

## Opinion from America's Outback

### HOLD ON TO INTEGRITY

Recently I entered into a drawer hardly used in our house and found the Summer 2009 *RANGE*. I had just completed reading Summer 2022 so I thought I'd reread the '09 edition. I was amazed how the format had not changed, even a little. However, the left-leaning past and present subscribers sure have! I understand your need for subscribers, but we all know there is no middle ground if you plan to keep the integrity of *RANGE*.

DUANE BENNETCH  
FLEETWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

Better mail *RANGE* in a plain brown wrapper. Very liberal community here!

BRAD BROWNLOW, DECATUR, GEORGIA

*RANGE* should be called "The Trump Rag." Adios for your right-wing B.S. Put Trump in prison in Nevada [sic].

BAD BOB, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

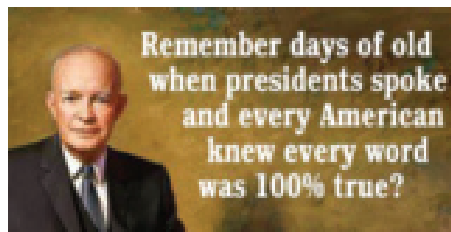
### THE AMAZING SCOUT

I have been proofing stories for *RANGE* for 20 years and I appreciate a skilled writer because it makes my job much easier. To that point, I want to congratulate Dave Skinner, Wandering Scout, for his excellent writing. His articles are always intricate with dozens of interconnected threads, but because he is so precise with words, they are beautiful to read. Most importantly, they are also easy to follow, despite his complicated subjects.

DENYSE PELLETTIERI WHITE  
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY

Keep up the good work. *RANGE* has been showing the dangers of rule by bureaucrat better than anyone else.

CLARK CARTER, MONETTA, SOUTH CAROLINA



### DON'T RUIN THE WEST

I feel so bad for farmers/ranchers just trying to carve out a living on their land. With all that's going on—higher and higher fuel prices, shortages on fertilizer, and most undeniably a disinterested federal government—they are getting squeezed so hard they can't stay afloat. At some point someone has to stand up and do something. These hardworking folks can make more money selling their land to developers (or worse: China, i.e., Nebraska) than they can working it. And for what? Golf



courses, McMansions, and food for other countries? I swear the good people of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Nevada should set up laws to keep Californians and New Yorkers the heck out of their states, so they don't ruin them like they have Washington, Oregon and now Colorado. I get sad just thinking about it.

ROB B., MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

### CROWD THINK & HYSTERIA

Forced masking may now be over—we shall see—but the masking controversy continues, as do demands for regulatory behavior control. Credible information continues to surface that confirms what many of us knew: masks, as forced upon and deployed by the public, did nothing to control the spread of this latest SARS virus. I hope we will remember this when the next bug emerges and the Central Control Crowd pressures again for mandated mass breath control and control of our lives. We might all also remember the importance of differentiating science from faux-science and propaganda, and remember

(Continued)

### THE UNTOUCHABLES

Reading the Summer 2022 letter from Charles Astleford about California's Caldor Fire caused me to reread Larry Angier's "Green Ideals, Blackened Forests" in Winter 2021-2022. In the last paragraph, Angier noted that as a Cal Fire crew left the area he asked why they were leaving. The fire fighter shrugged his shoulders and stated the U.S. Forest Service "had it under control and would watch and monitor it."

The fire consumed 221,835 acres, burned 1,003 structures, and cost \$271 million to fight. The USFS has gone from a good steward of our forests to a monstrous bureaucratic political machine that has taken control of "our forest lands" to ownership of the lands including armed patrol persons. They are "The Untouchables."

The USFS requested fire budget for 2022 is \$2.1 billion, an increase of \$170.4 million from last year. It's a ratcheting request that is obscene. They don't fight fire effectively and study them for hours or

days before taking action, meanwhile the fire explodes to become unmanageable. In California, Cal Fire is often the first responder to a fire and has the manpower to control it. The USFS arrives and sends them home because it is their turf.

