



Opinion from America's Outback

NOTE: WE APPRECIATE THE 8,000 WORDS AIMED AT "LETTERS" THIS QUARTER. SADLY, WE CAN'T PRINT THEM ALL. A FEW WERE EDITED FOR SPACE, OTHERS WERE HELD FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE. THANK YOU, DEAR READERS, FOR SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS. AND DON'T STOP WRITING!—EDITOR

OUTLASTING THE BALLYHOOD

Despite the determined efforts of many of your rabid, sputum-flecked contributors *RANGE* is a far more professional magazine than ever. The talent of your printer allows a distinct upgrade in the graphics and a far wider, uh, range of photos and illustration. You should be on your knees thanking God for finding such a printer.

So, 25 years? Congratulations. You alone deserve the credit for outlasting such ballyhooded magazines as *Discover*, *Autoworld Weekly*, *The Beast*, and about 300 other media darlings. Go to the tables and play 25, solo. Good luck and my admiration.

BOB BROWN, PORTLAND, OREGON

CULTURAL POVERTY

I read Dr. Perryman's "Creativity Required" [Winter 2016] about the failure of our educational system to teach even basic fundamental knowledge of our nation's history to its people.

I worked in the history museum field for nearly 30 years and articles of this sort almost drive me to drink! It is true that history repeats itself and we are seeing that now in the gradual decline in influence, and path to destruction of those values and ideals which made the U.S.A. the respected (and feared) world power that it was after WWII.

Our history is all too often taught as a stream of "dead guys and dates" making it unpalatable to most if not all of the generation X'ers and the current group of future leaders. (God help us!) Rather than teaching basic knowledge of the Constitution and American history, today's "educators" are far more concerned with the status of the NEA, promoting cultural diversity, and "fundamentally transforming America" at the expense of national identity and pride of country or patriotism. As my old mentor observed: "A society can recover from financial poverty, but it can never recover from cultural poverty."

PAUL D. MARTIN, SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

THE MINDSET

All I can say about *RANGE* is holy smokes. What a load of cow poop. Talk about head-in-the-sand junk science. ["Wow" by Dr. Michael S. Coffman, Winter 2016] I believe I may very well be the one and only Obama lovin' liberal in my fine city. While I admire your strong stand on all things conservative, I just can't go down the road you travel. The planet is warming and men and women are the cause. All the fake science you print won't change that fact.

WILLIAM GREGERSEN-MORASH
EAST WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON



RANGE. Very impressive journalism, and a great mix of inviting features with hard-nosed banner-carrying. Nice photos. You have some really creative friends.

JOE JOHNSTON, NASHVILLE, TENN.
(AUTHOR OF THE VIGILANTE SERIES)

INFERNOS

The articles on the 2015 summer fires hit the nail on the head. ["Fires" by Judy Boyle, Winter 2016] Grant County, Ore., was also hit hard with the Canyon Creek Fire. Like the other lightning strikes, it could have been put out with just a little more effort with the initial attack by the Forest Service instead of using its "let it burn" theory. Like the people of Kamiah, Idaho, Grant County came out in full force to support the many people whose lives were turned upside down by the fire.

HARRIET CRUM, JOHN DAY, OREGON

Have been a subscriber for years and read it from cover to cover. Just wish there were more. Re Judy Boyle's "Fires," check out the fires in Washington. The North Star Fire was on McClure Ranch. They lost several cattle and an estimated 10 million board feet of timber. The Colville Confederated Tribes didn't shut down the logging and the fire was started by a logger

on the reservation and spread to national forest and private land. The North Star Fire and Tunk Block Fire combined to burn almost 400,000 acres.

CARL RUSSELL, ELECTRIC CITY, WASHINGTON

MUSTANGS & SUFFERING

To Rachel Dahl:

Obviously, my public affairs' staff never got back to me about your inquiries. I have the *RANGE* article and haven't read all of it, but do see obvious errors. [Winter 2016, "Ignoring the Rule of Law"] For example, Laura Leigh has never been a volunteer on a Battle Mountain District gather, and was not one for the Fish Creek gather. I am sorry that I could not answer your questions without going through our public affairs' staff. It is always standard on controversial cases.

SHAWNA RICHARDSON
BLM WILD HORSE & BURRO SPECIALIST
BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NEVADA

Both Doug Furtado (BLM boss in Battle Mountain) and John Ruhs (BLM state director) referred to Laura as a "volunteer" specifically during the Eureka tour. Additionally, there is a voice-mail recording of Mike Vermey's (Battle Mountain BLM) telling Kevin Borba, "Laura is definitely an official BLM volunteer, an official passenger and can support our program in that capacity."—Rachel Dahl

In Rachel Dahl's story in our Winter issue, she quoted a rancher, saying Laura Leigh, "will probably have a BLM badge by next week and they'll give her a pistol by Christmas." On Nov. 11, 2015, the horse activist included a copyrighted photo on her "Wild Horse Education" blog page, of herself aiming a rifle with a scope to shoot mares with temporary birth control. She was working with BLM to create a field protocol, and referred to the gun in her hands as "a violent implementation tool for such a humane method of management." That photo has been removed from the site.—Ed.

