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# High Country News

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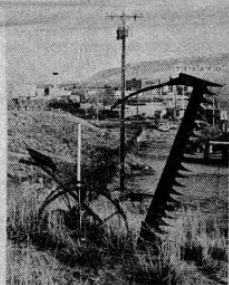
## In the News

### ROUNDUP 2

Kaiparowits coal swap... "New" Anaconda... Overthrust wildlife... Farmers fear Garrison... Funding rural electric lines... Wood stoves go catalytic? ... and more.

### FARM CREDIT 6

Rural banks used to count farmers among their favorite customers; but today, their credit is drying up faster than water in this year's drought.



Mike McClure

### PHOTOS BY... 8

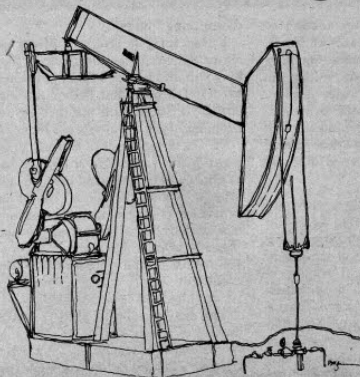
Free lance photographer and frequent HCN contributor Mike McClure presents a portfolio of Wyoming pictures.

### POWER PLANNING 15

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# Blowing it: 'ecotage' in Jackson Hole



by Dan Whipple  
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JACKSON, WYO. — Around midnight in late July of 1979, three people got into a pickup truck and drove the 18 miles from here to Kelly, Wyo., where a seismograph crew had parked its equipment for the night. One of the three drove, the other two carried wire cutters, day packs and emergency bivouac gear.

The driver dropped the other two off a quarter-mile from the seismograph crew's site, which was within Kelly's town limits. The driver left with instructions to return and pick them up in an hour.

Plans went awry, however. The two saboteurs, very nervous, waited in the bushes to make sure that no one was on the site. Shortly after their arrival, a night watchman drove up in a pickup with a camper "hell on the back." The two waited in the bushes about two hours to be sure the watchman was asleep in his truck. Then — well after midnight — one person stood guard, while the remaining operative cut seismic cable for over two hours.

Because of the delay, the two saboteurs missed their rendezvous with the driver. The driver, following previous arrangements, went back to town. The night watchman never woke up. After they had cut everything they could, the two put "healthy doses of sugar" into the vehicles' gas tanks. Then they walked down the main Kelly highway. They went to the Gros Ventre campground near Kelly and called another friend to come for them.

It was nearly light. While they waited, two police cars sped by on the way to Kelly. Just behind the police

cars came the saboteurs' ride.

Despite the apparent interest of the police, the incident was never made public, and no arrests were ever made.

The preceding may sound like an extract from Edward Abbey's novel of "ecotage," *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, but it is not. This incident and the others in this story are true. They were the work of an organized group of saboteurs trying to discourage or prevent oil exploration and drilling on the Bridger-Teton National Forest around Jackson, Wyo., and in wilderness and potential wilderness in the area.

Environmental sabotage — or ecotage, as it is sometimes called — is nowhere near becoming a standard tactic of the environmental movement. There have been some acts of civil disobedience, notably in the anti-nuclear movement, but clandestine conspiracies to destroy private property have been virtually unheard of — Abbey notwithstanding.

The emergence of sabotage as a tactic has caught most of the authorities and mainstream environmental groups off guard. Police in Jackson characterize the events in that area over the past three years as "vandalism," a term which connotes random, rather than planned, destruction. Environmental groups all oppose the use of extralegal means of protest.

Ken — a pseudonym — is in his late 20s, a construction worker and a member of the Jackson ecotage organization. He was involved in various environmental organizations on the West Coast before moving to Jackson. He said, "There are a lot of reasons for sabotage. Different people have different reasons. Some people are simply

angry and frustrated and threatening to lash out because they see things occurring — more roads, more timbering, more jackasses in Chevy Blazers tearing up the countryside.

"Then there are people who have tried to work within the system and see it not succeeding — they see all these things happening anyway. They feel it's a last resort.

"When it comes to protecting the last remnants of wilderness in the lower 48 states, anything you do is justified. There is a time and a place for legal action and certain things can be accomplished. But when you've exhausted the legal channels and all you can do is sit on your butt and watch the bulldozers come in, you have to decide whether what you're protecting is worth direct illegal action."

According to Al Reuter, mineral specialist for the Bridger-Teton National Forest, there are a total of 28 applications for drilling permits in the forest. In addition, virtually all of the forest has been leased for oil and gas. Some of these leases have what are known as "no surface occupancy" clauses that, to varying degrees, restrict the amount of access a company may have to its lease tract. It is with these clauses that the Forest Service hopes to protect the wilderness characteristics of the land, rather than by simply refusing to lease environmentally sensitive tracts. A recent U.S. Interior Department solicitor's opinion indicates, however, that the extensive use of these clauses — as by the Forest Service — may be illegal.

The oil industry has recently become much more interested in drilling in the

(continued on page 10)

## Dear Friends,

The meadowlarks are back; yellow violets are abloom; May Day is right around the corner; and a good number of folks around town are lacing up their sneakers and sneaking in the miles.

The spring warmth is certainly attractive. But an even greater lure for many of us is the not-so-distant, ever-so-challenging, legendary June fling — the High Country News Footrace. It's our fifth annual, this year, with the traditional five-mile scenic Lander loop, up to Mortimer Lane and back down Sinks Canyon road to the city park. But, strategists take note, there's a new twist.

Frustrated by our failure to ever win one of these things (even after hiring that skinny, vegetable-eating jogger from the West Coast), we've come up with a new entry category — for teams. For us, it's a chance to maximize our mediocrity. For others, we're hoping it'll inspire some cooperative spirit with some wacky surprises.

Here's what you do. Find two other people sharing some common thread — the same family, same town, same cause, same drink — enter the race as a three-person team, and pit your sum race times against the other trios'. Use your team spirit to lighten those sometimes unappealing training runs. Consider coming to the race in a symbolic costume. And if you're speedy enough, collect a very special prize crafted by our local potter. Beware, however. Besides the HCN trio, there'll be stiff competition from the local steel millers, merchants, high schoolers and, hopefully, senior citizens.

Team members will still qualify for the usual array of individual categories, including youngest and oldest finisher. There'll be a walkers' race, a separate footrace for the little ones, a keg courtesy of the Hitching Rack, and of course, best of all, the after-the-race, in-the-park, pot luck dinner.

The date is June 13, six p.m. (Lander time), in the local park. So singularly or in triads, we hope to see you here.

(Inflation, incidentally, hasn't upped the \$1 entry fee. And rumor has it that bringing a few extra dollars could net you a brand new High Country News T-shirt, available only that evening.

— the staff

## Western Roundup



### N.D. farmers fear condemnation

Mike McClinton

Fearing federal condemnation of their farmland, a group of North Dakota farmers are pressuring their county officials to withdraw from the controversial Garrison water project.

The latest proposal calls for irrigating 250,000 acres of farmland and supplying drinking water to a dozen North Dakota towns with diverted Missouri River Basin water.

"They're keeping things so secret nobody knows what's going on," said Darwin Fisher, sunflower farmer from Ypsilanti and organizer of the group, Save Stutsman County. The group is asking county officials to withdraw from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, the 25-county body that is promoting the project. Four other counties near Jamestown have already begun withdrawal proceedings from the district.

"None of this does anybody any good," said Dick Fenske, assistant administrator for the conservancy district. Fenske blames the farmers' opposition on a wildlife mitigation plan prepared by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that would replace habitat flooded by the Garrison project with private farmland not in production. "They're the culprits in this whole

damn thing," he said.

Fisher said his group is concerned about the mitigation plan, which they fear will affect up to 17,000 acres and over 100 farmers. But Fisher has also sharply criticized the project as uneconomical and a "waste of tax money."

"If the farmer has the capital for irrigation investment...he should be free to undertake irrigation on his own, as a private business decision," the group said in a press release. "Taxpayers, however, should not have to pay an outrageous price of \$3,320 per acre, or \$830,000,000 total irrigation development cost, simply to bring water to a relative handful of landowners."

The district's Fenske said the withdrawal efforts by Stutsman and other North Dakota counties will not affect the district's legal right to continue taxing those counties to pay for construction of the Garrison project. But Fisher, who says farmers have been "kept in the dark," plans to follow the withdrawal effort with a publicity campaign to "counter the blind propaganda issued by the district."

"We don't intend to spend the next 20 years worrying about the day the federal marshals will knock at the door to tell us our land is being taken for the Garrison project," Fisher said.

## Utah coal swap rouses varied foes

In the continuing saga of coal development on Utah's Kaiparowits Plateau, Utah Power and Light is trying to trade its preference lease applications in the area for federal coal leases in central Utah's Uinta coal region, including the coal-rich North Horn Mountain. However, two government agencies and at least one other coal company don't like the idea.

The North Horn tract, containing over 100-million tons of recoverable coal, is the area that UP&L is primarily interested in. However, in a letter to one of the Interior Department's Regional Teams, the U.S. Geological Survey argued that, although UP&L's Kaiparowits lease applications contain commercial quantities of coal, the de-

posits can't be marketed competitively when the cost of transportation is included.

Meanwhile, the General Accounting Office, which does research under Congress' direction, reported to the Interior Department that the proposed swap would mean non-competitive leasing of a prospectively valuable lease. North Horn Mountain. GAO said that UP&L should be offered the opportunity, along with other bidders, to buy the tract in a competitive lease sale.

Getty Oil agreed with both USGS and GAO and urged Interior Secretary James Watt not to approve the swap. Watt expects to issue a decision by mid-May.

## Wildlife study stops oil suit

BUFFALO, Wyo. — Wildlife advocates meeting here last weekend have backed off a threat to sue the federal government to block oil and gas development in the Wyoming Overthrust Belt.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation met with Bureau of Land Management officials and representatives of Chevron U.S.A. and Amoco, two companies currently building natural gas sweetening plants near Evanston, Wyo. The energy companies agreed to discuss a wildlife study and management plan for the Overthrust region; in return, the WWF is not filing suit to force the BLM to write a complete Environmental Impact Statement on the Overthrust Belt.

BLM officials had previously written only environmental assessments on the two sweetening plants; the assessments declared there was no significant impact from the plants. Wildlife advocates said transportation routes, population, and related developments threatened deer populations and bald eagles nesting in the area.

"I'm cautiously optimistic" about the wildlife plan, said Ron Smith, a WWF member from the Evanston area. Representatives from the group and company officials are meeting this week to discuss the WWF proposal for a three year study leading to a wildlife management plan.

BLM and company officials have repeatedly said that the environmental assessment was thorough and an impact statement was not necessary. A supplement to the assessment changed the route of a proposed rail line to avoid the most sensitive eagle nesting area. In addition, city officials from Kemmerer and Evanston wrote to the WWF asking them not to file suit, claiming the delay of such litigation would do their communities serious economic harm.

Smith said it was up to Amoco, Chevron and the BLM to react to the proposed plan, and that the WWF, backed by attorneys from the National Wildlife Federation, were ready "for any possibilities."



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## Big Horn weeds to taste Tordon

Convinced that a groundwater contamination incident last year in another part of Wyoming would not be repeated, the federal Bureau of Land Management has approved the use of Tordon, 2,4-D and another herbicide in Big Horn Basin on the Montana border.

Local officials in the four-county watershed will begin both aerial and hand spraying this summer, eventually treating some 600 acres over a 9 million-acre-area to control "noxious" weeds.

The use of Tordon aroused concern last summer when the herbicide began appearing in domestic well water in the Wind River foothills of Fremont County, following a similar weed control program.

But officials from Dow Chemical told the BLM they're convinced that unusual circumstances in Fremont County, including a unique geological structure with groundwater aquifers exposed to the air, "would not expect to be duplicated again or in other areas of the state."

Fremont County weed control officer Lars Baker agrees that while he still does not have complete data on the incident, it was probably an isolated occurrence. "I believe Dow is correct," he said.

BLM Worland District manager John Kwiatkowski is also confident that the agency's extensive environmental review has covered all possible impacts of the spraying, and that application strategies discussed at a Basin-wide meeting this week would ensure a safe program.

Critics of the herbicide spraying are still seeking alternative biological and physical control methods — the economics of which, said Kwiatkowski, remain unattractive.

## Tongue River dam gets coal bucks

A dam in southeastern Montana will be the first beneficiary of a water development program that will tap Montana's coal tax trust fund.

