

The Outdoor and Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

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Friday, November 20, 1970

Snowmobiling Issue



Photo by Montana Highway Commission

One of Montana's best known and most challenging snowmobile trails is the Big Sky Trail which starts just south of Bozeman and meanders down the spectacular

Gallatin Valley for 125 miles . . . at times paralleling U.S. Highway 191 until it reaches the snow capital of West Yellowstone. It's in Montana . . . snowmobiling at it's best.

Yellowstone Is Winter Mecca

An exciting new dimension to the Wyoming winter scene has been added for the 1970-71 season--the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. For the first time the road from Colter Bay in Grand Teton National Park to the South Gate will be plowed, making it possible for snowmobile enthusiasts to visit the wonders of Yellowstone from the South entrance. Prior to this time the trip from Colter Bay to Old Faithful, center of most winter activity in America's oldest national park, had been possible but extremely difficult in a day's time. Now, it will be an easy and enjoyable day's tour.

Yellowstone is the final jewel in the Wyoming winter crown. A winter vacation in Wyoming now features the spectacular scenic beauty of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, skiing at any of the state's 14 ski areas, snowmobiling in seven national forests, ice fishing select Wyoming lakes, cross country skiing or snowshoeing or viewing the world's largest single elk herd at the National Elk Refuge north of Jackson or any one of a number of cutter or snowmobile races throughout the state. Wyoming's mountain ranges -- Teton, Wind River, Big Horn, Medicine Bow, --

and national forests -- Teton, Bridger, Bighorn, Medicine Bow, Shoshone, Black Hills and Targhee -- offer the ideal setting for a family winter vacation. The excitement this year centers around Yellowstone, and the Yellowstone Park Company has announced it will conduct tours of the park in large, heated, many passenger snowmobiles. Tours will start at the Flagg Ranch and operate to several points within the park, starting December 15. Daily bus service from Teton Village, site of the Jackson Hole Ski Area, the Town of Jackson and the Jackson Hole Airport, the

Flagg Ranch and return will be in effect from November 1 through April 15. The bus leaves Teton Village at 7:00 a.m. daily, arriving Flagg Ranch at 8:30 a.m. with intermediate stops in Jackson (7:15 a.m.) and the airport (7:30 a.m.) The return trip leaves Flagg Ranch at 5:30 p.m. and arrives Teton Village at 7:00 p.m. Costs are \$2.80 one way from Teton Village to Flagg Ranch and \$5.30 round trip, and \$2.50 from Jackson to Flagg Ranch and \$4.75 round trip. Snowmobile tours will be offered from Flagg Ranch to Old Faithful (\$19.25 round trip for adults; \$9.75 for

children under 12); Flagg Ranch to West Yellowstone (round trip--\$33 for adults and \$16.50 for children); Flagg Ranch to Mammoth (round trip--\$38.50 adults and \$19.75 for children) and from Flagg Ranch to West Yellowstone (one way-- \$20.00 and \$10.00 and Flagg Ranch to Mammoth (one way--\$24.00 and \$12.00). Yellowstone, the world's first and America's largest and still most fabulous national park, is magnificent in the spring, summer and fall and spectacular in the winter. The snow and cold temperatures make the park's 10,000 thermal (Please turn to page 4)

Friday, November 20, 1970

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The following column is reprinted from the August 22, 1969, issue of High Country News. It seems even more appropriate today than at that time.

In a world beset by problems - wars, crime, violence, high taxes, inflation, and all the rest - it is hard to put your finger on the number one problem. But there is no difficulty in singling out the one basic problem - too many people.

There are those who scoff at the idea of too many people. People need cars, shirts, shoes, refrigerators, boats - you name it. This creates jobs and a booming economy. This means Money. And in our capitalistic society, to condemn money is as sacrilegious as a condemnation of God and motherhood.

The day will come - and it may not be as far off as some think - when money will become of secondary importance. Survival itself will be of utmost importance, and even survival will be a dog-eat-dog existence.

Yes, I will be tagged as just another nutty prophet of doom. But let me ask you how many newspapers or magazines you have read recently that did not have at least one article dealing with a problem of population or environmental degradation?

Have you read the statistics on the increase in crime lately? Crime is increasing at a far faster rate than the population is increasing. Have you read the shocking statistics on vandalism recently? "Vandalism is one index of social stresses," says Dr. John Martin, sociology professor at Fordham University.

Have you read of the problems of air pollution, and the rise in deaths from lung cancer, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases? Air pollution is caused because millions of people need to drive to work, drive to school, drive on vacation. It is caused because more people need more electricity, more goods, more clothing, more food, and need to be kept snug and warm in their comfortable homes.

Have you read or heard of water pollution lately? 203.8 million people in the United States have natural processes of elimination from their bodies every day. Where do you suppose most of that waste material goes? Or have you really thought about it?

Have you read about the starving children of Biafra - or India - or Brazil recently? Shocking isn't it that 147,000 people starved to death today - 12,000 of them children and babies. Did it ever occur to you that your grandchildren might die of starvation?

Have you read of the problem of pesticides in your body, your food, the air, the oceans, and the whole environment? Pesticides, we are told, are necessary to make possible the vast quantities of quality (?) foods for booming populations.

Do you think taxes are high? Wait until you have to start paying dearly to have the air cleaned up so you can safely breathe it. Wait until you have to pay dearly for water which has been purified so you can safely drink it. Wait until you have to pay for more policemen and firemen so you can safely walk the streets or sleep in your home at night. Wait until you have to pay for new schools, new buildings, new facilities just to replace those damaged or destroyed by vandals or in riots or near civil wars.

The problem is here - we must face it. Control of human populations is an absolute necessity. We must have family planning and it must be now. If we wait any longer, we may pass a point of no return in which it will be impossible to even help ourselves.



Photo by Wyoming Travel Commission

Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, with the Tetons providing a spectacular backdrop, is the ideal setting for an excursion by snowmobile. The scenery itself is enough justification, but seeing wildlife in its native habitat, enjoying the solitude of an ermine-coated back country and the thrill of skimming over the snow on a fleet snow machine provide bonuses to a winter vacation experience in Wyoming's Snow Country.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I am a subscriber to High Country News and really enjoy your paper. Your photographs and articles on historic and scenic locations are the ones I read first. I also appreciate the way you pull no punches where conservation issues are concerned. Will you please add my name to your mailing list for a copy of "High Country Rock Hunter's Guide".

Keith Powers

Box 409

Rice Lake, Wisc. 54868

Editor's Note: Thanks for your comments about the paper and the conservation issues. Both editors, Farmer and Bell, once worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and saw some of the conservation and environmental issues from the inside. Editor Bell has two degrees in wildlife conservation and game management and also wears a second hat as executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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We both feel Wyoming's great wealth of outdoor resources is worth fighting for.

Editor:

I read with interest your letter to the editor of Colorado Magazine. In my home state of Wisconsin, we have two open sewers - the Wisconsin River and the Fox River. Both rivers are loaded with paper and sulphate mills. The fish in both rivers were condemned last July by a federal commission. All the fish netted were full of mercury and unedible.

My son has a resort on Lake Wisconsin. He lost better than fifty percent of his reservations when the report came out. The resort owners are contemplating action against the paper mills to collect damages.

I don't think anyone will ever be able to assess the amount of damages these paper companies have done, even people in the midwest who used to come to Wisconsin for their vacations.

Other states downriver, through which the Green River flows, should come to your aid. These would include Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California. Do everything you can to keep out the paper mills or you and these other states will also have an open sewer.

Check with the Conservation Commission at Madison, Wisconsin, and they can furnish you much more data. Or write to Senator Wm. Proxmire or Senator Gaylord Nelson, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Wishing you the best of luck.

Joseph H. Kohl
3701 1/2 Sawtelle
Los Angeles, Calif.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Mr. Kohl and others who repeatedly warn us of the dangers of pulp mills and other related industries. I think the people of Wyoming will resist this kind of in-

dustry. The time is past when the pungent odor of rotten eggs smells like money in the bank. Thanks to you personally, Mr. Kohl. We appreciate your concern for us.

Dear Mrs. Higley,

Liked your column. I have my personal solutions to individually wrapped everything: 1. After the sale has been rung up and the clerk gets out a bag, I say "No thanks, I don't need a bag (because I carry my own tote bag—or a big purse for little items) and I'll just leave the wrappers here, too." Then I proceed to rip stuff out of wrappers and do just that—leave 'em, pack my purchases in my bag and walk out. It all happens so fast, the clerk can't think. Nothing she can do about it anyway, except look for a waste basket. 2. There are still fruit stands and stores that don't wrap. I'll go out of my way to shop there and boycott wrapped fruit and produce departments.

By the way, several clerks here in Ann Arbor have told me they appreciate my not taking their bags and wish more people would tote their own. The point is to do these things without feeling self-conscious or rebellious, but just plain sensible. It is good sense and others appreciate it. The word will get to the manufacturers soon enough, by way of trash-collecting store managers.

Yours truly,
Mary Inman.

Dear Miss Inman:

Thanks! It's nice to know that someone besides my relatives reads what I write! Seriously, what is really nice to know is that there are people like you who not only talk conservation, but DO something about it. Hope our readers will follow your advice. (Besides aiding in conservation, think what spice it could add to a shopping trip!)

Marge Higley

Guest Editorial



The Forest Service in the 70's

There has been a great deal of comment and concern, both within and outside the Forest Service, as to the direction that the Service will be taking in the coming decade on management of natural resources. Chief Ed Cliff recently expressed his thoughts on the subject in a message to all Forest Service personnel. We believe this message may also be of interest to those outside the Service who are concerned with programs or policies affecting the National Forests.

Message to Forest Service Employees from Chief Cliff: Many employees have recently expressed concern on the direction in which the Forest Service seems to be heading. I share this concern. Our programs are out of balance to meet public needs for the environmental 1970's and we are receiving mounting criticism from all sides. Our direction must be and is being changed.

We recently issued our broad overall objectives in "Framework for the Future." Each of you have received a copy and the policies contained therein are being incorporated in our directives system. In addition, we have developed a preliminary program for the 1970's which starts to put our program back in balance and more adequately recognizes environmental needs. Copies of this program will be sent to the field as soon as the current figure checking can be completed.

The Forest Service is seeking a balanced program with full concern for quality of the environment. We took seriously the President's endorsement of the findings of the Task Force on Softwood Lumber and Plywood. The Secretary of Agriculture was directed to take steps to intensify management of the National Forests to increase timber production and also to enhance the quality of the environment. The directive also covered private forest lands and forest research.

We are under great pressures as a result of the Environmental Policy Act and the existence of the Environmental Quality Council. The President directed that Federal Agencies move promptly to carry out full pollution abatement on all Federal projects. We are finding that the demands placed upon us by the Environmental Policy Act are time consuming and expensive. In addition, the President, in his wilderness report to Congress, asked Interior and Agriculture to make an increased effort to speed up the establishment of wilderness areas.

The Forest Service cannot do the things that the President has directed us to do without more money and people. Our program is out of balance now. Over the past 2 or 3 years, we have increased

the amount of money that we have for timber sale administration activities, but not by sufficient amounts to do the top quality job needed. We are not adequately financed in the other areas that need it. It is becoming a serious problem.

The American public is demanding top quality in management of natural resources and attention to the way things look. We are already involved in a number of lawsuits reflecting public awareness of our activities. The public is increasingly unhappy with us. This will continue until we get balance and quality into our program, as well as public involvement in our decisions. Until we do this, the course of public entering into our fairly routine decisions through protests, appeals and court cases will have the effect of reducing our ability to put timber on the market to help meet housing goals.

If the Forest Service receives no increases in funding, reprogramming will be necessary, meaning a reduction in our timber sale activities, in order to have better balance in our programs. We will undertake a major reprogramming of dollars, putting priority on maintaining quality for the commodity work we do. I have recently told my Forest Officers that the public will not tolerate poor quality work. We will go as far as we can in meeting quantity goals, but what we do must be on a quality basis.

The reprogramming would be for the National Forest System. We do not want to reduce any of our State and Private Forestry activities. We are already far behind in these programs. Nor would I reduce our research programs.

In order to have a better balanced quality program, timber sale, roading for sales, and structural improvement items would need to be reduced. Items such as wildlife, watershed, recreation and pollution control programs would be increased.

Our research program now reflects vigorous reprogramming in the last two years to cull out low priority activities. Our current research work concentrates on environmental activities and on measures to permit increased production of timber without degrading the environment.

If the Forest Service were given an overall increase less than we have recommended, we would allocate it in proportion to the increases in our original budget submission, with some minor changes. This would give us a relatively balanced program. It would mitigate some of the adverse environmental problems that we are now encountering.

The Forest Service wants to be fully responsive to these various demands. But we can

no longer afford to emphasize programs that produce revenues at the expense of others. If we do, we will not be providing the proper service to the public and will be faced with many more court cases. In my opinion, the best path is one that will provide a balanced high-quality program.

