



Opinion from America's Outback

NOT QUITE WOKE

RANGE's common sense is a light in the dark sea of woke.

CHUCK DECKER, VIA EMAIL

RANGE should be required reading in all high schools. Most of the country has no idea what ranchers do to get food to consumers' tables and the values instilled in ranchers' kids having to do with hard work, caring for their animals, sacrifice, and doing the right thing.

DON HAUSLE, SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA

My husband and I love reading *RANGE*, especially Lee Pitts and his story "Who Is This Guy?" [Winter 2022/2023]. It reminded me of my husband and me since we are the same age as Lee. So, so funny. Even shared it over the phone with family and friends. Made me laugh each time.

SUSIE ALEXANDER, ONTARIO, OREGON

FRAGMENTS, EASILY FORGOTTEN

I'm responding to your editorial in the Summer 2023 issue on the topic of digital versus print.

I join you in finding reading online anathema. More than that, I believe that the powers that encourage us as a society to "go digital" know that it will undermine our social fabric, shorten our memory, dumb us down, give us a false sense of social connection, isolate and manipulate us, and ultimately censor and control us.

I admit to carrying a Kindle to save weight when traveling on a plane, but when I'm home I switch back to the paper book. Physical books and magazines and newspapers can't be censored or shadow banned. A book or magazine can be lent to a friend, spotted on the seat of a truck, and

Got a brother who I hesitate visiting. His wife is so far left she is damn near horizontal! Anyway, I did go visit them—550-mile road trip. Got there and let the dog out to unwind. My dog and theirs go out back to relieve. We are all standing at the patio door watching and one of the dogs goes over and starts sniffing a fresh pile of used dog food.... Told my sister-in-law, "You know, that dog can get more information from that sniff than you can by listening to Biden for 30 minutes." Didn't stay long. Apparently she found me to be hostile. We gotta clean up this mess. Whatever happened to term limits?

DAVE SHAW, NAMPA, IDAHO

CHEATER/HATER/SAVIOR?

Will Trump ever find himself in court to answer for his election rigging plan, for cheating on his taxes, for the hate that came out of his now six years of crying, "It's not fair." Don't look that way to me. Make America Smile Again.

DAVID PORTER MISSO
TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA

Four years ago, I had a thing growing in my neck. It was choking me. For five months the VA screwed up paperwork. Consequently I was refused treatment and only received excuses and opioids. Desperate, I contemplated eating a bullet. A fellow veteran working at the VA gave me a phone number for an office in the basement of the White House. In three days, I was in the best cancer doc's office in Spokane. The doc told me I should have been

generate a smile when it's recognized as a proud emblem of independence on the counter of a windmill and plumbing supply store in Socorro, N.M.

Swiping across images or words on a phone or tablet is a fragmented, momentary experience, easily forgotten. A glossy magazine with full-color photos is a treasured gift that invites the reader to sit down and relax and take it all in. A friend recently told me that her 10-year-old son said he thought he could make a go of it as a farmer. I immediately knew I had to give her my Summer 2023 issue because of Todd Klassy's "An Easy Lope" photo of the 10-year-old rancher on horseback. My friend was surprised and delighted and said, "My husband will love to read this as well!" How could "sending a link" compare to that?

COLLEEN CAYES, BLANDING, UTAH



in his office four months prior. Ten days later I had that thing removed from my neck. A few months later I received a written apology and autographed picture from Trumpy. He saved my life by caring for me and my fellow vets. I owe him my life. You tell me what I should do to repay him? As a twice disabled veteran I am not going to sit back and let the man who saved my life be persecuted for politically motivated garbage.

BILL THURSTON, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

TRUCKERS FOR TRUMP?

If the teamsters are communists, why do I see so many Trump bumper strips on 16-wheelers when I pull into truck stops and when I go inside the coffee shop find so many union truck drivers wearing MAGA hats and swastikas tattooed on their necks and temples?

MARK DOWIE, POINT REYES STATION, CALIF.
Maybe they are thanking Merle Haggard and thinking we are "rolling downhill like a snowball headed for hell."—Ed.

Truth is rare, especially in any kind of media. Please keep doing what you are doing.

DANIEL KEDER, VIA EMAIL

Lately we of the cowboy culture lost two icons—Ian Tyson and Baxter Black. I would be hard pressed to believe there are any ranch or cowboy pickups without at least one of their CDs or cassettes on the dash along with the medicine and syringes!

ARTHUR R. HAGEN, MAGALIA, CALIFORNIA
Check Vess Quinlan's tribute on page 14.—Ed.