The state legislature voted in its closing days to use \$10 million in coal tax revenues to back bonds which will pay for rebuilding the weakening Tongue River Dam. The old earthen dam, safety experts say, could burst under 68-year flood conditions (that is, flood conditions likely to occur in the area once every 68 years).

The \$10 million would mark the first expenditure from the trust fund under Democratic Gov. Ted Schwinden's water development program, which was also approved by the legislature in April. Under the program, trust fund dollars can be used for water development, but a three-quarters majority of both legislative houses must approve major projects.

The Tongue River Valley is a rich agricultural area; the rebuilt dam would be larger than the present structure, allowing expanded agriculture and adequate water to fulfill a compact with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, whose reservation lies below the dam. Coal and water sales, coupled with federal funding, may make the trust fund money unnecessary.

## Missoula air scrub tags woodstoves

In an effort to reduce Missoula's air pollution by as much as one-third, a citizens task force is zeroing in on the city's biggest particulate polluter — residential fireplaces and wood burning stoves.

But the panel's recommendations call mainly for voluntary controls, and its proposed stove efficiency standards are based on a new technology that is both costly and untested.

Particulates, along with carbon monoxide, have long plagued the Missoula airshed. The valley air quality frequently falls short of federal health standards, and recent studies show young persons in Missoula are particularly susceptible to lung ailments caused by high particulate levels.

Most of Missoula's particulate problem is attributable to wood burning stoves, which in recent years have dramatically risen in popularity. Over one-half of the city's residents heat their homes with wood (up from one-third in 1977), while one in four residents rely solely on wood for heat (up from only 5 percent in 1977). As a result, some 13,000 wood burning homes in the valley now generate 53 percent of Missoula's airborne particulates.

Much of that pollution is unnecessary, the citizens panel found, and can be reduced by simple steps taken to burn wood more efficiently at higher temperatures.

Aside from encouraging proper burning techniques, the panel also found it necessary to set new performance standards. Most stoves now emit 20 grams of particulates for every kilogram of fuel burned. The proposed standard would restrict emissions to 10 grams per kilogram.

To achieve the new standard, which would be enforced by a new ordinance only if voluntary measures fail, many stoves would require a mechanical retrofit. (Even among new stoves, only a

top-of-the-line \$6,000 model meets the 10g/kg level.)

Today, the only devices being marketed to reduce a stove's particulate emissions are costly, of questionable efficiency and have not been fully tested.

One device known as a catalytic converter mounts directly on a stove's flue and recirculates the gases. The manufacturer is claiming the converter will both decrease emissions and increase fuel efficiency.

But, said David Feffer of the Missoula County Health Department, "Although they're talking about a 50 percent reduction, I've seen no actual test results and I don't think they've done them yet."

The converters are also untested by federal agencies. Charles Chancellor, district director of the Consumer Products Safety Commission in Denver, said he hadn't even heard of the converter. Chancellor also noted that his agency was only now proposing new wood stove safety rules that would set standards for installation directions.

Safety is another unknown with the new converter. It can raise air temperatures around a stove to 1,700 degrees F, "way too hot" for a home, said Feffer.

"We're also not sure about the operational life of the converter," said Feffer. And finally, purchasers face problems from the converter's one known factor — its price. A new converter is selling for \$350.

The citizens panel is also recommending that the standard used to trigger air pollution alerts be lowered from 200 micrograms of particulates per cubic meter of air, to 150 micrograms. The drop would roughly double the present average of 20 alert-days a year; during alerts wood stove burning is restricted.

The panel's recommendations are now being considered by the local air pollution control board.

## Rural lights dim

Arguing that the agency has fulfilled its purpose, the Reagan administration is proposing to suspend low-interest federal loans for the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The consumer utilities enjoying the special loan programs say the cut will mean "substantially higher" utility bills for rural consumers, and are pleading for special exemptions from the administration's budget trimming.

The REA was set up in 1936 to string electric and telephone lines to the nation's rural areas, largely neglected by commercial utilities because of the higher cost of servicing sparsely populated locales.

Hundreds of non-profit, consumer-owned utilities were formed and given access to commercial loans guaranteed through the Federal Finance Bank, as well as two percent federal loans from a designated revolving fund.

The administration is proposing to cut off co-op access to the bank, forcing them to seek private loans directly without federal guarantees, and to raise the revolving fund's interest rate to five percent while reducing its total loan budget.

Those steps, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will cost rural electric consumers over \$6 billion in the next decade.

The association, which claims its 1,000 member utilities service more than 25 million Americans, estimates the average customer will have to pay roughly four dollars more each month for electricity — on top of rates the association says are already 12 percent higher than commercial utility bills.

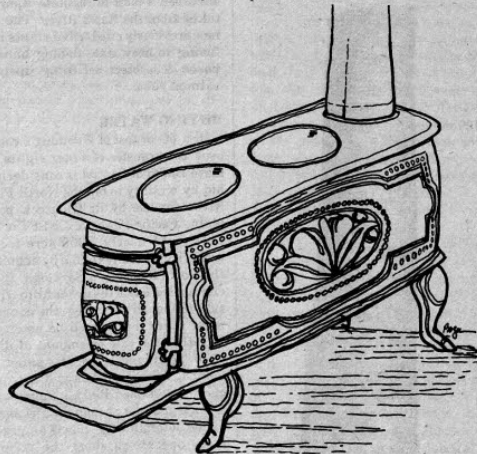
Besides higher costs, the association is further arguing that the administration's proposed \$700 million budget for the revolving fund is some \$500 million short of the rural utilities' needs next year, and that, in some instances, service will be unavailable at any cost.

While the national co-op association is opposing all of the proposed program changes, several state associations would accept the increased five percent interest rate. "We're willing to take our lumps along with everybody else," said Wyoming Rural Electric Association President Bob McClurg.

But all of the Rocky Mountain region associations are demanding continued access to the Federal Finance Bank guaranteed loans. Dick Easton, general manager of the Colorado Rural Electric Association, which serves some 250,000 electric meters covering a quarter of the state, said he didn't understand why the REA alone was cut off from the bank, which serves 26 other entities.

Easton said special consideration even for continued two percent interest loans should be given for "hardship" cases, such as the Southeast Colorado Power Association, which has fewer than two customers in each mile of powerline. (The national average for rural areas is 4.6 consumers per mile; in urban areas, the average is 35.8 customers.)

Both Easton and the Wyoming association's manager said affordable alternative financing may be obtainable, but that the administration's proposed October 1 cut off date did not leave them enough time to develop those alternatives.



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## Western Roundup

### Rep. seeks halt to oil search in Bob

U.S. Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mont.) is planning to ask Congress to prohibit oil and gas exploration in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness area. Several hundred lease applications and at least one seismic testing permit are being considered by the Interior Department for the 1.5 million acre complex, which includes the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear wilderness areas.

Williams said he will ask the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to pass a resolution ordering the Secretary of Interior to withdraw the lands from leasing and exploration because "an emergency situation exists." Under the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, action taken by either the House committee or the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is final and does not have to be passed by the full Congress.

When the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, the mineral industry was given access to wilderness lands until Dec. 31, 1983. Oil industry interest in Montana's wilderness acreage picked up a few years ago after substantial

finds were made in a similar geologic formation in Wyoming — the Overthrust Belt. The Montana formation is similar in structure to the Wyoming formation, but experts are divided over whether it is the same thrust belt.

Congress, with the blessing of the Reagan administration, is considering legislation that would extend the deadline for mineral development in wilderness areas.

Williams' resolution comes as the U.S. Forest Service is considering a request by Consolidated Georex Geophysics of Denver to detonate 270,000 pounds of explosives along 207 miles of seismic line in the wilderness complex. Last April, the regional forester refused to consider CGG's request on a technicality. However, the chief of the Forest Service sent the application back to the region and ordered the forester to rule on it. That decision is still pending.

To drum up support for Williams' resolution, Montana wilderness buffs will march through downtown Missoula at noon on May 8 and stage a rally in front of the Forest Service office.

### Anaconda invites New Age settlers

"...Our hope is to create an alternative community for the '80s...We are exploring Alvin Toffler's telecommunity concept with selective substitution of communication for transportation..."

"...We want to invite individuals to our community who value space ... beauty ... smallness ... silence ... safety ... creativity ... liberation ... personal growth ... original Victorian architecture ... clean air where the eagle flies."

That may sound like John Denver's dream of Aspen, Colo., but it was actually written about a place where the air, until recently, was not clean at all: Anaconda, Mont.

The ad is the work of Robert K. Helm, a redevelopment specialist who takes credit for reviving towns such as Newport, R.I., and Santa Fe, N.M. It is part of a last ditch effort to attract companies and individuals to the town left behind by the Anaconda Copper Co.

A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency has left little doubt that the Anaconda Copper Co. and its parent, ARCO, will never be returning to the smelter it closed last fall. The copper industry itself — with high inland transportation costs, less high-quality copper ore near Anaconda, and newer, more-efficient smelting equipment operating elsewhere in the world — makes resumption of Anaconda operations unlikely, said the EPA.

A survey by a local group concerned with social impacts of the closure recently found increased alcoholism, drug abuse, and mental health problems in the town. Over 800 workers were thrown out of work when the smelter shut down.

Helm, who heads the non-profit Anaconda Development Corp., said the town is looking "in a hurry" for three types of newcomers: Married couples without kids who want to escape urban areas and live in a small community amidst beautiful wilderness, women in

their 30s with some savings who want to start a small business in a small town; and small businesses — "widget makers" — who work mainly by telephone and mail.

The development corporation has a \$100,000 grant from the federal Economic Development Administration. Helm said the ads, published in magazines like *Backpacker* and the *Wall Street Journal* have resulted in several inquiries, but he gave no specifics.

"We're trying to appeal to an individual who would want to come to a barn-raising kind of experience," said Helm.

## hotline



Alan Hisk

**HOME WEATHERIZATION** gets renewed attention in Colorado and the Northwest.

### SAVING ENERGY

The Bonneville Power Administration says it plans to spend some \$400 million to "acquire" 300 megawatts of electricity through a new five-year energy conservation program. Some 500,000 homes will be weatherized, a million water heaters insulated, and other conservation incentives implemented throughout the Northwest "to pursue as much conservation as we can as quickly as we can," the director recently said.

### TRIBAL FISHING

North Dakota Indian tribes have no legal right to require fishing permits on two lakes that straddle the reservation boundaries, says state attorney general Robert Wefald. Tribal officials were reportedly trying to sell permits to fishermen using the reservation side of the lakes. But the attorney general says state licenses suffice for all of the lake surface. Meanwhile, Nez Perce tribal leaders in northern Idaho have endorsed a plan to regulate their fish takes from the Rapid River. The tribe has previously cited tribal rights in refusing to obey state fishing bans imposed to protect declining upstream salmon runs.

### BUYING WATER

In a major test of Wyoming's control over the transfer of water rights, the state Board of Control is considering a bid by a utility to tap the North Platte River for use by its Glenrock power plant. Pacific Power & Light Co. had purchased nearly 1,900-acre-feet of water rights ten years ago by acquiring the Foote Ranch near Saratoga. But to change the use of the water from irrigation to industrial cooling, the company must prove that there'll be no change in either the rate or amount of diversion. Testifying before the panel this month, federal officials and area ranchers questioned PP&L's figures, and argued that not enough data is available to determine the effects on present farm operations along the river. A panel decision is not expected for several months.

### HEW MONEY

A federal home weatherization program in Colorado, abandoned by Department of Energy budget planners, is getting nearly \$25,000 from United Way to continue its operation. The program, Save America's Vital Energy, used an average of \$50 worth of weather stripping and caulking supplies last year to weatherize each of 19 homes owned by low-income and elderly people. A follow-up showed savings of 13 percent in fuel heating bills, compared with a control group of non-weatherized homes. The new phase of the project will continue to weatherize some homes and emphasize public education through volunteer-run workshops.

### MOBILE ENERGY

It's all in the way you park it, says a recent study on the energy efficiency of mobile homes. According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the 10 million Americans living in mobile homes are "exceedingly energy wasteful." But by parking the mobiles to tap the most solar warmth, up to 16 percent can be lopped off the energy bill. In cool regions, the long side of the home should face 12 degrees east of south.

### UTAH SYNFUELS

Unlike large energy corporations developing oil shale in Colorado, small Utah synthetic fuel firms will be hit hard by federal cutbacks in development subsidies, says Jack Lyman, director of the Utah Energy Office. Noting the situation "remains unclear," Lyman told the *Deseret News* that the following pilot projects in the state are in trouble: Paraho Co.'s oil shale plant near Bonanza, Mountain Fuel Resources' coal gasification plant in Emery Co., Great National Corp.'s tar sands study, Syntana Corp.'s oil shale study, and Plateau Inc.'s oil refinery conversion project. Lyman said all the firms say they'll proceed even without federal assistance, but that there could be delays of "up to two years."