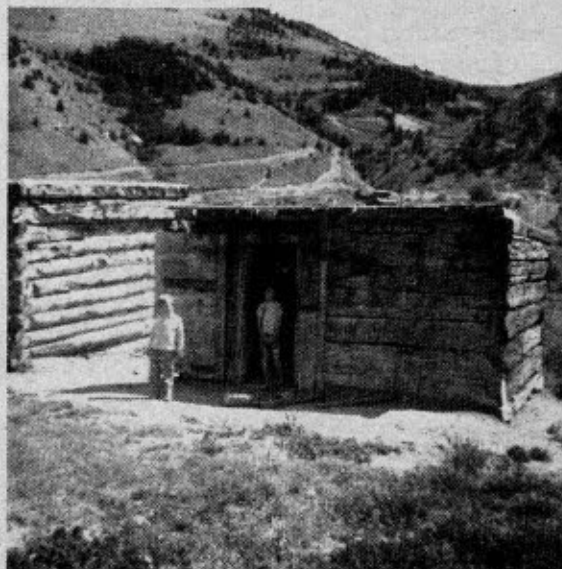
I have every intention of carrying this position through to fulfillment and every hope that we can achieve it. But in a tight budget situation there may not be more money or personnel ceilings available. In that event we will need to reprogram among present activities insofar as the Administration and Congress will allow.

Your understanding and support is also needed and would be sincerely appreciated during this critical period. If we pursue this course of action it will mean that we must continue to work as hard as possible to meet our goals for production with better balance and higher quality. Each of us has the obligation to assure our own conscience that we are working effectively and that the unit in which we serve is efficient and effective in its operation.

Future Fish On the Way

Fish that will someday tug at fishermen's lines and wriggle in creels are just now finding their way into the spawning pans of state fish hatcherymen. "Taking of kokanee salmon and rainbow trout spawn are now in full tilt," says Bill Alvord, superintendent of fisheries for the Montana Fish and Game Department.

Nearly four million kokanee eggs have been taken this season in the Flathead area. Spawn of the landlocked salmon will be hatched at the Somers State Fish Hatchery on Flathead Lake. The hatched kokanee will be planted in lakes as small fry early next spring.



Montana's first jail in Bannock. Like all gold-mining towns, Bannock had its share of bad men. Prisoners weren't kept long. They were run out of town or hung.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

by Norma R. Hentges

BANNOCK, MONTANA

In 1862, John White, wandered into Grasshopper Gulch, Idaho Territory, and discovered gold! The site became known as Bannock.

Bannock today lives with its ghosts of days past. Weathered, dilapidated, overgrown with weeds, the remains of Montana's most famous gold rush town can be found 21 miles west of Dillon, off U.S. 91.

Of the remaining buildings the Governor's Mansion is the most impressive. It has a maze of rooms with a half-circle stairway leading to the second floor.

In the jail, which was Montana's first, large iron rings remain. To these, the prisoners were chained. The gold rush stampede brought with it many desperadoes. Soon the town was ruled by the rogues. Prisoners weren't kept in jail long, they were either told to get out of town or hung.

The town's most notorious character was Henry Plummer, chief of the highwaymen who reigned the territory. Plummer was known as a gentleman. He was cultured and shrewd. He got himself elected sheriff of Bannock. He also "persuaded" the sheriff of Virginia City, a new mining camp, to yield his office to him. Thus, Plummer had his own outlaws as his deputies.

Henry Plummer had his own outlaws as his deputies. In this official capacity, they knew all movements of prominent citizens and of gold shipments. The gang, sought by the Vigilante group that was formed in 1863, was accused of 102 murders. The exact amount of the loot they stole was never estimated, but would be many thousands of dollars worth.

On the night of January 10, 1864, outlaw leader Plummer and two of his gang were seized in Bannock by the Vigilante's.

Gang members Buck Stinson and Ned Ray were taken with Henry Plummer up Hangman's Gulch to meet their death. The first two died slow deaths on the gallows. When it was Plummer's turn he requested a good drop. It is said he was lifted as high as possible, then dropped. He died quickly. It is assumed that these three were buried in the frozen ground in shallow graves near where they were hung. However, the actual site of burial was not determined.

Because of the desperate need of law enforcement, Congress created Montana Territory, May, 1864, making Bannock, Montana's first territorial capital. On December 12, 1864, the Montana legislature met here. The next year, the legislators followed the boom to Virginia City as the placer mines of Bannock played out. The seat of territorial government went with them.

Roam the dusty streets lined with weather-beaten buildings. Broken boards creak and the wind lends an eerie sound as it blows the sage brush around the corners of a town that boomed and busted in a span of a few short years.

Over one hundred years ago, Bannock, was filled with the glory cry of "Gold!" Today only the wind playing through deserted buildings cries for Bannock's ghosts and days past.



Bannock is a ghost town set amongst the hills of Montana. Most of the houses are weathered and dilapidated for they date back to the 1860's. This famous, old, gold-mining town is 21 miles west of Dillon, off U. S. 91.

Photos by Norma R. Hentges



Photo by Jim Tallon

Jumping off a snowbank, Vicki Tallon makes a used snowmobile out of a new one.

Yellowstone Is Mecca...

features, including 200 geysers, even more dramatic. The wildlife herds together and can be seen in greater abundance in winter than in summer.

Next door to Yellowstone National Park to the south is magnificent Grand Teton National Park with the Tetons forming the backdrop for snowmobiling, skiing, cross country touring or viewing the world's largest single elk herd, the 8,000 to 10,000 strong Jackson Hole herd, which winters at the National Elk Refuge just north of Jackson.

Snowmobile tours in large, heated snow machines are offered by Barker-Ewing Guide Service, Jackson, or you can go it alone and view the wide variety of wildlife which call the 60-mile long valley home—moose browsing among the frosted willows, elk splashing across a side channel of the Snake River, flocks of Canada geese, ducks and trumpeter swans or a bald eagle soaring nearby.

Like the camping craze the snowmobile boom has taken a firm grip on Wyoming. Wyoming's national forests and two national parks provide the ideal setting for those seeking the solitude and splendor of the great outdoors bedecked in an ermine coat.

National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service officials have established a minimum of rules to provide for the safety and well being of the snowmobiler, and many trails have been marked for the convenience of the over the snow adventurer.

General safety precautions include always traveling with a companion, wearing enough warm clothing, avoiding questionable (avalanche) terrain and notifying someone of your proposed

route and expected time of arrival. It is advisable to contact National Park or U. S. Forest Service officials prior to your trip to determine regulations and trails for the area.

Races and safaris have grown in popularity as fast as the machines themselves. Races set for this season include those at Saratoga (first weekend in February), the Snowy Range Winter Festival (February 26-28) and the Dubois to Pinedale trek and Dubois 55-mile cross country race, both in February.

Several Wyoming dude ranches and lodges are launching full scale winter operations to cater to the winter vacationer.

Other winter highlights will include cutter races every Sunday in Afton, starting December 20 and continuing through to the Wyoming

Championships on the weekend preceding George Washington's Birthday. Afton is the only Wyoming community where the cutters are still used. A matched set of thoroughbreds, pulling a small sleigh, race over ice and snow, thrilling driver and spectator alike.

Ice fishing has grown in popularity, and for those armed with ice augur, warm clothing and the will to wait patiently and attempt to entice the wily trout, fighting walleye or the night loving ling, Wyoming's lakes and reservoirs offer a true challenge. The state record rainbow was caught through the ice at Burnt Lake, so ice fishing can have its rewards.

For a brochure on "Skiing Big Wyoming" or "Big Wyoming Winter Fun," write Wyoming Travel Commission, 2320 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Snowmachiners Reminded About Snowmobile Safety

PIERRE—Snowmobilers have been asked by South Dakota Highway Patrol Chief Delton Shultz to refrain from operating their machines on the state's highways.

The reason for this request, Shultz says, is one of safety.

"Until the legislature passes a snowmobile law, we are asking the State Snowmobile Association, individual clubs, and snowmobilers in general to use common sense while operating snowmobiles," he said.

Neighboring states have recorded fatalities and accidents involving snowmobiles, but South Dakota has none this far. "This is due," Shultz said, "to the cooperation of snowmobile owners and to good operating attitudes."

Fred Nemer, Snowmobile Association president said, "we certainly do not want even one fatality involving a snowmobile and we are

asking members and non-members alike to heed Colonel Shultz's advice."

Cross Country Snow Safari

PIERRE—The Cross Country Snowmobile Safari, Feb. 21-28, beginning at Watertown and ending in the Black Hills, will cover nearly 400 miles.

Bill Lemley, of the South Dakota Snowmobile Association and chairman of the event said elaborate plans are being made and everything is "going smoothly."

The event which is sponsored by the State Snowmobile Association is open to anyone who wants to make the trip, whether or not a resident of the state or a member of the state association.

Outdoors Omnibus

by
Jim Tallon

DON'T GET SNOWED ON USED SNOWMOBILES

Being an outdoor writer, you often get to hob-nob with the experts. Loyal readers of this column no doubt remember Turkboy, Madam Eva, and Al Ellis. Well, in Phoenix, Arizona, last August I ran into still another of my expert friends.

I was traveling east on McDowell Road in 111-degree heat when a snowball clobbered my windshield. Now mind you, it hasn't snowed in Phoenix since 1939. And even then, hardly enough to put together a good snowball. That, plus the tempestuous temperatures sent me into a moment of arm-waving panic. But the snowball evaporated nearly instantly in a puff of steam, and I thought maybe I was seeing things.

A second snowball splattered the passenger-side window and I knew something was up. I whipped my rig to the curve, rammed it into reverse, and backed up a hundred feet to see Dick Rhodes reaching into an upright freezer-refrigerator for a third snowball. Dick is Arizona's most avid snowmobile fan and promoter, bar none.

"Dick," I said. "What in the devil are you doing?"

"Hi, Jim," he said. "Didn't know that was you in the camper. Anyway, it's my humble way of attracting attention to my new snowmobile shop."

He jammed two snowballs into conical paper cups, poured fruit flavor on them and passed one to me. I wanted to put mine in my straw cowboy hat and might have but he suggested we go into his air-conditioned shop.

"What do you think?" he asked, crunching ice from his impromptu snowcone.

"Pretty nice," I said, looking over the new model snowmobiles. My eyes came to rest on a used machine. Considering the clime in which I lived, curiosity got the better of me.

"Dick," I said. "That's the first used snowmobile I've ever seen for sale."

"Low mileage," said Dick, picking up the ball, er, snowball.

"I can see why," I said, looking outside to see if my pickup-camper had sunk out of sight into the asphalt. "Just how does a guy go about buying a used snowmobile. I mean, what does he look for and how does he avoid the 'Honest John' types snowmobile wheeler-dealers?"

"Well," said Dick, getting serious about his favorite subject, "to begin with the machine should have that 'used-by-a-little-old-maid-schoolteacher' look. You know, not battered up. If a snowmobile shows mistreatment on the outside, it could well be the same inside."

"Like used cars, huh?" I said.

"Yes, but that's only a starting place. It helps if you're familiar with snowmobile engines. A machine could look good and still have engine troubles. At best, you can listen for foreign noises like rod knocks, and maybe get the seller to guarantee the machine. If you can take it for a test run, so much the better. Be sure it starts easy."

"Do you kick the tires... I mean the track?" I asked.

"No, but you should check the track for damage and be sure the wheels and bearings that it rides on are in good shape. That goes for the belt drive unit, too. Sheaves should be straight and belts should fit snugly. The best machines have chains that run in oil. Watch for wear on the sides of the sprockets. This means something is out of line and a chain will have a short life."

His snowball had melted now and looked like Kool-Aid. He took a sip before going on.

"You have to consider the frame and skis. If a frame is busted, you can always have it welded, but it may take a bit of work if the break is in the track tunnel. Skis can get bent up, but this doesn't necessarily mean the machine has gotten a lot of rough usage. Perhaps skis damaged by running over bare ground might be more of a mark of reckless treatment."

"What should a guy pay for a used machine?" I asked.

"That's a tough question," he said. "But as a rule, snowmobiles may depreciate as much as 40 percent the first year, depending upon the make. In two or three years, you start thinking about half price, but again it depends upon the brand, and of course, condition. That one you're sitting on. We shave 30 percent off it, and it's in top shape."

He grinned.

"I can put in that one... I mean... on that one for no money down with good credit," he said.

"All my buying power went up in steam like your snowball on my windshield, when I bought THAT," I said, jerking a thumb toward my new pickup-camper. "However, I've a few bucks ratholed and I'm very interested in buying a used, high quality, deep freeze-refrigerator."

"I just happen to have one that was treated with loving care by a little-old-maid-schoolteacher," he said, starting toward the door.

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Clams Used to Monitor Pesticides

Fresh water clams, trapped in Pole Cat Creek in Teton County and transplanted in the Big Horn River in Big Horn County, should have a tale to tell in a month or so according to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

The commission's water quality laboratory in Lander placed the clams in cages sunk in the river bottom where they will spend the next few months of their lives. After a length of time, the clams will be removed from the river and analyzed for concentrations of pesticides in the organochlorine group.

It has been demonstrated that clams store certain pesticide compounds in their bodies and have proven to be good indicators of the presence of pesticides. Accumulated pesticides are extracted from the body tissues and identified through the use of highly sensitive equipment in the Lander water quality laboratory.

Camper Travel Leads the Way

Pickup camper travel into Yellowstone National Park continues to lead the way over all other forms of travel. There was an 18.4 percent increase in pickup camper travel into the Park in October, 1970, over the same month last year. The increase in such travel for the entire year, through October, is 24 percent.

Trailer travelers increased by 11.2 percent for the month of October.

Over-the-snow vehicular traffic is up 58.2 percent for the first ten months of 1970 over the same period in 1969.

