehensive statewide energy conservation plan, and until the PUC has enacted substantial rate reform measures."

Margie Boylan of ICL told the *Statesman*, "We would have preferred it if the commissioners would have gone further into the need aspect. But we now have time to give energy conservation a chance to work and show it is a feasible alternative before a new application can be processed."

The PUC made no mention of this year's public advisory vote on the Pioneer issue. In the vote, citizens in the three counties near the proposed plant site rejected the project by a 2 to 1 margin.

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

A Wyoming man in the Washington bureaucracy has been quietly, but without success, fighting plans to stoke a proposed Idaho power plant with Wyoming coal.

The destination for the coal, the proposed Pioneer power plant near Boise, has an uncertain future. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission unanimously rejected the Pioneer Plant application submitted by Idaho Power Company on environmental grounds. The PUC disapproved of the site near Boise, but the utility may try to build in a different location in Idaho and ship the Wyoming coal there. (See separate story on page 10.)

A lease for the coal — the second largest ever granted on non-Indian land — has been approved despite the warnings of Asst. Interior Sec. Jack Horton, a Wyoming native, that the land at the proposed mine site in Sweetwater County cannot likely be reclaimed because of the dry climate.

The preference right lease was granted to Rosebud Coal Co., a subsidiary of Peter Kiewit & Sons, Inc. Under the proposal, the coal will be mined by Black Butte Coal Co., a joint venture of Kiewit and the Union-Pacific Railroad.

The lease covers an estimated 51.5 million tons of federal coal beneath 14,900 acres of desert near Black Buttes, east of Rock Springs. Combined with private holdings, the mine would involve nearly 60,000 acres and 100 million tons of coal.

Interior Sec. Thomas Kleppe approved the lease this March, refusing to order environmental studies of the area even after Horton had advised him in a memo a week earlier of its frailty.

Horton pointed out that the area receives only seven to eight inches of rainfall a year, while scientists have established "that 12 to 13 inches of annual rainfall is necessary for adequate reclamation and revegetation."

An environmental study is planned for proposed coal development activity in the surrounding area, but Kleppe even refused to await that study, ignoring Horton's plea.

Not only would the granting of the lease be unwise, Horton warned, it would be illegal, violating that law that requires environmental impact statements to be completed before approval of major federal actions "significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." Horton underlined "significantly."

Horton added that approval of the lease would set a "dangerous precedent" for consideration of other lease applications, and would erode public confidence in the government's new leasing system.

"We cannot tell the public that we intend to proceed on a 'rational and prudent' basis — with serious interest in the environmental factors involved in increasing federal coal production — and then almost immediately proceed to 'cut corners' on our own program," Horton wrote.

Since the lease gives certain rights to the holder, Horton felt it should warrant an environmental impact statement rather than allowing the statement to accompany the company's mining plan, which it must submit to the department before breaking ground.

It turns out that the department does not intend to prepare a separate impact statement for the mining plan. Instead, the plan's effects will be included in the more general impact statement planned for the region — another "cut corner."

Colstrip decision awaits Cheyenne's

Although the expansion of the Colstrip power plant in Montana seemed a certain thing earlier this summer, the small Northern Cheyenne tribe just 15 miles south may have thrown an unsurmountable roadblock in its path. An announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last week says that the agency will not issue a final air permit to the Montana Power Co. for Colstrip units 3 and 4 until after a decision is reached on the tribe's request for Class I air designation. (See HCN, 7-16-76).

EPA says that "preliminary modeling results indicated that a Class I increment could be violated on the reservation by the proposed facility." Class I air designation under the Clean Air Act allows only minimal change in air quality. States or managers of federal land, such as Indian tribes, are authorized to request Class I air designation, but the Northern Cheyenne tribe is the first to make the request in the country.

The application by Montana Power Co. will be processed up to the point of a final decision and then held until the Northern Cheyenne decision is made. The tribe has not yet established a schedule for meeting EPA requirements for redesignation, according to Eugene Megyesy of EPA. If for any reason the tribe did not pursue the redesignation "expeditiously," EPA could ignore its request and grant Montana Power Co.'s air permit. Without the tribe's roadblock, Colstrip's permit would take only 90 days to process, Megyesy says.

The state of Montana approved the 1,400 megawatt expansion of the plant in a 4-3 decision June 25, and the decision has been appealed by the Northern Cheyenne tribe and the Northern Plains Resource Council.

Without the Northern Cheyenne roadblock, EPA would apparently have granted an air permit to the company. It announced Sept. 16 that Colstrip units 3 and 4 would meet Class II air quality standards. All of Montana is presently designated as Class II, which allows more degradation than Class I. EPA proposes a conditional permit, which requires a continuous monitoring system, use of low sulfur coal, and sulfur dioxide emissions lower than 585 grams per second. The state also required the monitoring system in its conditional permit.

Montana Power Co. has asked the agency to reconsider its decision that the facility is subject to the Class II standards, and no final decision has been reached on that request.

During 1975, the town of Colstrip did not

meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter. Megyesy, who is assistant regional counsel for EPA, says it isn't clear whether this was because of mining or of Colstrip's first unit.

The Northern Cheyenne tribe is apparently concerned about whether its request for Class I redesignation would prevent mining on the reservation, according to the tribe's newspaper, *Tsistsistas Press*. The newspaper quotes a state air quality official as saying mining could occur in Class I areas if proper precautions are taken.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

FORD PLANS A SHUFFLE. President Gerald Ford has plans to revamp what his opponent Jimmy Carter has called "Mr. Ford's jumble of energy-related agencies." The administration plans to form a Department of Energy and Mineral Resources and a Department of Environment and Oceans, according to *Coal Week*. The former would be made up of parts of the Federal Energy Administration, the Energy Research and Development Administration, the Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Departments of Commerce, State, and Transportation. The latter would combine the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

RAISING SAVING INTEREST. A bank in Seattle, Wash., is rewarding customers who conserve energy by offering them lower interest rates on mortgage and home improvement loans. Customers who install extra insulation, heating system improvements, or energy-saving appliances, or those who purchase autos getting 25 miles to the gallon or more in highway driving will receive credit points toward lower interest rates, according to *Conservation News*.

STRIP BILL GOOD AS DEAD. For the second time, the House Rules Committee has thwarted federal strip mining legislation, probably killing the bill for this Congress. The committee voted 9-5 to refuse to schedule floor action for the legislation. It took action against a similar bill in June, claiming the bill was too much like a bill already vetoed by President Gerald Ford to merit consideration. A two-thirds floor vote before the Oct. 2 closing date of Congress would be necessary to suspend normal House rules and keep the bill alive.

BASICS ARE CHEAP. "Light and heat are basic human rights, and must be made available to all the people at low cost for basic minimum quantities," said the California legislature in an act which freezes the cost of "lifeline" quantities of gas and electricity at 1976 levels. Under the law, the cost of these basic quantities will not be raised until all other rates have risen an average of 25%. Utilities are authorized to cover rising costs by raising rates on household consumption above the "lifeline" quantities and on governmental, commercial, and industrial consumers. The new approach to rate-setting is designed to conserve energy and give residential consumers protection from inflation.