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**NUKED AGAIN**

Voters in Montana will get another chance to vote their views on nuclear waste disposal in Nov., 1982. The state legislature, following a prolonged struggle over bills designed to nullify Initiative 84 — the law banning uranium mining and milling wastes which voters approved by a narrow vote last fall — elected to exempt uranium mill tailings from the ban. But an amendment was added requiring a referendum on the exemption. For the next year and a half, then, Initiative 84's ban on disposal of wastes in the state will be in effect.

**URANIUM MILL SUIT**

Two Colorado environmental groups are filing suit to overthrow permits granted to Homestake Mining Co. for the construction of a uranium mill near Marshall pass in northeastern Saguache County, Colo. The plaintiffs, the Gunnison Valley Alliance and the Colorado Open Space Council, charge that the public hearings on the proposed mill were conducted improperly with a bias toward the company. Homestake plans a uranium mill with a 600 ton per day capacity. Attorneys for the company said they were not surprised that the lawsuit was filed.

**TAKE THE HIGHLAND**

To save farmland in Gunnison County, Colo., Crested Butte town planner Susan Cottingham is recommending that farmers trade their productive meadows and lowlands for federal land on higher slopes. Urban expansion could then proceed up high, netting the farmers a profit from rising land values, while the new federal lowlands could be leased for grazing.

**WETLANDS WANTED**

Facing a steady decline of wetland areas in the northern Great Plains, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials say they're alarmed over having their acquisitions budget slashed by two-thirds. Congress has withheld the usual \$20 million a year authorization under the Wetlands Loan Act of 1961, and nationwide, the agency is left with only \$10 million this year from the sale of duck stamps. In Nebraska, where wetlands have dropped from 234,000 to 127,000 acres since 1953 in the Sand Hills area, the agency is abandoning its acquisition efforts, which had targeted some 95,000 acres, according to a FWS spokesman. The wetlands would be acquired by purchasing controversial development easements, to which there is no cheaper alternative, said the spokesman.

**CHEYENNE COAL?**

Plans by Montco to develop a \$120 million strip mine along the Tongue River ran into an unexpected problem last month: The Northern Cheyenne Tribe announced that Indians may own the coal that Montco wants to mine. In the late 19th century, the Cheyenne said, Indian families were paid to move from the east side of the river to the west, to consolidate reservation lands. They may not, however, have relinquished their mineral rights on the eastern side, where Montco plans to mine on the site of the present Nance Ranch. Montco officials told the **Billings Gazette** they were confident of their rights to the coal.

**ARSENAL TESTING**

The U.S. Army has received local county permission to drill seven new wells just outside the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver to check its pollution cleanup efforts. The army is trying to remove a nerve gas and two pesticides from the aquifer under the South Platte River. The monitoring wells should show whether the army's \$6.5 million seepage barrier is actually preventing further seepage. Started in 1976, the cleanup operation will take at least another five years, state health official Bob Shuckle told the **Denver Post**.

**FARMING TROUT**

Idaho is continuing its hold on the market for farm-raised trout. Of the 28.2 million pounds of fish flesh raised nationwide during the first half of 1980, Idaho aquaculturists grew 24.8 million pounds, reaping an average 73 cents a pound for their stock. But high production costs and marketing problems may nip the Gem State's lead, Department of Agriculture officials are predicting.

**LAGGARD TOURISTS**

Visits to national parks in the region have dropped as much as one-quarter since 1976, with Utah showing the only gain in visitors, up seven percent. South Dakota was the big loser, while Colorado has lost some 17 percent of its six million 1976 park visitors, Wyoming is down 16 percent, and Montana, 18 percent. Besides Utah, 20 other states have had increases.

**YELLOWSTONE OVERNIGHT**

Raising the ire of concessionaires just outside park boundaries, the National Park Service is building 100 new visitor housing units at Grant Village in Yellowstone National Park. The \$1.2 million contract was awarded to Kober Construction Co. of Billings, Mont., over the objections of the West Yellowstone motel operators, who argued that expanding federally-owned concessions inside the park was unfair competition. Agency spokesman Jim Harpster in Denver said the new units will simply be replacing older facilities scheduled for removal, with no net gain in rooms.



**OPENING CABINETS**

A U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C., ruled this month that ASARCO's mineral-exploration drilling in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in northwestern Montana could continue. Environmental groups led by the Defenders of Wildlife filed suit last fall — naming a dozen grizzly bears as plaintiffs — to block ASARCO's drilling. ASARCO's four year drilling plan, ruled the judge, was approved after federal agencies followed proper procedures, and he declined to judge the Forest Service's success in protecting the Cabinets' environment.

**UTILITY POWER**

The FMC Corporation may have found the cheapest way to provide electricity for its growing phosphorus operations near Pocatello, Idaho. Under the new federal law which requires utilities to purchase all available power from industrial and small private generators, FMC told **Coal Week** this month that there's interest from several non-utility companies in building and operating a proposed 500 mega watt coal-fired power plant. Although FMC would tap the plant's power for its peak load requirements in processing phosphorus, the firm would not be part of the consortium. Investors in the plant would be banking on profitable buy-back rates set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**RECLAIMING MINED LAND**

Water supplies, and not the original contour, should be the most vital concern in determining how to reclaim western lands after surface mining, according to a National Research Council report to the Bureau of Mines. Although most Eastern mine sites should probably be returned to the original contours, the council found, western lands may best be reshaped to other contours "most advantageous for its final use," whether that be farming, ranching or wildlife habitat. The council also questioned the present deadlines for vegetation restoration, and called for further analysis of the Strip Mine Reclamation Act.

**DRY YEAR GRAZING**

The third successive year of drought in eastern Montana is leaving rangelands highly susceptible to overgrazing, a state task force has found, and ranchers may have to use supplemental feed or sell their livestock this year to avoid permanently damaging the range. "After years of developing a herd," said Montana Gov. Ted Schwinden, "it is a traumatic experience to see it sold in the auction ring. But ranchers have little choice but to evaluate their range management plans." Drought information is being offered through the Governor's Citizens' Advocate office, toll-free 1-800-332-2272.

**barbed wire**

New strides in financing government programs may not be limited to postage stamp advertising. Rather than increase the Colorado hunting fees to pay for rising management costs, the Division of Wildlife should solicit advertising for a two-by-two inch space on hunting licenses, suggests John Ponce, publisher of **Paonian Herald**, in the political weekly, the **Colorado Statesman**.



There's been some surprising reaction to the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth's petition campaign to oust Secretary of Interior James Watt: opposition from the rebellious preservation group, Earth First! and support from the not-so-rebellious **Idaho Statesman**. Both agreed, however, that leaving the secretary in office may have desirable results. "By being so blatantly obnoxious, he may well arouse the anger of millions of middle American nature lovers who, by keeping quiet, have allowed Watt and his kind to turn environmentalism into a dirty word," editorialized the **Statesman**. While an E! spokesman asked, "Who would Reagan appoint in his place? Joe Coors?"



"Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam, and the yak and the antelope play"...that home, until recently, was in Montana's northwestern plains. Actually, forget the buffalo and antelope. There was a yak — a Tibetan ox — up there, once the proud possession of Smiley Kittson of Browning. It wandered around (roamed and played, we should say) with little regard for ranchers' fences. The ranchers didn't like that. The yak was cut down, near Cut Bank; apparently, the victim wore no yak flak jacket during the yak attack.



For those cynical folks who think oil price decontrol was just another windfall for the big energy companies, we have this report from Washington, D.C. A month after oil prices were decontrolled, Holmes Tuttle, a car dealer and California crony of President Ronald Reagan, went to Oklahoma City and Houston, asking the oil barons to help pay the cost of redecorating the White House. That brought in \$270,000, which pushed Nancy Reagan's total redecorating budget to over \$700,000. Thus the Reagans were able to turn back to the U.S. Treasury the \$50,000 normally provided for redecorating. So the next time you see those new drapes in the White House windows, thank Big Oil that it didn't come out of your pocket...not directly, anyway.

## Shifting credit fans agricultural fears

by Michael Moss

An electronic sign pulsates over the Rawlins National Bank, beckoning passersby to "Walk In, Drive In, Mail In." In any case, it promises, "You Win."

Increasingly, however, in this town on the edge of Wyoming's Great Divide Basin and throughout the Rocky Mountain region, that invitation is dimming for the bank's oldest customer, the livestock rancher.

To varying degrees, commercial banks are abandoning their agricultural customers in favor of new, more profitable lending enterprises. Rural monies are being drained out to urban industries by a banking system that is becoming more concentrated, less locally-owned.

More significantly, the capital that is offered to agricultural operators today is often at, or above, the prime interest rate — above the financial reach of many farmers and ranchers used to lower interest charges.

The trend and its effects are as varied as Rocky Mountain agriculture. The dairy herder in Wyoming's Star Valley, the durum wheat grower in the Dakotas, the sugarbeet farmer in Idaho and Colorado all face financial problems as different as their crops.

To generalize, however, the money market for agriculture is tight. And while not unprecedented, the present shortage of affordable loans is aggravated by high operating costs and low product prices to put a potentially devastating squeeze on many farmers and ranchers. Lest any ignore the skies, there also looms yet another drought.

In "normal" years, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Kent Jones wouldn't be so worried. "But with the drought," he said, "I think we're going to see a lot of farmers simply not planting this year."

A penetrating rain could save this year's crop. But in the long run, most observers agree that one, and only one thing will help agriculture: more manageable interest rates, brought down by lowering the rate of inflation.

Regulators and the agricultural community alike are scrambling for alternative solutions. Some choices seem promising; others may have dangerous side effects.

Despite the risks, however, the need to act is clear. Unlike consumers or other businesses, who can temporarily fight high interest rates by putting off that new television or line of products, agriculture depends on a financial season as regular as the growing seasons. And if there's no money available, there's no spring planting, or fall harvest.

### MARRYING DEBT

In the last several years, it's commonly agreed that farmers and ranchers have been particularly hard pressed to make ends meet.

Nationally, total farm earnings in 1978 nearly doubled to \$62 billion from their 1970 level. The average farm family reaped a gross income in 1978 of \$60,000. At the same time, production expenses rose, and despite government price supports, net income has consequently stagnated. A farmer or rancher's 1978 purchasing power re-



S.D. Department of Highways

**HIGH PRODUCTION COSTS, a shrunken credit market, and a looming drought could dip many farmers' books deep into the red this summer. For some, the only alternative may simply be not to plant.**

mained at its 1962 level. That's the agricultural community's loudest complaint.

Another set of statistics is of more interest to the banker. Today's farmer and rancher have substantially more money invested in real estate and machinery, versus livestock, crops and other "liquid," or marketed products. In 1950, the average farmer spent a quarter of his money on machinery and chemicals; by 1978, that percentage had jumped to nearly one-half, and a farmer or rancher's ability to pay back a short-term loan has lowered proportionately.

A second trend critical to the banker's eye is that since 1950 agriculture has rooted itself in debt. Farmers and ranchers owed some \$12.5 billion that year. By 1979, that debt had shot up to a staggering \$137.4 billion.

Last week, and every week so far this year, the agricultural community borrowed \$5.3 billion, with an average seven month payback period. An agricultural operator's debt-to-equity ratio (what he owes compared to what he owns) has subsequently doubled from 10 to 20 percent.

Economists with the federal Economics and Statistics Service in the Department of Agriculture note that the cause of that increased debt has been easy money, available at affordable interest rates in the 1950s and 1960s.

The 30-year financial honeymoon has fostered larger farms, relatively wealthier farmers, and more cost-intensive operations that pump huge quantities of fertilizers, pesticides and energy into the harvest cycle. The average rancher walking through the Rawlins bank door five years ago this spring would be asking for some \$100,000 to get through the year's expenses. Today, that figure has nearly quintupled to \$450,000.

Today's farmer and rancher needs more money to operate, but he or she's

got new competition. Also walking through the bank's door are new customers who can pay higher interest rates on the available loan funds. They include energy development enterprises and consumers buying household appliances or automobiles.

Established agricultural customers have traditionally received loans at interest rates one or two points below the prime rate from commercial banks, while less-reliable consumers usually get tagged for one or two points above. There's no sentimentality involved in that split. The agricultural operator has simply been a safer bet, more likely to pay off the loan.

The rancher and farmer's risk status has slipped, however. They are now paying an average interest of 15.5 percent on operating loans, up 1.5 percent over last year's rate.