BLM: Base your decisions and management practices on factual science and common sense, not on money and a higher position. Don't be cowed by sentimental, city-based environmentalists who don't know squat about the range and livestock. I guarantee if I kept my horses that way, I would go to jail for animal cruelty.

ANDREW GRAHAM, CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BOY OR GIRL?

Thomas Quinn's letter in the Winter 2016 issue includes a photo of three osprey fledglings, which he identifies as "two females and a male." How did he determine this? I was trained as a docent for the Van Saun Park Zoo in Paramus, N.J., and learned then that birds have internal

sex organs and the only way to identify males and females is if they have distinctive color patterns (such as male and female cardinals). Ospreys look the same, regardless of sex.

DENYSE PELLETTIERI WHITE
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY

An expert ornithologist says, "It's tough to tell them apart, but female raptors, including eagles and hawks, are bigger than the males."—Ed.

PRAISE FOR REFLECTIONS "Reflections of the West: Cowboy painters and poets" is a gorgeous book, beautifully done. It resonates.

JERRY BROOKS, SEVIER, UTAH

I didn't think your books could get any better, but this tops them all. You have a winner.

BETTE RAMSEY, AMARILLO, TEXAS

Kudos, once again, CJ! A remarkably cohesive project worthy of the livestock tribe for generations to come—a landmark publication blending art and poetry inspired in the West, truly a jewel among books. As part of a culture in your debt, I owe you more than thanks, but thanks so much nonetheless.

JOHN DOFFLEMYER, LEMON COVE, CALIF.

The artwork is masterful, the poetry lovely.

PATRICIA FROLANDER, SUNDANCE, WYOMING

Another gorgeous book, and the selection of poems and matching them with paintings is inspired.

LINDA M. HASSELSTROM
HERMOSA, SOUTH DAKOTA

What a privilege and joy you have given me to be part of this heart-piercing collection of paintings and poetry, "Reflections of the West." For those of us who have lived these experiences, glimpses, scenery, excitement (and endured or survived!), words simply can't express the wonder you have captured page after page. Thank you, thank you.

PEGGY GODFREY, MOFFAT, COLORADO
We have copies on sale now! See page 62.—Ed.

Gerald "Jed" Cook, a Red Meat Survivor from Ibapah (Deep Creek), Utah, turned 97 last September! (The 96 on his hat is his brand.) The last time he went out to ride his favorite mare, he couldn't get her down in the ditch to get his leg over the cantle. The mare was nervous and wouldn't stand still long enough for him to get on. They were just weaning her colt so he thought that might have been what was making her



jumpy but it might have been that she had seen him comin' on his walker, too! Well, we all love ya Jed—and all those like ya! Just keep findin' deeper ditches, but don't go trying to throw that walker onto the back of your saddle like you do on your car. Okay?

GARN "SPANKY" LITTLEDYKE (NEPHEW)
GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

GENDER SHAMING

I received a very nice calendar, courtesy of "CJ and the Aging Buckaretttes." I'm sure you realize that such gender distinctions and labels are severely frowned upon these days, but in the spirit of gratitude, I shan't report you to any of various self-appointed progressive watchdog groups out there. Here in California, of course, such gender-shaming is forbidden by law (it's a felony), but I will defiantly hang the calendar anyway.

JAMESON PARKER, TEHACHAPI, CALIFORNIA

A PASSIONATE ACCUSER

I was reading the article, "The Magna Carta," in Summer 2015, which in the last few paragraphs degenerates into a right-wing diatribe by Dr. Michael Coffman, who I would categorize as a witch doctor, snake oil salesman, liar and a fraud, a self-appointed conservative prophet who cashes in on a bunch of hapless western rednecks who choose to be ignorant to scientific fact.

Anyone who disputes the reality of global warming is a complete moron. (Coffman is owned by big oil, coal and several western politicians.) Thank God we have an EPA, state and federal protections of our environment here in America. If we allow people like Coffman to gain the upper hand with his misinformation and delusions, devoid of scientific facts, they will turn America into a plutocracy, oil spills everywhere on land and sea. Every mountain will be strip-mined, every tree will be cut down, every lake and river poisoned and polluted. Not on my watch, mister!

NORM STEINER, PORT ARANSAS, TEXAS
Wow! As is usual for global-warming alarmists, Mr. Steiner is long on hyperbole and incorrect assumptions, and very short on facts. First, hard empirical science does not show man-caused global warming (see page 40 in this issue). If he wants to review this hard science there are excellent summaries as well as detailed evidence on <http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>. Be prepared to be shocked as to how much the IPCC and Obama administration and rent-seeking scientists have grossly distorted the science for political reasons or personal gain. I am also sorry to disappoint Mr. Steiner, but I have never received a dime from big oil, coal or any other source besides private dona-

tions from individual citizens, writing, and product sales.—Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.

