

## Opinion from America's Outback

### A DAY IS A LIFETIME

As a restless soul, who by many folks' reckoning, has managed to squander an awful lot of years amounting to nothing much and, to their dismay, really enjoying most of it, may I say that "A Day IS a Lifetime" by Lee Pitts in Winter 2020 is a wonderfully candid, profound and enlightening commentary on the things that really matter in life.

Thank you, Lee, for giving all of us a hard-earned reality check and thank you *RANGE* for allowing me the privilege to share a photo with such an excellent article.

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

Who would have guessed? Just got done reading Lee Pitts' "A Day IS a Lifetime" in Winter 2020. Those of us who have been thrilled and moved by his great stories would never have guessed what the man was personally going through. On my bookshelves are several of his treasures. The one I enjoy



most is "People Who Live at the End of Dirt Roads." Back many decades ago when I was a lad and Ol' Shep was a pup, we lived in an old run-down homestead at the end of a backwoods dirt road. Ah—the memories though.

So be'n I just realized how Lee was facing life's trials head-on, I said a prayer for you today, Lee. More often than not, those of us who go through many of life's sorrows seem to bring out inner greatness. And thank you more than words can express for what you give us all.

DALE TERRILLION, PROCTOR, MONTANA  
*Go to [leepitts.com](http://leepitts.com) or call 1-800-RANGE-4-U for info on Lee's books.—Ed.*

### GET READY FOR THE HOOT!

I have a couple of relatives I can't send this info to. You on the other hand are a "right" fighter. You have heard it before, but I re-

inforce my admiration for the "attitude" and truth that live within the pages of *RANGE*. I'm 82, just had open heart surgery so I can continue enjoying this magazine for another 20 years or so. Told my sons to stay healthy, because my 100th birthday is going to be a hoot!

Hope I'm not stepping in a fresh meadow muffin by sending this to you. Just wish there were others who would grasp what is "really" going on politically. God bless you.

DAVE SHAW, NAMPA, IDAHO

I'm 84 and a little slow to realize I can get all the news I need from just two publications: *National Review* and *RANGE*.

BILL CALLAWAY, SHERIDAN, MONTANA

### CHANCE IS RIGHT

I read "Wolves," Chance Gowan's special report in Summer 2019, a couple of times very carefully. I have wanted to send my uneducated thoughts regarding the article. I have delayed because it is a hard-hitting and honest evaluation of the situation. It exemplifies the state of our government at all levels. Chance has not left anyone out of the picture that I could tell. We all have had a role to play in this impending disaster. I know that the last few years my rather rare chances to be in the woods have left me looking over my shoulder and carrying a gun. Is that enough? Probably not. I have been lucky to have been followed only once by a single wolf and my fear was palpable. Anyway, the article is outstanding.

BOB GUSTAFSON, COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

(Continued )

### TIME TO STAND TALL

Virginia's Culpeper County Board of Supervisors resolution to "preserve, uphold and protect the rights of the citizens to keep and bear arms under the Constitution" should be considered the beginning of a grassroots movement that we all can support, from Virginia through California. There is nothing more basic to the preservation of our U.S. Constitution and republic than the right to keep and bear arms.

The California state legislature is controlled by elected officials from large metropolitan areas and has significantly reduced the people's ability to purchase firearms and ammunition; given mandated authority to illegal immigrants and noncitizens to be appointed to "state control boards"; resists federal control of our southern border; permits and is proud of sanctuary cities; no

longer supports our law enforcement officials; and has become a Socialist-governed state...that appears unstoppable. But...it is not. Although thousands of California citizens are moving to other states in search of freedom and justice, confident that our state is seriously threatened from within, we still have hundreds of thousands of patriots. Now is the time for those in our nation to stand tall and make a difference.

BILL DENNISON, CHICO, CALIFORNIA

Remember the guy who cut down the Mexican flag in Reno? Met him in a retail firearms outlet in Meridian, Idaho. Great guy, and yes, could have been a bad career move to try to take the American flag from him. Just sayin'.