The combination of high debt, a high debt-to-equity ratio, high operating expenses, and the poor agricultural market picture has put many operators on shaky ground, says the University of Wyoming's chairman of agricultural economics Andrew Vanvig in Laramie.

### LOSING A FRIEND

"It's not our choice. We aren't interested in getting out. But we're finding it difficult to go with the rancher," said Elmer Erickson, Rawlins National Bank's leading agricultural loan officer.

Bankers are not comfortable with reporters; even older, self-assured bankers like Erickson are reluctant to discuss their dealings.

A customer's right to confidentiality has been repeatedly upheld by the courts, and bankers are more guarded since passage of the 1977 Community Reinvestment Act, which attempts to regulate bank loan policies, particularly in urban home loan situations.

As a result, commercial bank loan policies are well protected from public scrutiny. There are, however, statistics

on the amount of money being lent to agricultural operators, and the numbers are telling.

According to statistics held by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the proportion of commercial bank loans that farmers and ranchers have received for operating expenses has declined significantly since 1975 in every Rocky Mountain state except South Dakota.

In Montana, the \$242,803,000 national bankers loaned farmers in 1980 represented 15.2 percent of their total loans, down from the 18.7 percent share farmers got in 1975. In Wyoming, agricultural operators got 11.5 percent of the loan pie last year, down from an 18.6 percent share in 1975. Other states, excepting the Dakotas, show a similar decline. The numbers for state bank loans are similar.

Of more significance to the borrower, however, is the fact that while banks' loan levels for all categories are up, the funds lent to agriculture have risen at a rate significantly below the rate of inflation and increasing production expenses. Total loans in Montana, for example, grew 50.4 percent over 1975 in national commercial banks, while agricultural loans grew only 23 percent.

In Wyoming, total loans were up 79 percent in those five years, while agricultural loans grew a mere 11.5 percent. Only in South Dakota did agricultural loan levels rise more than total loans (67 percent versus 66 percent), and in Idaho both agricultural and total loans actually declined. Again, the numbers for state-licensed banks are similar.

Among nonbankers, and some candid bankers, there is widespread speculation that banks are bailing out of the agricultural loan market. It makes economic sense.

Said John Lesmeister, manager of a financial lending institution's Casper, Wyo., office: "Money is clearly being drawn out of rural America to the money capitals in New York, Chicago,



Houston, San Francisco, where money can be lent at higher interest rates than agriculture can pay."

Morgan Smith, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, added: "You can't document it, but I've heard many anecdotes about so and so getting turned down on loan applications. Not so much on the eastern plains, where the banker is still closely tied to agriculture. But rather on the West Slope and near Denver, where there is energy growth and industry."

Marvin Duncan, an official with the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, disagreed. "Banks are doing a good job of providing agricultural credit," he said, noting that the average bank loaned a quarter of its loan dollars to agriculture last year. "If there has been a decline, it's because the loan demand is weak."

Indeed, available figures show that there has been a decline in total farm loan demand. The Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Omaha, which loans money to farmers and ranchers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, reported that the \$2.1 billion it lent to agriculture last year was only 7.5 percent above the 1979 level. Until last year, agricultural loans had annually increased four and five times that rate.

The lower demand is due to skyrocketing interest rates, said Wyoming Agriculture Commissioner Larry Bourret in Cheyenne. "There's money available, sure," he said. "But the average guy has not been able to afford it."

Banks still hold the greatest share of the short-term agricultural loan market, accounting for slightly more than one-third of the loans nationwide. (Short-term loans are used for operating expenses and are generally paid back within two years.)

Other lenders, in descending rank, include Production Credit Associations (roughly one-quarter of the market), the federal Farmers Home Administration (15 percent), farm equipment dealers (through purchase financing) and insurance companies. Private investors are thought to hold up to one-eighth of the short-term loan market today.

If the commercial bank's share of the loan market is declining as many observers believe, a major reason may be what Carol Greenwald of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank calls "concentrated banking."

In an introduction to her new book, **Banks are Dangerous to Your Wealth**, Ralph Nader writes: "... (there's) growing evidence that when small, local banks are replaced by branch offices of distant, giant banks, credit availability for small businesses is very often diminished."

A 1976 study of concentrated banking in Nebraska by the journal **New Land Review** points out that while chain banks have more deposits to lend, an unpublished study of several North Central states found concentrated banking had an "unfavorable" impact on farm lending. The **Review** concluded: "... city bank chains may tend to drain funds from the rural areas in which they operate."

#### SHOPPING FOR DOLLARS

For ranchers and farmers turned down by commercial banks, it's time to go shopping.

The worst place to look for short-term agricultural loans these days is in the federal coffers. The federal Farmers

Home Administration, said Wyoming State Director Rudy Knoll, has been hard hit by Reagan administration budget cuts.

Nationwide, the agency's loan fund has been cut this year by as much as 40 percent, and next year's proposed budget is equally tight. Wyoming's share of the 1982 funds will come nowhere near the \$26.8 million it loaned to 518 farmers and ranchers last year.

And as always, FmHA loans will be restricted to agricultural "basket cases," operators who for financial reasons are turned down by all other loan sources.

An equally poor place to look for an agricultural operating loan today is in the local equipment dealer's office. Interest rates here are among the highest, typically topping 20 percent.

Other possibilities include insurance companies and private investors. But the best choice among financial institutions for an increasing number of farmers and ranchers is the Production Credit Associations.

PCAs were created by the 1933 Agricultural Credit Act, which set up a network of regional financiers equipped with federal dollars to loan farmers and ranchers. The PCAs' counterparts, the Federal Land Banks, make long-term, mortgage loans on land purchases, and woven into the same system are numerous cooperative banks and various levels of local and regional in-

### There is widespread speculation that banks are bailing out of the agricultural loan market. It makes economic sense.

termediaries.

PCAs have since severed their direct ties to the federal government, becoming cooperatives owned by agricultural borrowers who are required to purchase stock in the PCAs with every new loan.

Last year's financial records show a record high for PCA loans, which increased their share of the market some 5 percent from the 20 percent 1979 level. That jump, said PCA Casper, Wyo., Branch Manager John Lesmeister, is due mostly to the estrangement from commercial banks and the PCAs' lower interest rate.

PCAs typically offer loans with interest rates one-half of one percent lower than commercial banks. But even that rate is too high for many agricultural borrowers, and some critics say that often the stock-purchase requirement in the short run raises the cost of doing business with the PCAs above even commercial bank levels.

Lesmeister concedes that is sometimes true, but stresses that interest rates charged by financial institutions fluctuate significantly and comparisons can be misleading. Lesmeister also stresses the PCA's many other offerings, including special insurance and financial management assistance. Careful management, he believes, is the key to today's agriculture's financial health.

"We have to look at the farmer's ability to repay the loan and pay the interest," he said. "Because farmers can't easily raise their prices, there has to be a continual effort to increase production to keep up with inflation — more tons of hay per acre, higher weaning weights, more wool per animal. The key is efficient management and more research."

Farm management consultants are increasing today, ranging from local one-person firms to the giant Control Data Corporation based in Minneapolis, Minn. Typical is Agricultural Business Services, based in Boise, Idaho and run by a former bank loan officer who now runs ads in local newspapers promising "complete farm and ranch management, from computerized projections to estate planning."

To Lesmeister, in fact, one positive benefit of today's credit crunch may be the resultant weeding out of "inefficient producers." "We've had cases where things look good on paper," he said, "and then you get out to the ranch and it's a disaster, junky and unorganized and the rancher may have personal problems that would interfere with his ability to repay a loan. That's not a loan we'll make."

#### CUTTING CORNERS

Wyoming Agriculture Commissioner Bourret agrees that more research to increase efficiency is vital to agriculture, and rarely misses an opportunity to make that point.

In the short run, however, farmers and ranchers throughout the Rocky Mountain region are increasingly avoiding the loan market entirely by doing their own field research into cutting corners and costs. Said Bourret: "There are guys looking for any way they can to save expenses."

headache. Vandalism, marauding dogs, complaints about farm noise or smells, and, even worse, new zoning restrictions, are among the problems new neighbors bring.

For every acre that is built upon, experts calculate, up to three more become useless because of the urban "ripple" effect. Many counties throughout the region are considering "right to farm" rules that would help protect a farmer or rancher's ability to operate near residential areas.

Yet, if a farmer or rancher "is not able to keep selling land off, or if land values start falling," said banker Erickson, "you might start seeing more foreclosures."

But foreclosure is no longer a good indicator of agriculture's financial health, said Victor Ray, Vice President of the National Farmers Union in Denver. Today's pattern, said Ray, is for a farmer or rancher, defeated by financial disaster, to simply sell out to a land developer for a handsome sum.

Farmland, in the final pinch, is a farmer or rancher's trump card for a retirement ticket to Florida.

#### STEP ASIDE

The dilemma remains: If cost cutting has its limits, land selling has its dangers, and the available loan market continues to wilt, where can today's farmer and rancher turn for help?

Ironically, believes Daniel Dunn of Montana State University in Bozeman, easy money in times past may be the main reason for the financial bleakness of today's agriculture. "If you subsidize a group, any group," says Dunn, "you eventually get an inefficient situation."

Any solution, agrees PCA's Lesmeister, should not include more federal or state subsidies. "Agriculture is not just a way of life, it's a business," he said, reversing a common axiom. "You can't hold on to romance."

The federal government seems unlikely at any rate to provide more low-interest loans for agriculture, and state efforts are largely ineffective.

Wyoming has a Farm Loan Board that can make low interest loans for both operating expenses and land purchases, for example. But it dished out relatively little last year, with loan ceilings of \$150,000, far below the average operator's needs. Legislation to increase the loan fund through bonding failed to pass the legislature.

That's just as well, said the Federal Reserve Board's Duncan, who also believes the government should not expand its loan offerings.

"Agriculture producers will inevitably have to compete, just like any other business," he said. "For the country as a whole, it's healthy. Although individual sectors may get hurt."

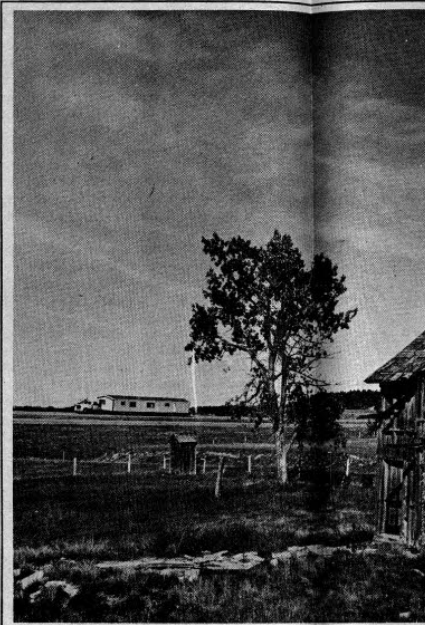
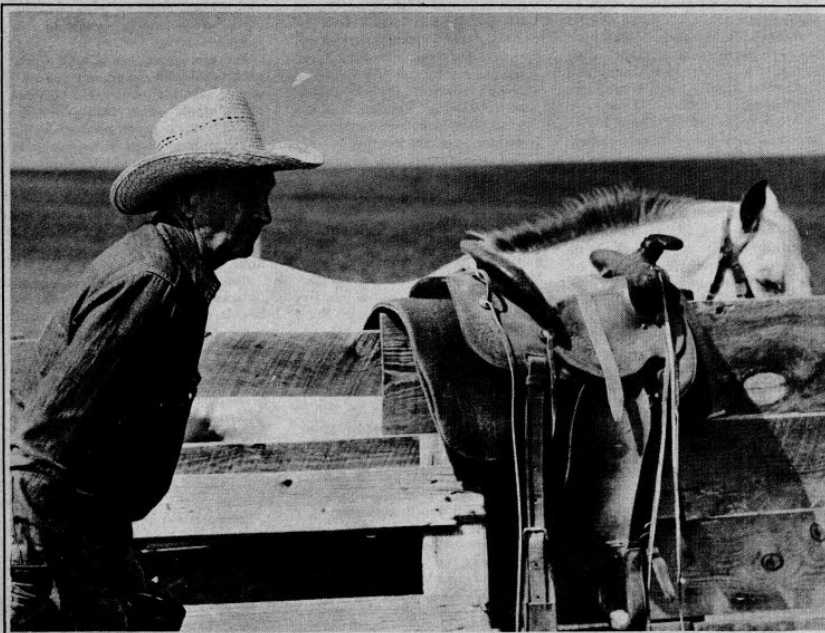
But agriculture is special, argues Ray, whose National Farmers Union is lobbying Congress for a boost in federal low-interest financing and commodity price supports.