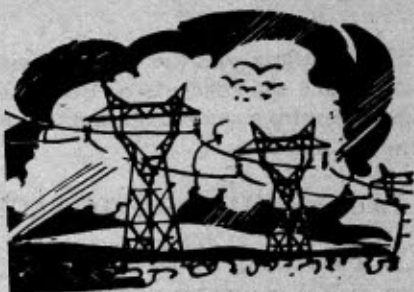
CRIME MUSHROOMING. The situation on the streets of Fairbanks, Alaska, has become "serious, if not outright dangerous," says Gov. Jay Hammond. The governor has just sent an emergency force of judges, prosecutors, and public defenders into the oil pipeline boom town. Crime in Fairbanks is mushrooming as the pipeline nears completion and workers are laid off, according to an Associated Press report.

The twain shall meet

by D. Sawyer Whipple

"It is not the function of our government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling into error."

—Justice Robert H. Jackson



In an effort to keep the government from falling into error, many people and organizations try to influence, by one means or another, the decisions of the federal bureaucracy. These people are most often called lobbyists, though other, less polite terms are sometimes invoked.

For most environmental groups, lobbying in the federal government consists largely of trying to convince Congressional representatives that a particular piece of legislation is actually good for the country, and won't result in the downfall of the free enterprise system as we know it. These efforts are usually confined to Congress, for several reasons. Congressmen are influential, easily identifiable, and, they can be pressured by voters with some success.

However, there is in Washington another vast category of decision-makers largely ignored by both industry and public interest lobbyists — the much-maligned bureaucrat.

Bureaucrats, for the most part, deserve to be much-maligned. It's my guess that 90% of them don't do any work worth lobbying for or against. There are, however, a few who not only do important work, but they do it conscientiously. These people, if approached properly, can provide not only a wealth of information, but can substantially influence the administrative outcome of programs legislated by Congress.

The problem is that most people don't understand how the bureaucratic decision-making process works. Presidentially-appointed cabinet members, assistant secretaries, deputy assistant secretaries, and others ad infinitum make decisions, based on the staff work prepared for them by lower level coolies. The appointees with the august titles are involved with so many issues that they rarely have time to go beyond the staff work for more information. Upper level

NEW HCN FEATURE

We're extending our reach. We now have a regular correspondent living in a center of energy development action, the Powder River Basin in Northeastern Wyoming. We first met correspondent D. Sawyer (Dan) Whipple while he was writing for *Coal Week*, an excellent McGraw-Hill newsletter. He's been studying energy development from the nation's capital for over a year. Now he's just shifted bases and set up his own free-lance writing business in Sheridan, Wyo. We did our best to talk him into making the move. Now we're pleased to be among his first customers.

Whipple has also worked as a Peace Corps volunteer, a federal bureaucrat, a political organizer, and a musician. As he puts it, he's "moved to Wyoming to become an individualist. The state may never recover."

Initially, he plans to offer a series of articles drawn from his experience in Washington, D.C. Later, he'll send us personalized reports on energy development and the West.

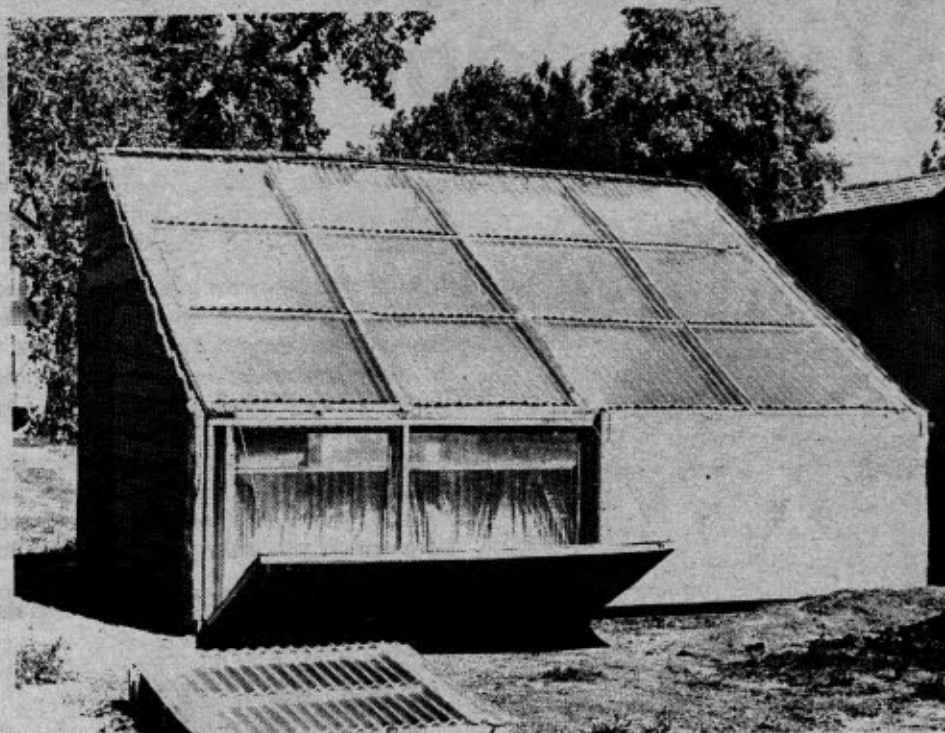
bureaucrats are usually very attuned to the political ramifications of a project, but not to substantive problems.

Usually, the process works like this. When a problem or desirable goal has been identified by an agency, it is assigned to the appropriate office. This office is usually headed by a high-ranking civil servant with a GS-18 rating (and an absolutely stratospheric salary). He then assigns it to the appropriate division head, who assigns it to an office chief, who assigns it to a staff member.

By now, the level of authority has descended out of the stratosphere, and the authentic work on the program is being done by a 24-year-old college graduate making \$11,000 per year. This GS-9 employee studies the problem, designs a program, draws up options for different courses of action and, finally, recommends a single course of action for his agency to take. If this GS-9 is a reasonably intelligent person, he now knows more about the program than his bosses do. When the project begins to ascend into the upper bureaucratic levels for approval, it will be edited, but remain substantively the same program that our coolie came up with.

Obviously then, it can be very useful for you — the lobbyist — to convince the GS-9 and, if possible, his immediate superiors, of the fundamental rightness and humanity of your point of view.

The most difficult thing about this is finding the right decision-maker to lobby. I'll deal with this in the next issue.



PLANT VEGETABLES NOW. Fifteen young people in Cheyenne, Wyo., built three solar heated greenhouses this summer as a part of the federally-funded Community Action Youth Program. Fifty-five gallon oil drums painted black and filled with water will be used to store heat inside the greenhouses for use when the sun isn't shining. The structures are expected to keep plants from freezing even when outside temperatures dip to 20 degrees below zero. All of the buildings face south and have six inches of insulation in the solid walls. Malcolm Lillywhite, an energy conservation consultant from Evergreen Colo., supervised the designing and building of the structures. Above is the south side of one of the greenhouses they built.

Photo and information courtesy of John M. Pena, intern for the Wyoming Outdoor Council, Cheyenne, Wyo.