DENNIS COLLINS, VIA EMAIL



Dog Tired by Christy Bormann Photo Feature [www.sheprescue.org](http://www.sheprescue.org)

Keep pounding into city liberals that long-tail kitty cats are imported wolves. No deer for the hunters, less income for local business and importing grizzly bears into Crater Lake?

BOB DAVIS (SCARED BUSINESS OWNER)  
PAISLEY, OREGON

It's vile and sinful to kill predatory animals for beef. There are better ways that have been proven to work. Stop killing America's wildlife! It is not *yours* to kill! Shame on you!

BARB JEAN, VIA FACEBOOK

I was at the vets hospital in Spokane, Wash., recently. *RANGE* is now on all the tables available for reading material...even saw two guys actually reading Chance Gowan's wolf story, very interested at this time of year with hunting season now in full swing. Some conversations I picked up on were about the damage to the elk herds due to the uncontrolled growth of the wolves. Idaho has actually had to hire some expert hunters to "thin" these pests. Too bad it has cost over \$10 million so far just to enjoy their presence! Ya gotta love it because you sure can't make it up!

MIKE KEMPE, SANDPOINT, IDAHO



My nephew, gathering cows November 2019 in Panakanic, Wash.

CAMERON TOWLE, VIA EMAIL

## BIG KENTUCKY SPENDER

Thanks, Billy, for paying my first-class fare to D.C. from Reno. I might put the \$11.80 check in a frame and piss off your banker.

C.J. HADLEY, WASHOE VALLEY, NEVADA  
*You are worth it. I would have paid it even if it was \$12 or \$13.—Bill Jones (see page 35)*

Please send Bill Jones' memoir, "The Body Burning Detail." I served in the USMC in 1968 and my brother was a sergeant stuck in Khe Sanh during the siege.

SAM PARSONS, FOREST, VIRGINIA  
*See book ad on page 50.—Ed.*

## BEACON OF TRUTH

*RANGE* is a beacon of truth, an honest look

at our vanishing heritage, and a well-written periodical with marvelous photography. The only magazine subscription I still have and the one I most revere.

JOHN TAYLOR, VIA FACEBOOK

Your article "Fake & Fiction" by Patrick Moore, Ph.D., in Fall 2019 is excellent. It's such a shame that the general public is being fooled by these false facts. Thank you for enlightening me.

ALBERT L. LAMARRE, DUBLIN, CALIFORNIA

While I don't agree with the majority of your viewpoints, I'm a subscriber and maybe you have others who seek some alternate views. We need to get that effort to our politicians!

TOM TAYLOR, MESA, ARIZONA  
*That's why I watch MSNBC, CNN & Fox!—Ed.*

## SMART LATIN

Mailman just dropped off a package and I found: (1) A beautiful book, "Tales From Out There," and (2) a very nice T-shirt with the famous emblem, *Illegitimi Non Carborundum*. I was amazed and wish to offer my most sincere thanks and appreciation.

DAVE KNUTSEN, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA  
*Dave is the USAF fighter pilot who brought us his 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron emblem, which we instantly adopted as appropriate for RANGE. The Royal Air Force used this "Don't let the bastards grind you down" slogan on its planes during World War II.—Ed.*

I'm pleased that you finally got some black Latin tees! [See p. 39] I will wear it to county commission and city council meetings.

LINDA CRANE, PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON

## PANDERERS

*What follows is a reply to a pro-wolf letter to the editor in Wisconsin's Lexington Herald Leader:* It has been my firm conviction since the mid-'90s when the animal rights/environmental radicals and their federal bureaucrat allies came after me in Washington that there is no compromise or midground or trust when dealing with them or with 90-plus percent of the media.

It is a challenge to "fight" (the correct word) them while trying to reach those open to the truth (in its broadest sense) in these matters. That said, I sleep much better at night when I look them in the eye and either publicly or privately tell them they are lying or no more to be trusted than a wolf or grizzly bear outside the tent. That goes for all of them including "powerful" politicians and modern pandering state wildlife agency personnel.

Sleep is important, especially when involved in a long campaign....

JIM BEERS, RETIRED U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE  
SERVICE WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST,  
EAGAN, MINNESOTA



Now I know where my apples went!