"No other country in the world mistreats its farmers like we do," he said. "The feds have been able to play fast and loose because of our great land mass and abundance of natural resources."

"But agriculture is so volatile — a three percent rise in the wheat crop can make prices plummet; a three percent fall can force prices to skyrocket — that if we don't do something to stabilize the industry, you're going to see consumers standing in line like they are in Poland."

Pressures from new urban neighbors are often cited as an agriculturalists' largest day to day

8-High Country News — May 1, 1981



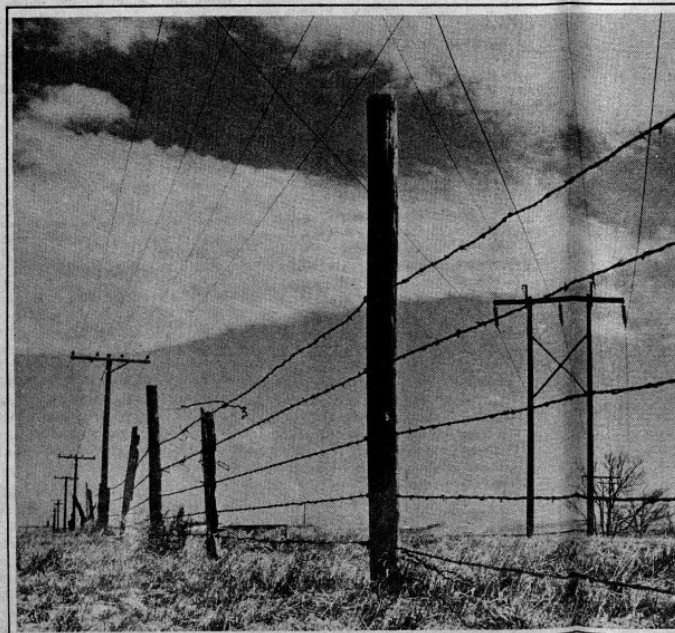
## Photos by Mike McClure

Mike McClure is a freelance photographer living in Atlantic City, Wyo., a "ghost town" on South Pass in the Wind River Mountains.

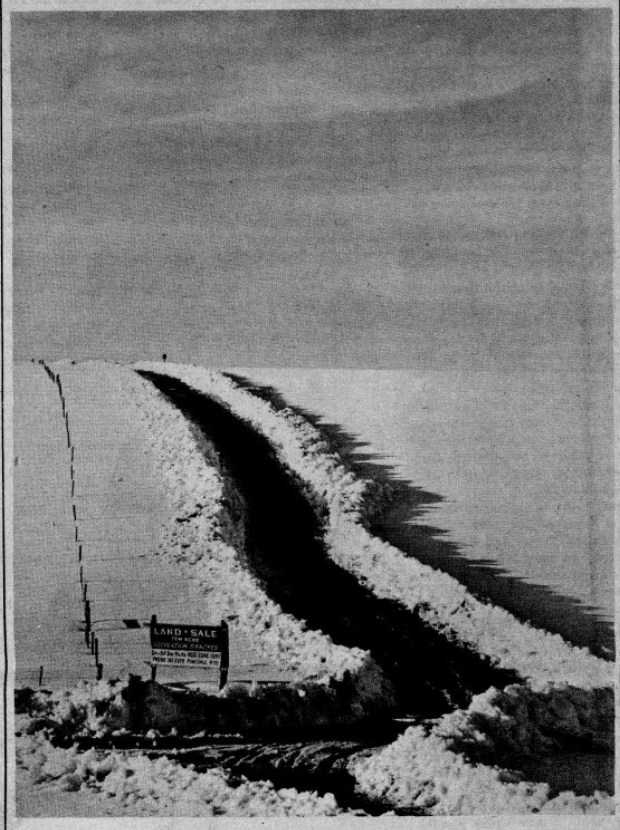
McClure was raised in Wyoming. Between 1968 and 1970, he worked for the **Detroit Free Press** as photographer. Prior to that, he spent six years at United Press International Newspictures. Finally worn out by Detroit, McClure took a year at the San Francisco Art Institute studying art and photography. He returned to his Wyoming hometown in 1971, and soon his truck sported a somewhat altered Chamber of Commerce bumper sticker expressing his feelings about the changes he saw: "I'd rather be in Lander — thirty years ago."

In 1980, McClure was awarded a grant from the Wyoming Humanities Council and the Union Pacific Railroad to produce an interpretive exhibit on the changing face of Wyoming. Some of the photos on these pages were taken under the auspices of that grant. The exhibit, when completed, will be seen in various communities around Wyoming. The exhibit is sponsored by the Wind River Area League of Women Voters.

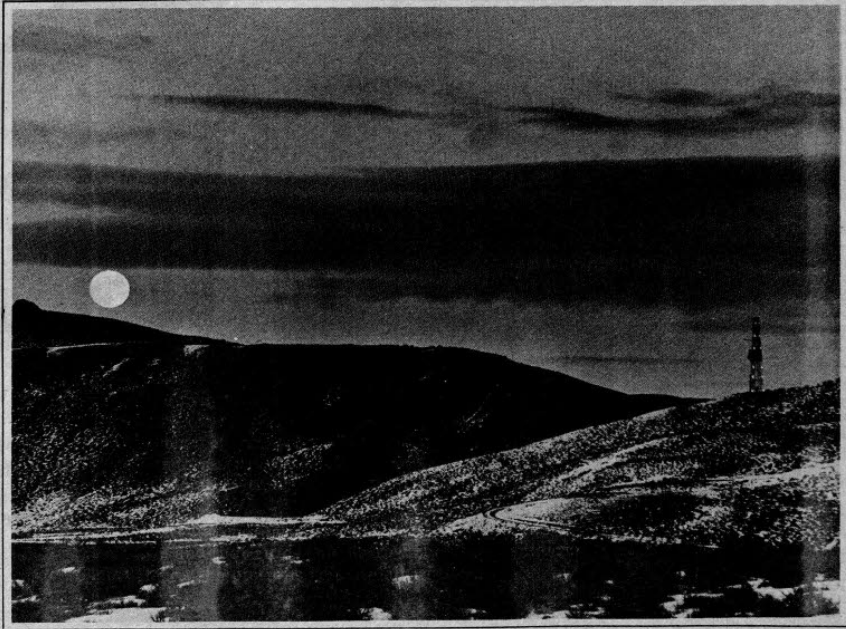
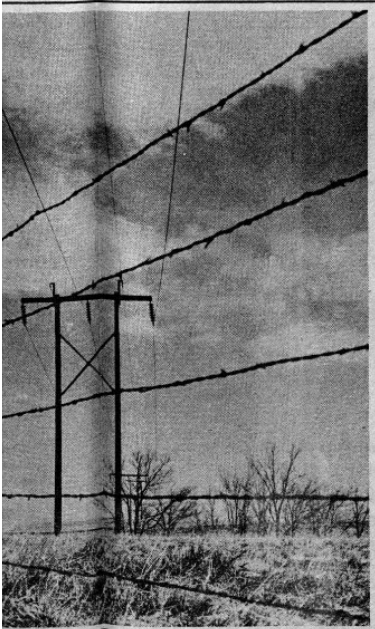
McClure believes that photographs should stand on their own and that titles only narrow the viewer's interpretation. Hence, the pictures here are all untitled.







# McClure



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**Ecotage. . . .**

(continued from page 1)

forest. There have been a number of finds further south in the so-called Overthrust Belt, a half-moon shaped geologic formation that extends from northern Utah into western Wyoming and southern Idaho. Oil developers are calling the belt "the next Prudhoe Bay," implying that the area may be as rich in oil and gas as Alaska's most productive field.

Most of the actual exploratory drilling so far has taken place well south of Jackson. However, the companies are moving further north.

Most of the work around Jackson has been seismic testing — the igniting of explosives along lines of seismic cable. Reverberations from the detonations are then measured to see if there are indications of hydrocarbons below the surface. Since they are the most visible agents of resource development, seismic crews have been the target of most vandalism-sabotage.

"We had a fair amount of vandalism to seismic crews last year and the year before," said Reuter. "We haven't had much vandalism to actual drilling rigs, perhaps because there are so many people around them.

"I don't think it's organized, though. Much of it is the same thing we see in campgrounds. People just don't have any respect for other people's property. There may be some political overtones because of Cache Creek."

**CACHE CREEK**

Of all the proposed drilling sites in the Jackson area, the two raising the most furor are proposals by National Cooperative Refinery Association to drill in the Cache Creek drainage and by Chevron USA to drill in Granite Creek. Both of these, but especially Cache Creek, can be seen from town. Phil Hocker, long-time Jackson resident and head of the local Sierra Club chapter, said, "Cache Creek was the playground for a lot of Jackson residents when they were growing up. That drilling rig will go in over the kicking and screaming dead body of the community." Even the usually pro-development Chamber of Commerce has publicly opposed the Cache Creek well.

In the spring of 1980, a seismic crew had parked its trucks for the night at the Ponderosa Apartments in Jackson. During the night, a group which dubbed itself the Laetrile Squad went to the lot and slashed the tires — 32 in all — and cut seismic cable. The oil pan screws were loosened in the hope that as the trucks went down the road, they would work loose and the oil would leak out, damaging the engines. This was discovered before any damage was done. The group also "liberated" a number of snowshoes.

Coincidentally, one of the seismic crew members — known as "juggies" — later unwittingly told one of the saboteurs in a bar that he didn't believe there had been any political motive behind the vandalism. The saboteur went back to the crew's lodgings that night and spray-painted the sides of the trucks with the slogans, "Save the Hoback," "Hoback Mountains wild and free forever," "Juggies go home," and so on. According to police reports, the total damage from the two incidents came to about \$100,000.

Steve is a Vietnam era veteran working in a blue collar job in Jackson. He

said, "The Laetrile Squad was formed on a backpacking trip. We sat around discussing the depletion of the wilderness. Then someone said, 'Hey, there are seismograph crews in the wilderness. We can't have that.' Laetrile is a substance used to stop cancer.

"The legal process isn't working. There's a lot of money against the environmental movement and there's a lot of propaganda that the average environmentalist is a bleeding heart. As more conventional and legal methods of saving planet earth are failing it becomes necessary to force the issue.

"Under the current political climate, when conventional means fail, which is better? — To allow the worst possible thing to happen, or to do what you can to stop it?"

Ken said, "If the government legalized rape and somebody started raping your wife, do you try to stop the guy or do you let him go ahead just

because it's legal.

The Sierra Club's Hocker said, "Violence is not the way. The thing that strikes me about it — as someone who has been beating his head against the same wall for ten years — it's an expression of frustration, not deeply thought out in terms of political effectiveness."

Howie Wolke is a former Friends of the Earth representative and currently an outfitter and guide in the Jackson area. He has helped found a group known as Earth First! which advocates civil disobedience to protect the environment, but not destruction of property. Wolke said, "There are still legal avenues to be exhausted before violence should even be contemplated. However, oil companies and the forest service should have been put on notice that people are angry about what is going on."

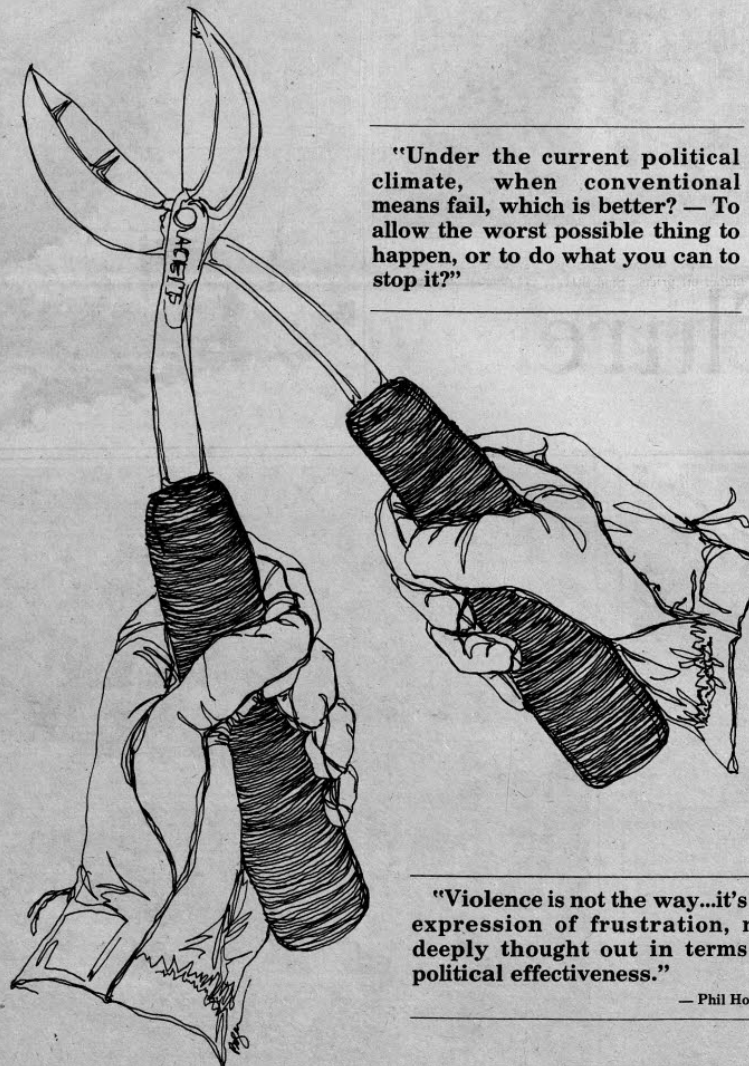
While the Jackson incidents have been organized and continuous, they

are not the only incidents of sabotage of energy facilities in the Rockies.

