

### Opinion from America's Outback

#### SHILLS

Once a scientist states that the science is settled, with no room for dissent, he's no longer a scientist. He's a shill for a political idea. "Settled science" has been overturned regularly throughout the history of civilized man. And will continue to be forever.

TONI SOPOCKO, VIA FACEBOOK

Thank you for all you do every day for all of us cowboys (and cowgals) everywhere.

LARRY COTE, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Excellent piece by Barry Perryman ["Incident of the Orphaned Cow," Spring 2014]. He hit the nail on the head. We are forced to live in a wasteland of "hope and change" absolutely devoid of common sense. What's happened to the gene pool and how did it happen so fast? *RANGE* is a valuable resource.

VANCE BENSON, A LONELY REDNECK IN THE FORMERLY RED STATE OF COLORADO

#### HOW DID YOU DO IT?

Did you get a new printer? The Spring issue has some very nice stuff, particularly Willow Creek Ranch (nice images by Adam Jahiel) and Empty Quarter (very impressive with the inking control problem that the rainbow presents by Alan Hart). And, best of all, everything is in register with tack-sharp focus. A dramatic improvement over the previous vocational school-level graphics. Congratulations. Makes for a very professional looking magazine.

BOB BROWN, PORTLAND, OREGON  
*Bob, baby (my former boss at Car & Driver and Sports Illustrated), thanks for noticing. Anything bad must be blamed on me.—Ed.*

Please cancel my subscription. Everyone is entitled to their political views, but I do not want any more sent.

SID KUYKENDALL, MIDLOTHIAN, TEXAS

#### ALL-KNOWING KIDS

Five-year-old Linden Holt was not impressed when informed that he'd be spending his recess period helping his grandparents walk the replacement heifers out to pasture. "I want my horse! Where's my horse?!" he demanded. However, he allowed himself to be mollified by the argument that a barefoot horse on



ice is not the safest conveyance. In the end, he walked over two miles, faithfully adhered to the principles of low-stress stockmanship, and never stopped talking, giving his opinions on brucellosis, good bison ranchers, and misinformed people who want to make us and the good bison ranchers go away so they can put sick bison they don't want to be responsible for here instead. "And," Linden said, "I will tell them, I told you so!"

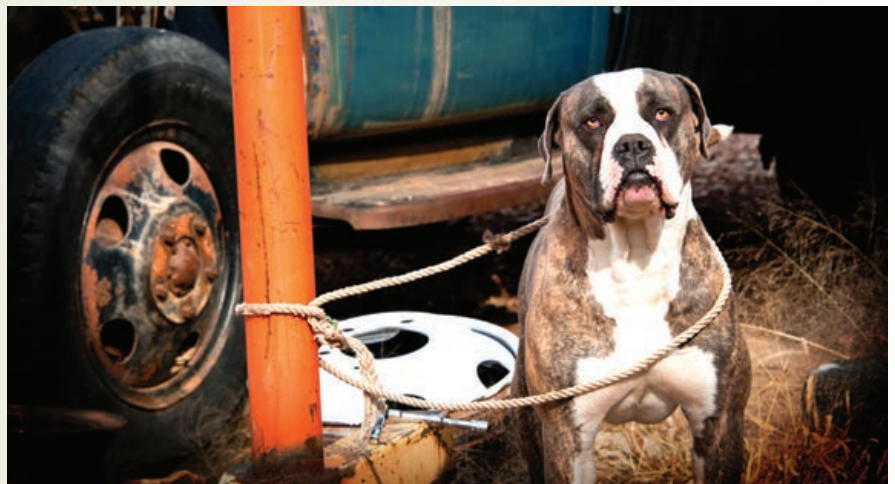
SIERRA STONEBERG HOLT, HINSDALE, MONT.