ENERGY

1976

HCN

energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

NORTH DAKOTA WANTS MORE. The state of North Dakota has cancelled industry applications for leasing on 2,600 acres of state coal lands because the applicants offered only the six percent minimum production royalty required by state law. According to *Coal Week*, North Dakota Land Commissioner Richard Lommen has asked developers to pay 12.5% — the same royalty required on federal lands under the new coal leasing law. "We don't want to price ourselves outside the market," Lommen says. "But we would be in poor stead to lease our land out for half of what the federal government is asking for the same area."

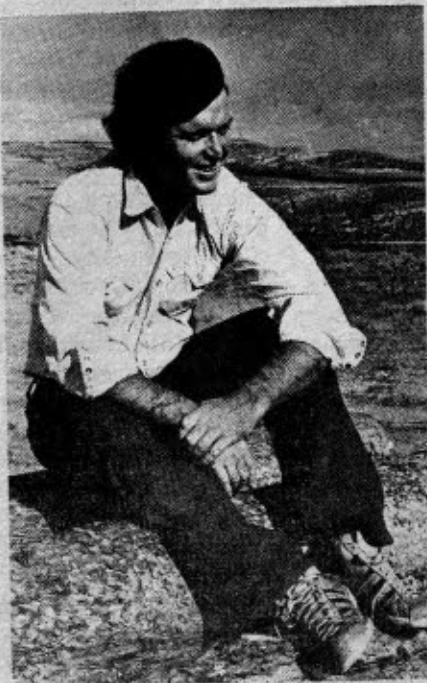
MONTANACATION. An industry spokesman has invented a new word to describe tax and environmental laws which he believes are discouraging coal development in the West — "Montanacation." The spokesman, Loren A. Williams of Coastal States Energy Co., told the Wyoming Geological Association meeting in Casper, Wyo., that tough restrictions which the state of Montana places on coal development are being spread by anti-coal groups "in an effort to Montanacate the Western coal industry."

MINERS LOBBY ON COAL TAX. In order to convince the state they need a share of coal severance and other energy-related taxes, 16 small towns in western North Dakota have banded together, according to *Coal Week*. The towns have been promised some help lobbying by an organization of mine operators, who apparently want to get their projects going without undue delay.

CHEYENNES TO TOUR SOUTH-WEST. Forty members of the Northern Cheyenne tribe in Montana will board a bus and head south this fall for a visit with the Navajos. The purpose of the trip is to give Cheyennes a firsthand look at energy development and its effects upon air, water, land, and Indian people. The groups plans to visit Peabody Coal Co.'s Black Mesa Mine in Arizona and the Four Corners Power Plant in New Mexico.

URANIUM MINES POLLUTE. "Significant exposure of the population in the active mining and milling areas may be occurring," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported in a study on radioactive gas in the air around the Ambrosia Lake, N.M., uranium mining district. The EPA study found concentrations of radon gas at Ambrosia Lake to be in excess of background levels. Other problems associated with uranium mining in the state were pointed out by EPA a year ago, when it released a study on water quality in the Grants Uranium Belt. The study said the levels of radium-226 and selenium in the water were "intolerable."

SLURRIES TO SLIDE PAST NEPA? *Coal Week* reports that Interior Department attorneys are quietly preparing a position paper that would be presented to Congress in an attempt to exempt coal slurry pipeline legislation from legal challenges and possibly from environmental impact statement review. The article points out, "Slurry interests, which already have several strikes against them over environmental issues, may lose big if an attempt is made to thwart the National Environmental Policy Act for their benefit."



Introducing: new columnist

12-High Country News — Sept. 24, 1976

Need a new tool?

Video-tape opens up county politics

by Glen R. Smith

As rural areas become the focus of land planning many rural residents share a common problem: How to communicate their ideas on planning and zoning to the county commissioners.

A unique video-taping process being used successfully in Aspen, Colo., may help to answer that question. By bringing the faces and voices of rural residents — via television — right into the chambers of government officials, land use planning in rural areas may better reflect the desires of residents living in those areas.

Katy Smith of Aspen has been in charge of the Pitkin County video communication project for three years. The project consists of Smith filming citizen groups from rural areas of Pitkin County. Citizens' complaints, questions, and ideas on land planning are video-taped and then replayed to the county commissioners. Then the commissioners make a tape in reply to the citizens. This, in turn, is played back to the citizen group.

Presently Smith is working with established caucus groups in outlying areas of Pitkin County. One of these groups, the Redstone caucus, created a 30-minute video-tape protesting the proposed site of the Placita Dam to be built in the Redstone area. The dam is proposed to supply water for nearby oil shale development.

Smith filmed the group's presentation. Maps showing the general area, pages of petitions against the dam site, and the actual proposed site were filmed. Overview shots were included to give an idea of how the proposed dam would destroy the environmental values of the Redstone area. The citizens "told how the dam would change the nature of the life there," Smith says.

TOO SMALL FOR AGENDA

The video-taping process has helped accomplish numerous changes initiated by county residents. According to Smith, the first tapes dealt with grievances which were too small for the county commissioners to put on the agenda. Some of the community problems brought to the commissioners' attention by video-tape were brush blocking vision on a roadway corner, signs needed to identify school zones, overhanging rocks which posed a motorist problem, and a broken culvert.

After the small problems were solved, some caucuses moved onto bigger problems like zoning. The Old Snowmass caucus, 15 miles down valley from Aspen, presented a Hollywoodish tape, complete with costumed actors, depicting how the Old Snowmass area had been before development had taken place. The film was an epic portrayal with characters dressed as Indians and miners to show how the land had been used.

The Old Snowmass group's desire was to show the county commissioners what the state of their land had been and how the caucus wanted it to remain. The video-tape presentation resulted in zoning to limit lot size to 160 acres in a prime ranching area where developers wanted smaller acreage zoning for residential housing.

Few of the tapes are so staged, nor are the tapes always initiated by rural groups. A coal mine being planned in Pitkin County is subject to reclamation procedures adopted by the county commissioners. Smith shot video-tapes of the area before the mining operation was to begin. A

year later she will return and shoot the area again, to see if the coal mine is abiding by the Pitkin County regulations.

Smith is now working on a video-taping of Colorado Western Slope inhabitants. She has been attempting to portray their feelings and perspectives on the increasing Western Slope growth problems caused by energy development.

Another project Smith will be undertaking is a 2½ hour segment explaining the Pitkin County Land Use Codes to the rural residents of the county. In addition, Smith

will be working with the county commissioners and the residents of Redstone to jointly develop a new planning and zoning map for that area.

BETTER THAN FACE-TO-FACE

Is this video-taping process as good as face-to-face communication? Smith believes in many cases it may be better.

Video-taping gives citizens a chance to voice their opinions on the local level. Films of a particular area can convey the

problems of that area to commissioners who might never have the time to view the area on their own.

The video-taping process also circumvents another problem of face-to-face communication. A trip into the county seat can be costly in time and money for rural residents. A three-hour drive into the county seat may even be more expensive than producing a 30-minute video-tape, which includes not just one but many residents' opinions. In fact the trip may not be worthwhile if so-and-so commissioner can't see the citizen that particular day he drove all the way into town.

