

Opinion from America's Outback

A LIFE TO ENVY

My grandson told my daughter that she would never be a millionaire running a small farm. She told him she realized that, but she had a way of life a lot of millionaires would envy. That's what farming is all about. Thanks for running an article on our water. ["The Barter System" by Lee Juillerat, Spring 2025.]

KEITH HOUSE, COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON

["The Fragrance of History," Spring 2025] is probably one of the most beautiful pieces in a magazine that I have ever seen! Thank you so very much for getting the computer stuff done. I could never have done that part. And where did you get that photographer? Larry Angier is amazing! I'm glad you got the money to the animal shelter instead of paying me. That's a good place for it. Everything is very much appreciated. Stay well, my friend.

TENZIN (AKA DOUG ROSE)

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Your story with master photographer Larry Angier's images made sense. Larry has been a key player and a gift to RANGE for decades. He can be reached via www.angier-fox.com.

RE "TYPICAL CRAP"

You handled Mr. David Weidleer ["Typical Crap" letter to the editor, Spring 2025 issue] with great aplomb, doing much better than many of us would have done and certainly with more courtesy than many of us could have mustered. Here is my check to cover the loss of the refund and a bit more for RANGE just because.

CHUCK DECKER, VAIL, ARIZONA

Mr. Weidleer's donor took us up on my crazy

deal of "Buddy, can you spare a dime?" to pay for four issues for his friend. Two had already been delivered, so I tossed the nickel into our lunch bucket. And thanks to you, we've spent your gift on a subscription to a library in Mr. Weidleer's home town.—Ed.

RANGE tells a wonderful story about how the western [states] feed us and how these ranchers and farmers and their way of life are under attack by their own government bureaucrats. Thank you for what you do!

MIGUEL NUNEZ, COALINGA, CALIFORNIA

Very enriching and grounding magazine. Love the West and the country.

LOUIS BOX, EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO



Signs of spring in Ellensburg, Wash.,
thanks to James Burke.

THEN & NOW

Mother, a red meat survivor (born on Sept. 8, 1915, and almost 108), lived in her own home until a few weeks before she died. Our Mojave Desert Ranch was taken over by Mojave Desert Preserve. It was beautiful—cattle, Joshua trees and water. The Park Service—no cattle, burnt the pretty trees, tore down corrals, windmills, tanks, no water for wildlife.

JUDITH F. GILLIAM, LEWISTON, IDAHO

WHO'S ON FIRST?

Thanks, as always, for a great magazine. Enclosing check for two-year subscription for us and use the remainder for V.P. J.D. Vance or



some other newly elected official who isn't on your mailing list. Keep up the great work. The only problem is that we tend to fight over who gets to read RANGE first!

CATHY SELBY, WAITITI, WYOMING

Thanks! Key leaders of the Executive Branch and all members of Congress receive RANGE subs thanks to western ranchers. That includes our talented hillbilly V.P.!—Ed.

A friend gifted us your magazine and we're trying to do the same for others. It's a joy to hear how much they've liked it, too. We appreciate the talented writers and the history in each and every copy.

MARLIN & KELLY AUSTIN, CLAUDE, TEXAS

The beautiful writing in "Choices Worth Making" by Holly Porter in Spring 2025 is fabulous. At 83 years young, I agree with every word she writes. I thank God for your magazine that speaks stories about the life that I and many folks love.

DANNY CRAMPTON, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

UNTHINKABLE!

Please cancel my subscription. I love the stories of ranching families, but the Trump talk and thinking he is good for our country is unthinkable. If you change your ways I might come back to you, but for now Trump and his ways are too much for me. God help us.

ERIC FIDDYMENT, GRANITE BAY, CALIFORNIA

I loan my magazine to a friend and have a hard time getting it back, so here's \$ for his.

WAYNE GARDINER, VERNAL, UTAH

Please use for whatever, also keep up the good work. Them rotten bastards need to go down.

EUGENE MUSHITZ, HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA

I await *RANGE* every issue—it gives information so pertinent to the U.S.A.

BARBARA MULLINS, ACCORD, NEW YORK

I recently purchased a copy of *RANGE* and I am very impressed with the quality of articles and photographs. While I am a city slicker, I have a deep respect for farmers and ranchers. On my mother's side, I spent many happy days on my grandmother's farm on a cattle ranch near Flint Hills. So it may be that I have a little ranch blood in my veins. Thank you for protecting the West, its lifestyles and freedoms for generations to come.