I got a kick out of the "Open Range" sign [Letters, Spring 2014]. It reminded me of when I was hauling logs in the '80s on the Ice House Road, up the hill from Placerville, Calif. Someone had taken black electrical tape and changed a "Range Cattle" sign to read "Deranged Cattle." Perhaps it was one of my fellow log haulers who had had a close call with one. Also thrilled to see that Dean of All Things Forestry Jim Petersen has contributed to this issue. He's the Man.

KEVIN COLLINS, SPENCEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

#### DON'T LIGHTEN UP!

Not that I think you will, but don't lighten up at all on your attention to the agenda and dishonesty coming out of our nation's capital as requested by Mike Benefield [Up Front & Letters, Spring 2014]. That old and now deceased gunslinger Jeff Cooper talked about situational awareness and the color codes that correspond to our level of awareness. Yellow is caution and it behooves all of us to remain in



*This 100-pound bruiser cried like a baby when a tiny five-year-old boy tied him up with a rope.*

© CYNTHIA BALDAUF

#### MISDIRECTION BY APATHY

Why aren't many wealthy people giving to conservative causes? Why do they only give to left-wing organizations? Our country is going down the tubes and the educational system is responsible for failing to teach students from a very young age the meaning of the Constitution and U.S. history. The Department of Education at the national level has helped degrade our schools. Of course, teachers and their union add to the problem and we all know that most college professors only present a biased, left-leaning perspective in the classroom.

The other arm that brings the country down is the Associated Prevaricators—AP (the government-run media or nationalized media if you prefer). That, coupled with social programs and the decade after decade of slow but methodical indoctrination of the American people, adds to the problem. People do not question their sources of information or the content of the message as they blindly fall in line with all the lemmings as they march to the sea of destruction. Political correctness is a major destroyer of our constitutional way of life also.

When all our freedoms and rights are gone, only then will the masses realize the travesty of what has occurred. That is if they were even aware of those freedoms and rights to begin with. Apathy is so engrained in our culture that the latter may be more true than we realize.

CHUCK CUNDY, CORA, WYOMING

that state under “normal” circumstances. But with all of the outright lies being told by the current White House occupier and his minions, we all ought to be at Orange if not Red.

The “feds” are becoming increasingly adept at saying one thing and then doing precisely the opposite. When they tell you they value “public input” on matters such as “reasonable accommodation for the sage grouse,” watch your back. Given their track record, that simply means they will do nothing which is reasonably in the best interests of ranchers and farmers and everything to protect an environment that stewards of the land already manage better than the federal government ever will. Unless and until we as citizens recapture the United States many of us (and certainly our ancestors) grew up in, your doing anything but “lightening up” will benefit us all. Thanks for being the watchdog.

JERRY BOYD, BAKER CITY OREGON

I got a little p----- off when I read Mike Benefield’s letter; he’s apparently never put up with a lot of the things from Mother Nature to the government interference we people living on the land have. I wish there were a lot more Democrats like you who haven’t lost common sense.

STEVE WENINGER, SENTINEL BUTTE, N.D.

## OPINION FROM DOWN UNDER

It is disappointing to hear your president and his top officials talking about the need to tackle man-made climate change. This theory was never about science, it was always about political control. The communists, fascists, Greens and apparently your progressives know that if you can raise fear in the minds of the people it is much easier to bring in higher taxes and centralized controls. Seldom has any theory been so overwhelmingly debunked. In Australia, and I suspect in your country, the great bulk of the people no longer believe the propaganda. Politicians and those with vested interests continue to promote this nonsense, perhaps because they believe that you can’t underestimate the public.

There has been no increase in temperature over the last decade, yet carbon dioxide levels have continued to rise and are now at about .0455 of the atmosphere. This is probably a good thing as when the world enters a cooling phase, as it inevitably will in the never-ending cycle of changes to the climate, this increased CO<sub>2</sub> will help to maintain crop yields that would otherwise be reduced.

It is perhaps ironic that the United States, which never signed the now discredited Kyoto protocol, is the only country that actually

reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> output. This was largely due to the rapid development and use of fracking gas. It is this breakthrough that has made the U.S. so energy rich. It will play a big part in reestablishing the economy. This is a very good reason for the Greens to oppose it.