On June 27, 1979, someone poured a bucket of "foreign substance" into the main turbine lubrication oil system in the 500-megawatt Unit 2 at Pacific Power and Light's Jim Bridger power plant near Rock Springs, Wyo. The material circulated through the system and scratched the turbine shaft bearings. The actual damage to the equipment was about \$100,000 and power generation loss amounted to over \$2 million. Though PP&L first offered a \$5,000 reward and later a \$25,000 reward, no one was ever arrested. Security at the facility has been increased.

**SYMBOLIC ACTION**

An area where feelings are running high about mineral development is Crested Butte, Colo. Amax, Inc., is



**"Under the current political climate, when conventional means fail, which is better? — To allow the worst possible thing to happen, or to do what you can to stop it?"**

**"Violence is not the way...it's an expression of frustration, not deeply thought out in terms of political effectiveness."**

— Phil Hocker



proposing a large molybdenum mine on Mt. Emmons near the town, Wes Light, attorney for a group opposed to the project, said, "I've heard people saying things about sabotage if other things failed, but it was just bar talk. Those types of things are counterproductive. Our position is that we're against illegal acts."

"There have been symbolic acts. People have pulled out corner posts and survey markers. Two years ago, somebody lit a bunch of flares on the top of Mt. Emmons that spelled out 'F---Amax' and everybody in town could see it."

A similar symbolic act occurred in Jackson when the Forest Service organized a walk up Granite Creek to the proposed well site there. The night before someone put signs along the route that read, "Juggies go home" and "Get your drug money somewhere else."

Does ecotage do any good? "It depends on what level you're talking about," said Ken. "Up to now I'd say it has. It served notice to people in general and the enemy that you may not have as easy a time rolling over us. And, more importantly, it plants a little seed in someone's head to go out and do these things in the future."

"The bottom line is that if people have decided that protecting the country is important after all the legal channels are exhausted, it might stop some of it if enough people get involved."

The companies argue that by causing such destruction, the person who ultimately pays is the consumer, in the form of higher oil prices. Said Steve, "Harrassing causes more expense — and money flies in the face of uncertainty. It probably drives the price of oil up, but a few cents more a gallon is small price to pay compared to the loss of America's last wild lands."

A surprisingly large number of people believe that sabotage will increase if oil drilling increases in the Jackson area. Bruce Tadeyeske, an investigator for the Teton County Sheriff's Department, said, "If they approve the Cache Creek well, it could pose some problems. If they work that area, I'm almost sure we'll see some vandalism."

"It's hard to say whether it's organized. I would tend to say it's a random thing — someone having a few too many beers. I've heard of one organized group called 'Committee for the People of the Roads' or something like that. They are apparently bikers or joggers because we will get vandalism of construction companies a few days after we get complaints about trucks dropping debris on the roads."

At about the time of the tire-slashing incident, a number of seismic cables and geophones were damaged in the Cache Creek drainage. The vandalism was widely reported in the newspapers and later a woman called one of the local newspapers taking credit for the sabotage. None of the members of the Jackson ecotage organization were responsible for the action, however, and none of them knew who was. "Obviously there's more going on than just our little organization," said Ken.

Investigator Tadeyeske said, "The cases are no longer under active investigation. There wasn't too much for suspects. There has been nothing to go on. Usually in a case like this, people start talking, but that hasn't happened. I guess they figured they'd keep their mouths shut and just get the satisfaction of doing it. It seems to have worked."

### Fill in the blanks

with the names and addresses of persons you'd like to have receive a sample copy of **High Country News**. Mail then to HCN, Box K, Lander WY 82520.

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### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

The Environmental Quality Council will hold a public meeting to receive public comments on the petition of the Cloud Peak Coalition to have the Council designate the Cloud Peak Primitive Area a Class I air shed. This meeting is not a formal public hearing required pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, the Environmental Quality Act, or the Department of Environmental Quality's Rules of Practice and Procedure when rulemaking has been initiated. Under consideration at this meeting are reasons the Council should grant or deny the Cloud Peak petition to initiate rulemaking.

This meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers, 55 E. Grinnell, Sheridan, Wyoming at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 1981.

A copy of this petition is available for inspection in the office of the Department of Environmental Quality, Equality State Bank Bldg., 401 W. 19th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming; Lander District Office, 933 Main, Lander, Wyoming; and the Sheridan District Office, 30 East Grinnell St., Sheridan, Wyoming.

All persons desiring to be heard in this matter are notified to appear at the designated time and place. Oral statements will be accepted at the time of the meeting, and written statements are encouraged at the time of the hearing or prior thereto.

Those who wish to make a presentation are requested to notify the Department. All notifications as well as statements mailed in advance should be addressed to: Environmental Quality Council Equality State Bank Building, 401 W. 19th St., Cheyenne, WY 82002.

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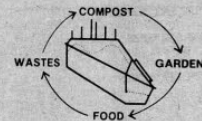
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## PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1987, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1978).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) INDUSTRIAL FACILITY, (2) COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, AND (3) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (1) INDUSTRIAL PERMIT, (2) OIL TREATER PERMITS, AND (4) MUNICIPAL PERMITS, AND TO RENEW (3) INDUSTRIAL PERMITS, AND (1) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PERMIT.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: Continental Pipeline Company  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2197  
 Houston, Texas 77001  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Sheridan Terminal, Sheridan County,  
 Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030481

The Continental Pipeline Company's Sheridan, Wyoming Terminal consists of a diked tank farm and a product loading area. Water which accumulates behind the tank farm dikes originates from natural springs and precipitation and is periodically discharged to Meade Creek (Class II Water) via an unnamed drainage (discharge point 001). Runoff from the product loading area is collected in a holding pond which, on a very infrequent basis, discharges to Meade Creek via an unnamed drainage (discharge point 002).

The proposed permit requires both discharges to meet an oil and grease limitation of 10 mg-l and a pH of 6.0-9.0 effective immediately. Monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required whenever a discharge occurs with reporting of results semi-annually. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1986.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: Crestview Development Company  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 400 S. Kendrick  
 Gillette, Wyoming 82716  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Approximately three miles south of  
 the City of Gillette, Campbell  
 County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030449

The Crestview Development is a proposed subdivision of 570 permanent housing units which will be located approximately three miles south of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. The subdivision is located outside of the "201" planning boundaries and is therefore not affected by that plan. Wastewater treatment for the subdivision will consist of an aerated lagoon system which will discharge into Antelope Butte Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage. The proposed permit requires compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards effective immediately. Effluent quality and quantity must be sampled on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1986.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: Lake Viva Naughton  
 MAILING ADDRESS: Lawrence L. Cook  
 Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Lake Viva Naughton Marina, Lincoln  
 County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030473

The Lake Viva Naughton Marina consists of a restaurant, bar, cafe, and bathhouse. Wastewater treatment facilities serving the marina will consist of an extended aeration package plant followed by a series of three polishing ponds. The final pond will discharge to an unnamed drainage (Class IV Water) which flows approximately 1500 feet into Lake Viva Naughton (Class II Water).

The proposed permit requires compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards effective immediately. Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1986.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: The Wyoming Girl Scout Council  
 Camp Sacajawea  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 293  
 Casper, Wyoming 82602  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Approximately ten miles south of  
 the City of Casper, on the south  
 side of Casper Mountain, Natrona  
 County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030422

The Wyoming Girl Scout Council plans to open a lodge on the south slope of Casper mountain which will be known as Camp Sacajawea. The wastewater treatment facilities serving the camp will consist of an extended aeration package plant which will discharge into Red Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. Effluent quality and quantity must be monitored on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1986.

(5) APPLICANT NAME: Altex Oil Corporation  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1660 - 17th Street, Suite 300  
 Denver, Colorado 80202  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Lamb No. 13 Tank Battery, SE4,  
 NW4, Section 12, T51N, R93W, Big  
 Horn County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030490

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Big Horn County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Dead Horse Gulch (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease,

which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(6) APPLICANT NAME: Mineral Resources and Engineering,  
 Inc.  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 758  
 Golden, Colorado 80401  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wagner Lease, NW4, Section 1,  
 T49N, R66W, Crook County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030295

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Crook County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Mule Creek (Class IV Water).

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(7) APPLICANT NAME: Energy Development Company  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 600  
 Hanna, Wyoming 82327  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Carbon County  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022748

The Energy Development Company operates an underground coal mine located west of Hanna Wyoming which is known as the Vanguard Number 2 Mine.

The discharge flows into Ditch Creek (Class IV Water). The discharge must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level. Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire January 31, 1986.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: Amoco Production Company  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2520  
 Casper, Wyoming 82601  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Salt Creek Field, L.A.C.T. No. 8,  
 NE4, Section 26, T40N, R79 W,  
 Natrona County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022861  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Salt Creek Field, L.A.C.T. No. 15,  
 NW4, Section 35, T40N, R79W,  
 Natrona County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-002887

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Salt Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed draw.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on these facilities except for oil and grease (10 mg-l) and pH (6.5-8.5). This is due to the extreme aridness of the area which allows for beneficial use of the water for agricultural purposes. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1985.

(9) APPLICANT NAME: The Town of Glenrock, Wyoming  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 417  
 Glenrock, Wyoming 82637  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Converse County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020630

The wastewater treatment system serving the Town of Glenrock, Wyoming consists of the following three separate facilities:

1. A three cell lagoon system in which the first two cells are aerated. This system is located on the north side of the North Platte River and is the facility included under the existing permit. Under the proposed permit this outfall to the North Platte River (Class II Water) is designated as discharge point 001.

2. A three cell non-aerated lagoon system serving the Oregon Trails Subdivision Area. This system did not originally have an outfall structure, but severe seepage has occurred and the Town has added a discharge line to the North Platte River. This outfall is designated as discharge point 002 in the proposed permit.

3. A three cell lagoon system located on the east side of the Town. This system is designated so that the first two cells could be aerated and the final pond is designed for infiltration. Currently there is no possibility of a surface discharge from this facility.

The major purpose of the proposed modification is to add the additional discharge point 002. The proposed permit requires that all treatment facilities be operated at maximum capability and efficiency until July 1, 1983. As of July 1, 1983 the Town is required to have new or upgraded facilities in place which are capable of achieving National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. The proposed permit also contains a schedule of compliance for meeting the July 1, 1983 deadline.

Effluent quality and quantity must be monitored on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1986.

(10) APPLICANT NAME: City of Rawlins - Wastewater  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 953  
 Rawlins, Wyoming  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Carbon County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020427



# Bulletin Board

## NATIVE BUDGET

Fearing the Reagan administration's programs will not reach far enough to help American Indians and Alaska Natives, the National Urban Indian Council is meeting in San Diego, Calif., on May 17-21 to discuss the budget. The council claims to represent some 130 native organizations. For more information, contact Gregory Frazier, 1805 South Bellaire, Suite 525, Denver, Colo. 80222.

## COLUMBIA CHASM

The future of the Columbia River Gorge — clouded by Native American water rights, power generation schemes, navigation, industrial development and recreation uses — will be discussed May 16-17 in a short course sponsored by Washington State University. The course includes travel on the "Columbia River Sightseer" vessel, bus trips, and dinner at The Dalles Portage Inn. Contact Allison Laederich, SW Washington Research Unit, WSU, Vancouver, Wash. 98664; 206-696-6018.

