



Opinion from America's Outback

TOUGH TO DIGEST

It is understandable why vegans can't chew, swallow, or digest the red meat offered by *RANGE* each quarter. The old adage of leading a horse to water applies as much today as it did when first uttered. It is also true that the person who cannot read is no better off than one who will not read.

T.M. MURPHY, MADISON, MISSOURI



The experts have decided the Confederate flag must go. It's becoming increasingly difficult telling the Democrats from the Republicans. These baby swallows seem to be saying that

Harry, Diane and Nancy all agree.

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

Too many people don't know or care where food comes from. They certainly don't understand that "no farmers or ranchers—no food." They also don't realize the problems we on the land have with the federal government. Those of us who use grazing lands have preexisting rights. On our ranch they go back to before Wyoming was a state and long before there was a Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. These agencies are supposed to take care of and administer the land for multiple uses, the primary one in most cases being grassland agriculture.

In reference to "The Muscle" [Summer 2015, "The Grass March Cowboy Express"], the BLM cannot legally reduce the value of a ranch unit that is used for collateral on a loan. The people who are responsible for these outrages need to be held accountable.

JEAN HARSHBARGER, NEWCASTLE, WYOMING

RANGE is my most-looked-for publication. Thanks for the great words.

JIM GILLIS, LAKE RIM FEED & SEED
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

WACKED-OUT HEROES

Can't stand your off-the-wall politics and whacked-out heroes, but like some of the photos and the 25 percent off!

ROBERT PAYNE, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

A good lawyer could charge some (most) of those Washington SOBs with treason. I would contribute to the cost. Keep up the good work. I would like to meet your staff to give them a pat on the back.

BILL FRANCIS, TORRINGTON, WYOMING

Your magazine is amazing! I enjoy each and every article, finding my breadth of knowledge increasing with each issue. Thank you for allowing my family to be a part of your magazine in the "Red Meat Survivors" section. We appreciate the bonus check; however, we are returning it to you to apply towards further investigative and historical features.

ELLEN KLEIN, KLEIN LAND & CATTLE
JAMESTOWN, CALIFORNIA

IGNORANCE IS BEARS PAW

It's BEARS PAW, CJ, not Bear Paws. Good magazine, faithful subscriber.

TIM SAYLOR, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
I think Todd Klassy ["Bovines in the Bear Paws" cover story, Summer 2015] wrote "Bear Paw Mountains" and I tweaked it for drama! If I were less ignorant, I could have used "Bovines in the Bears Paw," but shouldn't it have an apostrophe?—Ed.

Ha, I'm just an old, worn-out, fourth-generation cow rancher who would never be so presumptive as to tell you where to put an apostrophe, but, if you tell me a size, I will send a T-shirt from my ranch. Warm regards, Tim

PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS

If not for FOX News and *RANGE* magazine, this country would not have a chance. Hang in there and keep fighting!

TED MILLER, GORHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

I get a lot of news and information from the Web and some from newspapers and TV, but I only read two magazines anymore—yours and NRA's. *RANGE* is a great read and a great resource in a beautiful, top-tier format. Your efforts and those of your staff and writers are valued and valuable. (I miss Findley.) When my ship comes in one of these days, I hope to make a substantial contribution to the foundation. Meantime, if you're up this way, I'd love to swap stories, and buy you a beer.

JOHN HOAK, BIG HORN, WYOMING

We live on the coast of Maine but I was born and raised in San Angelo, Texas. We also own grazing land in Clayton, New Mexico. We enjoy

your magazine very much.

WILLIE H. TEMPLETON, OWLS HEAD, MAINE

Love *RANGE*. We don't get much done after it arrives until we have read it from cover to cover! You are all so wise.

ANN & ROGER YOUNG, SONOMA, CALIF.

DON'T WEAKEN!

Not many publications like yours. I appreciate your no-B.S. approach exposing the numerous predators eroding our western lifestyle and rights. Please continue publishing the "facts," good and bad. I appreciate your guts and wherewithal. Don't weaken.

RICH BROOKS, MARSING, IDAHO

I am 91 years old so I had better renew one year at a time.

GENE KRUEGER, BURNS, OREGON
We love you, Gene.—Ed.

You are truly a voice in the wilderness!