BERT JEFFRIES, SALMON, IDAHO

Yours is a voice in the wilderness. Take heart, there are some who are listening. Sign me up for three years and use the rest for yourself.

ROGER K. STONE, HAMMOND, OREGON

## SKINNER'S HOT!

Thank you for Dave Skinner's special report "Critical Mass" in your Fall 2019 issue about the American Prairie Preserve. It spurred me to join their cause and make a donation.

A RANCHER, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA  
Just wanted to thank Idaho subscriber Gary Solberg for remembering "Arabella" and where you saw that name first. The story in *Politico* is a significant step forward for a number of reasons. Arabella began with a half-million grant from Hansjoerg Wyss, a Swiss-national billionaire who by law is prohibited from donating to American politics. But he can make all the *nonprofit* contributions he wants, and is apparently doing so—as deductible charitable contributions? My eye! Now the Arabella-Kessler empire is over the half-billion mark per year, with little sign the "watchdog media" will ever notice. Thanks for catching this and letting *RANGE* know because I missed it and I read *Politico* a lot.

DAVE SKINNER, RANGE WANDERING SCOUT  
WHITEFISH, MONTANA

*Go to rangemagazine.com, Fall 2018, and savor Skinner's "Octopuses Garden—More secrets from Eric Kessler's stealth entity" and "Rivers of Darkness" on page 24.—Ed.*

*RANGE* offers a wonderful perspective to daily ranch life. The pictures and articles are phenomenal. Loved Martin Etchamendy's "The Basque Shepherd" in Winter 2020. My grandfather immigrated to this country from the French Basque country.

KIRSTEN SOUTHAM, VIA FACEBOOK

(Continued)



## TOO EXTREME?

We have enjoyed *RANGE* photos and some articles, but you are too extremist right wing.  
TED SHANNON, MOKELUMNE HILL, CALIF.

Great magazine. I'm a conservative but I'll stand behind Democrats like you any day.

DAVID REYNOLDS  
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Thank you for publishing Rod Miller's "One Heart" in Winter 2020. Also thank you for introducing Carlos Montefusco to me and for all the tremendous work you do for those who struggle to maintain the western way of

MONTAFUSCO & WOLF © ROD MILLER



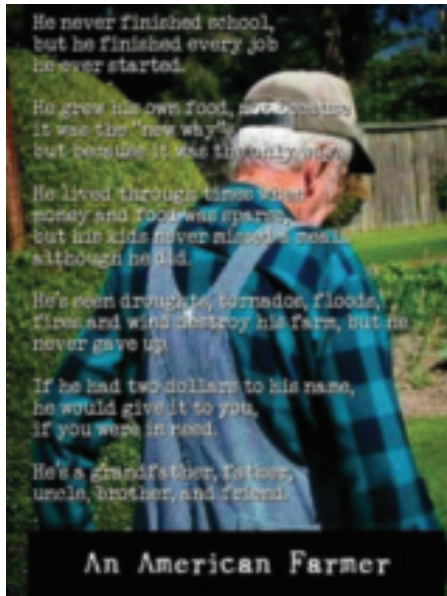
life. Without people like you those struggles would most definitely be a whole lot more challenging. My sincere gratitude.

JEFF WOLF, SCULPTOR/BUCKAROO  
SPANISH FORK, UTAH

## CHERISHED OLD FOLKS

As a frequent contributor to "Confessions of Red Meat Survivors," it's been a pleasure and an education to visit with many octogenarian and nonagenarian ranchers. The bittersweet is that many of them who I enjoyed interviewing have passed away. Recently John "Jack" Bailey of Lane Deer, Mont., and Audrey McRae Thompson of Sheridan, Wyo., moved on to that big roundup in the sky. During

INTERNET



Audrey's funeral the minister held up *RANGE* and read an excerpt from my article about Audrey's life. On a bright note, I interviewed Victor Garber, Big Horn, Wyo., several years ago; he turned 100 on Sept. 14, 2019, and is doing well.

REBECCA COLNAR MOTT, SHERIDAN, WYO.