The National Wildfire Institute wrote a letter to Randy Moore, chief of USDA's Forest Service, on July 23, 2021, requesting a change in fire management policy. It was signed by 21 fire-experienced members, most retired high-ranking USFS employees. Their combined fire-management experience is 687 years. To date, June 6, 2022, no reply! A letter from Jim Robinson, a retired forester and career USFS firefighter wrote an article lambasting the agency for its ineffective firefighting and failure to cooperate with Cal Fire. Note that all the comments came from only retirees. The arrogance of USFS is abominable.

MIKE RICE, EAGLE POINT, OREGON (OSU School of Forestry, Bachelor's degree as forest engineer with more than 40 years' experience in forest management and timber harvesting)

Stick a turkey leg in a sneaker  
and let your dog patrol your yard.



VIA INTERNET

land. The Civil War was April 12, 1861, to May 9, 1865. The North invaded the South and pulled out all the fruit trees and tore up all the gardens to starve the people. The farmers had planted fields of black-eyed peas, aka “cow peas,” to feed their animals. Little did the North know that they were edible and that is what kept the South from starving.

JEAN HARDESTY, ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA

### **GIT ALONG LITTLE DOGIES**

As I read through the letters in each issue and ponder those whining, “Cancel my sub because *RANGE* is too conservative, political, biased, right wing, blah, blah, blah,” it’s obvious their real message is, “As a staunch supporter of tolerance and diversity, I refuse to tolerate any opinions that are diverse from my own.” I seem to hear a line from an old cowboy song that went, “Whoopee ti yi yo, git along little dogies.”

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

*RANGE* has gotten larger, also better. It’s a bright light in an America in darkness with the poorest, [most] incompetent president ever.

RICH PETERSEN, CORRECTIONVILLE, IOWA

No renewal. Too much Trump. Too much hate and divisiveness in your messaging. Not enough cowgirls, too much gay cowboys.

ANONYMOUS, EUGENE, OREGON

### **DEAR LEADER**

Having read CJ’s sorry excuse for her printing engagement [“Up Front: A very long wait,” Spring 2022] with offshore contractors—cost—and then noticing the incredibly unbalanced enticement on the following page [\$13 for NEW gift subs], I believe our “Dear Leader” has grossly undervalued the quality and marketing potential for this exceptional magazine. It’s time to have four burly hands march into her presence, deposit her in a sedan chair and cart her out back to the porch, facing the western sunset, where she can sit and revel at the good that she and her staff have wrought all these years. Maybe with a cat in lap. Then raise prices to enable future American printing or create your own.

WM. C. SMITH, APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA  
*I’ll stick with Great Danes. And anyone who pays extra for their cheap *RANGE* knows that they are appreciated and cherished.*—Ed.

My great-grandfather was a large-scale cattleman in the Coalinga, Calif., area in the 1870s to 1890s. Old nighthawk songs were passed on to his family. I can still hear my grandmother singing them to me.

In 1993 I met Ian Tyson after his nightclub

gig in Elko, Nev., during the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. I was in heaven, and to help me remember, I have Ian’s “Lost Herd” poster hung prominently in my office bathroom, where this 76-year-old spends more time these days. The shed and saddled horse look just like our old ranch saddle shed.

JIM MERRILL, MADERA, CALIFORNIA

I just finished reading “Breaking Point” by Marjorie Haun in Summer 2022. As usual, a very well-written and informative piece—just what I have come to expect from *RANGE*. The lack of understanding and courtesy, coupled with the explosion of entitlement by users of federal lands by nonpermittees is totally out of control, not only in Arizona, but in many other western states, such as Idaho and Montana.

Rather than rehash the article, I have a suggestion. Maybe the local county sheriff could deputize the rancher and his employees on a volunteer basis (i.e., no pay) to enforce the laws being broken on their permitted lands. I’m sure it’s not as simple as it should be, but it could be a way for ranchers to help ensure that they don’t lose their permits due to lack of use (as mentioned in the article).

