



Up Front

Mike.
By C.J. Hadley

I met Mike Coffman at a conference in Reno in the 1990s. He was one of three main speakers, the others being Henry Lamb from Hollow Rock, Tennessee (formerly a big shot in Chicago), and Tom DeWeese, who ran American Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Formidable men all. Passionate. Articulate. Enlightened and enlightening. And they all talked more sense than I had heard in decades.

At the time I was publishing *RANGE* with a bunch of talented freelancers and a smoking, drinking, hard-charging reporter from *Rolling Stone* named Tim Findley. Some readers will remember Findley's genius and beautiful writing, and the fact that he lived hard and died young after 15 years with us. Findley was at that Reno conference with me and it was from that moment on that *RANGE* started to stretch out and flourish.

I was looking for more good writers and the way that Mike Coffman talked made it obvious that he could also write. Mike earned a Ph.D., he had lucrative jobs, he was admired and cherished. But when his integrity was questioned he took a walk because he loved this country and could see that it was rolling fast toward tilt.

Our timing was perfect. I discovered a decent man and fabulous researcher, who was writing about issues that were beyond my ken. Fascinating topics that opened doors and minds, and...possibly...could change the world.

Since then, Mike has written more than 50 special reports for *RANGE*, each brilliant. They include: "The Greening of America," "Chicken Little and the Polar Bear," "Secret Science," "Twilight Zone to Lunacy," "The Energy Debacle," "Myths and a Myopic Media," and an Al Gore special called "The Real Inconvenient Truth." (Most can be found at rangemagazine.com.)

Mike's bailiwick included environmental zealots, liberty and private property rights, global warming and governance, Agenda 21, and the greedy, far-reaching progressives—Republicans and Democrats—running the federal government.

He exposed the radicals running the EPA, the notorious United Nations' Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, wrote a scathing portrait of billionaire George Soros and the manipulation of climate data by Prof. Michael E. Mann of Pennsylvania State University. Mann traffics in what Mike called "pseudoscience" and his last story is about that professor, who was recently found in contempt of court in Canada for refusing to share his faulty and doctored data.

Mike was a beautiful human. Perfectly honest and mentally cuddly. He labored hard to make sure that what he wrote was accurate, always with backup and citations from numerous sources. He believed in Ronald Reagan's "Trust, but verify."

I could trust Mike. He taught me a great deal. I could count on Mike. He always did



Mike and his beloved Suz, with daughter Tamera, son-in-law Philip Scharer, and son Jon in San Francisco (Suz' hometown). This photo was taken Thanksgiving weekend in 2013.

what he said he would. I could pay him badly (he knew it was the most we could find), because, for him, it was the mission that counted.

Mike was a generous man who shared his knowledge, but he also shared his heart, soul and spirit. As sick as he was over the past two years he never gave up. He continued to smile. He continued to write. He made our lives better. He made *RANGE* better.

Mike was born on Sept. 7, 1943, in Anaheim, Calif. He died on June 21, 2017, in Bangor, Maine, while putting final touches on "Climate Lies," starting on page 50.

Fair travels, my friend. Tens of thousands of *RANGE* fans, and I, already miss you. ■

RANGE

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 3, FALL 2017

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: *Caroline Joy "CJ" Hadley*

ASSISTANT TO PUBLISHER: *Ann Galli*

DESIGN CONSULTANT: *John Bardwell*

CUSTOMER SERVICE: *Deborah Bentley*

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS: *Joani Haws*

SCIENCE EDITOR: *Chance Gowan*

OUTSIDE EDITOR: *Steve Thompson*

PROOFREADER: *Denyse Pellettieri White*

WEBMASTER: *Larry Angier*

FACEBOOK: *Carolyn Dufurrena*

& *Ann Henderson*

SENIOR WRITERS: *Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., (ME), Carolyn Dufurrena (NV), Barry Perryman, Ph.D. (NV), Dave Skinner (MT), Stephen M. Studdert (UT).* CONTRIBUTORS: *Cynthia Baldauf (MT/IN), Gail Brooks (AZ), Rachel Dahl (NV), Ed Depaoli (NV), Linda Dufurrena (NV), Paul Etzler (NV), Bill Jones (TN), Alan Hart (VA), Vess Quinlan (CO), Stephen H. Rich (UT/AZ), Terry Sullivan (NV), Al Topping (AZ), Larry Turner (OR, TX).* NOT FORGOTTEN: *Don Coops, Carrie Depaoli, Tim Findley, Tom & Rosita Marvel, Chet Mercer, Bert Smith, Jack Swanson.* OUR HERO: *J. Zane Walley.*

RANGE (ISSN #1093-3670) is published quarterly for \$19.95 per year U.S. (\$28/yr Canada, \$45/yr all other countries, U.S. funds only) by Purple Coyote Corp., 106 East Adams St., Ste. 201, Carson City, NV 89706. Periodicals postage rate paid at Carson City, NV, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Address changes to:

RANGE, P.O. Box 639, Carson City, NV 89702

775-884-2200

FAX: 775-884-2213

1-800-RANGE-4-U (credit card orders)

Publisher/Editor: cj@rangemagazine.com

Advertising: ads@rangemagazine.com

Customer Svc: service@rangemagazine.com

Business: admin@rangemagazine.com

Freelancers: edit@rangemagazine.com

Website: www.rangemagazine.com

Photos: www.cowboystwest.com

Like us on Facebook

RANGE is an award-winning quarterly devoted to the issues that threaten the West, its people, lifestyles, lands and wildlife. No stranger to controversy, *RANGE* is a leading forum for opposing viewpoints in the search for solutions that will halt the depletion of a national resource—the American cowboy.

RANGE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION Grants to the nonprofit 501(c)(3) RCF to assist with *RANGE*'s mission are appreciated. Mail to RCF, Attn.: Ed Depaoli, P.O. Box 1595, Carson City, NV 89702. 775-884-2206.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is strictly prohibited. Publisher not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photos or for the opinions of the contributors. Subscription fulfillment: Integrated Fulfillment Services, Concord, Calif. Distribution: Curtis Circulation Company LLC, Bergen, N.J.

COPYRIGHT © 2017. Printed in U.S.A.