



Up Front

Bearing gifts.
By C.J. Hadley

It's easier to give than to receive. Not for us, this quarter. There were lots of hundred dollar bills and big gift subscription lists to help spread the word. Ranchers sponsored copies of *RANGE* for every member of Congress. Groups distributed back issues to innocent city dwellers. Letters poured in, asking *RANGE* for more issues. But above and beyond that were two cowboys who sent applause and encouragement to the scraggly bunch who labor hard for cowboys and sheepherders.

Harry Bettis is a longtime rancher who shared his ranches while we visited Idaho to interview sheepman Frank Shirts (p. 44) and 91-year-old cattle rancher Tom Davis (see next issue). Harry is grandson to "Idaho's Sheep King," Andy Little, who loved Harry and taught him how to work.

Harry doesn't raise sheep; his gift is cattle; and his ranches run from McCall south to Boise and west into Oregon. Harry helped with the stories and sponsored copies of *RANGE*'s hardback books—"Grit, Guts and Glory: Portrait of the West" and "Spirit: Cowboys, Horses, Earth and Sky"—for schools and libraries in Idaho. The thank you letters are tender and appreciative. Our hearts are tender and appreciative.



Jack Swanson, aka J.N. Swanson, offered us a mighty present too. His extraordinary paintings are in collections around the world. Not many people can own one. He's a master at western scenes, today's Charlie Russell, and he's just been named "Vaquero Artist of the Year" by Santa Inez Historical Society. He will be honored in November in Solvang, Calif.

Jack's gift to *RANGE* was permission to

reproduce limited edition prints of four of his favorite paintings to benefit the nonprofit 501(c)(3) Range Conservation Foundation (p. 88). As some of you know, RCF helps *RANGE* too, by sponsoring educational research and writing related to issues that concern the West. Special reports on water, endangered species, wetlands, takings, and the science of land management can be found at www.rangemagazine.com.



Al Gore had his "Live Earth" concerts around the world in July but memory of them was fleeting. It was hard to stomach Madonna talking about conservation if you know the way she lives. It was tough to follow Al Gore's instructions, if you consider his personal carbon footprint. And

if you just checked in to watch every once in a while, most groups looked and sounded the same. And some loitering stars, including Cameron Diaz who couldn't read her speech notes or pronounce words like "climate," were just plain grungy.

The concerts were designed to "trigger a global movement to solve the climate crisis." Gore has a lot of "scientists" in his camp, even though they are diminishing by the day, but there

are an equal number of scientists and scholars a long way out of it. According to Dr. Steven Hayward, a senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute, the science of global warming is far from settled. "The problem with Vice President Gore and other global warming extremists," Hayward said, "is that they distort the science, grossly exaggerate the risks, argue that anyone who disagrees with them is corrupt, and suggest that solutions are easy and cheap."

I asked our favorite investigative journalist Tim Findley to produce a special report about global warming, or "climate change" as it is now called to cover more butts. Findley dished up "Let us Prey: The Gore Church of Science has no tolerance for heretics" (p. 10).

Thanks, Harry. Thanks, Jack. Thanks, Tim. And thanks, Al Gore, for the fodder. ■



Jack Swanson in his studio in Carmel, Calif. RIGHT: Harry Bettis, helping Frank Shirts during lamb shipping at the high mountain corrals near New Meadows, Idaho.