D.W. CRAWFORD, IDAHO/MONTANA  
*Check Marjorie’s story, “The Thugocracy Strikes Back,” on page 60.*—Ed.

I received this photo from a friend in San Antonio. Not many folks waiting in line to buy tenderloins today at \$38.99 a pound. The cost



VIA INTERNET

of beef is going to keep rising while the cowman continues to deal with drought, high cost of feed, fertilizer, fuel, and an array of other costs including Big Brother’s interference with never-ending costly regulations.

MIKE DAIL, MASON, TEXAS

Long live cowboys. Long live *RANGE*.

JIM GILLIS, FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

### **RETURN TO A REPUBLIC**

What a peaceful revolution looks like: Cannot vote in an election, then stay out of it! No corporate money. No PAC money. No party money. No out-of-state money. No out-of-dis-

to trust our own training, experience and common sense, rather than succumbing to crowd-think and hysteria and blindly following government mandates while passively surrendering our rights. Tragically, the fact that masking did not stop the spread of the virus is only part of this saga of folly; the more significant fact is that masking and other groundless government usurpations of power inflicted enormous damage on countless millions of people and on society.

JOHN H. HOAK, BIG HORN, WYOMING

### **RANGE TOO CHEAP**

Got “The Long Trail Home,” but you sold it too cheap to anyone who bought the book. When they open it up, after a few pages if they don’t have a smile they are sick puppies. I have two other books: “Call of the Cow Country” and “The M Bar,” both by Harry Webb. Anyway, I left the Socialist State of California in 1992 and moved to America (Montana). I had a small ranch and a barbershop in Newcastle and I will tell you what, I had more fun in 55 years in the Newcastle area than anyone should be able to confess to.

I raised cows, pigs and turkeys, and I still wake up on my own. Bacon and sausage getting old (85), don’t have the get up and go—it got up and went.

WILLIE SLADE, STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

Please extend my subscription for three years and use the balance as you want. Hell, maybe start a crying towel fund for all crybabies who want their subscriptions “cancelled.”

RON MILLER, TWIN OAKS, CALIFORNIA

Some of my mother’s family were from the South. They were poor financially and farmed on the sharecrop because they didn’t own any





trict money. Only the people in the electoral district are involved in the election. That would be a revolution: a return to a republic.

ROGER WHITTEN, DEER PARK, WASHINGTON

If society continues to listen to the environmental Nazis there will be no more ranchers or farmers and all you'll have to eat is dirt. Here's \$20 more for the cause. God bless our republic.

JEFF REYNOLDS, CARDWELL, MONTANA

## SHADES OF MATT DILLON

Great story, "Gunsmoke Redux," in Winter 2021/2022 by Bill Jones. Funny what he said about Dennis Weaver—"Kind of like Falstaff in Shakespeare's tragic plays." It reminded me of an article I read some time ago. There were no non-alcoholic beers at the time they started filming "Gunsmoke," so they had to use real beer. Falstaff Brewing donated kegs of beer for the saloons.

MIKE KULICK, MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA

Last night I sat down with the summer edition and found Darrell Holden's story ["Never"] of his little red mule. Never one to be emotional reading the written word, I was sobbing half-way through. My husband's no longer able to read but I wanted him to hear the story since he's had a few "Rebas" over the years. And there I go again, sobbing by the second paragraph. I know I shouldn't be thanking anyone for making me cry, but it was such a beautiful love-and-friendship story, I have to say thank you.