TERRI L. BROWN, WICHITA, KANSAS

I wanted to share this photo of our bull that survived the Cow Valley wildfire in eastern Oregon last year. The fire is allegedly the result



of arson and ran through about 250 head of our cattle. We lost one and it's a miracle we didn't lose more. Our neighbor witnessed the fire approaching a group of about 50 head of our cows when one of them raised her head and made a run for it, leading the way for the rest to follow her into the black. This photo was taken by my husband, Casey, after the fire as we searched for missing cattle.

HEIDI MARTIN, BAKER CITY, OREGON

STICK WITH LIBERTY

RANGE is unquestionably the preeminent publication standing in defense of the western way of life—a life characterized by self-reliance, independence, property rights and love of freedom.

Looking beyond all the wonderful writing and beautiful photography, we see a patriot standing by a giant picture of her hero, John

Wayne. I am reminded of James P. Owen's description of a cowboy in his book "Cowboy Ethics." He wrote, "Cowboys are heroic because they show us what it means to stand for something." *RANGE*'s editor exemplifies this virtue because she stands for something with each issue.

RANGE defends every American's liberty, whether one hails from the West or not. It's impossible to imagine a life without *RANGE*. May God grant you the grace, courage and health to stay the liberty course!

MONICA SEIGFREID, ASSUMPTION, ILLINOIS

LIGHT A CANDLE

I almost did not write this check. I have read your magazine for 28 years. That corresponds to the age of my son, Joseph. We adopted him at birth via an "open adoption," which means we had a relationship with Joseph's birth family. They were cattle ranchers from southeast Oregon, and one of the first things they did was give us a subscription to your magazine. I immediately fell in love with *RANGE*, from its beautiful photography to its informative articles (well, most of them).

I am apparently one of your enemies, a liberal environmentalist. But I love the land, and I do my best to keep an open mind. Many of my friends (no, not comrades) would never have seen a copy of your magazine if I had not handed it to them. I have a greater chance of actually changing someone's mind than your magazine alone or most of your readers, who apparently would rather insult someone who disagrees with them than convince them that they might be misguided.

I had pretty much decided to forego more vitriol. Then your latest issue arrived, and, as always, I fell in love with the photography, so I changed my mind. Until I read your editorial. You always seem to steer clear of the most outrageous charges and conspiracy theories. So it was with great disappointment that you

citizens in North Carolina who suffered through the devastating storm called Helene and lost everything—including family members, homes and businesses—were offered a pitiful \$750 from our Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is because its boss,

repeated one of the most obvious lies spoken by President Trump. The \$75 payment FEMA employees made to victims of the hurricanes is actually \$755 and called Se-

rious Needs Assistance. It is not a loan, but a direct payment to cover a limited number of emergency expenses. It is not intended to cover all disaster relief expenses.

The far left lies repeatedly as well. They see a puddle and reclassify it as a pond. They see a fire and say, "Let it burn, it's nature's way," yet also make it illegal to remove small trees which serve as kindling for larger conflagrations. Some government staff seem to forget who is working for whom, and seem more interested in advocating against ranchers rather than working with them.

My wife grew up in Quincy, Calif. Her father was the accountant for the largest timber company in the county and her best friend's father was the chief forester. For a while, I saw how successful people with opposing agendas could work together. I was actually optimistic about the Quincy Library Group, until I observed environmentalists revert to their all-or-nothing stance, thereby ending any cooperative action.

It is hard to maintain hope in our current environment. But still, it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness...so I changed my mind again, and plan to live at least three more years enjoying *RANGE*. I do so not only out of respect, but also admiration for what you have accomplished.

RANGE is as good as it gets. You do an excellent job chronicling ranch living, both in words and pictures. Best of luck navigating our uncertain future.

JAMES MASLACH, PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
Thanks for sticking with us. I have made many mistakes in my aging past but checked my FEMA mention in "Up Front" in Winter 2024/2025 and it clearly states North Carolinians received a \$750 stipend and not much else. Please check the screenshot. Maybe my error was elsewhere.—Ed.