## FEDERAL LOANS

Government loans from the new administration — what are left and how to snatch them — is the subject of seminars sponsored by the American Alliance of Small Businesses. To be held across the country starting in May, the seminars cost up to \$300 for two days of workshops. Contact the Baylor University Professional Development Center, P.O. Box 3107, Dallas, Texas 75221.

## TOWN ORGANIZING

Arousing and organizing your community is the focus of two five-day workshops to be held this summer in San Francisco by the Organize Training Center. The workshops will include sessions on strategies and tactics; the dates are May 28 to June 1, and Oct. 22 to 26; the cost is \$300. OTC also has a selection of publications on community organizing. Contact Mike Miller, OTC, 1208 Market St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102; 415-552-8990.

## EXPORTING WATER

Water conservation efforts should not only start in the home, but in the state as well, believes a new group of eastern Wyoming ranchers working to prevent the export of water from the state to other areas. Contact Save Wyoming Water, Lusk, Wyo. 82225.

## COAL FOR SALE

The right to mine over 520,000 tons of federal coal from Jackson County, Colo., is being sold on May 12 in Denver by the Department of Interior. The sale was requested by Wyoming Fuel Co., which plans to extend its area surface mines and sell the coal to Midwest utilities. Contact the agency at 303-837-0111 for more details.



## BULLFROG FILMS

The latest Bullfrog Films catalog is out, and it contains several dozen color films and slide shows on a variety of alternative energy and living subjects. All are available for rental fees ranging from \$15 to \$60. Titles include "Lovejoy's Nuclear War," "Pedal Power," "A Sense of Humus" and "Living the Good Life (with Scott and Helen Nearing)." Contact Bullfrog Films, Oley, Penn. 19547.

## SELLING POWER

Unless a recent court ruling has changed the game (we'll tell you if it does), the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) is continuing to spur small power production by forcing utilities to purchase energy from small producers like windmill operators. The Center for Renewable Resources has published a 26-page brochure outlining the new law. "Promoting Small Power Production." Send \$3 to CRR, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 510, Washington, D.C. 20036.

## WEST SLOPE FUTURES

Utility rate structures and powerlines, forest planning, worker safety and health, and the Gunnison River are among the topics scheduled for a May 16-17 conference in Montrose, Colo. The conference is sponsored by a new citizens group, the Western Colorado Congress; more information is available from Teresa Erickson, 303-249-1978.

## RELIANCE

Home weatherization, home dried foods, and other rural self-sufficiency technologies are being promoted by the new Self Reliance Foundation, Las Trampas, New Mexico, 87576, through two new films available for purchase or rental.

A discharge permit was issued to the City of Rawlins on March 9, 1981. That permit authorized a discharge from Rawlin's new sewage treatment facilities and required that such discharge meet the effluent limitations dictated by federal and state law.

Subsequent to the issuance of that permit, it was learned that the new facilities included an emergency bypass out of the main lift station. The bypass pipe discharges to Sugar Creek (Class IV Water).

The proposed permit modification identifies the bypass outfall as discharge point 002, requires that it be used only under emergency conditions, and requires that a report of its use be made to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. All other items in the permit issued March 9, 1981 are retained in the proposed modified permit.

(11) APPLICANT NAME: Town of Saratoga  
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 486, Saratoga, Wyoming 82331  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Water Treatment Plant, Carbon County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003492

The Town of Saratoga has two operable water treatment plants which treat raw water taken from the North Platte River. The old plant, which is now used intermittently, is a standard plant consisting of coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorination. The new plant includes diatomaceous earth filtration and ozonation. Wastewaters from both plants consists of filter backwash and are routed to a single evaporation-infiltration pond.

The Town is now in the process of studying ways in which the treatment system could be upgraded to eliminate any future discharges to the North Platte River (Class I Water). However, the current permit requires elimination of all discharges by August 1, 1981. The Town feels that it will need until July 1, 1982 to determine what needs to be done and then to construct. The proposed permit modification would grant the Town's request for an extension and require no discharge after July 1, 1982.

During the interim period, regular monitoring of any discharge will be required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1986.

(12) APPLICANT NAME: Pacific Power and Light Company and Black Hills Power and Light Company  
 MAILING ADDRESS: Wyodak Steam Electric Plant, Garner Lake Route, Gillette, Wyoming 82716  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Neil Simpson Plant approximately one mile east of the City of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001384

These are two separate power plants located adjacent to each other approximately one mile east of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. Both are coal fired steam electric generating plants. The older of the two plants is the Neil Simpson plant which is wholly owned by the Black Hills Power and Light Company. The original discharge permit Wy-0001384 was issued to this facility. The newer of the two plants is the Wyodak Steam Electric Plant which is an air-cooled facility operated by the Pacific Power and Light Company and the Black Hills Power and Light Company.

A single wastewater treatment system which consists of two settling ponds serves both plants. The final settling pond discharges to Donkey Creek (Class IV Water).

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a re-opener clause which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent limitations are developed at the federal level.

Effluent quality and quantity is required to be monitored on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1986.

(13) APPLICANT NAME: The Union Pacific Railroad Company  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1416 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68179  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Green River, Wyoming, Sweetwater County  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000043

The Green River, Wyoming yards operated by the Union Pacific Railroad Company are engaged in the servicing, maintenance, and repair of railroad equipment. Wastewaters which originate at the yards consist of cooling water and boiler blowdown as well as waters utilized in train service and cleaning. Discharge volume varies, but averages approximately 35,000 gallons per day.

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit contains a

reopener clause which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level.

The proposed permit limits total dissolved solids to 2,000 mg/l since the discharge is to a Salinity Sensitive (Colorado River) drainage. The proposed permit also limits the phosphate concentration to 1.0 mg/l since Flaming Gorge Reservoir is exhibiting signs of eutrophication due to high phosphate levels.

Self-monitoring is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1986.

(14) APPLICANT NAME: WYMO Fuels, Inc.  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1330 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64105  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Campbell County, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027855

WYMO Fuels, Inc. operates an open-pit coal mine located approximately 30 miles south of Gillette Wyoming which is known as the WYMO Mine. The discharges flow into the Middle Fork of Coal Creek and Kintz Creek (Class IV Waters) via various drainages.

The discharge must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level. Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operations and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire January 31, 1986.

(15) APPLICANT NAME: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
 MAILING ADDRESS: Lake and Fishing Bridge Area, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190  
 FACILITY LOCATION: Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming  
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0029068

The Lake and Fishing Bridge areas of Yellowstone National Park are served by wastewater treatment facilities which consist of two oxidation ditches followed by two denitrification ponds and three percolation ponds. These facilities do not have surface discharge, however, in the fall of the year it becomes necessary to flush the sewage out of the force main going to the plant with potable water. After flushing out the sewage it becomes necessary to drain the potable water out of the line into the Yellowstone River (Class I Water) to prevent freezing of the line over the winter.

The proposed discharge permit allows the draining of potable water into the Yellowstone River provided the Total Residual Chlorine concentration of the discharge does not exceed .5 mg/l.

The quality and quantity of the discharge must be monitored at the time the discharge occurs and must be reported at the end of each year. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1986.

## STATE-EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCA are being protected.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to June 1, 1981. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to June 1, 1981 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

The complete applications, draft permits and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned addresses.

Opinion

# ECOTAGE



## 'Ecotage' seeks wild ends but won't make friends

What place does the unlawful destruction of property have in the movement to protect wild areas in the Rocky Mountains from development? "When it comes to protecting the last remnants of wilderness," a saboteur told our reporter, Dan Whipple, "anything you do is justified." "It's an expression of frustration," said the Sierra Club's Phil Hocker, "not deeply thought out in terms of political effectiveness."

There is some philosophical sense to this form of "ecotage." The saboteurs' goal is to protect wild areas. Protection of wilderness, while it may be a "management" question in Washington, D.C., is, out here, a movement to see that some pockets of nature are left alone. Nature has its own order; but that order is viewed by many humans as a kind of anarchy. If you are fighting to preserve nature's anarchy-order, the logic goes, it makes some sense to bring a little anarchy into the lives of corporate developers who want so badly to "control" that wilderness. In addition, ecotage brings a kind of prankster spirit to a beleaguered movement. No doubt some of these environmental saboteurs get the same thrill Sixties anti-war and political activists got from taking some real risks — legal and physical — for what they believed in.

No philosophical or psychological rationale, however, speaks to the effectiveness of ecotage. Politically, what made sense for the Sixties activists is unlikely to work for wilderness advocates in the Eighties.

The saboteurs will get some support, and some media attention (we stand accused). But their approach misreads the movement for wilderness preservation. Whereas social, political, and some environmental causes can enlist a number of people with "nothing to lose," from urban ghettos to Appalachian homesteads, willing to take risks and unconcerned about property because they haven't any, the movement to protect wild lands begins at the opposite end of the economic scale. For a great many people, the desire for preservation of public and private land is subliminally connected to their own worldly well-being.

James Watt and some energy officials would call this "elitist" — rich folks, happy with their lot, campaigning to see that the land around their ranches is preserved. We'd call it foresighted. The preservation of wilderness may have once been a luxury only the rich could afford — it is now accessible to most Americans (and enlists the support of many who don't qualify for "upper class"); and the natural world is shrinking so fast that the ecological, as well as spiritual, value of wild areas shall someday soon be recognized as tantamount to other causes of social betterment.

The only possible good that could come from the ecotage reported in this issue would be attention in the mainstream media: more people might then be aware that there are spectacular wild areas such as the Bridger-Teton National Forest threatened by seismic crews and drill rigs.

Will it be worth it, though? Or will the ecotage actions serve to discredit conservationists working through the courts and Congress, and alienate the upper class constituency that pays the bills of lawyers and lobbyists?

As Hocker said, there is more evidence of frustration than political forethought in these acts.

— GOG

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## reporter's notebook

## Planning for power



DENVER — The utility company officials took their power plant proposal first to Buffalo, Wyo., a prime spot with available coal and water: 200 local people showed up, complaining about pollution, population and the Rural Electrification Administration's tilt away from ranchers and towards industry.

The officials went to Rawlins, Wyo., and then to Douglas, Wyo., where one local summed up community feelings: "We urge you to take a very close look at the other sites and build your plant in one of them." Finally, the road show arrived in Hemingford, Neb., where 500 people jammed the school gym to give the proposal its worst lambasting yet.

### SURPRISE POSTPONEMENT

A few months later, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association announced that the proposed facility would be deferred for at least two years. No site would be chosen until 1983. The announcement, coming on the heels of a media campaign and the trial-by-fire public meetings, surprised many.

Why hold public meetings just before releasing revised electricity-need projections that would change the whole picture? Did they really have a statistical change of heart at Tri-State, or were they intimidated by the outcry at the public meetings?

"We got emotionally bruised in those public hearings," said Bill Eisele, Tri-State communications director, but Eisele added that the meetings turned up no "fatal flaw" in the sites under consideration for the power plant. Tri-State simply found that electricity demand was growing more slowly than expected. The public meetings, actually run by the federal Rural Electrification Administration, were part of an investigative process leading to an environmental assessment, and were scheduled far in advance of Tri-State's reevaluation of power needs in its service area.

The public explanation for the plant postponement, then, appeared to have been accurate. But Tri-State still provides an interesting chance to look at the world through utility-tinted glasses. It's an interesting view. In the Tri-State graphs and statistics you can see subdivisions going up in farmer's fields, missile silos closing down, and pivot irrigators sweeping around hayfields.

### CONSUMER-OWNED

Tri-State itself is unlike many other utilities. "You look right through Tri-State like a piece of glass," said Eisele, and on the other side you see 25 rural electrical cooperatives. The co-ops, in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska, have "all requirements" contracts with Tri-State: It must supply all their power needs, and they must buy all their power from Tri-State.

The nine-member board of directors is made up of consumers and managers from member co-ops. No investor-stockholders here. Tri-State Planning specialist Steve Brown gets his information from his customers: Co-op managers tell him what direction energy use is taking in their area; but "we do something more than just add it up."

Tri-State can't build a power plant

without the support of its co-ops — it has no equity to offer, so it needs contractual "promises" from its 25 members to cover the period of its construction loans. (For instance, Tri-State's present contracts with co-ops run through 2020 — the year it pays off its share of the cost of building Missouri Basin Power Project's Laramie River Station, of which it owns 24 percent.)

### PLANNING A PLANT

In 1974, planners at Tri-State projected the need for a new power plant in the mid-1980s. That was based on a "requirements" study. Such a study, said Steve Brown, includes everything from reports on possible industrial growth to a check of housing permits, to individual home heating preferences, to irrigation methods, among other things. The 1974 requirements study was hundreds of pages long.

