



Up Front

Holding on to courage.
By C.J. Hadley

Extraordinary writers and photographers have contributed to *RANGE* over the past 30 years...people not motivated by money but by message. The greatest were the late radical Leftie Tim Findley (formerly with *Rolling Stone*) and Mike Coffman, Ph.D., a climate genius. The greatest now, Montana's Dave Skinner—sick but still standing—has been feeding deep and real truths to *RANGE* readers for decades. Our fairly new contributor and social media boss, Utah's Marjorie Haun, adds to that tough bunch. She just “fell off a horse” and now has a leg full of metal and will suffer through a long rehab.

Skinner and Haun, plus Dave Daley, a California rancher, earned *RANGE* the most coveted award of all at the Nevada Press Association's “Awards of Excellence” celebration in September 2021. Judged by members of the Montana Press Association and up against all newspapers and magazines, *RANGE* took home the Freedom of the Press honor thanks to these heart-wrenching and inspiring stories in recent issues: Daley's “The Bear Fire,” Skinner's “West First,” and Haun's “The Big Squeeze.”

One judge commented: “Journalism has been infiltrated with bad judgments and selfish egos and these articles cut through that. As I read them, I got the feeling the writers could care less whether I was impressed or upset or worried about who would be offended. The journalists were using words and the images they create to take me to the ‘moment’ so I understood what they understood. It is great writing, but it is also great courage. Thank you.”

RANGE picked up a few more prizes: Haun and Skinner, first and second for Best Investigative; two seconds for Larry Turner

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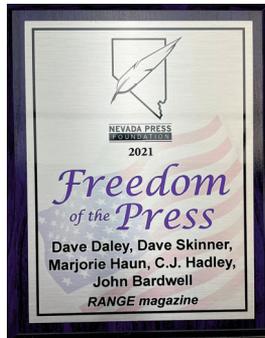


and yours truly; and a third place for Larry Angier. Turner's Fall 2020 cover portrait earned this comment: “Love the expression of both the horse and the buckaroo! Great composition with just enough spontaneity to make this an award winner.” Angier's lightning photo in “Out on the Range” in Spring 2021 earned this: “Wow. What a moment. You can tell the shot was well planned and well executed.”

RANGE also took Best Special Project for our recent book, “Quinlan & Jones.” The judge wrote, “Strong product with excellent storytelling and imagery.” This book also won a Will Rogers Gold Medalion in Fort Worth in late October thanks



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to Vess Quinlan and Bill Jones.

My editorial columns came in second to an online Las Vegas cannabis magazine. The judge said about “Up Front”: “A very

unique writing style that obviously comes from the author's European roots makes this refreshing. I also love unique lines and this one had, ‘Who would want to be hugged by a woman with a refrigerator that costs more than your car?’ Keep up the good work.” (Once a factory Brit and mostly a Brit—until I discovered the sublime, now sadly sinking, America back in 1959.)

Gen. George S. Patton, the toughest hombre during World War II, said, “Better to fight for something than live for nothing.” British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, “The Americans will always do the right thing...after they've exhausted all the alternatives.”

As fans of those two boys we will continue to tell it like it is and encourage and fight for America and its real producers—particularly cowboys and shearers. And thanks to *your* support and affection, we *will* hold on to courage. ■