But how much does the video-taping process cost? When one thinks of television, large national stations come to mind operating under a huge commercial budget. Smith's budget was \$3,500 for a year. This includes initial equipment investment of \$2,500 for a portapack deck, camera, microphone, connecting cords, tripod, lights, monitor, and 12 half-hour tapes.

Half of the funds for the project came from the federal Title I monies through Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, Colo. The rest of the funding came from Pitkin County and a few individual donors.

SIMPLE PROCEDURE

Video-taping is not a complicated procedure. Smith says learning to use the equipment was quite simple. "If I can do it, anyone can," she says.

To determine Pitkin County citizens' reaction to the project, a survey was conducted by John Foshult, an educational media consultant at CSU. The survey results have been partially interpreted by Foshult and Professor of Journalism at CSU, Dan Hilleman.

The survey showed that 95% of those responding believed the video-project should continue. In addition, a sizable majority surveyed indicated the local residents had control of the video process. This is a point which Smith believes is quite important. The video-taping should not be a tool used by the government, but one used by the people she said.

Another interesting finding of the survey was that the video-taping project was used by both ends of the economic spectrum, low-income as well as high-income citizens. This result may indicate the video-taping project can be successful in any community and achieve a democratic representation of opinions.

Hilleman emphasizes that a project of this kind can probably only be conducted by a resident of the community. An outsider, like a person from CSU for example, would not gain the trust of the residents in the community as rapidly, resulting in a less successful video-taping project.

The person doing the video-taping is likely the most important element in the process, Hilleman says. "You need somebody good at probing people's minds, not just someone behind a camera," he says.

The Aspen project is not finished. Originally set up as a six-month pilot project, the video-taping by Smith now carries on into its third year. The process is slowly becoming a part of the Pitkin County government.

A similar project has been proposed for Larimer County, Colo., this fall.

For more information on the Pitkin County video-taping project, contact Katy Smith, Box 51, Woody Creek, Colo. 81656.



POISONED COYOTE. Environmentalists oppose use of 1080 because it is extremely potent and, when misused, it kills other wildlife such as bobcats and raptors. Photo by David Sumner.

EPA threatens 1080 lawsuit

A U.S. attorney has proposed a compromise solution to the battle between Wyoming and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over use of the predator poison 1080. EPA alleges that Wyoming is continuing to import the poison although it was banned in 1972 and that the state agriculture department refuses to allow federal agents to inspect its records. Wyoming State Agriculture Commissioner Larry Bourret tells HCN that he did question the authority of EPA officials who wanted to see records when they contacted him last April, but, since legal action has been threatened, he refuses to say whether or not the state is importing the poison. U.S. Attorney James Castberg suggests the state offer a \$50 bounty for coyotes and encourage other states to do the same instead of using poisons. Asked for his reaction to the suggestion, Bourret told HCN that with adequate funding, a bounty program might be

successful. However, he estimates such a program would cost several million dollars in the West. He also questions what environmental groups' reaction would be to a program that would encourage killing coyotes everywhere instead of just where they are causing problems for sheep or wildlife. Some agriculturalists object to a bounty system because of the increased danger to domestic sheep and wildlife from hunters.

EPA banned interstate shipment of three predator poisons, including 1080, in 1972. Wyoming and several agricultural organizations in the state challenged the ban two years ago, and that suit is still pending. Other states which joined Wyoming in its battle against the EPA order include Idaho, South Dakota, Utah, New Mexico, and Montana. Wyoming asked the courts to allow importation of the poison while the suit was pending, but the state lost this attempt.



Western Roundup

HCN

Pueblo says development lease void

A land development that would have covered about one-third of a New Mexico Indian Pueblo's land is now dead. The Tesuque Pueblo Council says the federal government failed in its trust responsibilities to the pueblo and has demanded the government declare a 99-year lease "null and void," according to the *Albuquerque Journal*. Some opponents of the Colonia de Santa Fe development predicted that the influx of thousands of non-Indians on to pueblo land would overwhelm the small pueblo. The pueblo council resolution said the tribe did not get adequate legal and technical advice from the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the initial leasing negotiations and that the pueblo has not gotten the economic benefits that were promised.

Gut issue of timber reform ignored

While clearcutting court decisions and closure of sawmills make the headlines, the timber reform bill now being considered by a congressional conference committee has far broader implications. At stake is most of the de facto wilderness in the western United States, according to Brock Evans of the Sierra Club. One section of the bill passed by the Senate provides that timber can't be cut unless adequate reforestation is possible within five years and unless there will not be irreversible soil erosion. This "marginal lands" section could protect millions of acres of roadless areas in the West, Evans says. These areas might have big trees, but because of the climate, altitude, or geography, they can't be replaced for years. The bill passed by the Senate (S. 3091) includes a strong marginal lands section, but the House bill (H.R. 15069) does not. Another important section of the Senate but not the House bill provides for sustained yield. Sustained yield means not harvesting any more than the annual growth (see editorial, page 3). Conference committee members must complete action on their compromise bill before Oct. 1 if it is to be passed this session, according to Evans.

Horton predicts Indian water answer

An Interior Department task force is expected to propose at least an interim solution to the Indian water rights problem within the next month, according to Assistant Interior Secretary Jack Horton. The task force is studying the Winters Doctrine, which is the court case that most Indian water law is based upon. Speaking at the Missouri River Basin Commission Governors' Conference Aug. 4 in St. Paul, Minn., Horton said that until the Indian water issue is resolved, "We must agree at this time that there can be no serious development activities in the basin itself. . . ." Governors said at the conference that more federal funds should be given to states to help them plan and develop their own water resources. The governors also said states should be able to determine their own priorities for the use of their natural resources, including Missouri River Basin water.

Joint force to write phosphate EIS

The Interior Department has agreed to create a joint federal-state task force to write the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for phosphate mining in Idaho. The state input will no doubt substantially change the impact statement since Gov. Cecil Andrus, who repeatedly requested the joint effort, and all state agency witnesses testifying on the draft criticized the federal government's draft EIS. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game said it contained "a profusion of omissions, errors and misstatements relating to fish and wildlife resources." It accused the writers of the EIS of "semantic manipulation" which changed information submitted by the fish and game agency to soften the losses. The agency recommended that further permits be deferred until more adequate studies are conducted. Andrus testified that the statement was "one-sided and obviously incomplete," according to the *Idaho Statesman*. "The most serious concern I have . . . is the unwillingness of the authors to consider, as alternatives, changes in federal law to protect Idaho's environment and lifestyle." Farm Bureau, Idaho Mining Association, labor representatives, and others testified in favor of increased mining. A representative of the Idaho Farm Bureau said Idaho farmers could not economically compete in potatoes and sugar beets if they had to import phosphate into Idaho. Phosphate is a basic component of fertilizer.