LORRAINE KIRKPATRICK

NEWPORT, WASHINGTON

I enjoy reading *RANGE* because it tells the truth. It seems the powers that be in America have the same idea as the British sovereignty, to ruin farmers' livelihoods, kill off our traditions and heritage, and turn the republic into but-  
ton-pushing veggies or vegans. In our house-

hold we use fat, beef, lamb, pork and chicken, and we also use goat's butter and beef drippings for frying. Your column of amazing quotes is truly amazing, so here is one from me you may like to include: "Show me a bunch of people who attend endless meetings trying to solve problems they themselves have caused through their own bureaucratic arrogance, and I'll show you group upon group of parish councilors."

EDWIN DAVID BOWEN, TEESDALE POET,  
COUNTY DURHAM, ENGLAND

## OLD RELIABLE COAL

For days now in southeast Queensland, it has been cloudy, rainy and largely windless. No sun electrifies the solar panels, intermittent winds



play with the prayer wheels, and backup batteries are going flat. For a while on some afternoons wind and solar produce a trickle of power. Gas and hydro try to help, but none of these can bear the whole power supply load. But even on these gloomy days, our electric lights, fridges, stoves, battery chargers and water pumps work. And down in the city (even on still nights) trains, traffic lights, fuel pumps, cold stores, hospitals and lifts keep working. When all else fails in the sunshine state, *coal keeps the lights on*. Those supporting more Green energy are supporting more blackouts.

VIV FORBES, WASHPOOL  
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

My local store stopped selling *RANGE*. I couldn't live without it. It's really opened my eyes. Here's extra thanks to a job well done.

KAROL LARSON, ST. REGIS, MONTANA  
*Anyone with a retail store who wants to sell RANGE should call 1-800-RANGE-4-U and ask for agent information or check p. 72.—Ed.*

## A COUNTRY BOY

After several years of planning I am finally a country boy, living in a valley about 25 miles northeast of Yreka, Calif. The area was subdivided in the 1960s, but no utilities were run so I am off the grid. Also, a nearby rancher has superior grazing rights, so I get to fall asleep to the beautiful sounds of cows mooing. I'd

rather listen to that than the screaming arguments and loud music in Sacramento!

Some of the heifers have had their calves and I find it funny to listen to the young'uns learning how to moo. As I was setting up, a woman affiliated with the rancher (his wife maybe?) drove up to welcome me. She said, "You'll eventually build a fence to keep the cows out." And I replied: "I don't mind cows, ma'am. Beef has to come from somewhere."

I wish those moronic Beltway liberals could watch a magenta sunset over juniper-forested hills to the sounds of mooing cows. I am sending the full \$19.95 this time, without the early renewal discount, because you're worth it.

BRYAN COWAN, HORN BROOK, CALIFORNIA

## A JEWEL OR NOT A JEWEL?

Regarding "Letters," page 53 of Winter 2019 issue of *RANGE*, the eloquence of your response to Jamie Huntsberger's question of why you haven't been on FOX News may never be equaled. And your *RANGE* is a jewel without current equal.

FRED FREEMAN, TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA  
*I said, "Too old and no tight dress."—Ed.*

The hard work of running a magazine and the energy to keep it going proves the great love you have for the country and all of us. We pray for you and *RANGE* and thank you. I was keeping all my issues. The stack got pretty high—all that good info sitting on the bookshelf—so I passed them on to a friend's husband. He loves *RANGE* and he passes them on to others. Even the old issues are still relevant today. May God bless you all.

PATTY EDWARDS, ETNA, WYOMING

## NEVER SURRENDER

Take the extra \$100 for the cause. Push on, surrender never, and always remember they have silly ideas while we have hearts of lions.

ANDREW CARLSON, LYMAN, NEBRASKA

Here's our renewal for three years plus an order for a calendar. Please use the extra to keep putting out the real truth about the West and all of us ranchers. You are an important part of what's left of this God-blessed country.

ROSE BACON, COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS  
*RANGE* magazine is the soul of the country.

GARY JOHNSON, LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA

## THE SPIRIT OF TEDDY

Love your mag! Read it front to back and sometimes back to front just for kicks. You represent the spirit of Teddy and the West!

RON YACOPETTI, LODI, CALIFORNIA