BECKY TERRY, ALPINE, TEXAS

Jane Lambert sent me a copy of your magazine and I couldn't put it down. It is fabulous! And then your working for *Car & Driver* magazine and being involved in auto racing. *Wow!* I was the mechanic on a modified stock car several years ago. I have a degree in mechanical engineering and worked in the auto industry in Detroit for many years, finally becoming the head sales engineer for the International Division of Chrysler. I spent three years in the Army as an electronics instructor on the Nike Ajax and Hercules surface-to-air missiles. I lived in a trailer that I pulled with a three-quarter-ton Studebaker truck. And then, reading "Up Front" by a beautiful blonde, I got weak in the knees.

WILLIAM RANKIN, FALLON, NEVADA
The brilliant photographer, Jeff Ross, promised to tell me who that blonde is.—Ed.

We thank you for the beautiful book, "Brushstrokes & Balladeers: Painters and poets of the American West." What an amazing gift to give to your subscribers with their three-year subscription renewal. How often I have been told, "It's the government; you can't do anything about it." Yet, it is our government. We have a duty to try to make it a good government. *RANGE* does this.

DIANNE THURLOW, TWISB, WASHINGTON
Don't miss the next beauty called "Reflections of the West." See page 79.—Ed.

From an old Winnemucca boy, our country is in a world of hurt. We need all the help we can get. Thanks for all you do.

NORMAN HOSKING, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

(Continued)



*“Cowboy Texting”
At the Hirschy Ranch
in Wisdom, Mont.,
it is important to know
where each set of bales
originates. A can of orange
spray paint makes
inventory in the hay corral
pretty simple. Technology
doesn’t hold a candle
to common sense.
© Cynthia Baldauf*

BIG GOVERNMENT

A good friend gave me a copy of your magazine. How refreshing it is to find a publication with a clear perspective of the path of total destruction of the Constitution and the American way of life being choreographed by the national, state and even local politicians!

WILLIAM MARTIN, OTEGO, NEW YORK

Having grown up and lived in Northern California, I’ve seen many of the things the government is doing wrong. That’s one of the reasons we left and moved to Alaska. Now it is trying to destroy our state [again]. We have to get people to vote and not just sit on their hands and collect welfare. Go back to the Bible. You don’t work, you don’t eat!

ARDENA MORWAY, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Your magazine is a wonderful breath of fresh air and an important insight into some of the methods the government on all levels uses as it makes an attempt to keep its agenda hidden from public view and less than transparent to the American public.

JAMES P. FELLER, GRANITE BAY, CALIFORNIA
Are you aware of the latest landgrab? President Obama and his tree-hugger friends want the Arizona Strip.

ANDY BORGESON, MONA, UTAH
They want everything. A few more recently taken are mentioned on page 67.—Ed.

Did Bravelly Anonymous [Letters, Summer 2015] learn everything he knows about wolves from a sack of Blue Buffalo Wilderness dog food?

DOROTHY LEE, VIA EMAIL

You offer great coverage of rural issues.

EDLA MCKERLICK, JORDAN, MONTANA

I handed Jerry a *RANGE* the day he came to our ranch to hunt with friends and he read for three days—all the old issues I had.

CARL SOREIDE
BOWMAN, NORTH DAKOTA

FIXING NRST

When we wrote about the National Riparian Services Team intervention in the “Our Last, Best Hope” sidebar on the Argenta Allotment in northern Nevada in our Summer 2015 issue, we misquoted team lead Dr. Laura Van Riper. (Check “The Grass March” at www.rangemagazine.com.) Our writer noted during the interview, “there’s enough water,” on the allotment, but this is Ms. Van Riper’s original quote:

“The riparian areas aren’t in great shape, but they aren’t nonfunctional either. There are still elements in place to allow for recovery of these areas. Small changes in management will make big differences. . . . The stockmanship plan largely features the use of low stress livestock handling and supplements to attract and place livestock to allow for good distribution across the landscape. NRST’s purpose is to help craft a grazing management system that improves resource condition over the long-term, without requiring significant investment in range improvements, although some may be required. Specifically, adequate distribution and availability of water, as well as placement of some key fences, will be important to achieving success.”

RANGE is passionate in its advocacy of ranching families, but it’s important to be right.

We apologize to our readers and Ms. Van Riper for not being clearer.

EDITOR, FOR *RANGE*

Once again, *RANGE* wasn’t put down till it was read! Reading “The Muscle,” Summer 2015 [Part I of “The Grass March”], I am absolutely amazed that Doug is not buried some place! Sad that he is doing what D.C. and the Greenies want. Then, reading Part II, “The Riders,” after all of that riding from the California coast to have our elected send their lackeys out to greet those folks in D.C....