Forest Service can't rescue McCall

U.S. Forest Service Chief John McGuire told residents of McCall, Idaho, that the Forest Service wouldn't change its sustained yield policy to assure a timber supply to a Boise Cascade sawmill that Boise Cascade threatens to close. McGuire met with McCall residents to discuss the threatened closure, which would lay off an estimated 110 workers. The company has said it is closing the mill because of a decreased supply of timber, but McGuire said, "It may be they are closing the mill because it is the least economical to operate." McGuire said he didn't think the Forest Service could make more timber available before the planned closure next June since it wouldn't comply with impact statement policies. McGuire did agree to review timber management plans for the two forests feeding the mill. An *Idaho Statesman* editorial asks Boise Cascade to postpone its closure decision until after the reviews are complete. The editorial points out that Boise Cascade could keep the mill open for one shift per day and still have enough timber from present supplies — if it were sincerely interested in retaining jobs for local people. However, the editorial says, "Boise Cascade seems to be interested in using the situation to press for a change in Forest Service sustained yield policy."



Elk photo by Rusty Gooch.

Savery-Pot Hook destined to hurt elk

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) still opposes construction of the Savery-Pot Hook Irrigation Project, despite a compromise which the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposed to reduce wildlife impact. The USFWS has released a report which concludes that little can be done to prevent or to fully compensate for the fish and wildlife species losses. The report recommends the project not be constructed. Since two endangered species of fish may be jeopardized, the agency says construction of the project, which was authorized in 1964, should not begin until critical habitat for the fish is determined.

Colorado and Wyoming game departments would "inevitably" have to reduce the elk and deer herds in the area by 3,000 head because of increased wildlife damage to crops, according to the report. The project would be located along the Colorado-Wyoming border near Baggs, Wyo. The only way to prevent the conflict between hungry elk and local farmers and ranchers would be for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to buy 16,355 acres of private land which could be managed as winter range. However, local farmers and ranchers are unanimously opposed to this idea, the report says. They are also opposed to allowing stream easements for fishermen's access. Only one of the two planned reservoirs would be suitable for fishing.

Copies of the report are available from the USFWS, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

Big Thompson moratorium sought

County commissioners in Larimer County, Colo., are expected to approve a six-month moratorium on vacation home rebuilding in the flood-ravaged Big Thompson Canyon, according to *Land Use Planning Reports*. Commissioner William Lopez told the *Denver Post*, "I worry that some of the plans we see today for buildings and roads may become man's handmade death traps 20 or 30 years down the road." A recent flash flood in the canyon killed at least 100 persons and caused millions of dollars in property damage.

Lone Peak proposed as 'scenic area'

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed establishing a 28,440 acre Lone Peak Scenic Area instead of a wilderness area in the Uinta and Wasatch National Forests in Utah. Environmentalists wanted more protection than such an administrative designation offers, saying it could be changed as the administration changes. The *Deseret News* had called for scenic area designation in its editorial because, it said, wilderness designation would result in overuse. As a scenic area, the Lone Peak area would be off limits to motorized vehicles; trees would be cut only to protect scenic values, control insects, or for public safety reasons; and no commercial recreation would be allowed. Environmentalists had wanted to include White Pine Canyon as part of the protected area, but the Forest Service excluded the area because of its potential suitability for downhill skiing. The Forest Service said that it would allow "no visual impact developments on any skyline peaks, including Twin Peaks." A ski tramway and revolving restaurant had been considered there. Meanwhile, Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) have jointly introduced the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1976 (HR 14542 and S. 3630) which would designate Lone Peak as a wilderness. Other Rocky Mountain areas proposed in the bill as wilderness include Pusch Ridge in Arizona and Sandia Mountains in New Mexico. The bill also calls for study of Holy Cross and Hunter-Frying Pan in Colorado, McGregor-Thompson and Mount Henry in Montana, and Rincon Mountain and Galiuro in Arizona.

DISTAFF CORNER

by Myra Connell

Sagebrush, the gray-green shrub so prevalent in our Western states, may be various things depending on the viewpoint of different persons.

To some ranchers it may be a bad weed, to be eradicated by swiftest means possible in order to leave room for more grass. To hunters it may mean habitat and food for antelope, sage grouse, and deer. The environmentalist sees it as food and shelter for many forms of wildlife and a nesting place for beloved birds. To the artist, sagebrush presents a challenge; the grays, greens, blues and tans, varying widely through the seasons, the curves and twists of the stems, give him a wide scope. For the craftsman, big sagebrush furnishes wood of unsurpassed beauty to fashion into attractive novelties, in variety limited only by the imagination. For the camper, it makes a quick, very hot fire.

Having grown up in the midst of the sage, I have always taken it for granted, as one will take familiar things. I hardly realized how little I knew about it until a chance remark focused my attention several months ago. In March, the local Audubon Society sponsored a tour of the sage grouse strutting grounds and it was very natural that the conversation turned to sagebrush. One person remarked that the big sagebrush (presumably *Artemisia tridentata*), came into Wyoming at the time of the Texas Trail Drives. This remark astonished me and I began delving into the controversial subject. I was astonished to learn that there are nearly 300 species of *Artemisia* in the world, about 65 in the United States.

The fragrant *Artemisia tridentata*, also called big sage, blue sage, and bitter sage, is found in abundance from Montana to Colorado and westward over the Great Basin. It is a hardy perennial shrub, varying from one to ten feet in height. Willis T. Lee, in *Guidebook of the Western United States*, says "the light grayish-green leaves . . . give color, or perhaps more properly, lack of color, to the plains and enhances their monotony."

Peggy Larson, in *Deserts of America*, calls *tridentata* the trademark of the Great Basin which gives the area a personality of its own. A part of this personality springs from the fragrance; its delicate pungency permeates the entire atmosphere where sagebrush is prevalent, unforgettable when once experienced, especially after spring rain.

Mrs. Charles Hoyt, writing of her first experiences after arriving in Wyoming (*Wyoming State Journal*, July 1, 1976) said, "I used to stand at the backdoor . . . and fill my lungs with the pure air, so often redolent with the pungent odor of sagebrush."

It is so characteristic of the West that persons raised here are apt to become quite sentimental about it. Wyoming people send sprigs of it to distant relatives at Christmas. Candlemakers specialize in the popular sage-scented candles, using carefully guarded trade secrets.

Lewis and Clark called it "southern wood," reason unknown. It is said to be "as American as the New England twang, the Southern drawl, the "Yobet" of the West, or "Youse guys" of Brooklyn. It is so appreciated that it is often cultivated in home gardens. Earl J. Larrison, in *Owyhee, the Life of a Northern Desert*, declares that the West would be poorer without it.

Later, I plan to reveal surprising things about sagebrush as medicine and cosmetic, and still later, details of its values as shelter and food for wildlife.

HCN Books

DESERT NOTES

Reflections in the Eye of a Raven

Barry Holstun Lopez



Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

GET 'EM WHERE IT HURTS. U.S. Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) says taxation on pollution might be more effective than regulations. Hart says the government should adopt a pollution tax system requiring industrial polluters to pay a tax or a fee on every unit of pollutant discharged into the environment. "Industries would feel a direct economic incentive to reduce pollution," Hart says. Critics say one practical disadvantage would be the fact that the optimal tax per pound of pollutant would be different for every polluter, according to *Air-Water Pollution Report*.