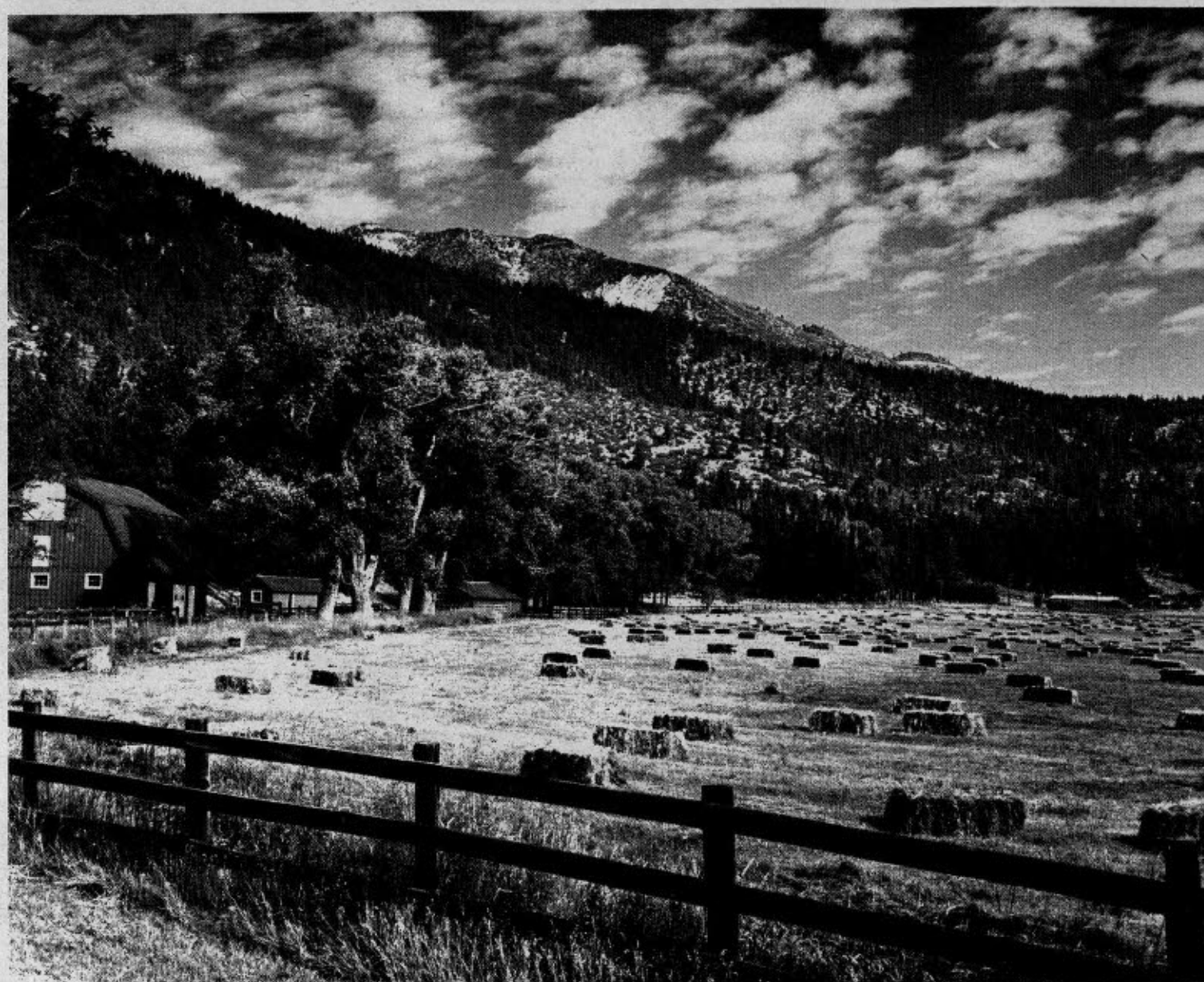


Photo by Nevada Dept. of Economic Development

Americans have much for which to be thankful. This "Home on the Range" near Carson City, Nevada, is typical of western ranches. Bountiful

fields and snug buildings tucked against the mountainside proclaim that the land is good. It is indeed a time of Thanksgiving.

Coyote Control Program Announced

There has been some confusion in regards to a predator control program initiated by the Sweetwater County Predatory Animal Board in Wyoming.

Word-of-mouth reports indicated that the predator contest would encourage widespread use of poisons and cyanide guns, better known as "coyote getters."

But according to Albert Angelovic of the Wool Warehouse in Rock Springs, a

coordinator of the program, the contest is designed for sportsmen using sporting methods of hunting. Angelovic said that professional trappers cannot take part in the program.

"The main reason for the contest," Angelovic remarked, "is to control the large number of coyotes in Sweetwater County." He reported an increase of sheep losses due to coyotes.

The predator contest was

started in January of last year through April. This year the program began in November and will run through the winter. So far in November, 30 coyotes have been killed.

Cash prizes are awarded each month for the most coyotes killed; the largest coyote killed and the lightest animal killed. (\$200 for the most animals; \$150 for the largest and \$100 for the lightest.)

According to Angelovic, contest participants register at the Wool Warehouse in Rock Springs. There is no fee for entry. Most hunters are using rifles to eliminate coyotes, but trapping is also an accepted method. Angelovic said that poison and cyanide guns are not legitimate methods of killing in the contest.

The program coordinator said that coyote hunters can use snowmobiles or airplanes to run the animals down. Electronic game calls are also allowed and quite effective for luring coyotes within gun range. Dead

coyotes must be delivered to the wool warehouse within 24 hours after they are killed. The exact weight of the animals will then be recorded on wooscales. At the end of the month, the contest winners will be contacted.

Angelovic stated that government trappers usually receive \$25 for each coyote killed. "The contest is a cheaper method of eliminating large numbers of coyotes," he said.



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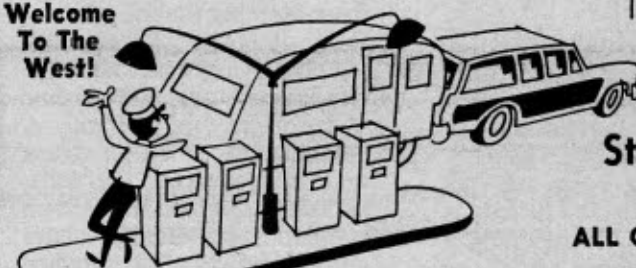
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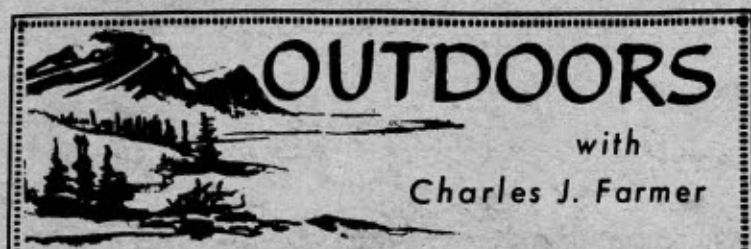
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THE COTTONTAIL RABBIT
by John Madson
Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp.

"Quail hunting purists may crown themselves the royalty of the field, and perhaps mountain goat hunters are the most intrepid.

"But the All-American hunter is the guy in the weedpatch with a rabbit in his sack.

"He's the colorful composite of millions of men and boys, living and dead.

"He has silver hair but isn't old enough to shave, wears overalls under an eighty-dollar hunting coat, has a custom-made boot on one foot and a six-buckle overshoe on the other, and totes a gold-inlaid shotgun whose split stock is whipped with baling wire and friction tape.

"He's an oldyoung, richpoor, truthflying hunter who's a superb shot except on the days when he can't hit anything.

"He's the Great American Rabbit Hunter, bless him, and the one to whom this booklet is fondly dedicated."

Rabbit Patch

I have hunted deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, antelope, bear and Rocky Mountain Goat. They were enjoyable hunts, most of them. But for some reason, they do not stand out in my memory like the many rabbit hunts I've experienced.

For the most part, big game hunting is serious business and hard work. Concentration and alertness is the mark of a successful big game hunter.

Rabbit hunting, on the other hand, can be an easy-going tromp through brushy bottomlands. Maybe the ultra-serious rabbit hunter does not let his mind wander when pursuing bunnies, but I tend to be somewhat of a dreamer in the rabbit fields. I take the time to appreciate the little things that are a big part of the outdoors. I missed them in my hurried stalks for big game.

I can watch the sun rise pink and blue in the east. The rabbits will still be in the cornfields. There's even time for a second mug of coffee. No rush to get to a deer stand or a duck blind.

A sparkling glaze of dawn frost has settled on the alfalfa field. Mallard ducks are gathered in the corn for an early morning feed. They gabble amongst the hard, yellow kernels of corn like a bunch of women at a Macy's hat sale. A cock pheasant cackles from a weed patch near the irrigation canal. These are the sights and sounds of rabbit country.

Wyoming's Rabbits

Wyoming ordinarily has a good mixture of both cottontails and jack rabbits. For the past two seasons, I have found the cottontail population down somewhat in areas that are ordinarily good. I do not cover all the state however, so I'm sure there are some rabbit patches that have produced consistently, for some hunters.

Some of the areas I will hit now for fast action... I hope are the Yellowtail Wildlife Unit near Lovell; the Ocean Lake Game and Fish Unit and BLM lands around Medicine Bow and Rock River. If these spots do not produce good rabbit hunting, they are either suffering from a low-population rabbit cycle or a rash of high hunting pressure.

So far this season I have made special trips to Springer and Table Mountain hunting units in Goshen County. I have been skunked on all occasions on cottontails and jacks. I did not kick up one animal on the Game and Fish Units and this bothered me. In the past several years, these areas have been teaming with bunnies and jacks. On the Springer Unit, I did notice the area showed signs of heavy cattle grazing and wondered if this could be a possible reason for the disappearance of rabbits. In any case, it may be time that some management help be directed toward rabbits in Wyoming.

With the exception of classifying the cottontail as a game animal, rabbits have been pretty well neglected. We may find someday (like other states have) that they are first class game animals who supply a lot of sport to a lot of persons.

Unfortunately, a great many Wyoming residents still adhere to the philosophy that the best time to hunt rabbits is at night with a spotlight or car headlights. Just recently, a hunter from Laramie boasted to me that "We get 'em by the truck load at night." There are no laws that protect the jack rabbit from being blinded, then shot. But it would be wise to check the laws regarding cottontails. They are not supposed to be jack-lighted.

Because there are no laws regarding the hunting of jacks, the cottontails in Wyoming have suffered also. Spotlights are not selective. Anything with big ears and a furry body usually gets blasted in the light.

The whole situation makes a game warden's job pretty tough doesn't it?

The Bird of Birds?

Chukars Rival Pheasants

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Martel Morache, information and education specialist for the Idaho Fish and Game Department and an avid chukar hunter, offers the following explanation of why a growing number of Idaho sportsmen feels the chukar may someday rival the pheasant in hunter popularity - at least among those willing to put out a little extra effort for their excitement.)

By MARTEL MORACHE

"The bird of birds," "I'll take ringnecks anytime," "You just can't beat top-notch quail shooting," "Blue grouse have to be the most explosive flyers."

So go the arguments over relative merits of upland game birds.

Though pheasants have led the hunter popularity list in Idaho for many years, another species is rapidly gaining recognition as a leading contender.

This species, the chukar partridge, has been on the Idaho scene only a relatively short time. In about 1930 some brood stock was introduced at the Lapwai bird hatchery. By 1933 the flock had grown to 121 and it was liberated in Nez Perce County. What happened then remains a mystery as all sign of chukar disappeared.

The next attempt was in 1937, when Oregon chukar were brought to the Jerome Game Farm. In 1939 the first releases were made in Southern Idaho.

For more than 10 years there was no major effort to really establish chukar in the Gem State and its reaction to the new environment went virtually unnoticed. In 1950, however, Idaho Fish and Game Department officials decided it was time to increase the program and determine once and for all the feasibility of establishing huntable numbers.

By 1953 the birds were ready and the first hunting season opened.

A series of mild winters in the late 1950's were favorable for brood survival and chukar began to take a firm hold. Excellent reproduction triggered a spreading out of the birds and they moved into most of the available habitat niches along the Snake, Salmon and lower Clearwater rivers.

Suited for Idaho

What is there about the chukar that makes it such an asset to the Idaho upland game family?

Part of the story stems from examining the life cycle of the chukar. Obviously, suitable living conditions for chukar are rather widespread in Idaho. A combination of cheat grass and forb-covered foothills, interspersed with shrub stands, ideal. Rocky bluffs and canyons further enhance the habitat.

One of the most significant facets of the chukar's environmental requirements is that it is filling a relatively vacant habitat niche. There is some overlap with Hungarian Partridge and quail habitat requirements but it apparently is not significant.

Hence, it has little serious competition for habitat and conditions have been favorable for the excellent population growth that has occurred.

Prolific Game Birds

In addition, the chukar is one of the most prolific game birds in Idaho, with nests averaging about 15 eggs to the clutch. In a good hatch year this means plenty of birds.

The birds tend to gather in coveys and often several coveys will bunch. This means that when a hunter runs into some shooting he usually runs into a lot of it. It is not unusual to see 200 to 1,000 birds during a day's hunt.

Chukars are a vocal bird and often reveal their location by "chuckling." Then, they often have a staggered flush, which provides more shooting on initial contact.

After the flush they scatter, offering both the hunter and his dog plenty of exercise and extensive shooting at singles, doubles and triples. The chukar has a strong scent and under optimum conditions a good dog can detect a flock from 50 yards away.