One of the best rebuttals of the climate-change scam is a book called “New Emperors’ New Clothes,” available on Amazon.com. The book is well written and prodigiously researched by a well-qualified geologist. It exposes the cant, hyperbole and downright lies that constitute the bulk of all the fearmongering that we have been subjected to.

GRAEME CAMPBELL

KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

## CONTROVERSY OVER CE’S

Tom DeWeese’s “The Urge to Rule” in Winter 2014 is a blatant misrepresentation of all land trusts and the value they bring to everyday ranchers. At California Rangeland Trust, we are ranchers first. Our board of directors is solely comprised of cattlemen and cattlewomen, many of whom have been featured in *RANGE*. Our organization has helped families save their ranches from bankruptcy brought on by the death tax, helped ranchers pay off debt so their children could return to the ranch and make a living, helped landowners in poor health pay off insurmountable hospital bills...and we help ranchers forever protect their working landscapes through easements, if they choose.

As ranchers ourselves, the trust developed with the landowner community is evidenced by the waiting list of more than 100 ranch families and half a million acres awaiting the peace of mind that easements bring for current and future generations. That is not “the urge to rule,” it’s the need to survive and thrive in the modern, responsible West.

DEVERE DRESSLER & CAROLYN CAREY  
BOARD MEMBERS, CALIFORNIA/NEVADA  
RANGELAND TRUST

I just finished “Tooth & Claw” in the Spring issue about conservation easements, and several red flags went up. I like “land protection,” but only by those who have and exhibit proprietary interest. Ranchers and farmers have more at stake than those who think they are so much wiser but stand to lose nothing from the application of their so-wise implications.

I’m not sure who is really right, but I am sure who is really wrong, and Mr. DeWeese may be righter just because he has zero government support. The lady from Colorado is holding her cards tight to her chest but she is all about government (bad) and she comes from the land of “light ’em up” (and even

before that issue, almost nothing all those California transplants espouse are worth a tinker’s dam). Thanks for listening, but more thanks for speaking.

JOHN SIMMERMAN, HURRICANE, UTAH

Glanced at new issue... Nice. Are you on drugs? How do you keep the tempo?

AL TOPPING, TUBAC, ARIZONA

*Weak tea, target shooting, Great Danes.—Ed.*

## EVALUATION

*RANGE* used to be one of several mags I subscribed to, but I evaluated the info received and dropped ’em all...’cept *RANGE*.

DENNY DICKOVER, CAVE CREEK, ARIZONA

My husband and I are retired after 40-plus years of ministry with cowboys in eastern Montana and southwestern Nebraska and your magazine strikes a chord. Dennis says: “I learned to be a cowboy from fixing fences, making hay, riding horses. It was a good life.” While reading Carolyn Dufurrena’s article, “The Pear Tree, the Poplar, the Ditch,” it brought to mind Nellie’s orchard way out from Glendive, Mont. She worked hard to make that spot very special. Nellie is widowed, past 80, and now is a little bitty, bent-over, hardworking rancher’s wife who gives God credit every day for the blessings of her garden and orchard. What a wonderful article. What a wonderful magazine. Don’t give up the good work to keep our good land.

JEANNINE GORDON, MINNESOTA

## RAGE IS GOOD

I’m a junior studying history in New York, but I was born and raised in Colorado. I love *Rage* and find the content and message very inspiring. I was wondering if you have any internship or apprenticeship opportunities this summer. If so, I’d love to send you my resume and published clips.

SHEA SWEENEY, VIA EMAIL

*Thanks for asking, but we have no time to teach, money to spend, or place to stay. Think of a story that suits RANGE (I like your title “RAGE” better) and check Writers’ Guidelines at [www.rangemagazine.com/editorial](http://www.rangemagazine.com/editorial).—Ed.*

My mom, Estelle Matasovic, subscribed to *RANGE* for years and was a Red Meat Survivor (whoever thought of that title was a genius)! My mom’s generation was indeed “the greatest generation.” I’ve never had her energy, organization or keen interest in reading skads of newspapers and magazines.

I just wanted to commend you for the fascinating stories your talented writers report



on so that we the readers can identify with them. As a member of American Agri-Women, I'm proud that we presented you with the Veritas Award back in 2002.

LINDA SWURCINSKY, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Just wanted to share something with you. I received an email from a pastor and his wife residing in Baker City, Ore., requesting a large print of something that touched their hearts in your



Real Buckaroo Calendar—my sheepdog-and-lambs image in December 2013. It will be hung in their new place of worship for all to see. Strangers...friends I have yet to meet...asked me to inscribe a psalm of John's on the photo. Wow. I am overjoyed.

DIANE MCALLISTER, RENO, NEVADA

### CREATE A PROBLEM

I wonder...who, what, why these detrimental wolf release programs exist. Is it bureaucrats trying to hold onto no-purpose jobs via make-work tactics, the lobbying power of emotionally based animal rights people attempting to give their unrewarding lives meaning via illogical pursuits while they continue to keep their feet planted in never-neverland, or the specially doctored yuppies who couldn't recognize reality if such rose up and bit them? But perhaps there is another option: unwise/unworldly/selfish people employing the Hegelian Dialectic, which continues to work so well. Create a problem, propose a solution after inciting public reaction, then remedy the situation—this all with the real objective of bilking taxpayers of money.

Maybe it's a combination of some of the above.

KARL BOSSELMANN, FORESTVILLE, CALIFORNIA

I own horses and I favor slaughter facilities for horses in the United States. It's a hard reality. What stuck in my craw ["A Nation of Horse Hoarders" by Rachel Dahl in Spring 2014] is your description of Laura Bell's facilities at Starlight Sanctuary. Are you offended by bailing twine and duct tape? I got the idea that there was some other more desirable way to hold a farm together. I must admit I save duct tape for the Jeep, as the good stuff that holds is pretty pricey. A horsewoman I greatly admired used baling string and vice grips. Maybe every person standing with a placard protesting horse slaughter should be given 10 of the excess horses to maintain. It's not the

easiest life, this livestock ranching.

TINA DAVIS, TWISP, WASHINGTON

### COMICAL?

I own a tiny feed store in the Sierra foothills. About a year ago a good customer gave me a copy of *RANGE*. I immediately called and now carry it in my store. I don't charge the cover price, I just recoup my money as the information in *RANGE* is priceless. It's the most informative, comical and inspiring magazine I ever laid my hands on.

A.L. AUSTIN, WHITEHORSE RANCH & FEED  
BROWNSVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Yours is the best magazine I ever hope to see and wish everyone—even out of the ranching world—could learn from it.

LUCY FOSTER, GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON

### CHILD LABOR

I'm a former part-time farm boy, spent my summers during junior high and high school living on a farm and working for room, board and wages, one check for the summer. Many hours were needed, six days a week, to do what needed to be done. Sunday we just did chores and went to church.

Can you imagine what the control socialists of today would think? Obviously, I was a victim of child labor abuse! What they don't realize is that I learned how things work, how to turn a wrench, swing a hammer, mend a fence, ride a horse, work with livestock, drive a tractor/truck/car, and how much work it takes to produce food that magically appears in a grocery store. The farmer was the closest thing I had to a father.

Most importantly, a teenage boy stayed out of trouble, learned that you help neighbors, and that your word and theirs should mean something. Best of all, I was exposed to my future career as a veterinarian. How some condescending bureaucrat thinks I need protection from the "abuse" is beyond me. And how those same people who have had no exposure to rural life think they know better how to manage farm or ranch land and people is beyond belief. Sadly, they believe they do. So please keep on with the good fight.

JOHN EMERY, GREEN VALLEY, ARIZONA

My friends love *RANGE*, same as I do. You are a blessing.

DALE WELCH, CLANTON, MISSOURI

Not sure all this high finance for gift subs is correct but, maybe, give me some slack as I did attend public school.

FRED C. FREEMON, TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

### AWARD WINNER

The poetry and artwork in "Brushstrokes & Balladeers" are quality, and in your usual fashion you've put together another very handsome publication.

JACK NICOL, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
*Thanks, Jack. It just won a Wrangler from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City for best poetry book of 2013. See page 42.—Ed.*

Congratulations on the Wrangler! You are the closest I know to the rich and famous.

DEBORAH DOLLAR, W. JEFFERSON, N.C.  
*Wouldn't that be luvverly?—Ed.*

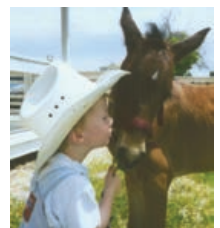
In "Brushstrokes & Balladeers," Waddie Mitchell is a hoot, Linda Husa is deep and profound, and I love Carolyn Dufurrena's poem of her life "out there." Keep up your tireless, amazing, wonderful work, true to every good thing about life on the range.

JONAS DOVYDENAS, LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

### SOMETHING FOR THE POT

Here's my renewal and a gift. The balance can go in the pot to help out. I really enjoy the magazine and wish I could give more. I would like for more people to read it and learn the facts about the West instead of the B.S. you read in the major media.

This photo is of my grandson Levi Gibson when he was about three years old with his baby horse Sissy II. She was out of my daughter's barrel horse Sissy I, who died while giving birth so Levi and his family raised her on a bottle until she was weaned.



Levi is now 21 and he calf ropes with her.

JIM DYER, NAMPA, IDAHO

### TOO ARROGANT TO LEARN

Let's face it folks, what we are doing is broken. Our foresters know what to do and how to do it, but they are thwarted by our system and litigious society. We need leaders to look for systems that are successful and then adopt what fits us. The Swedes, Finns, Norwegians, New Zealanders and others are doing good things, too. Are we so arrogant that we can't learn from them?

ED KUPILLAS, BUTTE FALLS, OREGON

Here's some extra for Range Conservation Foundation or gas for the '57 Chevy.

KEVIN MITCHELL COLLINS  
ROUGH READY, CALIFORNIA

Someday folks will realize that agriculture is the cornerstone to any economy and even maybe see the value in what the grazers that *RANGE* covers do and the continued positive impact they have on our daily lives.

RANDY HUTCHISON, WALHONDING, OHIO

Thanks, CJ and crew, for continuing to place importance on ethics, honest journalism and on the “farm and ranch country” as you keep us informed and entertained with *RANGE*. I wish you could do one more thing for us: bring back Mark Twain and Will Rogers for an up-to-date set of “Amazing Facts & Quotes” about what emanates from the political shenanigans of today.

RICHARD L. COX, BILLINGS, MONTANA

### **BRING ON THE TRAINS**

I have been rereading the new book, “Brushstrokes & Balladeers,” and going through my collection of books and magazines from *RANGE*. If you have read Ayn Rand’s “Atlas Shrugged” then you will know what I mean when I say you are my Dagny Taggart. I think you know that I and many other westerners admire you greatly but I am not sure you know exactly why.

Ayn Rand insists that when a person’s beliefs do not square with objective facts, that individuals must check their premises. Surviving in the cowboy world requires constantly checking premises and dealing honestly with reality. You have demonstrated that ability and honesty over and over all these years.

It sounds simple, but it requires more intellectual honesty and courage than most people have. You have told me how you arrived in the West with a set of beliefs that did not square with the facts. It is the intellectual honesty to check your premises and the courage to find and publish an objective truth that endears you to me and many others.

VESS QUINLAN, SAN ACACIO, COLORADO

### **CROWIN’ ABOUT RANGE**

Hands down, *RANGE* is the best magazine I’ve ever read.

GLEN CROW, CROWS LANDING, CALIFORNIA