PEREGRINE FALCONS RETURN. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes that auto exhaust and DDT levels have been reduced sufficiently to risk releasing 30 peregrine falcons into the wild in Colorado and five Eastern states this summer. The peregrine falcon, which is classified as endangered, formerly inhabited areas east of the Mississippi River, but was killed off by DDT and auto exhaust by the early 1960s. Their numbers in the Rockies have also drastically dwindled in recent years. Last year 16 peregrine falcons were released, and 12 survived.

UNTAXING OPEN SPACE. A recent study for the President's Council on Environmental Quality concludes that assessing farm land less than land used for other purposes is only "marginally effective" in preventing its being converted to other uses. "If an owner wants to keep his land in open uses, but finds this financially difficult, the savings from differential taxation may prove critical," the study says. But it says people in such situations constitute only a "small portion of all those who are likely to sell their land." Some governments charge a retroactive property tax if the land is eventually sold for development. But the study says this penalty is effective only if an interest charge on the rollbacks is high enough. The study makes several recommendations for improving differential assessment programs. "Untaxing Open Space" is available for \$5.40 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Request number 041-011-00031-9.

by Barry Holstun Lopez, 1976, Sheed, Andrews & McMeel, Inc., Kansas City, 89 pages, \$5.95.

Review by Gary Nabhan

The news media often keeps us informed of the rare celestial events. Rare **terrestrial** events seldom receive so much attention.

It takes a perceptive "reporter" to show us wonder in the mundane. Such a writer, like Annie Dillard who wrote *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, for instance, sometimes has to depart from the customary style of natural historians to do so. Though a far cry from Dillard's frolicking contemplation, Barry Lopez's lean, dry tone also moves off the beaten track of natural history's literary tradition.

Barry Lopez is concerned with what the landscape does to us, for us. Through a series of odd scenarios and parables, he disorients us so that we can approach the desert on its own terms.

Notes brings you into contact with the desert's elements. A dry wind flows over your skin. You hear the sound of a running arroyo shifting courses in the night. A dustdevil appears as "a twisted thing coming up out of the ground," and sunlight is seen bouncing off a spider web. You enter into the sulphurous fumes of an isolated hot spring, and inhale.

Various voices carry you into the land's heritage: an arid land archaeologist of the future; the spirit of a Navajo rug; and an old woman returning to the god-forsaken schoolhouse of her youth, stuck "halfway between the town and the mines, thirty-one miles each way." Perhaps this abandoned, half-century-old school teaches us what time does to ill-placed human endeavors in the desert.

Other voices in *Desert Notes* are animal. Lopez uses animals as mythic crea-

tures, yet still catches bits of their behavior in their stories. Coyote, for instance, is disillusioned that he is destined to "hunt rabbits and step in traps as though I had no eyes," on account of the Shisa. Coyote watches the land change under the hand of the Shisa, and notes how they put nothing back. Encroaching upon the desert, the Shisa "had broken the circle and made it straight like a stick."

In perhaps the most stirring passage of the book, Coyote is told how the great noise and destruction of the Shisa (*Homo sapiens*, or something akin in mentality) will be silenced in the desert.

Barry Lopez illustrates why the deserts have been a profound source of inspiration through the millenia. Unfortunately, *Desert Notes* is now being flashily advertised as a magical mystery tour of the Don Juan genre. It is not so much this as a one-to-one reckoning with the desert, and its hold on the imagination. *Desert Notes* deserves slow, careful reading.

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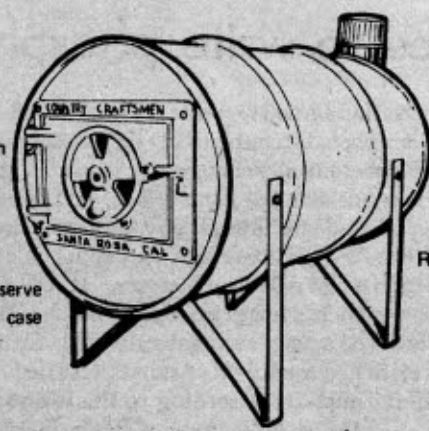
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HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Industrialist Oliver Gist
Made money hand over fist.
He thought it a joke
That his factories belched smoke
Till his customers ceased to exist.

DESIGN A STAMP

The Interior Department's annual duck stamp design contest is now open. Entries for wildlife art to adorn next year's Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp will be accepted until Oct. 15. For a copy of the contest rules and an entry form write: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ATTN: Audio Visual Office, Washington, D.C. 20240.

CANYONLANDS SEEK CITIZEN INPUT

The superintendent of Canyonlands National Park is seeking citizens' ideas in planning for the park's future. A series of public workshops in various locations is being planned for this fall. Workbooks are also being issued for citizens to fill out and return. If you have suggestions concerning where the workshops should be held, or would like a workbook write: Superintendent, Canyonlands National Park, Moab, Utah 84532.

SYNAPSE DOMES: Economical, energy efficient homes. Exclusive residences to greenhouses and barns erected and finished to your satisfaction anywhere in the Rocky Mountain area. All wood component panel shell kits shipped anywhere in continental USA — eight sizes. Solar heat, shake shingles, foam insulation optional. Blueprints available. Write or call for information and prices: P.O. Box 554-H, Lander, Wyoming. 82520, (307) 332-5773.

ERDA'S PLAN

The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) has issued Volume 2 of its National Plan for Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration. Volume 1 outlined the agency's research and development priorities. Volume 2, "Program Implementation," describes in detail all principal ERDA energy programs and those of other agencies. Copies of Volume 2, ERDA 76-1, are free from the Technical Information Center, Oak Ridge Operations Office, ERDA, Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.

NUCLEAR WASTE EIS

The U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) has issued a draft environmental impact statement on the effects of the temporary nuclear waste disposal program at ERDA's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Idaho Falls, Idaho. Currently high level radioactive wastes are converted to a granular solid and then stored in stainless steel bins in underground concrete vaults until a permanent storage method is developed. Comments are being accepted through the end of September, and then a hearing will be scheduled. For single copies of the statement, write Mr. W. H. Pennington, Director, Office of NEPA Coordination, Mail Station E-201, ERDA, Washington, D.C. 20545.

TRANSMISSION LINE SITING

A new study of the "Land Use and Environmental Impacts Associated with the Development of High, Extra High, and Ultra High Voltage Transmission Lines" is available from Cornell University. The study discusses the visual and esthetic impacts as well as the physical environmental impacts. The study could serve both state agencies and utilities interested in siting transmission lines. It suggests the types of maps that could be prepared to minimize both economic and environmental costs and weighs pros and cons of sharing right-of-ways with other utilities. Write to Clark H. Rowell, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 and ask for "Natural Resources Research and Extension Series, No. 6."

ALASKA OIL EIS

Copies of the draft environmental impact statement on a proposed sale of oil and gas leases in the lower Cook Inlet of Alaska are available. It covers a region about 110 miles long and 70 miles wide. Copies are available from the BLM Alaska OCS Office, 800 A Street, Box 1159, Anchorage, Alaska 99507.