In addition to being an attractive (not easy) target, there are other things about the chukar that make him a worthwhile quarry for the hunter.

The opportunity for dog discipline is unsurpassed and with a bag limit of 10 birds there is plenty of activity. The strong scent gives a young dog plenty of chance to use his nose and, since most of the action takes place in open country, the dog has good visual contact with the bird. This helps in the retrieve and gives the dog practice in judging distances.

Lots of Land

Thousands of acres of

chukar country are public land and the chukar hunter can go all day without invading private property.

Probably no other hunting will have as much effect on a person's physical condition as chasing chukar. In most cases there will be a lot more up and down hill action than with any other bird. A group of chukar hunters were talking about their favorite bird recently and one commented he had never seen a fat chukar hunter. Another admitted he had - but only one.

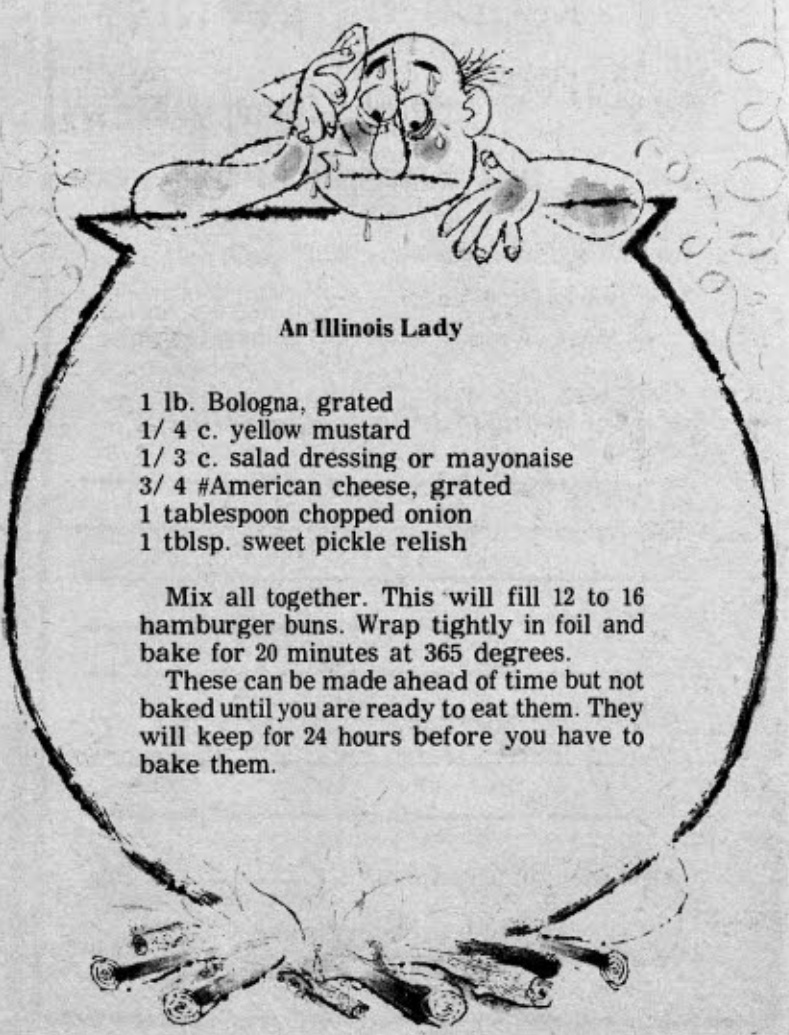
In chukar hunting, there appears to be no significant advantage associated with any particular time of day. Therefore, one doesn't miss much if he likes to catch a little extra sleep in the morning.

The long chukar season in Idaho covers almost the whole spectrum of weather conditions. For those who like warm weather hunting, chukar are for those who don't consider bone-chilling cold a vital part of hunting enjoyment, there is good chukar action in late September and early October, when the birds generally are found near water holes.

Mid-October through November offers action for those who are tired of elbow to elbow pheasant hunting and still are waiting for big game tracking snow.

Snowmobile Effects Studied

Arctic Enterprises, Inc., of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, has made a \$10,300 grant to the University of Minnesota. Arctic Cat made the grant to the Zoology Department. It will finance a research project that will study the importance of snow cover to soil conditions, insects, and small mammals and the effect snowmobile use has on that cover.



An Illinois Lady

- 1 lb. Bologna, grated
- 1/4 c. yellow mustard
- 1/3 c. salad dressing or mayonaise
- 3/4 #American cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon chopped onion
- 1 tblsp. sweet pickle relish

Mix all together. This will fill 12 to 16 hamburger buns. Wrap tightly in foil and bake for 20 minutes at 365 degrees.

These can be made ahead of time but not baked until you are ready to eat them. They will keep for 24 hours before you have to bake them.



Official Newsletter of

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.

Thomas A. Bell, Editor

Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520

WYOMING OUTDOORS

High Country Timbering

The following letter was written to the Jackson Hole Guide by Joe and Mary Back, two of our readers and long-time residents of Dubois, Wyoming. Joe and Mary are keen observers of the great world around us. Little escapes their eye as they are both artists and naturalists. We feel their comments here are appropriately made in light of one of the great problems facing our High Country forest managers. The letter dated October 26, 1970, is as follows:

Dear Editor,

We appreciate -- can't say enjoy -- your centerspread on clear-cutting in high-altitude lodgepole pine forests, together with the hard-hitting editorial. Your action is most timely and important, for this clear-cutting is a real disaster in our area.

We were recently taken on a "show-me" trip by Al Brooks, a forester for U. S. Plywood. The trip was in the interests of convincing us that clear-cutting is the correct system. He showed us selected areas in the upper Spread Creek drainage to prove his point. The basic justification for clear-cutting is that young lodgepole pines dislike shade and thrive best in full sunshine; selective cutting means partial shade. Granting this first premise, here is a list of necessary ifs:

1. IF there is enough water, so the young trees don't dry up.
2. IF the areas are small, 5 to 25 acres.
3. IF the areas are contoured to the drainage, for erosion control and for looks.
4. IF the areas are not more than 3 tree-lengths wide, downwind from healthy seed-trees for natural re-seeding.
5. IF natural seeding is supplemented by planting immediately after clearing and before grass has started.
6. IF the clear-cuts are less than 20% of the forest on any given drainage, to allow least possible disturbance of game.
7. IF areas adjoining the cuts are not cut until new growth in cut areas is at least 15 feet high.
8. IF timber roads are thoroughly cut off after cutting to stop later use by hunters and campers.
9. And finally, if we are lucky.

The forest in the high country is frighteningly fragile. We are often not lucky. Two examples:

1. On the slopes of Whiskey Mountain in plain view from Dubois' main street, is the scar of the 1934 Jakey's Fork fire. It looks almost as if it had burned last year, not 36 years ago. It is only beginning to re-seed, mostly within the three tree-lengths of the western edge of the burn. Al Brooks said the fire was probably too hot and over too large an area to re-seed easily. In contradiction, outlying patches of a few acres of lodgepole which were only partly burned have not re-seeded either, even though live healthy lodgepoles are part of their area; and some of the massive clear-cuts shown in your paper are as large as the Jakey's Fork burn.

2. We were taking a close look a couple of weeks ago at one of the early clear-cuts on Elkhorn Ridge, ten miles north of Dubois. It was small, only about 10 acres, and there was a piece of healthy lodgepole forest on the windward side and uphill. There was a scattering of young and good-looking lodgepoles in the clear-cut, not nearly enough and much too far apart. We counted the whorls of branches on one five-foot-high specimen. Twenty years old!

Under the best conditions, high altitude clear-cutting is scary business, and to our certain observation, local conditions are not the best.

Sincerely Yours,
Mary Back
Joe W. Back.



Wyoming's beautiful mountain valleys are a mecca for those seeking outdoor experiences. Thriving game herds need the river bottoms, the timbered slopes, and the remote mountain fastnesses. Clear, free-flowing streams are home for trout and other gamefish. Man's activities - the timbering, the mining, the damming, the developing - all take their toll on the environment. Here, in the Upper Green River Valley, the timbering industry has destroyed critical elk habitat. Only a few miles downstream from this photo, the State of Wyoming is considering a large dam. It would destroy 25 miles of blue-ribbon trout stream and the winter range for some 700 moose.

Environmental Education Announced

The National Environmental Study Area program is offering a comprehensive and far-reaching environmental education opportunity for the nation's school systems, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The program is a joint undertaking by the National Education Association and the Interior Department.

In announcing the project, Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel said that the environment itself would be utilized---ranging from national parks and wildlife areas to inner city parks---as classrooms for students of all ages and grade levels to study ecology.

The NESA program was developed by the National Park Service and is now shared by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation which are adding their lands and skills to the educational training package now available to teachers and school systems.

NEA's Association of Classroom Teachers has published a guidebook for teachers and school administrators who want to set up environmental study area programs. The publication emphasizes that the program is practical and feasible for every school district in America in that an environmental study area can be established in a local park, at a state monument, or even a city neighborhood.

The guidebook, "Man and His Environment: An Introduction to Using Environmental Study Areas," is

available from NEA Publications, 1201 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036 for \$1.75.

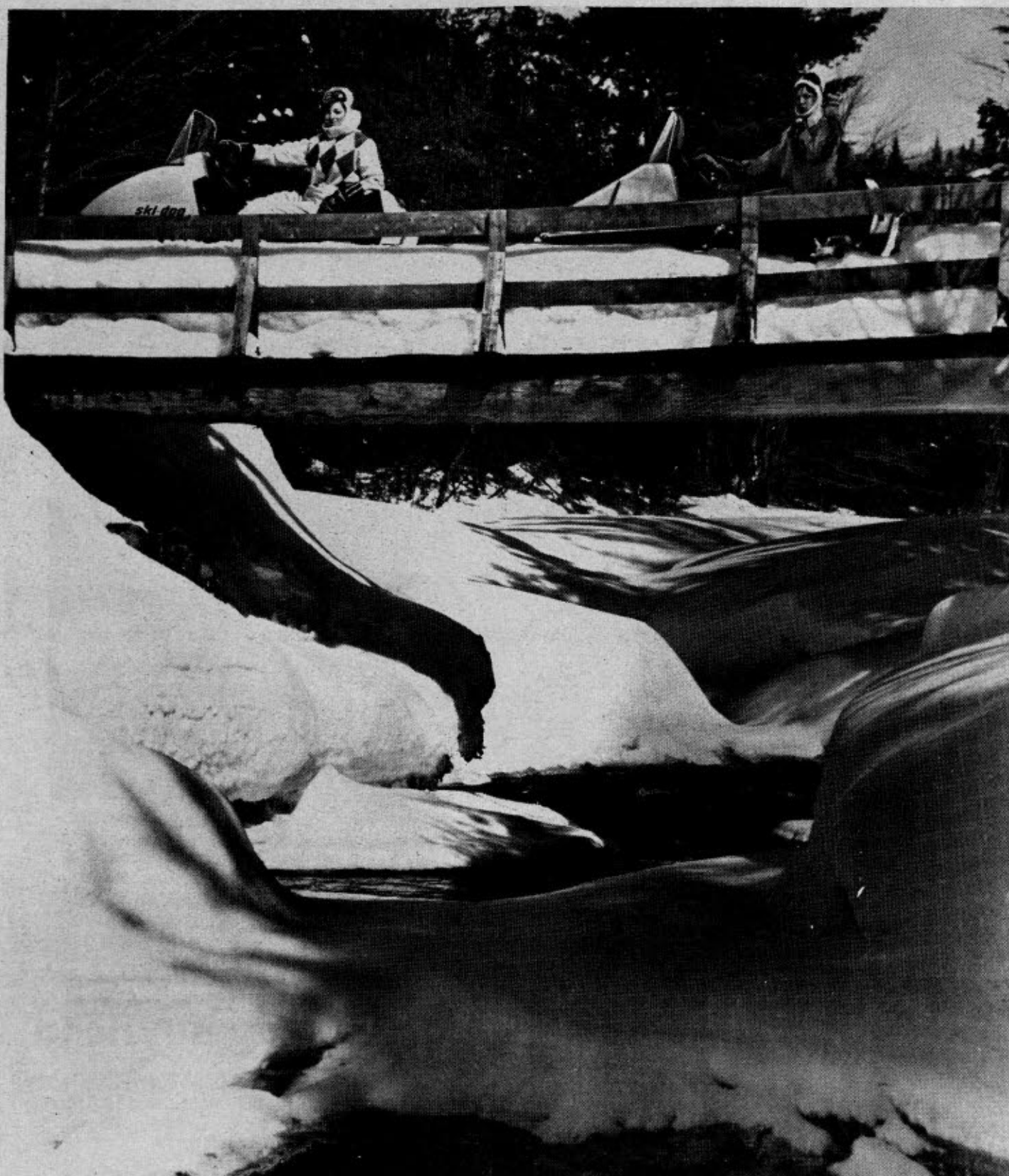


Tom Bell, editor of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, was presented this framed award of merit Nov. 13, by George A. Kaminski, Chief of Information and Education, Game and Fish Commission.

It was accompanied by a letter which stated, "Each year the American Association for Conservation Information solicits nominations from the member states for Awards of Merit. The A.A.C.I. is the professional association of all Information and Education personnel of the Game and Fish agencies in the United States and Canada."

"Because your efforts have been so constant, so untiring and so dedicated, we of the Information and Education division of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department have presented you this award for performance during the past year. We hope you will cherish this recognition and keep up the excellent work."