MARVIN REED, RENO, NEVADA

You deigned to consider my essay on Adolph Sutro because it wasn’t about a cowboy. Was Levi Strauss? [Summer 2015 by Birney Dibble, M.D.]

SHELDON MORRIS, VIA EMAIL
*Levi Strauss fit the butts of most cowboys out here. His jeans were perfect for the ranges.—Ed.
Touché.—Sheldon Morris*

REPENTANCE OF A TRAIL RIDER

(The following letter was in response to a local Forest Service superintendent’s statements that trail riders are “impacting wildlife habitat and viewing” and scaring the forest animals.)

It has been brought to my attention the physiological harm I have been contributing to by riding my mule in our national forest. It is weighing on my mind that I have caused “eleutherophobia” (a fear of freedom), “tachophobia” (a fear of speed) but my mule and I are not too speedy, “agrophobia” (fear of crossing the trail), and “hodophobia” (fear of getting lost) in so many critters in the woods. I can’t

begin to tell you how sorry I am that I startled that buck so badly that his antlers fell off! It pulls at my heartstrings when I remember the tears in that turtle's eyes as he pulled his head into his shell in abject horror as I rode past. The red-headed woodpecker that became so distraught he stopped pecking and flew on. The toad that winced so hard when he saw me that his warts stood out and he visibly paled. The centipede which spasmed and quaked when he heard our footfalls. Oh, if I could only take back the consternation I subjected that bear cub to as he sat in the tree watching us pass. Or the possum which froze in horror and could only spit and growl in fear as I plodded on past. Oh for forgiveness of that turkey taking a sand bath, standing up startled, shaking his feathers in panic as he darted off. The owl whose hooting stopped when he eyeballed me. The coyote that skedaddled, all the butterflies that flew as I approached. The katydids which stopped diddying. The rattlesnake whose castanets became silent in the bush.

I suspect that over the years I have been the cause of late night forest therapy sessions for those animals. I am truly sorry for the duress and anxiety I have caused all the forest critters!

Now, with that off my chest, I can saddle up and once more hit the trail with a clean conscience. Yippie-ti-aye!

LINDA MEYER, SPEEDWELL, VIRGINIA



Pure. Rural. Childlike. Joy. [Ryan Mahoney's 2nd place photo, Outback Roundup 2015, Summer 2015 issue]

JOHN L. MOORE, MILES CITY, MONTANA

STRANGE WORLD

Most people think the liberal politician is a borderline socialist but they are not socialists. There is a better-invented word to describe them. I think they are "facielitists" because they seem to think a combination of connected and powerful leaders from big business, big education, and big government will contain the wisdom to solve any problem. It turns the idea of consent of the governed on its head and is the greatest threat to liberty on the planet. I need not cite many examples. Just think about what has happened to education and health care with big-government

involvement. Universities and teachers' unions get fat while students struggle with huge debts. Insurance companies and large hospital holding companies gain while average working families cannot afford the high deductibles or even the subsidized premiums.

VESS QUINLAN, FLORENCE, COLORADO

We'll never have as much money as the Sierra Club, but we can still keep trying to stop its meddling.

DAVID LARIMER, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIF.

DISINGENUOUS WWP

Check the "before" and "after" photos used by Western Watersheds Project to convince judges, hearings' examiners, and the uninformed public of the evils of grazing. (Go to westernwatersheds.org, "Degradation Caused by Livestock Grazing.")

One photo taken at the peak of the spring growing season is compared with another taken at the end of the fall growing season. This is comparing apples to oranges. WWP's arguments should be refuted by using the fall photo as the "before" period. "Before growth" occurs in the spring, and the spring photo as the "after" photo, "after spring growth."

Grazing use should be described as a beneficial use to harvest a percentage of the forage produced and at the same time incorporating part of it into the soil to maintain or increase organic matter and fertility, as well as shattering and planting seed.

The WWP picture taken in the fall indicates that this has been successful which is necessary to maintain the site in the condition shown in the spring photo (no stagnation, no dry fuel to burn). Its fall photo is exactly the way such an area should look at that time of year.

Any photo is only 100 percent accurate at the time it was taken. To project that it represents either the future or past is B.S. A freshly plowed field is not pretty. A green growing crop 100 days later is. Food for thought.