Dear *RANGE* folks, dogs and lovely horses, thank you for the lovely *RANGE* calendars. They arrived in fine shape. Excuse the writing. I'm a little long in the tooth—born on an Oklahoma ranch on March 30, 1927—and lived there till Dust Bowl, market crash and World War II were over. Our ranch is now a bed and breakfast near Kenton.

JACKIE R. SMITH, BROOKINGS, OREGON

Every once in a while, there's a glimmer of hope for common sense. The NRRRC ad on the back page of Winter 2020 gave one such moment. What brilliance for the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to engage ranchers in fire suppression! I understand parts of Oregon have been doing this for some time. I pray that such good ideas may spread like "wildfire."

GRANT GRIFFIN (RETIRED RANGE GUY)  
CRANBROOK, B.C., CANADA

Two of the most overlooked qualities in life are patience and wisdom.

MIKE DAIL, MASON, TEXAS

## AW, SHUCKS...

So pleased about Nevada Press Association's recognition of your talent, dedication to the truth and the woman who carries *RANGE*. In celebration, I'm asking a subscription be sent to a retired Defiance County, Ohio, sheriff who served for 32 years. He read *RANGE* on his last visit here to Wyoming and was completely enthralled.

PATRICIA FROLANDER, SUNDANCE, WYOMING

Congratulations on your elevation in the NPA Hall of Immortals. Stay in harness and please do not even think of riding into the sunset. The high desert outback of the American dream needs all the help she can get. Be well. Raise hell.

ANDREW BARBANO, BARBWIRE.US  
SPARKS, NEVADA

Just home from the post office. It took yesterday off; you didn't. Your Winter 2020 "Up Front" column makes me smile this morning! That NPA crew did good.

JOE ETCHART, GLASGOW, MONTANA  
*Joe, you make me want to continue until I am old. Oh...too late!—Ed.*

## THE DARK SIDE

Hear, hear! Right on. ["Listen to the Trees," by Jim Steele.] There is no better proof of the climate issue than the natural elements—the trees. Those students got a very good education! I have a good mind to send this article to The Weather Channel. They are going over to the "dark side." Their programs proclaim the demise of the Earth and rising sea levels, just to name two of their hogwash programs. It's enough to make a person sick. I yell at the TV but, alas, they're not listening.

SUZ COFFMAN, BANGOR, MAINE  
*Suz' late husband, Mike, covered climate change and other serious topics brilliantly for RANGE for decades. We will always miss him.—Ed.*

I just can't figure out why *RANGE* continues to publish this nonsensical dribble. Anyone with even modest intelligence can see what is going on with the climate. It's real. It's human caused and this continued head-in-the-sand denial will surely lead to disaster.

WILLIAM GREGERSEN-MORASH  
VIA FACEBOOK

I loved Amy Dufurrena's little buckaroo on the Winter 2020 cover. Also the editor hanging on to a couple of buckaroos' arms on page four. Congrats on your awards, you're deserving. Now to enjoy looking at some snowy pics and great articles as I don't see much snow here in Texas! Happy New Year!

RICH MEECE, PILOT POINT, TEXAS

There will be a special place in the Big Corral in the Sky whenever you arrive.

WELDON TRAVIS, ROUGH & READY, CALIF.

My husband said just before I mailed this note, "Is that the renewal for *RANGE*?" I said, "No, it is a cancellation of the subscription." He said, "I like that magazine and I read it so just renew it okay!" You and I are both "lucky" that I showed him the letter for "renewal" before I mailed it. Great magazine.

MRS. DICK HISER, SARATOGA, WYOMING  
*Keep that husband!—Ed.*

I enjoy each publication and the honesty and commitment to quality that is *RANGE*.