WINTER WOND



WONDER MACHINES

High Country News—9
Friday, November 20, 1970



Not long ago the deep snows spelled STOP. Then came a machine that lifted the lid on winter's secretive world. Now many engines buzz, the glittering powder flies, and the word for Snowmobilers is GO.

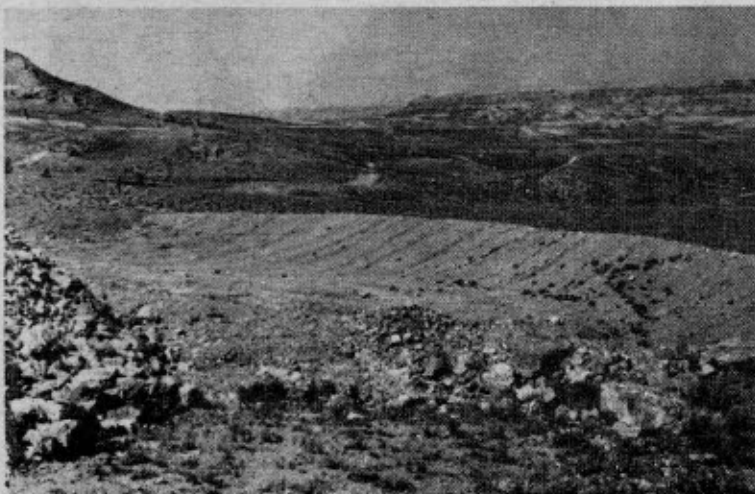


The Environment Cries Out...

Does Development Have to Mean Destruction?



1. & 2. This is a drilling location and gas well. The bulldozed area in the foreground was once the mud pits, constructed in the bottom of a water-course. Into the mud pits went the drilling mud, caustic soda, fracturing oil, and other toxic chemicals used in well completion. When the pits overflowed into the spring-fed, wooded draw below, a 2" to 12" layer of waste material was deposited for approximately 1 1/2 miles downstream. It is shown in the photo below. The mud pits served no purpose, but 6-8 acres were denuded and exposed to erosion. No revegetation is required by Wyoming or Federal law. In addition, this gas well free-flowed to the atmosphere for almost a week, killing 2-3 acres of vegetation downwind. One gas well has resulted in surface destruction of approximately 13 acres at just one site alone.



3. This area was bulldozed and prepared for an oil well site. It was permanently abandoned and left as you see it when another well a short distance to the north turned into a dry hole. (That site also abandoned.) About six acres of ground cover were destroyed, the side-hill road into the location remains, and the overall unsightly disruption of the area gives mute testimony to lack of foresight and planning. There is no requirement for reclamation of this site or any other so destroyed.



4. Dead trees in a wooded draw are the result of a flow of approximately 175 barrels of salt water a day. No one seems to know how long it ran. The flow was stopped in 1965. It killed all vegetation for a distance of three miles.

What happens when unplanned development takes place in an undeveloped environment? Do companies have a conscience when it comes to use of land? Do company officials really make a conscious effort to protect the environment in the course of their development? Do they have a sense of values regarding other resources than the one which pays their salaries?

The photos displayed here tell a story. It is not a pretty story. Nor does it give much reassurance as to the sincerity of oil companies and other developers in their quest for public confidence.

The location is near Big Piney, Wyoming, where Mobil Oil Co. has an oil and gas lease. This is an area of wide open spaces, much unspoiled land, and good big-game habitat. Herds of deer use this area, or once used it. The watersheds all drain down into larger streams which eventually drain into the Green River.

In developing an oil or gas field, certain amounts of destruction seem inevitable. But there is far too much unwarranted destruction. Poor planning, poor supervision on the ground, poor surveillance and enforcement by responsible government agencies all add up to compound the problem. And what it all adds up to is another of the many examples of man's carelessness, his indifference, and sometimes his callous disregard for the total health of Planet Earth.

This isn't the only place in Wyoming where such environmental destruction goes on. Wherever minerals can be exploited, there you can find evidence on the ground of man's destructive activities. Much of it is done on public lands, belonging to all the people of the United States.

Well-oiled public relations programs continually remind us of what industry does for the environment. And they tell us how much money is spent to avoid environmental destruction, to repair necessary damage, ad infinitum. We are also told emotion has no place in the cold, factual world of reality. The time was when little, old ladies in tennis shoes and starry-eyed birdwatchers were the only "emotional environmentalists" around. Now, it is a changed world.

Melvin J. Josephs is managing editor of Chemical & Engineering News, the official publication of the American Chemical Society. He recently wrote an editorial in which he rubs a little salt into industry's wounded ego.

He said, "If real and steady progress is to be made in improving the quality of the environment, then, perhaps, continuous and steady, albeit modest, inputs of alarm, panic and hysteria are required of interested citizens. Otherwise, progress comes haltingly, if at all..."

"Only when the complaints of the citizenry have become strident, when some measured alarm, panic and hysteria come on the environmental scene, has any real action toward general

pollution abatement taken place. The rational, systematic, scientific approach seems to work better with a healthy dollop of emotion added."

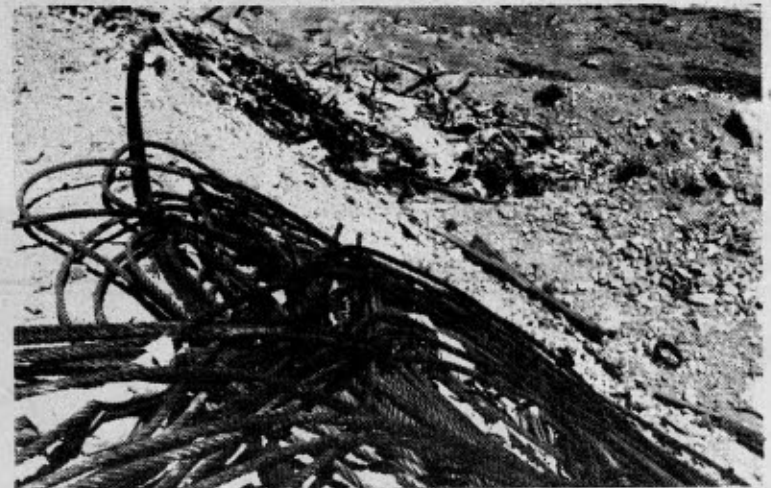
And so Wyoming people get emotional on occasion. Some of the residents around Big Piney don't like what they see, and cry out. It doesn't matter if the land is being destroyed by massive doses of clearcut timbering, plowed and developed for the most marginal of agricultural

enterprises, or bull-dozed by oil companies sapping the underground resources. Environmental destruction will be a long time in the undoing.

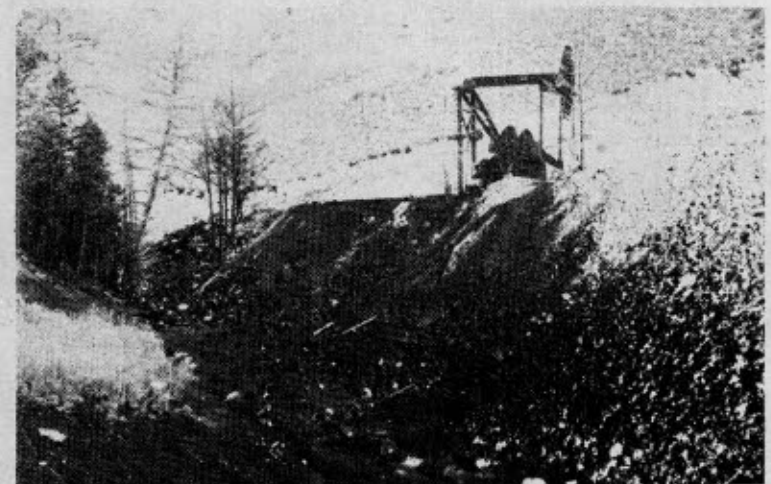
Wyoming has done little to require the protection of its surface land and water resources. Neither has the Federal government. Oil and gas companies, and mining companies, wield tremendous power. Besides, no one wants to interfere with the "development" of Wyoming.



5. This is all that remains of a grove of trees, the only trees for about one mile in any direction. It was sacrificed for mud pits for a drilling location further up the watershed.



6. Broken, steel cables, trash and garbage, as well as several acres of torn and unrooted land -- these are the permanent reminders of a drilling site. No one seems to care.



7. When oil is by-passed from this well, it goes over the bank and into the water course. Trees nearby are even coated with crude oil.



8. This maze of roads, bulldozed trails, and rights-of-way for pipelines and powerlines represent the impact on an area of oil and gas wells. One U.S. Geological Survey man was heard to remark that all of the roads and entries were necessary. The U.S.G.S. is responsible for enforcement of environmental rules and regulations, or what there is of them.

Snowmobiling Captures Fancy of Idahoans

Snowmobiling has captured the sporting fancy of young and old alike in Idaho during the last few years. When the aspens turn to shimmering gold and the mountain slopes are wrapped in downy ermine, it is time for snowmobilers to explore the state's wide-open spaces.

One of the most attractive of these snowmobile trails is on the Boise Cascade Corp. Payette River Tree Farm of some 20,800 acres near Smith's Ferry. Called Smith's Ferry-East, the trail covers 20 miles of mountainous country with an exciting mixture of valley and ridge trails twisting and turning around groves of snowcapped Ponderosa pines, spruce and fir to viewpoints of breathtaking panorama. There the altitude ranges from about 4300 feet to 5500 feet and during the season temperatures will vary from 20 below zero to 40 above — more often the latter during the middle of the day.

A favorite "track" for snowmobiles is the vast and varied public land in Idaho's National Forests. Many have well-marked trail designation for convenience and safety, which avoid most avalanche and more dangerous areas.

The impact of the snowmobile on Idaho's winter recreation shows it to be one of the fastest growing outdoor sports in the state. In 1963 there were about 25 recreational snowmobiles

owned by Idahoans (such as the ones shown in enclosed photo of early pioneering of snowmobiles in Idaho). By the end of the 1969-70 season there were 8,701 snowmobiles registered in Idaho with the department of motor vehicles. And if you don't own one, rent it in almost any county throughout the state.

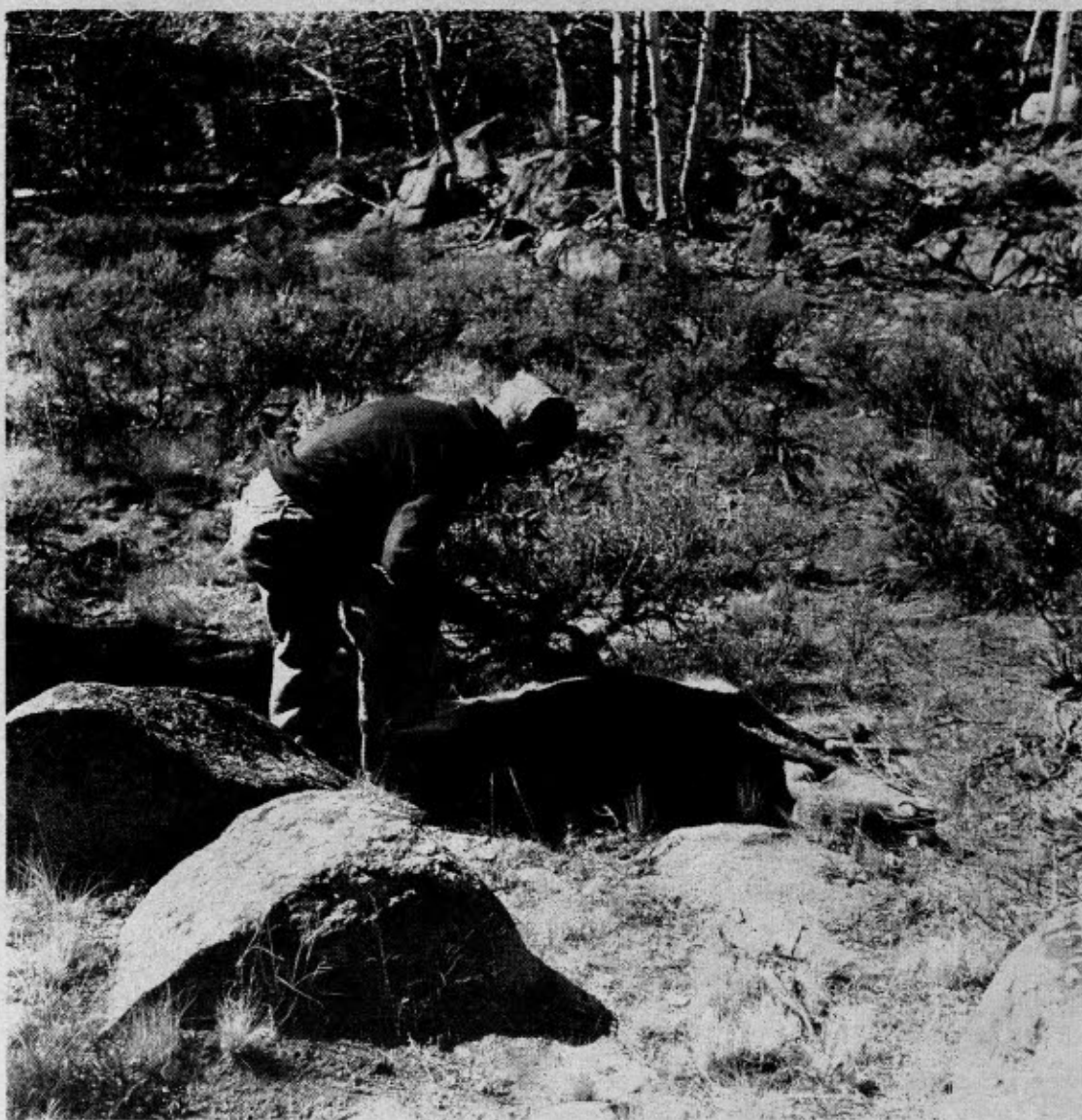
Races and safaris have grown in popularity almost as fast as the machines themselves. Give a man a machine that will top speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour and he'll eventually end up testing against others.