I was watching C-SPAN the other night and the Energy secretary actually said the western wildfires and the pine bark beetles are the result of climate change! I was astounded. How do we fight that?

SHERRI BACON, VALENTINE, NEBRASKA

Best magazine out there if you want to know the truth about what's going on on public and private land. Abuse by the EPA and several other federal agencies is absurd.

CARL & TERRI DIXON, VIA FACEBOOK

JUST AN OKIE

I noticed *RANGE* at our local Denver King Soopers. The cover headline about global cooling [Mike Coffman's story] caught my eye (and my dollars), and then of course the fantastic cover photo of Dani Jones by Todd Klassy.

I am not a farmer or rancher, just an ex-Okie and now Denver suburbanite. But I (and my wife and many family members) are concerned about our government's growing indifference to our West and to property rights and common sense. Please keep up your excellent reporting.

ROBERT CULBERTSON, CENTENNIAL, COLO.

CLASSY & DELICIOUS

Classy work by Mr. Klassy [cover, Winter 2016]. The flag raising on Iwo Jima, pregnant with symbolism, cannot hold a candle to this one. The nation is in debt to you, sir, as well as *RANGE*.

T.M. MURPHY, MADISON, MISSOURI

Thanks for a delicious magazine!

KENNETH E. SANDERS
GRANITE BAY, CALIFORNIA

Best magazine in America.

H. JAY PLATT, ST. JOHNS, ARIZONA



Here's Avery (3) and Elsie (1-1/2) Flournoy of Likely, Calif., sixth-generation cattle ranchers.

JENNY BUDD
VIA EMAIL

HEARTFELT WANNABE

Thank you for the integrity and honesty in your work and the work of those who contribute to the magazine. I'm not from a ranching family but have been a heartfelt "wannabe" my whole life. The lifestyle, value system and work ethic of

the people you bring into my home resonate with me all of the good in the human spirit.

I feel sorry for the masses who believe without asking for proof, send in their money without asking more questions and actually believe some of the nonsense that is sold about range management, wildlife, etc. Power, influence and greed are “doing in” this great country. It seems to be all about “being right” and having it now!

JAN WILSON, LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON

MURKY WORLD

RANGE gives an old cowboy wannabe like me something to get his heart pumping and is a light of truth in the very chaotic and murky world of today!

EARL HUFF, PINGREE, IDAHO

We appreciate all of the support *RANGE* provides Idaho's cattlemen and women.

DAWN SCHOOLEY, IDAHO CATTLE ASSN.
BOISE, IDAHO

As the little boy said when informed there was no Santa Claus, “Oh well, we still have the Easter Bunny.”

“Oh well, we still have *RANGE!*”

DON DUDLEY, INDEPENDENCE, VIRGINIA

I have enjoyed *RANGE* and the stand you take on many issues. There is no other magazine to my knowledge that shows so clearly what is going on.

CARRIE SCHMIDT, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Muchas gracias y feliz año from a Mexican vaquero.

HUMBERTO ALVAREZ, EL PASO, TEXAS



Now that is pretty clear and straightforward. It should help settle a lot of arguments and grief with the Possum Police (aka, the feds).

R.J. SMITH, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Why do I have to defend myself to feed you?

CLARENCE BURR, RANCHER
GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

Wonderful coverage of the unique conditions

existing in the western states and the exposure of the useless federal government. Keep up the information flow. We need the education. Now, if we could dismantle the government interference.

BARRY WOODY, APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA

Have you done an article on the Hammond family, the ranchers in Oregon who did a prescribed burn and BLM threw them in jail as terrorists? Amazing their story....

Do you send your magazine to our legislators? Maybe some of their staff would learn something. God help us.

FRANK SOLINSKY, CHICO, CALIFORNIA

*Several. Go to www.rangemagazine.com and click on “Enemies of the State” on the left side of the home page. Also check pages 4 and 37. And yes, all members of Congress get *RANGE*.—Ed.*



POLITICOS & HORSES

The other day I was driving up U.S. 163 north of Mexican Water on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona listening to talk radio when a pickup passed me with a load of expensive and very pretty green hay and some rolled oats in bags on top of the hay. Navajos love their horses and will buy them good feed. Several horses grazing the sparse vegetation caused me to think about horses and the political promises being readied for the coming presidential election in 2016.

Horses love good green timothy hay and sweet rolled oats, but leave a gate open and the horse is gone because horses love liberty more. When politicians offer good things free in exchange for votes, perhaps voters should consider the horse.

VESS QUINLAN, FLORENCE, COLORADO

I read *RANGE* cover to cover. I have found that each page brings either fond heartwarming memories from the past, startling realization of atrocities and threats to our ranching way of life in the present, or hope for the future. The way you focus on past, present and future is exquisite. Please never quit what you are doing so well.

BOB MALONEY, FRUTO, CALIFORNIA