Bob Eisele held up one of the fat study books and said, "Now the study for each member (co-op) is that thick."

Energy experts figure they need to plan ten years ahead when they build power plants: Five years for permits and environmental monitoring, five years to build the plant.

And no sooner is a study completed than the unexpected usually takes place. Colorado is suddenly in the running for a space center, possibly to be located in Tri-State's service area. A coal slurry pipeline is proposed; gasohol plants begin springing up.

Those are the sorts of occurrences that can throw years of planning askew.

Even the more predictable things refuse to follow the lines on the graphs. The postponement of Tri-State's mid-80s, and now 1990, power plant — and officials emphasize that it is only a postponement, not a cancellation — was due to an unexpected drop in the annual growth rate from eight percent to four percent.

The color-coded graphs on the wall of Tri-State's new offices in the Denver suburbs tell part of the story. Circumstances differ from state to state. In Colorado, industrial use is growing rapidly as heavy industry moves out to the country where land is cheap. In Nebraska, center pivot irrigation requires deeper wells and more pumping; the rise in power use fluctuates annually with the weather. In Wyoming, where people complained at last fall's public meetings that Tri-State was favoring factories over farms, the rising industrial load is actually due to oil pumping. You can follow the popularity of center pivot irrigation in Tri-State's agricultural electricity-use charts as it moves west during the seventies from Eastern Nebraska. And the drop in industrial power use in Nebraska primarily reflects the closing of missile silos.

### FALLING SHORT

Why is it important to keep churning out projections and reports, when so often changes in circumstance can't be anticipated? Because if a utility doesn't get it right, or close to right, it's in big trouble.

The saddest example in the region, the one Tri-State officials and many

others point to, is Public Service Company of Colorado.

PSC, an investor-owned utility, faces the sort of situation every utility wants to avoid. Reasons differ depending on whom you talk to, but due to a foot-dragging Public Utilities Commission, poor planning, or whatever, PSC does not have enough power for its customers. As a result, it buys from other utilities — buying power at two to three times what it costs to generate its own. About 20 percent of the kilowatts to PSC's rapidly-growing customer list comes from other systems at premium prices.

Though Tri-State, being consumer owned, does not face exactly the same situation as PSC, it and all utilities want to avoid falling short — but none want to saddle customers with the cost of building unneeded power generators, either. Thus, the planning cycle goes on and is given great significance.

Which brings us back to Tri-State's postponed plan to build a 350-megawatt coal-fired power plant, with the potential to expand to 1,500 megawatts. Experts at Tri-State not only had to figure what power they would need in ten years, they had to gauge the type of power. For this, they looked at the "load duration curve" — to find out if they could expect a few months of heavy use every year (requiring "peaking" power), or year-round need (requiring larger "baseload" capacity). In the Seventies, with irrigation needs rising, they added peaking power, building hydroelectric turbines that could give a boost in the planting season. Now year-round uses are rising, and they need baseload power. Hence, they put a coal-fired power plant on the drawing boards. A preliminary investigation narrowed possible sites from 80 to four. In communities near those

four sites, they held their harrowing public meetings.

And then postponed the plant. So what will they do for the next two years?

They will listen, both to consumers and scientists in the energy field, and work on new projections, and study alternatives.

### RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Recently Tri-State announced another project. It was not a coal-fired power plant this time; it was a research project into wind-generated energy. Tri-State plans to set up four monitoring stations to study wind potential in its service area.

Tri-State co-ops are now buying some wind-generated energy from consumers under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, and, said Tri-State spokesman Bob Pflager: "We're wondering, if the potential is there, maybe we should get into it." Wind velocity sensors will be mounted on Tri-State's microwave towers around the region, and officials will track various technological development. In the late 1980s, commercial wind power could be a reality.

Months before, this reporter thought there might be a connection between angry public meetings and an abruptly cancelled power plant. A good story. So now Tri-State backs off its plans for a coal-fired power plant that nobody wants, realizes its growth projections were too high, and turns to wind-power.

Again, a nice story, but the wind study has been in the works for some time, long before the coal-fired power plant was postponed. That's the way the planning process works...

## letters

### COAL LEASING

Dear HCN,

There are many reasons to question the need for additional federal coal leasing in the West (HCN, 3-20-81). But GOG makes two blunders in arguing against issuing new leases in the Powder River area.

Even if expected production and capacity (these are not the same thing) at mines already leased are enough to meet the nation's needs through 1990, what happens after that? It takes years to put a mine in production and more years for it to reach full production. Coal from leases issued in 1982-83 may not reach the market until 1990.

More dangerous is the attempt to argue against new leases because 300 existing federal leases are not being mined. I doubt that most of us would like to see many of these leases mined. In Utah, they can be found next to Capital Reef National Park in the Henry Mountains, in Kaiparowits and close to Bryce and Zion National Parks. I'm sure if environmentalists want old leases mined before new ones are issued

the coal companies would be happy to oblige.

Argue against new coal leasing but watch what arguments you use. The environmental movement doesn't need sloppy shooting.

Gerald R. Jacob  
Salt Lake City

### WINTERS DOCTRINE

Dear HCN,

In "Crows lose fishing, hunting control" (HCN, 4-3-81), the writer stated that "The Winters Doctrine, established in 1909, says tribes are entitled to all waters flowing in, through or adjacent to reservations." This interpretation of the Winters Doctrine is incorrect.

Rather, the U.S. Supreme Court held in two cases that in establishing reservations the Federal government reserved for Native Americans "only that amount of water necessary to fulfill the purpose of the reservation, no more."

John McDermott  
Ann Arbor, MI

16-High Country News — May 1, 1981

## books

### Earth Sheltered Housing Design

Prepared by the Underground Space Center, University of Minnesota; 1979, \$9.95, paper, 318 pages. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 135 W. 50th St., New York, NY 10020.

### The Underground House Book

Stu Campbell; 1980, \$9.95, paper, 210 pages. Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, Vermont 05445.

### Review by Geoffrey O'Gara

#### "Tautochrone."

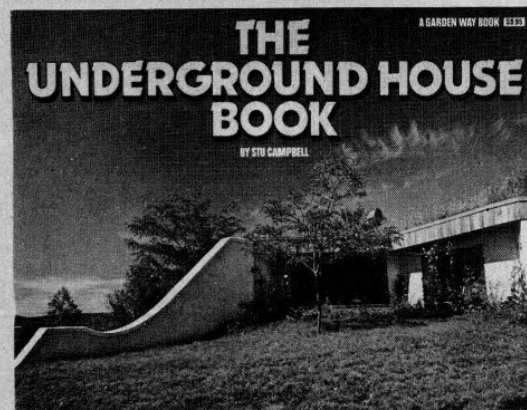
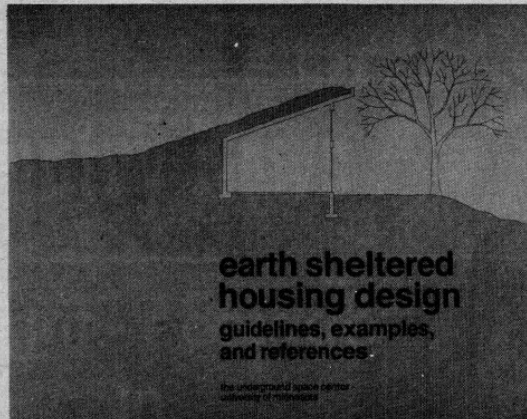
It isn't in Webster's New World Dictionary. The best Webster can do is "tauto-", a Greek combination form meaning "the same," as in "tautology." Right nearby is "tautog," the proper American Indian name for the blackfish caught off our Atlantic coast; and drifting on we find "tau," a Greek letter doubling as a game of marbles; and then one of my old favorites, "tatterdemalion" (you look it up).

"Tautochrone" is found in the book **Earth Sheltered Housing Design**, under a chart that looks like a botanist's cross-section rendering of an erupting stamen. The chart is referred to in the adjoining text as a graph showing short-term fluctuations of soil temperature. But the word "tautochrone," with its intimations of technology, discourse, metallic glitter and witches, is never defined.

I don't mind that. The authors of this excellent book have otherwise made their subject very accessible to lay readers. And anyone in the engineering field — as these authors-professors from the University of Minnesota are — would probably not blink twice at "tautochrone."

If dictionary-hunting does not appeal to you, there is an alternative book on earth-sheltered housing: **The Underground House Book**. This volume is the wide-screen, color, Disneyland version of the black-and-white, sotto voce tome put out by our dour Minnesotans.

Except for the trappings, though, these two books are not that dissimilar. One might guess that Stu Campbell, author of the more recently published **Underground House Book**, borrowed a good deal of his material and format



from **Earth Sheltered Housing Design**; and he is quick to credit the Underground Space Center with generating "much of the serious research and persuasive hoopla" in the field.

So take your pick from the two approaches. Don't bother to get both; they use many of the same examples.

Campbell is one of those talented writers who can personalize a subject — like building design — that defies personalization. He starts out with a little Herman Hesse — he is a pilgrim escaping the corruption that is California; he

thinks spiritual thoughts about the car he rides in (shades of Purgis); and he achieves a kind of satori as he confronts the barren Wyoming foothills along Interstate 80. Sensory-deprived by the plains and highway and deeply immersed in his car's spirituality, he has a sudden vision of "space-age Hobbit holes!" in those foothills and he urges his transcendent Saab off to Vermont, where they will write a book on underground houses.

There is a lot of good information in his book. More than that, if one can restrain oneself from making fun of a

writer who is only doing his best to enliven a potentially dull subject, he does rather a good job.

The indexes of the two books are quite similar, though Campbell adds a few paragraphs on "Attitudes" and "Psychological Factors," which the other book eschews. Where the Minnesotans taper off into complex BTU computations, we last see Campbell wandering in the Vermont hills looking for his own underground house site.

If that's your cup of tea, drink it. Campbell can teach you a lot. Personally, though, I'll take the plainspoken, spare Minnesotans.

No one should buy a book if they're just curious — there are plenty of magazine articles to satisfy that large group. For those who are already sure they want to know it all — and why else by a book about building? — there is no need for Campbell's literary baton twirling. I trust the Minnesotans; they don't treat underground houses like hot tubs.

Their book simply lays out the information, and manages to make the technical necessities clear, concise and brief. The book is extremely well-organized (Campbell's follows suit); its diagrams are helpful. The photographs, in a section on existing designs, are sometimes too dark.

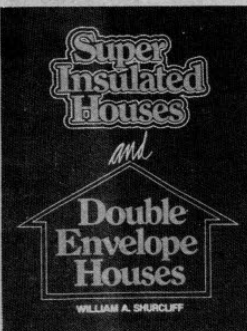
If you've read many books on building, engineering and energy efficiency, you don't read further out of frothy enthusiasm. You read because it's a disease, a demented hunger. To keep your habit under control, you want books that provide just the facts, neatly organized in a handsome format and spelled out in plain English.

Speaking of which (plain English, that is): In **The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary** you can unearth what Webster failed to root out.

**Tautochrone.** That curve upon which a particle moving under the action of gravity (or any given force) will reach the lowest (or some fixed) point in the same time, from whatever point it starts...

Perhaps now we understand why the authors merely gave us the word, without trying to explain. I'm glad they did it that way. Building is a sometime joy; books about building are sometimes joyless; but wandering in the OED is a joy forever.

## book notes



**Super Insulated Houses and Double Envelope Houses**, by William Shurcliff, 1981, \$12.00, 182 pages. Brick House Publishing, 34 Essex St., Andover, Mass. 01810.

This is simply an updated version of a book Shurcliff published himself last year. It has a new glossy cover, but on the inside it is, like its predecessor, casually organized, graphically ugly, and full of information. Shurcliff favors super insulated houses over double envelopes, but his admitted bias does not interfere with his ability to analyze with insight the pros and cons of these two currently fashionable forms of energy-saving house design.

**World Mineral Trends and U.S. Supply Problems**, compiled by Leonard Fischman; Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C.; 1980; 535 pages; \$15.00.

When Rep. Dan Marriott (R-Utah) recently criticized the proposed MX-missile project as a danger to U.S. strategic mineral supplies, this is the reference his staff probably put in his hands for ammunition. Cobalt, chromium, manganese, copper, aluminum and lead — they're all essen-

tial to our industrial-military complex, and they could all be exhausted in the long run or carteled in the short. RFF has put together facts on world consumption, trade patterns, future supplies and "contingencies" for these seven major minerals. There may be alternatives to taking cobalt out of the Idaho River-of-No-Return Wilderness.



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