Grouse Burrow into Snow Banks

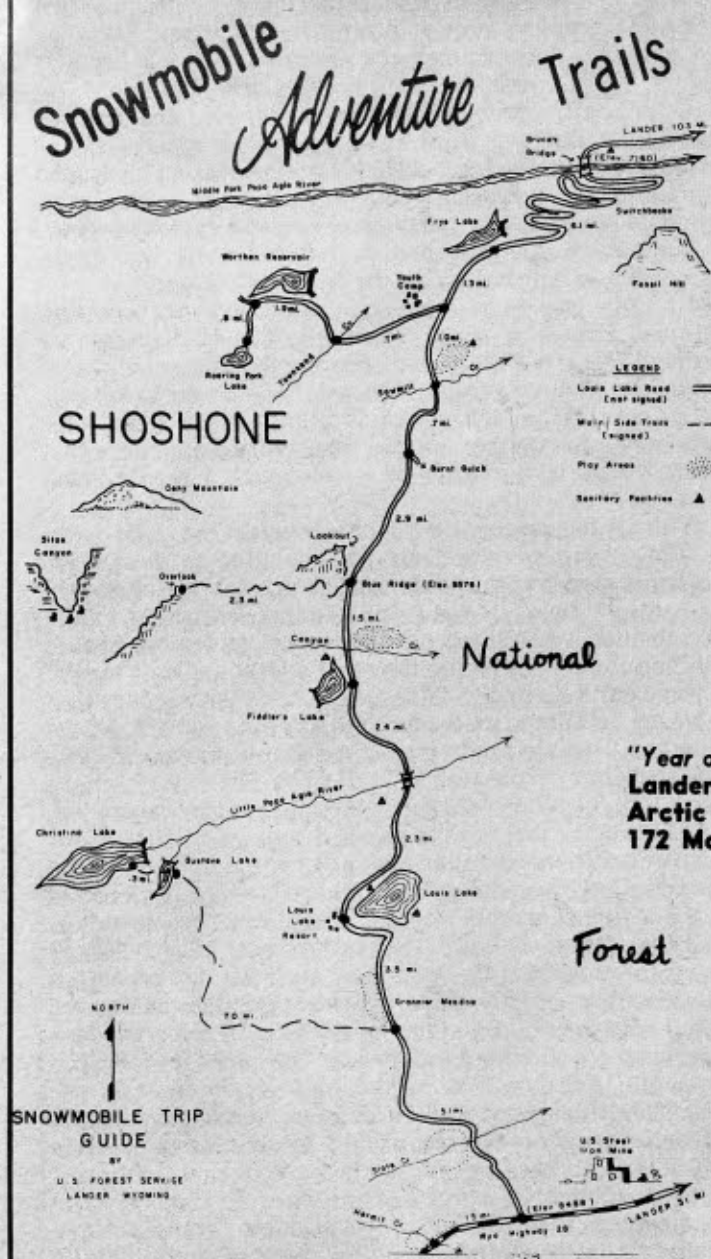
Outdoorsmen who go afield in winter could take a cue from one of nature's denizens. When the temperature drops, ruffed grouse burrow into the snow.

Snowmobilers, skiers or others who might become stranded in deep snow country needn't worry about freezing. Researchers into the habits of the ruffed grouse find snow is an excellent insulation against cold.

Studies showed that seven to ten inches of snow will hold temperatures up to 60 degrees higher than outside temperatures. On several nights when the temperatures dropped to minus 40 degrees, temperatures under the snow remained at a constant plus 25 degrees.



The harvest of big game is almost finished for another year. Except for late seasons in some areas of western states, hunters have put away their rifles. Proper care of the game animal in the field will assure the successful hunter of tasty game-meat dishes.



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Photo by North Dakota Travel Department
Mule deer are a part of the West. Here in North Dakota, this doe is found in typical mule deer range - sagebrush of hills and plains.

Golden Eagle Passport Is Back

The 1971 Golden Eagle Passport will go on sale December 15. The price will be \$10. The design of the 1971 Passports will utilize several colors as opposed to the blue and gold of previous Passports.

As in the past, the annual permit will be honored at Federal outdoor recreation areas operated by the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. In some areas there are additional user fees for camping and other activities.

Revenue from the annual permit, from daily entrance fees, and from user charges levied at many Federal recreation areas, is deposited in the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The

Fund has made \$357 million available in fiscal year 1971 for grants to State and local government for acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities, and to Federal agencies for acquisition of authorized recreation lands and waters.

Golden Eagle Passports can be purchased by mail from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of the Interior, Building 41, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225.

Every effort will be made to fill orders for Christmas giving if they are placed in advance. However, please allow adequate time for holiday mail delays. The 1971 permits will also be sold through field offices of participating Federal agencies and at Federal park and recreation areas, but these offices and other sales outlets are not expected to have the permits in hand in time for pre-Christmas mailing.

Plea for Sanitation

Winnebago Industries, Inc., the nation's largest builder of recreational vehicles, recently urged all of its dealers to install a sanitary disposal station at their dealership if they do not already have one at their facility. Winnebago supplied

each dealer with sanitary disposal station construction plans from the Recreational Vehicle Institute. All recreational vehicle dealers should have sanitary disposal stations and every company should urge their dealers to install such facilities.



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by Verne Huser

WORLD

Perhaps the main reason I find the wild world rewarding is that I like wildlife, all kinds of wildlife from insects to mammals. And while I have enjoyed well-kept zoos and their display of wildlife from early childhood, it is in their natural habitat that I enjoy most seeing these various species. I never go out into the wild world without seeing or hearing some wild creature, no matter what the season.

And it is perhaps because of her wildlife that I have decided to make Wyoming my home. Yet, I am deeply concerned about the treatment of Wyoming wildlife by the people who live here and by the millions of people who visit the state, attracted to a large extent by Yellowstone and Grand Teton National parks, both of which abound in wildlife.

Don't misunderstand me: I hunt and fish, and I enjoy both. But it seems to me that Wyoming Game and Fish laws, rules and regulations, deal primarily with game species and ignore or abuse the others. Yet, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission is responsible for all wildlife in the state, the predators as well as those that supply meat and sport to man.

Too often the predators are persecuted because of pressure from the livestock interests, especially from the sheep ranchers. Yet, the wildlife belongs to everyone, and my feeling is this: "What right does a sheep rancher have to kill my coyotes on my land (national forests and BLM land) for his profit?"

Some legal killers of Wyoming wildlife pretend that the predators must be controlled to protect the game species. What could be more preposterous? When there were wolves aplenty and coyotes and more grizzly bear and more mountain lions than there are now, there were more elk, more bighorn sheep, millions of buffalo, and predator control was natural.

The Eskimos have a legend in their folk mythology that ends with an ecological axiom: "The caribou feeds the wolf, but the wolf keeps the caribou strong." So the deer feeds the mountain lion, but the lion keeps the deer strong and healthy.

Persecution of predators is big business in Wyoming, especially among sheepmen. But even Game and Fish wardens, who should know better, often insist on poison campaigns and predator control programs. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission spends as much as \$40,000 annually for predator control, and the Division of Wildlife Services (the Federal government's predator control program) employs nearly 40 men in Wyoming.

A variety of control methods are used: hunting (by airplane, by snowmobile, by 4-wheel-drive vehicle; by predator call), denning (locating a den in the spring, digging out the young and killing them), trapping (an indiscriminate method that destroys many innocent birds and animals), and poisoning (both with cyanide guns, often called "coyote getters" and with poisoned baits full of "1080").

The poison programs are as indiscriminate as is trapping. Even grizzly bears may die from eating legally placed 1080 baits— and 34 of them are placed on the Shoshone National Forest within a 50-mile radius of Yellowstone National Park, one of the last strongholds of the grizzly.

Wolves and wolverine, both mighty rare in Wyoming, are susceptible to 1080, and so is man; yet, an illegal 1080 station was found on a national forest sheep allotment last spring, lying in the water of a stream that people drink from.

With all the concern for the environment today, how can we allow such environmental degradation as the poison programs aimed at the predators but actually killing nearly everything? As one Nobel Prize-winning scientist has said, "We shouldn't call these substances pesticides; we should call them biocides because they kill everything that lives."

I've been told by Wyoming Game and Fish wardens that we've got to kill the predators to protect the wildlife. May I ask who killed the predators before man came along? I've been told that coyotes can kill full grown deer and bighorn sheep, and therefore the coyotes have to be controlled.

I don't deny that coyotes can kill mature wildlife under certain conditions. But does anyone ever examine the game animal killed by predators—when there is actual evidence of such a kill, not merely circumstantial evidence—to determine its state of health before it was killed? Every ecological study that I've ever read suggests that predators kill primarily the sick, the lame, the injured or malformed or mal-functioning. By killing predators, perhaps we do a disservice to wildlife by allowing the unfit to live and propagate, thereby reducing the vigor of the herd.

The healthiest herd of elk in Yellowstone National Park—and the only one never controlled by man—is the Norris herd. It was hit hard last spring by the grizzly population of Yellowstone that congregated along the Firehole and Gibbon rivers to feed on elk. Several dozen carcasses were counted by park naturalists, and a number of actual kills were witnessed by Park personnel and visitors during April and May.

Wyoming's Game and Fish regulations badly need revision along ecological lines; for too long these regulations have been dictated by old wives tales and sheep ranchers. It is time that the Wyoming State Legislature stopped making a political football out of the Game and Fish Commission and started doing what is right rather than what is politically expedient.

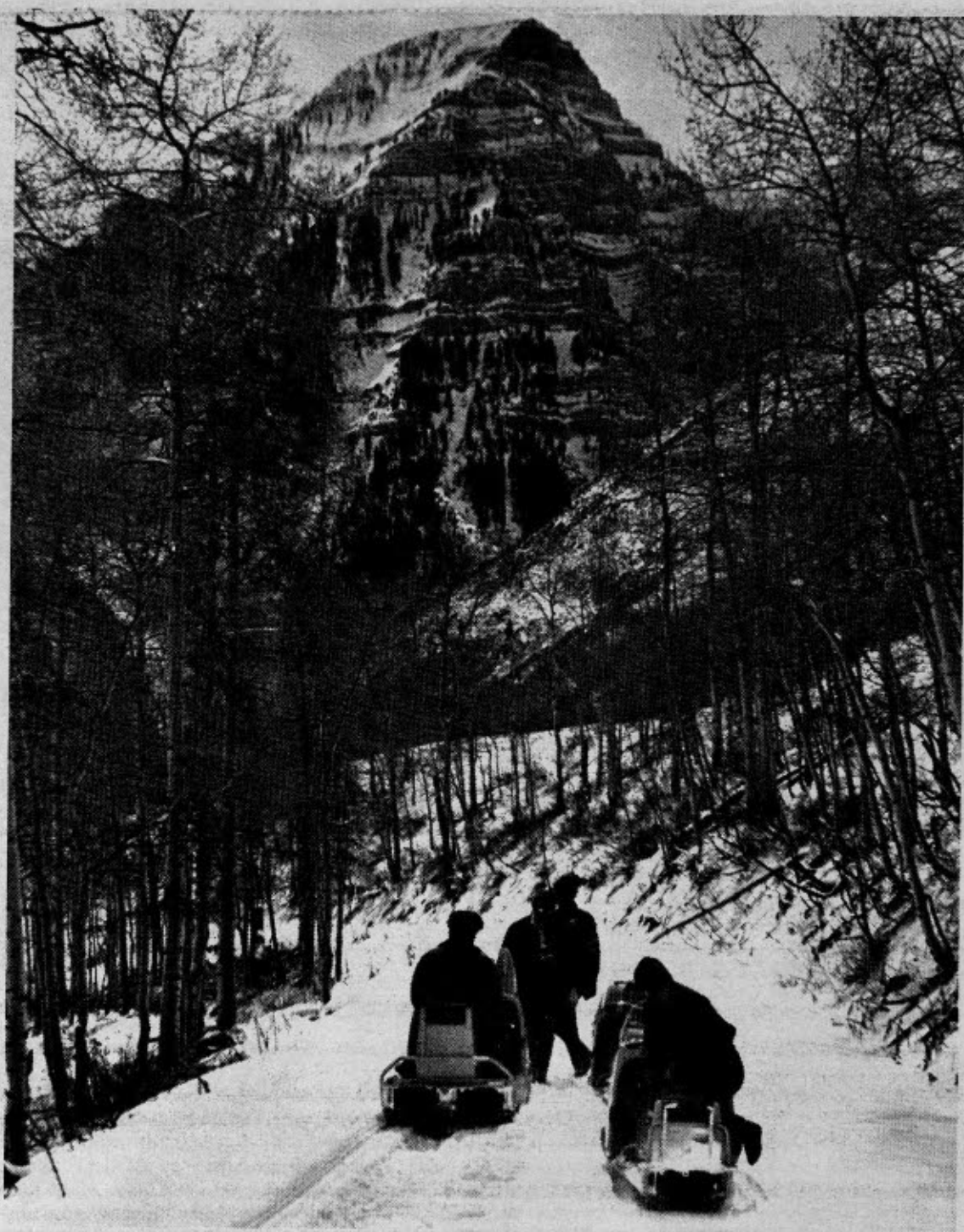


Photo by the Utah Travel Council

Companionship on the trail is a part of winter fun. Here, the riders stop beneath the towering heights of Mt. Timpanogos in Utah's Wasatch Mountains.