A DAY LATE, A DOLLAR SHORT

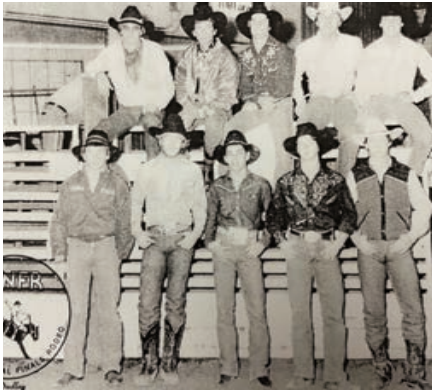
President Reagan in '84 cautioned beliefs regarding "I'm From the Govt. and I'm Here to Help." Try telling that to the folks struck by Hurricane Helene last fall and still waiting. My cousin in Hendersonville, N.C., for years, very active in local affairs and a reliable info source, says that action and assistance from the Federal Emergency Task Force was "a day late and a dollar short." That sums it up! Hurricanes, tornadoes, snow in Buffalo are all

predictable bets, so the question is, “Where the hell was/is FEMA?”

SPIKE CLIFFORD, RONAN, MONTANA

BEATING THE BULLS

After reading the Winter 2024/2025, I decided to share my bull-riding photo along with my Lane Frost photo, when rodeo was a lot differ-



COURTESY BRIAN DAVIS

ent. [Lane and Davis, back row, middle, black hats.] We were all devastated when Lane lost his life. I started at seven years old, getting on



COURTESY C.J. HADLEY

ponies and calves. I was 30 when I hung up my spurs. The journey was so exciting. Now I'm on the board of the Grant County Ranch Rodeo Museum and also the Grant County Historical Association. My father, Lon Davis, a bit and spur maker, needed my help at 85;

now 92. I sell real estate and fish for steelhead in between my father's routine and keeping the home fires burning in Mount Vernon, eight miles west of John Day. I was born in Prineville, Ore., my sister was born in California, and my mother was a nanny for the Howards, who owned Seabiscuit.

BRIAN DAVIS, MOUNT VERNON, OREGON
Sports Illustrated sent me to Spanish Fork, Utah, in 1988, to cover the final ride (of seven) between Growney Brothers' unridable bull, Red Rock (309 cowboys couldn't handle him) and world champion bull rider, Lane Frost. Called "Challenge of the Champions," Lane took his fourth win that day and won the match. A year later, Lane was killed by a bull during Cheyenne Frontier Days after scoring an 85-point ride. A tragic loss of a warm, kind and talented human.—Ed.

SAVE THE FRENCH-FRY TOSSER

I was impressed by “Up Front” in Spring 2025! Little by little we've lost freedom and sadly lots of folks are not even aware. I pray for God to give Trump wisdom. He's tough, and have you noticed the prisoners coming home, the DEI being scrapped, government nonelected being ousted and replaced by businessmen? Even Putin admits that had Trump been president, he would not have invaded Ukraine! And now we're learning how long in Biden's presidency his cohorts have protected his failing image! And your summing up hit the nail on the head directly.

DONNA ANDRESS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
The last paragraph of my editorial in Spring 2025 said: "I have a Harris/Walz sign in my office thanks to one friend and a Trumpy Doll from another friend with a different point of view. It's a nice ensemble. And I, too, believe America's future is bright—if we can keep that flashy, yellow-haired French-fry tosser alive."—Ed.

Just read Dan Happel's “Managing the Herd” in Spring '25. Good article! He's right on about the DEW's (directed energy weapons) across our country the last few years! And probably more to come. You can add the fires (DEWs) of the L.A. area in January 2025 to the list of hits. All part of our government 15-minute and C40 cities' agenda.

S.E., VIA EMAIL FROM ARIZONA

THE SKY IS FALLING

Oh, the sky is falling! What a big deal that a paragraph on a Conex box full of guns was wrong [“Up Front,” Winter 2024/2025]. What will we ever do? I comment on Truth Social regularly and refer them to you for information as RANGE has been a really good ref-



VIA INTERNET

erence, especially on the climate B.S.

My grandfather kept a diary in the 1920s. Friends and frenemies would stop and ask about the terrible climate change and I'd get out his diary and read it to them—as well as let them read it if need be—and the weather on Jan. 23, 1923, would be darn near the same as Jan. 23, 2020. So much for climate change. We got burned completely out in the Slater Fire in September 2020, but we are now back on our feet thanks to family and friends.

KENNY McCULLEY
HAPPY CAMP, CALIFORNIA

Your magazine is always immaculate. I'm a critical reader and a vicious editor, and I never see a single error. I don't know how you do it!

JOHN HOAK, BIG HORN, WYOMING
Thanks. We try hard but do get caught once in a while.—Ed

Thank you for all you've done for ranchers, farmers and rural America. God bless.

DOUG & CAROLE HEIMFORTH
BOISE, IDAHO