SARAH HISEL, HALSEY, NEBRASKA

(Continued)



In response to Frank Smith's "potty-mouth" letter about climate change (Winter 2020), thank God that for the last five billion years the climate on earth has been constantly changing. Starting near four billion years ago bacteria and blue-green algae began producing oxygen. By 700 million years ago the oxygen level had reached one percent of the present level, enough that higher life forms started to develop. The earth has had numerous ice ages at intervals of around 300 million years. The present ice age started about two million years ago. During an ice age the temperature oscillates between colder and warmer cycles. A warmer cycle is called an interglacial period. We live during an interglacial period, hopefully not near the tail end. Modern man is a product of this last ice age. Nature doesn't need our puny input for climate change to happen. She's good at it; she's had a lot of practice. If the New World Order can find a way to make a dollar on climate change, they will. All they need are gullible people of which there is no shortage.

Wake up, Frank, read real science, stop listening to New World Order mythology!

DEWEY DIETZ, PRINEVILLE, OREGON



© CYNTHIA BALDAUF

Vess Quinlan's story, "The Ginger Belgians," in Fall 2019 was a joy to read. His message was a gem.

BILL ENNIS

BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA

I enjoy your magazine and pics. As a broke builder and once ranch hand, I truly appreciate the truth, perspectives and facts you give.

JEREMY GALGERUD, WILLOW CREEK, MONT.

Enclosed is a little extra. Wish I had a million to give you. What a great magazine.

JESSIE OVERMAN, QUINCY, WASHINGTON

In response to a rant in your Winter 2020 Letters section from Mike Farmer from some place in Montana. How did Montana let him in? I guess they can invade everywhere just like here in Arizona. I

came from Alaska via Minnesota before it went insane. I suggest the farmer guy try doing what his name implies... *farm*. He might have an opportunity to figure out how God's world works. I know where and who my future is being taken care of. I'll leave the weather and all that has to do with living in general up to Him. He knows how best to take care of it. Maybe in some of these weather events He's testing us. I hope these poor souls don't worry themselves to death.

STEPHEN GELDMEYER, PAULDEN, ARIZONA

## TALES FROM OUT THERE

"Tales From Out There" is brilliant! Amazing! I haven't been able to put it down. I think it's the best book you've ever done!

CHANCE GOWAN, PRINCETON, IDAHO

"Tales From Out There" arrived last week. What super short stories. You won't wait for a rainy day to enjoy them. Gave a copy to a person who called me the same day commenting on the enjoyment of reading just a few of the stories! Photos are extraordinary, as usual. High expectations but we depend on *RANGE* to be the best.

VICTORIA J. ROBERTS, GARDNERVILLE, NEV.

See page 5 for info on "TFOT."—Ed.

I am getting up there in years but my main goal is to last until the 2020 elections. I have to stick around long enough to hear the liberals whine and the never-Trumpers to find some Kool-Aid.

NORMAN T. HOSKING, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE

A famous quote from the Christophers, "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness," would certainly apply to *RANGE*. Almost 30 years ago you lit a candle that, in spite of the storms, continues to shed light on a dark and politically corrupt system. Hope you can keep it shining for many more years, but either way, go ahead and cuss the *centibus parasitica nothi*!"

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

Your Winter issue arrived by U.S. mule this week. Magnificent, as always. You have such a gift for "the story." Renewed my subscription via the same U.S. mule. You should have it by spring—with apologies to the mule. My cattle rancher grandfather gave me a mule when I was nine. His name was Number Two. Never met Number One. Keep on keepin' on.

JIM PETERSEN, THE EVERGREEN FOUNDATION

DALTON GARDENS, IDAHO

## SWEET SOUNDS

Love y'all's work. God bless ranchers!

WILLIE TEMPLETON, OWLS HEAD, MAINE

Keep up the great work. You are the best.

DR. JOE JEFFREY

LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA

Thank you for all you do throughout the year. You are the voice of reason for so many.

SHERRY REDDEN, GUNNISON, COLORADO



© LYNN STARNES

Thank you for your hard work to produce an outstanding magazine. I particularly love the beautiful wildlife and ranch life photographs like "Angelic Barn Owl" by Lynn Starnes on the

inside cover of Winter 2020.

RICK & DEIRDRE CAHILL

PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON

## MORE THAN HORSES

We have many individuals and organizations in our nation today who spend vast amounts of time and money in wild-horse rescue and wolf introduction while others support term and late-term abortion of human babies! America, are we losing our way?