ED DEPAOLI, FALLON, NEVADA

(FORMER BLM AREA MGR. IN OREGON)

I know you throw in a letter from the left fringe every once in a while just to see if we're paying attention, but the one from Rose Johnson [Letters, Summer 2015] really got my blood pumping. Rose is putting way too much faith in the "government" in her naive belief that all the rules, regulations, laws, and executive orders are put in place for the benefit of the citizens of this country. I don't share her optimism of their intentions and believe that their intentions are largely self-serving and run counter to the best interests of this country. And then to imply that "homegrown crazies" with guns are the real danger. When I read the quote by Patrick Henry

in "Amazing Facts & Quotes" ("Give me liberty or give me death!"), I thought of Rose. Had she lived in the 1700s, Patrick Henry and George Washington among many others would also have been homegrown crazies.

VANCE BENSON, BLACK HAWK, COLORADO

I showed the Livingston, Mont., Chamber of Commerce the "Red Meat Survivors" story I wrote for Larry Chapel and nominated him for grand marshal of the big Fourth of July parade.



He was selected and I drove him and wife, Virginia, in our surrey drawn by mule Daisy. He was thrilled! The power of print.

SANDY SEATON SALLEE, EMIGRANT, MONT.

I index RANGE magazine as archivist for the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko. I don't know if it's you or Susan Summer Elliott who needs the correction, but the beautiful photograph in "The Empty Quarter" is captioned "Copper Basin just below Cook Creek Summit." There is no Cook Creek; it's Coon Creek. If, for some reason, someone's changing this because they think it's racist, I believe it was named because of raccoons!

TONI L. MENDIVE, ELKO, NEVADA

I know it's Coon Creek Summit and I didn't catch my typo. Feel free to say, "The artist's quick fingers subliminally didn't want to give away her secret photo spot."—SSE

I was relieved that the error was yours rather than mine! One of my worst mistakes was typing that the Magna Carta was signed at Runnymede in England in 2015. I was only 800 years off. Fortunately, even though the magazine was on press, that form hadn't printed and I sent them a corrected PDF!—Ed.

The Harry Webb stories are a great read. Thank you for putting them together.

MARVIN REED, RENO, NEVADA

Check p. 85 for a "Harry's Duet" deal!—Ed.

Just had to comment on Larry Turner's photo of Kelli and Kinsley Gebauer and Kaylie Casey inside the ZX Ranch barn tack room in the Spring issue. Anyone who worked there in the mid-'70s will recognize all those names on the wall behind the ladies: Ray McLaughlin, Britt Lay, Len Babb, Guy Belanger, and Skeeter Clark. I worked with them all in the almost three years I was

there. Good times and good guys all.

BRAD TARP, SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

I work at the plant that prints *RANGE* magazine and read the articles and see the pictures as it is being printed. I needed to support this great



magazine so here's my three-year subscription. I have a small ranch and raise horses and goats. Keep up the great work.

GREG THOMAS, MERCED, CALIFORNIA

P.S. Here is a picture of my son, Jude, leading my horse at a recent Extreme Cowboy event at the Stanislaus County Fair.

MISCREANTS

I just dropped my son off at Tri-Cities Airport in Bristol, Tenn., for his return trip to Mississippi. A few years ago I gave him a gift about the size and thickness of a credit card with a metric rule on one side and standard on the other. It had a few hexagon cutouts and notches so it could be used as a wrench for small bolts and nuts, and two corners were ground so they could loosen or tighten either Philip or flat screws. It had no knife, scissors, cutting surfaces, moving parts, or little pointy things. Actually a pretty neat little piece of ingenuity, he had carried it in his wallet for years. They found it this morning at check-in and even though he had flown numerous times with it in his wallet, he no longer owns that gift. His morning sacrifice to the "god of the greater good" no doubt!

I find it interesting that in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address he spoke of a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." The perception today seems to be that for the mindless masses to travel in ignorant bliss we must submit to an overreaching bureaucracy that indignantly insists it be, "lack of oversight of, legalized theft by, and budgeted billions for" a jackbooted TSA.

After several million miles with my derriere plastered to the abbreviated seats of a few thou-

sand "flying tootsie rolls," I gave it up because of these licensed miscreants. Pathetic bunch of thieves and vandals!

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

I LOVE MY COUNTRY...

Thanks also for showing that ranchers and conservationists can be friends, to parody the song in "Oklahoma."

PHILIP HUDNER, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

I picked up your magazine and all I can say is *Wow!* I realize that's a simple word, but it has a lot of power. Loved your magazine! The world lives more in a glass bubble and more and more is being taken away from the American people and they just don't realize it because it's being taken away a little bit at a time. This is how propaganda works. I have a bumper sticker that says it all: "I love my country but fear my government." Keep up the great work. Start my subscription with the Fall issue.

LARRY WELCH

MOUNT WASHINGTON, KENTUCKY