WGREPO AGENDAS

Those who want to be on a mailing list to receive copies of the agendas for meetings of the Western Governors Regional Energy Policy Office (WGREPO) should contact their governors. The organization includes governors and alternates from New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Other requests for information can be directed to the WGREPO office at 4730 Oakland St., Denver, Colo. 80239. Telephone (303) 371-4280.

COLO. LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

The Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) has published its 1976 Legislative Analysis, which is available for \$4 from COSC, 1325 Delaware St., Denver, Colo. 80204. COSC rated 15 state representatives and two senators at 100% on key votes and four representatives at 0%. The group is now seeking input for state issues for the 1977 session. For \$10, individuals can join COSC and get the Legislative Analysis as well as a Legislative Bulletin throughout the session.

COAL TAXES

A 25-page report entitled *Taxation of Coal Mining: Review with Recommendations* is available from the Western Governors' Regional Energy Policy Office, 4730 Oakland St., Denver, Colo. 80239. The report includes a review of taxing procedures in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

CANDIDATES

The League of Conservation Voters has recently published a booklet entitled, "The Presidential Candidates: On Energy and the Environment." Political leaders, including Gov. Jimmy Carter and President Gerald Ford, are graded on fourteen different issues, and each grade is documented in-depth in the essays that follow. Each essay begins with a summary of the candidate's general attitude and performance while in office. For a copy of this 64-page booklet send \$2.00 to: League of Conservation Voters, 317 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

ARCHDRUID SPEAKS

David Brower, president of Friends of the Earth, will deliver a speech in Denver Oct. 7 billed as "an encounter with the archdruid." The speech will be preceded by The Good Earth-Art Show. The show opens at 6:30 p.m. and the talk starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$2 and will benefit Colorado Friends of the Earth. The event will be held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, Colorado Blvd. and Hampden (4101 E. Hampden). Tickets are available from FOE, 2239 E. Colfax, Denver 80206 or at the door.

WINDMILLING CLASS

New Mexico State University is offering a course in windmilling giving instruction and training in repair, installation, and maintenance of water pumping windmills. The course will start on Feb. 9, 1977, and is open to anyone.

RECLAMATION COMPARISON

A 33 page Guide to State Programs for the Reclamation of Surface Mined Areas is available free from the U.S. Geological Survey, 1200 South Eads St., Arlington, Va. 22202. The guide has a comparison chart of the extent of state programs and a list of state sources of information on strip mining reclamation.

WOOD STOVE TIPS

RAIN Magazine has put together a six page packet of information on wood stoves including what factors to consider when choosing a stove and how they can safely be installed. Of special interest may be a comparison chart showing prices and ratings for 10 brands of stoves. Addresses for distributors are given. For a copy, send \$1 to RAIN, 2270 NW Irving, Portland, Oregon 97210. Ask for RAIN paper No. 1.

PROTECTING FARMLAND

Urban Development and the Protection of Metropolitan Farmland, by George E. Peterson and Harvey Yampolsky is available from the Urban Institute, 2100 M St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037 for \$1.50.

GRAZING WORKSHOP

A regional workshop on public land grazing issues in the Rocky Mountain region will be held on Oct. 6-8 in Salt Lake City, Utah, by the Federation of Rocky Mountain States. Workshop organizers hope to open a dialog among ranchers, government, and public interest group representatives on such controversial topics as predator control, wild horses and burros, and federal grazing policies. If there is sufficient agreement, a regional policy paper will result. The workshop fee is \$40, which includes two dinners and one lunch. For more information, write to the federation at 2480 W. 26th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80211.

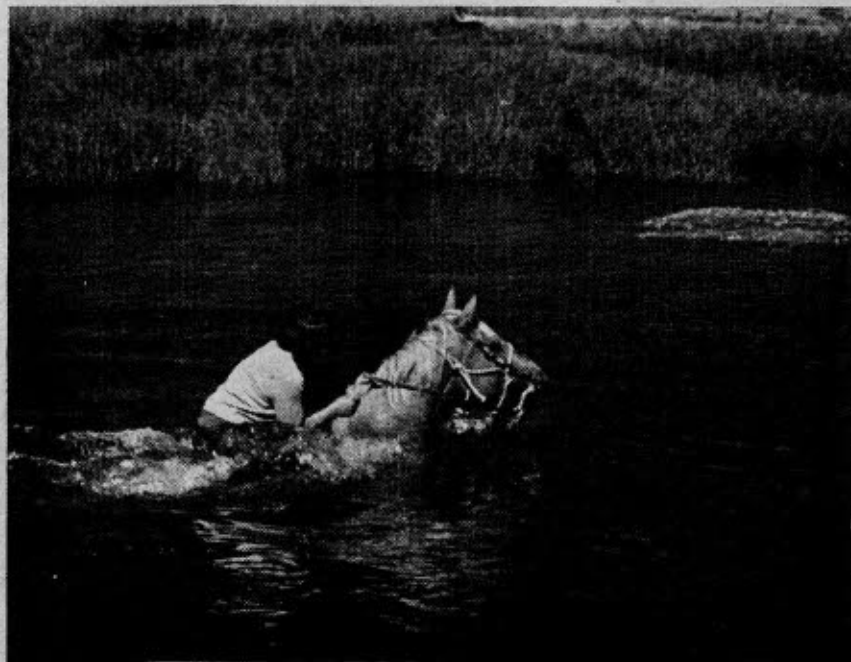
AG LAND PRESERVATION

A workshop combining professional expertise and local residents' input to attack the problem of the loss of agricultural land will be held Oct. 6-7 in Grand Junction, Colo. Sponsored by several local and state agricultural, governmental, and planning groups, the workshop will look at the local fruit industry specifically and generally at the statewide problem of losing agricultural land. Discussions with local residents will be videotaped for use in the workshop. For more information, contact the Rocky Mountain Center on the Environment (ROMCOE) at 1115 Grand St., Denver, Colo. 80203.

Classifieds

Service Directory. Starting with its issue of October 22, High Country News will offer advertising space in the form of a service directory. For details, write HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

Photo by Jeff Clack.



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16-High Country News — Sept. 24, 1976

For pools, hot water, and houses

Sheet metal firm sells 'Sun Grabber'

by Joan Nice

Don Erickson is a modest, cautious man. These qualities set him apart from most other solar energy equipment manufacturers eager to build a market for a new product.

Erickson's background is different, too. He is a contractor, and the building industry is traditionally cautious about new products, he explains.

So why did he enter a risky new field which he estimates will involve an initial investment of \$500,000?

He was bored, he says. He began solar research and formed a new company, Rocky Mountain Products, 2½ years ago during a construction industry slowdown. Now immersed in the problems and expense of developing a new product, he says he sometimes wishes he'd never seen a solar collector.

Erickson is president of a 30-year-old Denver, Colo., company called Rocky Mountain Air Conditioning which manufactures ventilation devices and other sheet metal products.

He says he isn't ready for a big push to "sell" the public on his solar collectors yet. He's still learning about the technology. Nevertheless, people are coming to Erickson asking about ways to use heat from the sun. For some of them, Erickson says, it's an "ego trip" — an emotional decision.