JOHN J. TAYLOR, PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

We are writing this letter to tell you how we feel about wild horses. The people want to stop the mares from having colts. Sir, they are just as human as we are, that is for sure. They need love from a human being. I am willing to show the horses that I love all the wild horses. Oh yes [my husband and I] would be willing to go out there and stay and take care of the horses. The only thing that has to be provided is hay, water and a place for a trailer.

Sir, I am the horsewoman in our family. I have been wanting a horse of my own for many years. I would love to have a mare and her colt to raise for my very own.

DARLA HUNSAKER, FALLON, NEVADA  
*Darla, BLM says these feral horses exceed AML (animal management level) by over 61,000 in the West. Nevada alone has 47,000 on ranges that can handle 12,811. You can help by adopting a mare and foal from the BLM for a reasonable fee.*—Ed.

(Continued)



## SEEING IT THROUGH

Appreciate what you do. Many people have solid ideas. A few folks actually make the effort to put those ideas to work. Far fewer people stay with that effort long enough to make a difference. You've had a good idea and have stayed with it. You've seen it through. Congratulations.

The days of good horses and big circles in big country are good memories for me. Thank you for keeping them dusted off and sharp.

C.E. WIGGINS, SPRINGER, NEW MEXICO



COURTESY BEVERLY MERRITT

Thought you might like to have this—two handsome men and one gorgeous woman. Great times and wonderful friends.

BEVERLY MERRITT

ROSSELL, NEW MEXICO

*That's rancher friends—Ronnie Merritt (New Mexico sheepman) and Bert Smith (Nevada and Utah cattleman)—at Paragon Foundation in Alamogordo, N.M., presenting the RANGE editor with the first "White Knight" Paladin Award in 2004 (a very long time ago) for the "fight for justice and recognition on behalf of ranchers and farmers."—Ed.*

Yours is a debt that can never be fully repaid. What you have done for people you will never meet, and continue to do for their children, is unmatched. Thank you.

DAVE & KATHLEEN GOICOECHEA

LOYALTON, CALIFORNIA

## LIFE OR DEATH?

Remember "Gun Control" made the Holocaust possible. See "Democide" on-line, "Freedom, Guns, and Tyranny," showing that 260 million disarmed men, women and children were murdered by their own Democratic-Socialist or Communist governments in the last century. Communist China tops the list with close to 80 million human victims.

In 1775, King George III issued a "gun control" order to his troops in his American colonies. Two of my family's kin, Eric Muzzy and Herrington Fifer, were two of the first eight minutemen killed by the British Redcoats while defending their armory at Lexington, Mass., on April 19, 1775. This was "The Shot Heard Around the World!"

Essentially, only in two modern countries—Switzerland and the United States where citizens are armed and have free access to firearms—have the citizens been relatively free of government tyranny for more than a century.

President George Washington believed that the Second Amendment is as important as the Constitution itself, you cannot have one without the other: "The Second amendment stands next in importance to the Constitution itself."

From the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable. Every corner of this land knows firearms, and more than 99.44 percent of them by their silence indicate they are in safe and sane hands.



**After they took their guns away**

**Castro Murdered 100,000 Unarmed Citizens**

**Hitler Murdered 6 Million Unarmed Citizens**

**Stalin Murdered 50 Million Unarmed Citizens**

**Mao murdered 60 Million Unarmed Citizens**

The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere and anywhere restrains evil interference—they deserve a place of honor with everything that is good. When firearms go, all goes.

We need them every hour.

Harvard economist and former Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger (1929-2014) warns us in the prologue to his autobiography: "The art of government is the art of extracting as much wealth from the citizenry as possible without them breaking out into armed insurrection."

Wake up America. The major reasons for the Second Amendment are: (a) the God-given right to self-defense; (2) insurance against our own government's tyranny; and (3) to assure domestic tranquility.

DONALD FIFE, CONSULTING FORENSIC  
GEOSCIENTIST, FORMER ADVISOR TO  
THE REAGAN WHITE HOUSE,  
LOST HORSE RANCH,  
LUCERNE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA