

Opinion from America's Outback

BRING ON THE FLAK

Plenty of soul-soothing reading and plenty of blood-boiling reading in Spring 2018. The gum-mint grows, the bureaucracy burrows and entrenches, the deep state gets darker—but there are shining lights, beacons of hope: *RANGE*, *National Review*, *Patriot Post*, *World Magazine*, *Imprimis*, *Roseburg Beacon*.

I am sure you will get a lot of vitriolic feedback from this issue, which gives credence to an old bomber pilot adage: If you are getting flak, you must be on target.

CURT BEHNKE, VIA EMAIL

Darn, once again I receive *RANGE* and just can't put it down. My yard looks a mess and the house needs painting, and thanks to you and your expert articles and photo work, I have found a great excuse to just let it wait till later. Keep on doing just as you are, a beacon in the night of propaganda and misinformation which surrounds us all.

RAY SPRAGUE, DAYTON, NEVADA

I surely wish all voting citizens of the U.S.A.

would read CJ's "Up Front," Spring 2018. [Go to rangemagazine.com] The government abuses from one side of this country to the other are touching each of us in so many different ways and the people are so clueless.

BOB INNES, VIA FACEBOOK

COME SING ALONG

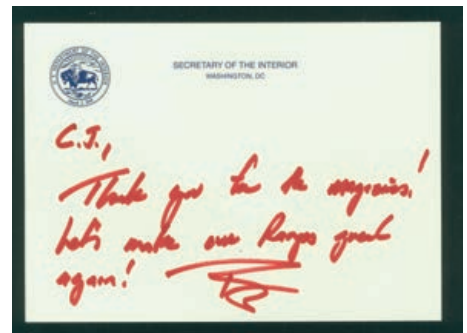
I'm planning a Cowgal Pals & Sidekicks Poetry, Pickin' and Palaverin' comedy show on August 18. If the creek don't rise and I don't croak, I'll git 'er done. It'll be poetry and sing-alongs to involve the audience (folks love sing-alongs). Will include old cowboy favorites and also new ones and a bunch of comedy skits.

My dotage motto is : I don't cook, I don't clean, I don't take criticism. I live...like a man!

GWEN PETERSEN, BIG TIMBER, MONTANA

A SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists. I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passersby what I have eaten, how I feel, what I



"C.J., Thank you for the magazines! Let's make our Ranges great again! Signed: Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke."

did the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. It works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me—two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

VIA ANN HENDERSON & THE INTERNET

Enjoyed "Confessions of a Capitalist Pig" by Bill Jones. I, too, am a Tennessean. Great magazine, the only one I subscribe to—scenery, pictures, philosophy, conservative, love it!

H.J. MAXEDON, GERMANTOWN, TENNESSEE

AWESOME, BUT...

I love your magazine and read it cover to cover. However, one issue hit me deep in the gut in Winter 2018. The article "Roots Run Deep" by Leo W. Banks about Kelly Kimbro was awesome

(Continued)

SLOTH & IGNORANCE FROM OZ

I am surprised at all the baloney about Russian interference in the American elections. Foreign powers often have a preference for the government that they would prefer to be dealing with and history indicates that they would have probably preferred the Democrats.

It is alleged that the U.S. meddled in Australia's elections in 1975 when they had good reason to believe that the Whitlam Labor government was not in their best interests. If they did meddle it was unnecessary because the Australian people had overwhelmingly decided that Whitlam was not in their own best interests anyway and the effect of outside interference was inconsequential.

I suspect that any attempt from foreign

sources to interfere in your election would have the same minimal effect. The present beat-up is not good for America as it gives the erroneous perception that your democracy is very fragile. Creating this impression is a win for the Russians. It is alarming that for short-term domestic opportunity to stir up strife political parties are prepared to pursue such treasonable activity.

The real threat to the United States is the same as this country. For years the Green political movement, which has a very authoritarian structure similar to communism or fascism, has not been able to make any headway within the democratic process of elections so they have concentrated on insinuating themselves into government departments throughout the

western world. These dangerous zealots once entrenched revel in the fact that governments come and go but they are immune to any democratic process and their influence will go on forever.

It appears that President Trump is attempting to drain this fetid swamp. I hope that for the sake of America he is successful but he will have to do it without any help from the media that—with the honourable exception of *RANGE* magazine—seem to have been overcome with sloth, political correctness, political prejudice, or massive ignorance, none of which are mutually exclusive.

GRAEME CAMPBELL
(FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)
KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

up to the point where she admits that they “vehemently oppose his border wall” yet “the border trouble keeps Kelly always wary and armed.” Does she really want it both ways, “to see illegal crossings drop to almost nothing” yet oppose the wall? Doesn’t she realize the cost of this invasion to every taxpaying citizen in our country? How many lives have already been affected by this invasion? Families altered because some illegal murdered a member of their family. Still, I love your magazine.

JOE GRISAFI, HOUSTON, TEXAS
Leo W. Banks’ “Double Wide” (available at amazon.com) won the 2017 Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best First Novel and the Spur for Best Contemporary Western Novel. Congratulations, Leo!—Ed.

BACK TO BUNKERVILLE

Very good news popped up in my inbox recently: “U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro cited ‘flagrant prosecutorial misconduct’ in her decision to dismiss all charges against Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, two of his sons and another person.” Judge Navarro’s most appropriate and welcomed decision vindicates not only the Bundys, but also your fine publication and diligent voice. Too many others have suffered greatly under the heavy hand of the federal government, and many other cases in need of reversal remain sadly unresolved, but we’ll take justice where we can win it.

JOHN H. HOAK, SHERIDAN, WYOMING

I am not renewing because of your coverage of the Bundys.

PAT PIDGEON, BUHL, IDAHO

© TODD KLASZY



© SHANNON BUSHMAN, PEEK PROMOTION

Loved your piece on the Bundy’s faith in Spring 2018 *RANGE*. They so deserve the truth being brought into the open. Wonder if Dan Love, former BLM hit man, still has that sneer and look of arrogance from the Fall 2017 cover.

PAUL STUKE, KUNA, IDAHO
Yikes! The cover photo of Fall 2017 is of Mike Kelam of Cleveland, Mont., a good and honorable cowboy. BLM’s arrogant hit man, Dan Love, is pictured on page 22 and above right.—Ed.

Bundys have been cleared of charges against them, but like others, they can expect being

placed under a microscope by the BLM watching their every move. With the acquittals, agency spokesmen have expressed the Bundys will become an example for others to follow. Speaking of examples, what about continued incarceration of Dwight and Steve Hammond whose ranch neighbors the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge where much of the drama transpired? The court chastised the BLM for behavior that perhaps will result in that agency taking a well-deserved place under the microscope.

MICHAEL F. HANLEY, JORDAN VALLEY, OREGON

WHO’LL GET FIRED?

So pleased that the Bundys are out of the “slammer.” Will the people responsible get fired? Dumb question. Never have those responsible for the likes of the Bundy trials and tribulations ever to my recollection been prosecuted. Ruby Ridge, I think, might be the exception to that, but he was a boots on the ground, not shoes on a desk. Maybe this time?

MARVIN REED, RENO, NEVADA

I am from a longtime ranching family. Did not know your magazine was going to be so alright, articles about climate change being B.S.? Come visit our ranch and see how climate change has hurt us! And OMG—making Bundy a hero! He needs to pay his grazing fees just like us. Very disgruntled in your magazine!

UNSIGNED, GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
Please send info re effect on your ranch due to climate change to edit@rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

Congratulations for all you did to keep the Bundy/Finicum situations front and center so more folks knew what was going on. I came across this article [“Fear of the Federal Government in the Ranchlands of Oregon,” Jan. 18, 2018] in *New York Times Magazine* where the author appears to give *RANGE* the credit for stirring up the unrest to begin with and the outcome. Sadly too many folks are too uneducated to realize that the whole controversy and fight for food producers boils down to no food producers equals no food.

MARION DICKINSON, GREYBULL, WYOMING

After a two-year campaign of character assassination, the government won. The Bundy ranch should be close to bankruptcy to pay off the lawyers. I expect the BLM to make an offer they can’t refuse and the Bundys will be gone.

CURTIS F. CLARK, BOULDER CITY, NEVADA

RED MEAT

Growing up with *Boys Life*, *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life* and other such magazines I always felt like there had to be more out there to sink my

teeth into...just couldn’t locate it till lately. From the moment I picked up the first copy of *RANGE* I knew it was exactly what I had been looking for all these years. Rarely in our day and age do we come across something so valuable to our public consciousness than this magazine. I sure hope it continues to grow...only the great unwashed could pass it by! Can’t wait to get caught up on 102 more back issues! [See p. 70]

MIKE KEMPF, SANDPOINT, IDAHO



I really enjoyed Steve Wilmeth’s “Little Cowboys—Just trying to work cattle” in Spring 2018. The Bells of Gila are distant cousins of mine, as my great-grandmother Mary Antonette (Bell) Miller was one of the Gila Bells. Those young Bell boys have a proud heritage behind them. One of their ancestors, Jim Bell, was Sam Houston’s regimental corporal at the battle of San Jacinto when Texas won its independence from Mexico.

MARTY BUSH, BOULDER CITY, NEVADA
The Jim Bell reference hits home. In my great-grandmother’s diary she referenced the “Jim Bell field” on occasion. Actually, that reference was not used during my life. I am not even sure which field it was, although I could guess.—Steve Wilmeth

Where has *RANGE* been all my life? Read the Spring 2018 edition from cover to cover and then reread some of it. You guys “get it” so I’m signing up. *RANGE* is what this country needs more of. Real issues, real people, real America!

KEITH ROBERTS, ROCKPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

I received a video from a friend in California and wanted to send it to you. I’ve been a longtime subscriber to *RANGE*, which is the most important and best magazine I have ever read. Keep up the great work. I lived in Oregon for almost 40 years, working with ranchers, loggers and contractors to help with their heavy equipment needs. I am familiar with their struggle.

PHIL JOHNSON, MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
See Dr. William Happer’s story on page 22. It is the message from that PragerU video.—Ed.

(Continued)

TRAITOR TRUMP

In my opinion, Donald Trump is a traitor to his country as well as a bigoted and dishonest individual. I can't agree with his actions. I do believe that the shrinking of the middle class is a serious problem and one the GOP has failed to address.

RON COLEMAN, VIA EMAIL

I hesitate to ask, but are you still riding in the front of the Trump bandwagon? Frankly, I think the guy is regressing into an infantilism. He seems to have no control over his impulses or need for gratification. Well, don't we all? But we mostly can keep them reined in...and we aren't the president.

BOB BROWN, PORTLAND, OREGON

The federal government claims ownership of 54.8 percent of the land in the 12 western states. This landgrab was made as a condition of statehood. Those 12 states were not allowed into the Union on equal terms with the other states that had full jurisdiction over their territory. This violation of the "equal footing" doctrine is one reason the landgrab of over one million square miles of the West is illegal.

This control violates the principles of federalism and separation of powers and is therefore unconstitutional. Control over the land, the natural resources, and the local economies that depend on those resources places many a politician in the president's pocket. With the power to close lumber mills and mines, deprive the ranchers of needed grazing land, and shut off the irrigation water to farmers, the president has undue influence over western congressional delegations. Because of the leverage that the Executive Branch holds over 24 U.S. senators, we no longer have a Senate of 50 states, but a Senate of 50 states and the federal government.

ROGER D. WHITTEN, DEER PARK, WASHINGTON

FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS

I recently lost my dad, a 96-year-old ex-Marine of WWII. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, rancher and conservationist during his life, starting as a young boy growing up in Portland and retiring as a rancher in Wallowa County, Ore. He always enjoyed reading *RANGE* and even wrote articles for you. As his daughter, I am completing one of his wishes in his will.

To quote my dad, E.H. Van Blaricom of Joseph, Ore.: "After I am deceased, I want \$500 sent to *RANGE* magazine for my appreciation of many years of good reading and to tell CJ to keep up her good work and support for ranchers and almost all of rural America." My father may be gone, but his legacy of fighting for the rights of Americans lives on in his many family members!

JOANN WHEELER, REDMOND, OREGON

Sincere thanks and our condolences. Your dad was a huge plus for RANGE.—Ed.

SPOOKY & SWEET

"In Search of Atticus Finch," Spring 2018 by Todd Macfarlane on Marcus Mumford, was extremely well written and very interesting. You do not need to be a legal beagle for this story to capture your attention and hold it.

Some parts of the article are spooky, as in playing against the federal system. There are fascinating parts, such as the success rate of the "verbally challenged" lawyer who would be no fun to face in a courtroom.

STEVE DOWNIE, CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA



A doe rests (and eats) in a sea of alfalfa on the east side of Washoe Lake in August 2017. A large herd of mule deer has made this Nevada field its home. Photo © Marilyn Newton

"A House on Fire" by Jim Petersen, Spring 2018, is excellent. I will renew.

KAREN LITTLER, LIKELY, CALIFORNIA

I discovered your magazine in my local supermarket. I subscribe to *Cowboys & Indians*. After reading deeper into *RANGE* I decided it is really the best publication in the U.S.A. God save us!

RONALD G. HEWITSON, OAKHURST, CALIF.

So glad you are telling the story just the way it is about the life we ranchers live and what's happening on public land. You are an inspiration.

LYNN SUTHERLAND, SAGUACHE, COLORADO

HELP THE HAMMONDS

I did not see any new information regarding the status of the Hammonds' incarceration aside from a comment in a letter to the editor in Spring 2018. Perhaps I have missed something?

If they are still incarcerated is there anything we can do? I have sent funds in the past but perhaps a letter to President Trump signed by all *RANGE* subscribers might get recognized?

Let me know what is being done, what we can do as individuals or anything that might help this horrible situation.

WALDEN HAINES, BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON
Lots of people are working hard to get Dwight and

Steven out of federal prison and we will report on that good family when we have news. To date, the BLM has not allowed them to use their grazing permit and their own water rights—after four years of nonuse and grass so thick it will burn. Your support means a lot. See page 5.—Ed.

I am 81 years old and still active in ranching on a small scale. I consulted for 30 plus years in the western range states and Mexico. I have been involved with Allan Savory and his concept for 37 years, which allowed me to make a living ranching for 40 years, thus, my interest in your magazine. You have not been afraid to tell the truth about the concept and application.

DR. ROBERT E. STEGER, MERTZON, TEXAS

JUST SHOOT 'EM

So, let's see if I've got this right. The feds create a problem with the introduction of wolves—a species not indigenous to the area; it creates a problem with the local animal population (including human); and now the feds are introducing another hybrid species (large dogs from Portugal, Bulgaria and Turkey) to combat the original intrusion!

Somebody, somewhere, please explain to this suburban Charlotte, N.C., observer why they simply don't just shoot the wolves? It seems to me that this is the simplest solution, the most expedient, and the least expensive.

Keep on stickin' a finger in their eye.

JIM PASS, GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

No thank you. Instead, you should advocate to leave animals alone. If not, eat fat - - - !

BRAVELY ANONYMOUS, CHEYENNE, WYOMING

PRAISE FOR PITTS

I am thoroughly enjoying reading Lee Pitts' books. While I was raised a city girl, I was born in Texas which puts the country life smack into my heart. My husband, Kurt, was raised on a farm and so many of Lee's stories are relatable. I have told his mom, Ruby, about the books and plan on sending them to her to enjoy as well. She's excited and plans to pass them on to her best friend of 68 years, Myra, who'll love them. Myra and Lee could swap stories all day long.

KATHERINE ROARK, TUCSON, ARIZONA

I enjoy the content of *RANGE* immensely!

KEN KISH, PLOVER, WISCONSIN

Cannot put it down until all read. In the timber industry for 36 years until "regs" put us out.

LORRAINE CULLISON, WORLAND, WYOMING

One damn fine magazine.

MATTHEW WILSON, GALT, CALIFORNIA

(Continued)



WANNABE'S EYES OPENED

RANGE, 22 years ago, first opened this suburban-raised cowgirl wannabe's eyes to the broad spectrum of insight into the world of real-life cattle producers. Your insightful articles and breathtaking imagery have inspired, educated and motivated me ever since. I have never discarded a single issue. Please continue your unique and vital contribution to keeping the freedom and spirit of the West alive.

CINDY COPING, TUCSON, ARIZONA

I was brought up on the wheat fields of eastern Washington. In my 20's I moved to a small town on the West Coast. In 50 years it's become much larger; traffic, tract houses, and people of all kinds. What it boils down to is too many people in the world. *RANGE* is still in the 20th century, which for some is wishful thinking. And then there's Trump and his bunch of fools.

ANONYMOUS, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Keep the extra. Wish I could send you a million!

LARRY HALL, BONNERS FERRY, IDAHO

YELLOW JOURNALISM

When I saw your magazine, I decided we needed that in our lives. After reading our first issue, I know it's not for us. I hate yellow journalism where you present only one side of an issue and relentlessly repeat things you want us to believe. You do not add anything to the intellect of your readers, just try to recruit more to your way of thinking. Please cancel.

CURTIS ELTON, MERIDIAN, IDAHO

My wife picked up a copy of *RANGE* at the Draft Horse Classic in Grass Valley, Calif. After my first reading, I knew this was good stuff—the tenor and philosophy espoused throughout the publication. I subscribed and save all copies for later referral. I have empathy for the lifestyle issues the rural ranch people deal with in the West. I am a retired food animal veterinarian in Iowa—a state with probably the least amount of area owned and/or controlled by the feds. In

Iowa we have intensive corn, soybean, hog, cattle and poultry production. Much of this is on the so-called industrial scale with the associated major problems of agricultural waste disposal—manure, odors, fertilizer, chemicals contaminating our waterways and environment.

I also enjoyed one of your books, "Cowboys & Critters: Symbiosis in the American West," with its great photography and captions. I was rather taken aback when I noticed it was "Printed in China." No big deal, but for want of a better description that seemed out of character?

WILLIAM D. BLOHM, DVM, CARROLL, IOWA
Our books help support RANGE and the only way to finish in the black is to print in China. It is out of character but also a dose of reality.—Ed.

I discovered and purchased your magazine at our local bookstore, owned by rabid leftist people who are very careful not to sell any periodicals that are not politically correct. I can only surmise that they haven't looked beyond your cover illustrations! The local library is almost as bad. It wouldn't accept a gift subscription of your magazine even though this town is called "a red spot on a blue state map."

LINDA CRANE, PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON

Thanks for keeping me updated on the policies our government tries to slip by.

MARY SCOTT HAMILTON
TRINITY CENTER, CALIFORNIA

SLIPPING AWAY

My husband, Larry, is a Korean War veteran. He was an officer and men died in his arms. He holds a Purple Heart and several other decorations. He asked me to briefly explain our position and thoughts. We feel your magazine is fighting for the very things he fought for, but could easily slip away. We are extremely concerned about private rights and excessive government. Three of his brothers served in World War II. They have passed on but he knows how concerned they were about the same rights. We are both Idaho farm kids. Enclosed you will find \$100 to cover our subscription, a gift subscription and the rest as you see fit. God bless.

GERI AND LARRY HYDER, CAMINO, CALIFORNIA

You keep fighting the good fight. We will too!

CONNIE SPANGLER, BILLINGS, MONTANA

I found your magazine in the doctor's office and was taken by surprise at what I read, so I brought it home. I really like the stories in it and some of the remarks, but if some of the people don't like our way of life then they should pack up and go to Russia or China. I don't like what the BLM and other government outfits are

doing to our land and ranches. My sister lived in Bend, Ore., and said it was like a war zone around there. I was born in eastern Montana, and then moved to Idaho and love the mountains, horses and cattle. Wished I could have been raised on a cattle ranch and was back out West. As it was, I wound up being a long-haul truck driver.

MERRILL SAMS, MILTONVALE, KANSAS

HORSE SWEAT & AXLE GREASE

Taylre Sitz is studying to be a vet. She has spent a lot of time on her grandparents' ranch, The Clark T Ranch, and it looks like she can do about anything with a cow, calf or horse that she wants to. Her family on her mother's side (Clark) has ranched in the Madison Valley in Montana since 1878. Her father's side is the Sitz Angus ranch in Harrison, Mont. They raise top quality bulls that are used all over the world.

I don't know about her ability to work on machinery, but horse sweat on a person's hands is a lot better for the soul than axle grease.

DON McCLOY, ENNIS, MONTANA



Best money ever spent on a periodical!

CATHY SELBY, WAITITI, WYOMING

BREACHING MANLY PROCEDURE

I usually put off the urge to express myself to anyone not a member of the equine, canine and, on occasion, the bovine species. I discount such urges as temptations to breach proper manly procedure. This one time I will break habit to commend your description and defense of life and happenings in the rural West. Life that is lived pretty much outside the influence and understanding of the rest of the world, "in town." There is no indication of you changing the course of your mission. That is somehow reassuring.

C.E. WIGGINS, SPRINGER, NEW MEXICO