"People would just like to call up Public Service and say come get your meter," he explains.

In a company slide show, Erickson points out some of the mistakes he's made. In one case, his firm installed solar collectors down to the ground level on the side of a mountain home. After the first heavy snow, they realized several square feet of collector space would be covered for the rest of the winter.

Another problem, Erickson says, is transporting the glass-covered collectors. Costly experience has taught him to ship

the glass separately from the rest of the collector.

Despite his frankness, Erickson seems to attract business. He and his small firm have designed and built collectors for four homes and 16 other projects. His projects include the collectors for the solar heated

"You ought to get the kickback, not me."

and cooled National Park Service visitor center at Lovell, Wyo., a church and day care center called the Center of Hope in Westminster, Colo., and the John Burroughs Art School in St. Louis, Mo. His firm has also built a 100 square foot collector to be used for grain drying at Colorado State University.

An oxidized copper collecting plate is the major difference between Rocky Mountain Product's "Sun Grabber" collectors and most others on the market. The treated copper, which looks black, acts as a selective surface, Erickson says. It absorbs more light and re-radiates less heat than the black-painted metal commonly used in other collectors. Either air or water can be used to transfer the heat to a building or a storage tank.

The oxidized copper surface is expensive. But Erickson says its selective qualities compensate for its cost by eliminating the need for paint and reducing the amount of glass needed. While many companies use two sheets of glass to cover the collector in cold climates, Erickson says a single sheet of one-eighth inch tempered glass is sufficient for the Sun Grabber because the copper surface re-radiates so little heat.

Among the technical questions which Rocky Mountain is still exploring is how much efficiency the copper collector will lose with age. One company which uses the

same kind of surface says that after five years such collectors will produce only 80% of the heat they were able to produce when new.

Like most other solar manufacturers, Erickson guarantees the parts in his collectors, but not the performance of them. His prices are as high as those in the rest of the industry, too. Sun-Grabber collectors cost \$11 a square foot, not including installation, pumps, tanks, or controls. The total cost of an installed system is difficult to estimate because each job varies, Erickson says. The owner of a typical 2,000 square foot home in the Denver area would pay \$8,000 to \$12,000 for a system which would provide 50% to 75% of the home's heating needs, he estimates.

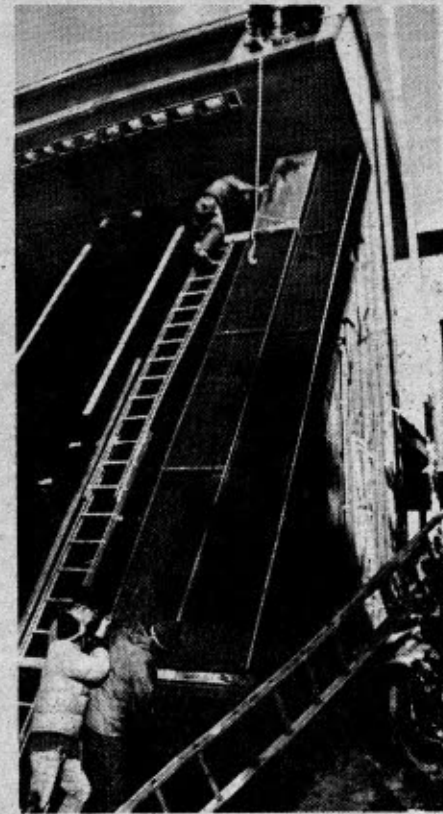
Rocky Mountain Product's most salable item is a solar domestic water heating system, Erickson says. He offers a system which includes 40 square feet of collector, a pump, and a storage tank. It is expected to provide about 70% of the hot water needed by a family of three in the Denver area. The cost is \$1,195 for a system that automatically drains at night to prevent freezing or \$1,395 for a system equipped with antifreeze.

The firm is in the process of testing a low-cost swimming pool heater, which they hope to market soon.

While Erickson is concerned about the amount of time and money it is taking to get the solar energy industry off the ground, he says his firm is not interested in any federal grants.

Erickson says the government's ideal role is one of developing information and technical literature for the public. And if the government is intent on giving somebody an incentive, it should be the consumer, he says.

"Give the incentive to the guy spending the money, through tax breaks," he says. "You ought to get the kickback, not me."



SUN GRABBERS. The collectors for this residence in Breckenridge, Colo., (now complete) were designed and built by Rocky Mountain Products. The 1,900 square foot house requires 670 square feet of solar panels to provide 80% of its heating needs.

A CONTINUING SAGA

When we did our survey of solar collector manufacturers in Colorado last winter, naturally, we missed a few (HCN 2-27-76). Rocky Mountain Products (discussed on this page) was one. And there are more to come in future issues of HCN.

Dear Friends,

Sometimes writing up the news becomes a secondary concern around the HCN office.

The paper's Achilles' heel was struck this week, and for awhile we had our doubts that we would get the paper out on time. Behind the all too vulnerable people who run HCN is an armored machine which we thought was indestructible — a Fairchild typesetter.

On Tuesday, in the heat of the battle to get the paper out, this steadfast warrior died. The autopsy revealed what appeared to be a minor problem — the drive belt on the machine had broken.

What appeared to be a simple problem, as always, lacked a simple solution. In an isolated town like Lander you don't just run down the street and get a new belt for your typesetter. As a matter of fact, a few phone calls revealed that we probably had the only green Fairchild (the model which requires a drive belt) left in the state.

A call to the parent company in New York revealed that Fairchild no longer made typesetters or replacement parts. The business machine division of the company had been sold to

another company which had also given up manufacturing and repairing typesetters.

Throughout the crisis, our business manager and typesetter (the person who sets type, not the blasted machine) kept a cool head and some pretty crazy hours. Mary Margaret sneaked into the local paper's typesetting room during the noon hour when the machines weren't in use and hammered out our paper in record time with remarkably few errors. Our thanks to the Wyoming State Journal for putting up with us and to Mary Margaret's fingers for holding up.

Meanwhile, back at the HCN office, our handy man, August, tried to glue the severed belt back together. Using some glue guaranteed to bond any-

PIONEER NIXED!

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has unanimously rejected the proposed Pioneer coal-fired power plant near Boise. See story on page 10.

thing together in seconds (in case of spillage, call a skin grafter) he managed to reconstruct the odd shaped belt (a grooved rubber band, much like a miniature fan belt for a car). The bandaged belt almost worked. The machine rattled, roared, limped along, and then collapsed, again. Incidentally, the glue held, but the rest of the worn belt collapsed.

At the other end of town, Bruce had borrowed a smooth rubber belt from a retired UPI reporter's vacuum cleaner. The belt wasn't at all like the original part, but it was all he could come up with in his tour of auto parts stores, machine shops, a typewriter repair shop, and several friends' basements. A stroke of luck — the vacuum belt fit!

The jury-rigged typesetter (with more than a little help from our favorite jury-rigger, Charles Nations) is now — cross your fingers — working. Hopefully, we'll be able to type this last piece of copy and put the paper to bed. Then we'll put ourselves to bed, ending what our friends refer to as our biweekly crisis.

—the editors

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