Big Sky Wonderland

Picture for a moment a snow-covered playground larger than Colorado, Maine, and New Hampshire put together.

A land dominated by the Rockies where the high quiet is accessible via miles of modern ski lifts and winding trails of the finest powder snow.

An up and down winterland whose remote beauty and natural wonders are visible along the pristine byways of scores of charted and uncharted snowmobile trails.

A big land, inhabited by fewer people than live in Rhode Island. Where there are no crowded lift lines so that if you come to ski - you ski. Where economy is a byword including lower priced tow tickets than can be found most anywhere else. And best of all, a land known for its hospitality which led one Canadian writer to christen it "The Friendly State".

It sounds like a snow buff's paradise. It's called Montana. And it's proving to be a top discovery on the lists of winter wanderers who are arriving at the state's many ski and snowmobile areas by airplane, bus, train, and car.

One reason for the unspoiled nature of the nation's fourth largest state is the people who live there.

Westerners are traditionally as reluctant to brag about what they've got as they are big-hearted in sharing it. And the Big Sky State is one of the last

strongholds of true Western hospitality.

Enjoyable as the friendly atmosphere is, though, it's the skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter activities that visitors are talking about. And there's something for everyone, from the family to the rugged individualist, the novice to the expert.

This includes areas like The Big Mountain, near Whitefish, where snow ghosts, naturally flocked trees in the fantasy forest, only add to the excitement of skiing. And Bridger Bowl, near Bozeman, known as the powder capital in a state that has the finest of powder snow month after month. Additional areas, such as King's Hill, Red Lodge Mountain, Snow Bowl, Rainy Mountain, Sundance, and others, share the 400-plus inches of annual snowfall.

And while the scenery is breathtaking, the altitude isn't. Montana's northern latitude allows powder to lay at relatively low elevations (6,000 to 8,500 feet) so that lowland skiers spend their first hours and days enjoying the slopes rather than getting acclimated.

Of course, there are other ways to enjoy the beauty and excitement of Montana. One is to board a heated, 12-passenger snowmobile and skim into snowbound Yellowstone Park where a whole panorama of spouting geysers, ice-clad gorges, and winterbound wildlife are a viewer's and photographer's

delight.

Resorts, ranches, and motels have winterized their facilities so that you can rent the smaller snowmobiles, or bring your own, and the country is all yours.

Scores of trails ranging from novice to expert open up the beautiful high country, offering unaccessible sights and challenges to fit everyone's tastes.

The rugged winter back country snowmobile trails include the 125-mile Gallatin Big Sky Trail, Glacier Park's Trick Falls and Two Medicine Lake Trail, The Devil's Arrow Lookout near Seeley Lake, and dozens of others. Sights along trails such as those in the Mission Mountain Range are incomparable.

And for those who want fast paced excitement coupled with good times, it's only in Montana that you'll find a town with more snowmobiles than people.

Such is the case in West Yellowstone where snowmobilers from all over the country gather for the spectacular fun, spill and thrill-filled days of the Western Frolic and Western Snowmobile Association's Rally and Races in March.

For free winter travel activities, ski facilities, and snowmobile trails, plus an official Montana Highway Map, write to: Advertising Department, Montana Highway Commission, Helena, Montana 59601.

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Friday, November 20, 197



Snowmobile Safety

Reprinted from Explore Idaho Winter

Snowmobiling is one of the fastest growing winter sports in America. It's exciting, but it can also be hazardous. A snowmobile is only as safe as the person operating it, and the key to safe operation is a personal knowledge of the vehicle, good judgment, and courtesy.

Here are some common-sense tips:

1. Be sure your machine is in good repair.
2. Check throttle operation before you start the machine.
3. Learn braking distances at different speeds and under various snow conditions.
4. Master your particular snowmobile's maneuvering characteristics.
5. Don't go "solo" on long trips or into unfamiliar territory. Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
6. Carry an adequate fuel supply, map, extra spark plugs, an extra clutch belt, a can of de-icer, a firstaid kit, and necessary tools. On long trips, your "survival kit" should also contain food, a compass, knife, axe, dry matches, shelter cloth, perhaps even snowshoes.
7. Dress warmly. Anticipate possible changing weather conditions requiring heavier clothing for greater protection from the elements.
8. Avoid thin ice on lakes or rivers. Don't go "testing." Drowning after a breakthrough is the one most common cause of fatalities involving snowmobiles.
9. Be constantly alert regarding hard-to-see obstacles and hazards such as wire fences and fence posts.
10. Don't "tail-gate" other machines.
11. Never tamper with engine or drive mechanism controls while you are driving your machine. Make adjustments with the engine off.
12. Never add fuel while your snowmobile is running.
13. Never overload your machine, and play it extra safe with children aboard.
14. Never leave an "idling" machine unattended.
15. Stay off public highways and other prohibited areas. Cross roadways carefully.

Probably the best idea of all is joining your nearest snowmobile club. It makes sense to learn everything you need to know from experts.

"Great Ideas for Christmas"

Build
your own
Bear
hunting
bow!



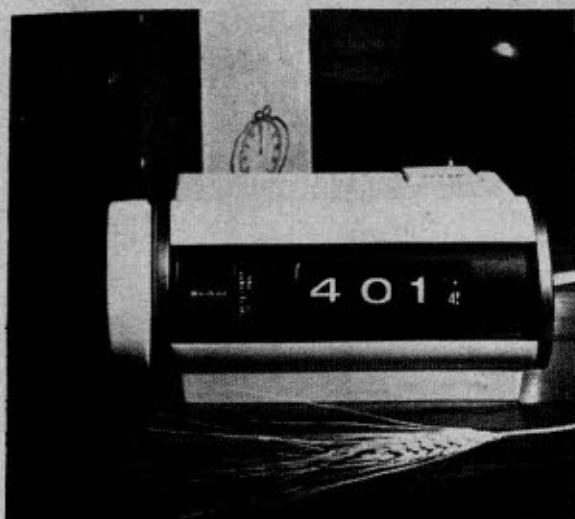
See the new Fred Bear
Take-Down Hunting Bow!

See and shoot the bow designed and tested round the world by Fred Bear himself... the all new Fred Bear Take-Down Hunting Bow. It could be the last bow you'll ever have to buy! This is a true take-down bow—it completely disassembles in seconds with no tools needed! The lifetime handle section fits three different sets of limb lengths in any draw weight you want. You can build your own bow! Solid, swift and accurate, the Take-Down has already accounted for more than a dozen big game trophies. See this amazing new bow today!



Racy's Dry Cleaners & Archery
366 Main
Lander, Wyoming 82520

New Product Ideas for Christmas Gift Giving



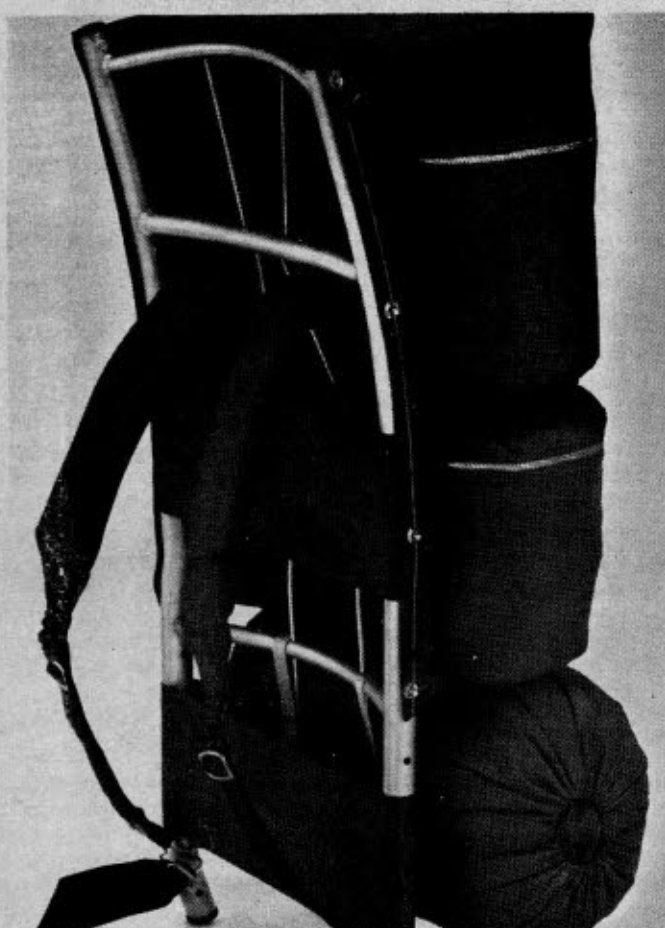
The American Sankyo Corp. announces the new Digital 401 Electric Alarm Clock. With an 18 month guarantee it sells for only \$19.95 and comes in several assorted colors. It's a gift anyone would enjoy. The American Sankyo Corporation, 95 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10016.



The relationship between living things and their environment have been "packaged" into five unusual and inexpensive Ecology kits by Edmund Scientific Co. With Christmas only weeks away, what more timely gift could you give a friend or child...than a kit that arouses an interest in a whole new field of study. One that concerns all of us...the survival of Earth as we know it today. Each kit is well-planned; containing all the materials and easy-to-follow directions you need to perform the wide variety of experiments. Edmund Scientific Co., 555 Edscorp Bldg., Barrington, N. J. 18007.



Your fisherman will like the new Skipper from Johnson Reels. It's a quality reel that is priced for the budget minded. Johnson Reels, 1231 Rhine, Mankato, Minn. 56002.

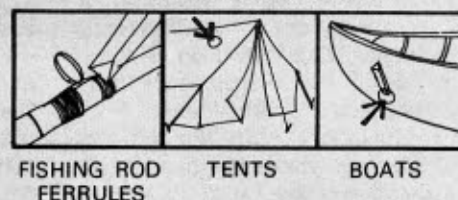


Announcing a Body Contoured Packframe with an integrally padded shoulder strap, compartmented packbag, independently tensioned backbands, adjustable shoulder and waist straps, and a new waist strap that is wider and softer with a new quick release buckle. From Kelly Pack Inc., 1807 Victory Blvd., P. O. Box 3645, Glendale, Calif. 91201.

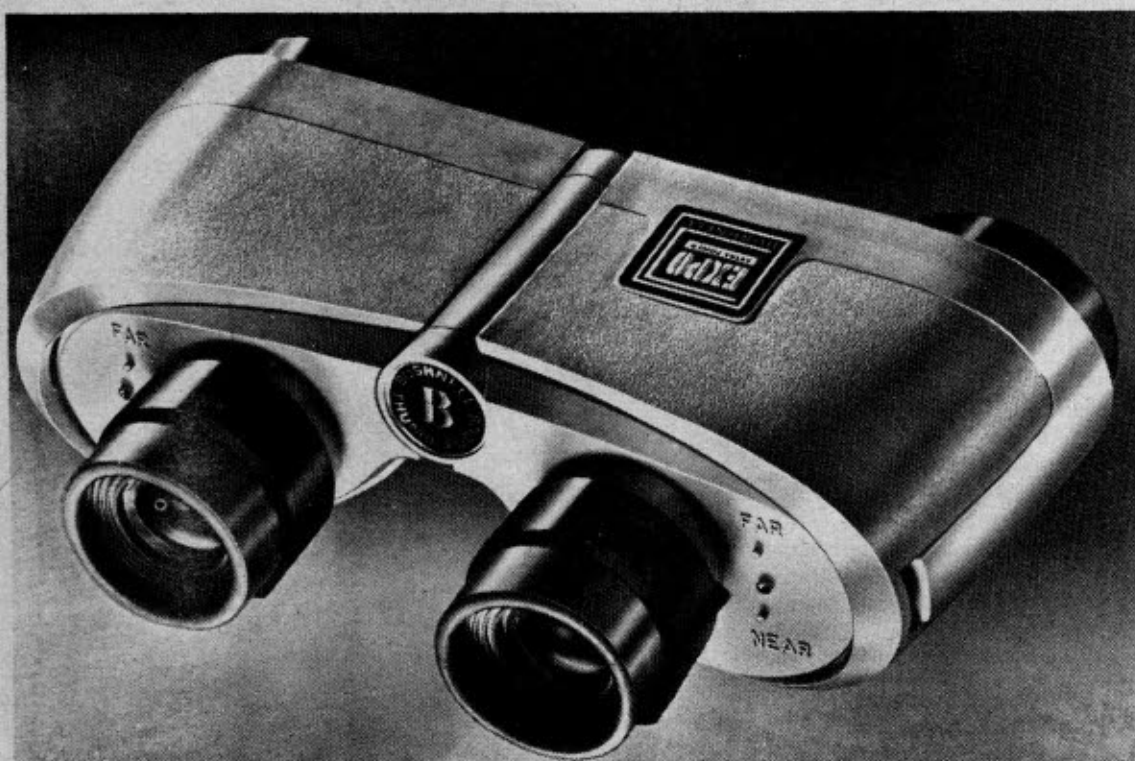
The December 4 issue of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS will feature several pages more of new products to give our readers some ideas for their Christmas gift giving.



Open up more than just a package this Christmas. Open up a whole new way of enjoying the outdoors with a Pentax camera from Honeywell. A Honeywell Pentax is a great companion in the mountains or plains, whether you're watching the wildlife or just enjoying the scenery. Choose from eight models of the Honeywell Pentax, with prices starting at about \$159.50. For more information see your Honeywell dealer or write Honeywell, Photographic Products Div., P. O. Box 1010, Littleton, Colo. 80120.



Here's the pocket repair kit everyone should have. Burke Flexo-Products Co. announces the space age adhesive MIRACLE PATCH. It's flexible and tough. Will patch cloth, wood, glass, and metal. Anyone can use it...just heat and apply. Sells for \$1.50 from Burke Flexo-Products Co., 1969 So. Airport Road, Traverse City, Mich. 49684.



Two years in the making, Bushnell Optical Corporation's new EXPO is "everyone's binocular". EXPO is an all-purpose fun binocular for rough and tumble use...getting close wherever you are. Available from Bushnell Dealers the country over. For further information write Bushnell Optical Corporation, 2828 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena Calif. 91107, M.G. Stolp, Marketing Director.



STERNO canned heat cooking fuel and stove is just the right gift for that outdoorsman in your home. It's lightweight-rustproof and newly designed to boil water faster, cook more efficiently. Folds flat. Individually packaged in attractive sleeve with tag for peg hanging when not in use. From Sterno, Inc., (A subsidiary of Calgate-Palmolive Co.) P.O. Box 540, Jersey City, N. J. 17302.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

A hunter of great renown
Said, "There's game in the woods north of
town."

But when he got there
The forest was bare --
The trees had all been chopped down!

Environmentalists have discovered once again that the Nixon administration is more rhetorical than action-minded. It has been discovered that environmental impact studies can be withheld from the public until after decisions they influence are made and announced. Russell E. Train, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, confirmed the stand of his agency. Conservationists believed the public would be made aware of environmental implications before the fact and not after. They now know this is not true.

The Internal Revenue Service announced on November 12 that public interest law firms would continue to be tax exempt. Previously, the IRS had announced a 60-day study period and stay of rulings on such groups. The announcement came little more than 30 days after the first announcement. The ruling involves law firms representing the public in the environmental and consumer protection fields.

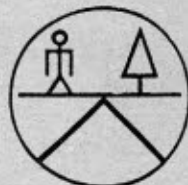
Plant and tree "detectors" may soon be used extensively to monitor air pollution. One very sensitive variety of tobacco plant, Bel W-3, has already been used in studies conducted in New Jersey. Three types of tobacco plant and a pinto bean plant are now under investigation for monitoring roles.

The Idaho Alpine Club, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and the Sierra Club have asked the Federal Power Commission to deny the licensing of any dams on the Middle Snake River. The environmental groups called the plan for a combine of public and private power companies "the greatest single-purpose project since Hetch Hetchy."

Attorneys for the Federal Power Commission have advised against building a dam on the Middle Snake River. The legal staff said protection of salmon and steelhead runs was a "dominant factor" in the decision. The advice does not have to be accepted by the Commission.

Senator Henry Jackson's bill to establish a national land use policy is expected to get early action in the current session of Congress. The bill has already been approved by the Senate Interior Committee.

Two University of Washington professors say unwanted solid wastes can be disposed of in the deep sea trenches. They say the movement of the earth's crust in the trenches would carry the wastes deep into the earth.



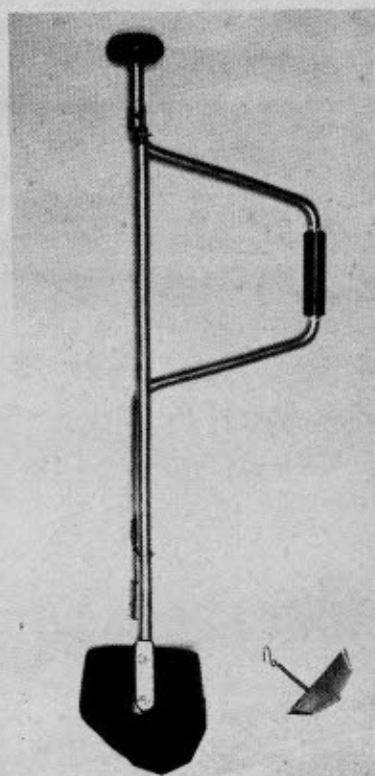
MONTANA WINTER EVENTS

Date	Event	Place
Early Dec.	Snowmobile Rally	Glasgow
5-6	Montana State Indoor Speed Skating Championships	Butte
5-6	West Yellowstone Snowmobiling Races	West Yellowstone
21-13	Woodburn Memorial Ski Race	Bozeman
19-20	Rainy Mountain Invitational Nordic Ski Meet-Cross Country and Jumping-All Classes	Dillon

New Products...



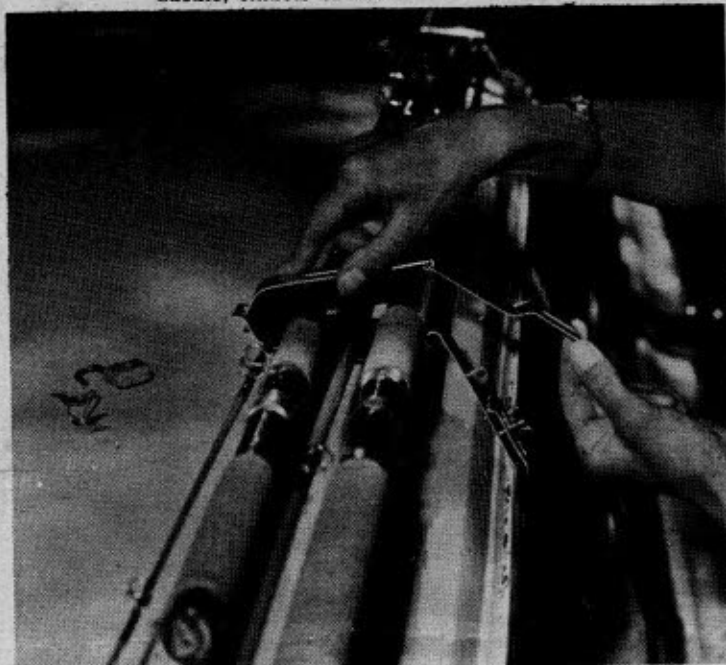
Police, ranchers, farmers and sportsmen who have to carry a rifle or shotgun in a safe and easily accessible place in their car or truck will find Farber's Open End Gun Pouch the ideal accessory. The Open End Gun Pouch is fastened to the front of the car or truck seat by three strong nylon straps and double D ring buckles. The Model 840-344 Open End Gun Pouch retails for \$7.95. From Farber Brothers, Inc., 821 Linden Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Ice fishing is fun, if you can cut a hole through the ice fast. The Worth/ Mustad Ice Auger features a unique "straight edge" blade that not only makes ice cutting easier than ever, but enables the owner to resharpen his own blades without difficulty. Complete, the 6 in. auger retails for \$15.75 and the 8 in. for \$20.00. The blade only costs \$7.50 in the 6 in. size and \$13.00 for the 8 in. blade. From the Worth Company, P.O. Box 88, Stevens Point, Wis. 54481.



Whether in a modest camper or a luxurious house trailer, the Aladdinette II kerosene burning heater is a perfect companion on winter trips or cool summer nights. Attractively styled to fit into any surrounding, it provides daylong heating on a single filling. Compact for easy carrying, easy storage, the Aladdinette II heats up to 2,000 cu. ft. Available to you for only \$38.50. From Greenford Products, Inc. 64 Old Orchard, Skokie, Illinois 60076.



Now there is no need to worry about the lack of room in your car for fishing rods. This sturdy Super Safe rod carrier, fabricated from steel and plated for corrosion resistance, will hold up to ten fishing rods. The sponge rubber pads safely hold the rods in a fixed position. The Super Safe rod carrier is priced at \$4.95 per set of two. Available from Waukegan Outdoor Products, 4411 Grand Ave., Gurnee, Ill. 60031.



The Suzuki Nomad isn't built like other snowmobiles; it's built to take on the country. It's built to the exacting standards of quality our engineers demand of our motorcycles (which have a worldwide reputation for lasting under the toughest conditions). The Suzuki Nomad Snowmobile: Built Stronger Than It Has To Be. From the people who build motorcycles tough enough to take on the country—U.S. Suzuki Motor Corp., John Butcher, 13767 Freeway Drive, Santa Fe Springs, Calif. 90670.

Friday, November 20, 1970
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North Head lighthouse on Washington's coast, guarding the entrance to the Columbia River.

Puppy Love Is Now Full-blown Romance

Travel Division
Department of Highways

Pierre---South Dakota's 1969 love affair with the snowmobile was puppy love compared to the full-blown romance in progress across the state in 1970.

Watertown had its first snowmobile torchlight parade; Deadwood will again observe Winter Wonderland with 100 snowmobile racers expected; Yankton, Aberdeen, Madison, Mitchell, Lead, Rapid City, Sioux Falls . . . all over the state the snowmobile race is on. And snowmobile clubs are multiplying like proverbial rabbits.

Snow, snow, snow --- a curse to ranchers, highway maintenance crews and the ordinary motorist, is stock-in-trade for a snowmobile. There's never been a better year for the versatile little machine.

One reason for its popularity is the ease with which it handles. You might compare it to psychedelic dancing versus ballroom dancing. It takes talent to learn to tango; but anyone who can put one hip ahead of the other rather rapidly can call himself a master at the watusi. When it comes to snow sports, it takes skill to ski; but anyone who can drive a bike, golf cart or an automobile can get behind the wheel of a snowmobile and zoom off across the prairie or along the highway ditches. I

know, because I tried it.

A friend handed me the key to his Fox Trac, gave me two minutes of instruction, and turned me loose.

Down the snow-filled ditch on US 14 I flew, my scarf flapping in the breeze, my heart doing some flapping too. I felt the little machine soar into the air as it hit a high drift of snow; but to my relief, it settled down firmly on both skis and skimmed along. Neatly, I turned the jewel about and sailed back to home base, exhilarated and feeling rather smug.

Yes, anyone can do it. No license, no driving permit required yet in South Dakota; but this will probably change as regulatory bills have been introduced in the legislature,

and the Motor Vehicle Commissioner has said that snowmobiles must be licensed and pass inspection requirements to use the state's highways.

The overnight popularity of the snowmobile has opened a new world of winter fun to millions of Americans. Now safety authorities are beginning to express concern that the snowmobile is too much vehicle for some of its drivers. Too much speed can be dangerous and many snowmobile clubs are urging their members to make safety their first concern.

With proper handling, the snowmobile is fun for all ages. Responsible snowmobile enthusiasts want to keep it that way.

An investment of \$600 will buy a snowmobile, but most fans spend more than that. They want a bigger motor or additional accessories like a compass, automatic cigarette lighter or electric starter. With aviation-type goggles, snowsuits, safety helmet, and maybe six or seven other items thrown in, the price can soon mount to \$1,500 or more.

There is no way to know how many snowmobile owners there are in South Dakota, but the number is growing. More than a million snowmobiles are estimated to be in use this winter in the United States and Canada with the total expected to increase rapidly as the years go on.

Excitement and fun are the

big reasons for owning a snowmobile, but the machines have many practical uses. They'll carry a rancher where no other vehicle can go. They are frequently useful in rescue operations. This year in South Dakota they have been used to feed pheasants and to check livestock. While they're made for snow, they can be run on bare ground, with the only problem more rapid wear and tear on skis.

There isn't a snowmobile on every ranch yet, but another winter like '69 could make the little machines as popular with farmers and ranchers as they are with many South Dakotans now zooming them across the prairies, hills and lakes for the sheer fun of it.

Oregon Protects Valuable Fisheries

A big step in providing protection to downstream migrant salmon and steelhead at the Willamette Falls industrial complex was taken this week when the Game Commission and Fish Commission in a joint letter to Publishers Paper Company at Oregon City generally approved the company's proposals to provide screening and other safeguards at its plant on the east side of the river.

John McKean, state game director, said the Publishers

Paper proposed a two-point protection program which included a shut-down of the turbines during March, April, May, and June, the peak months for downstream fish movement, and as soon as possible after January 1, 1971 to install acceptable fish screens at the company's plant water intake.

The director commended the company for its efforts to improve the river environment and to protect the Willamette fish resources. McKean promised full

cooperation from the fishery management agencies in the development of plans for the screening project as well as the operating schedule of the two hydro-plant turbines.

The company was advised that some modification or changes may be required in the future. Of principal concern is the continued increase of fall and winter migrating fish which would not be protected by a spring shut-down.

The industrial complex at Willamette Falls has long

been a major stumbling block to young downstream migrant salmonids. Young salmon and steelhead four to seven or more inches in length heading for sea are drawn into hydro-turbine intakes at the industrial plants. Under certain water conditions these young fish suffer heavy mortality. It is believed that the turbine mortality is a major factor in keeping salmon and steelhead runs in the Willamette system from reaching full potential.