THE BIKE HERDER

I am a 76-year-old practicing internist who has been reading *RANGE* for at least 10 years. My closest experience to ranching are the summers I spent as a teenager on Uncle Verd's farm in Linton, N.D., mowing hay, driving the grain truck and herding cattle on a bicycle (with a great dog). I also adore the ranchers in my practice. In any case, I had a hernia repair one week ago and almost broke

the whole thing open from laughing at Bill Jones' story, "Breaking News from Baggs, Wyoming," in the Spring 2023 issue. Here's an extra \$100 to keep the humor coming.

JAMES MOSSON, SONORA, CALIFORNIA

PRINT OR DIGITAL?

Just read "Never give up" in Summer 2023. Please don't! As an 88-year-old living alone on a farm that was settled in 1877 by my late husband's maternal grandmother's family, I rely on my only magazine subscription. As long as I can read, *RANGE* will be the go-to information, entertainment and company for me.

MARLENE RYAN, PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

Digital *RANGE* is a great idea. Easy to read and very professional. It's the only way for you to stay in business, I think. So...onward!

CAROLYN DUFURRENA, DENIO, NEVADA

You pose a very unexpected question re digital magazine. To treat *RANGE* that way would be like feeding earthworms in place of beef. My vote is no digital. What digital I do watch ("utubes") is heading downhill very fast and *RANGE* does not deserve this. Go buy a shot of the "anti-digital" juice!

RON SHIPMAN, KINGSBURG, CALIFORNIA

I live in the heart of Arizona's cattle country and it is truly a pleasure to receive *RANGE*. I read every page. Please think this through. I will respect your decision and I love you and America.

JOHN O. DRYER, USMC VIETNAM '63-64
TONTON BASIN, ARIZONA



VIA INTERNET

Don't do it! Digital info is like the first grass to a wormy cow—in one end and out the other with no appreciable effect.

BILL COE, FALL RIVER MILLS, CALIFORNIA

If it were up to me I would say *print only!* But some people may want to have a digital



© LARRY TURNER

Resting after breakfast, four of the 17 Alder Creek Ranch canines take harbor near the feeding door. This is their bivouac residence during downtime when not herding cattle or ambling about this expansive ranch near the Oregon border. They live a good life in northern Nevada with ranch owners Buck and Janet Johnson and their three caring adult children.

edition. And it may be good for increased circulation and advertising. Cost would be a deciding factor.

GREGORY FRETZ, GILROY, CALIFORNIA

Please keep *RANGE* in print; we like to smell, touch and taste it like you do!

DANIEL J. SANDERS, ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

I have always been fond of arrowheads and have a collection of between 5,000 and 6,000. When my brother asked me where I got them, I said I'd bought them at auction. He said: "That's a silly answer. Why don't you go out and bury them in the garden and tell people you dug them up?"

I like arrowheads because I can touch them and hold them in my fingers and know that I've got a little history in my hand. I prefer a print copy of a book or magazine or newspaper for the same reason. I would never dream of buying a Kindle of anything.

When I hold a book or magazine in my hand I can flip back and forth between the pages. I'm master of the page, king of interpretation, and director of my destiny. Don't take that away from me, because if you do I won't buy the substitute. Why should I? I trust you to get the point.

DENNIS L. BARK, SENIOR FELLOW EMERITUS,
HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD
UNIVERSITY, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

So many of your readers, myself included, are

in such rural areas that Internet service and electric power are not as reliable as in urban areas. And there is something to say about the "smell" of *RANGE*. I love it!

BRIAN W. DROPPS, RESERVE, NEW MEXICO

I like being able to access past articles, but life wouldn't be the same without handling *RANGE* and taking my time reading, rereading and cutting out my favorite pictures and slapping them on the fridge for all to admire.

SALLY TYREE-BRUMLEY, HAMBURG, IOWA

I prefer a paper copy in my hands. We save them. The only advantage I can see for going digital would be to forward them on far and wide to nonsubscribers to get the word out to the uninformed. Also, it would be easier to look up/research prior articles. However, there are two potential downsides. People who are addicted to screens have documented much shorter attention spans and I do not see many of them having the patience to read an in-depth article. And the photos would not be done justice on a cell phone.

Dynosaurs of the world, unite!

ANDY SMITH, ELKTON, OREGON

For back issues go to rangedex.com.—Ed.

PLENTY OF FANS

I appreciate *RANGE*'s depth, breadth, and editorial quality (that's my profession). It's great to see articles by my friend Jonathan Lesser. His latest piece, "The New Feudalism," in

Summer 2023 was perfect. I told him that what so many people need and want is exactly what he provides—a rational voice that cuts through all the ranting.

CINDY MONROE, WOODBINE, MARYLAND

John Hoak, your story about Frances Kelly [“Hard Country,” Summer 2023] tugged at my heartstrings! Thanks for being a caring person and a very interesting writer.

SID DUDLEY, SHERIDAN, WYOMING

Stephen Wilmeth has written an interesting article about the Corralitos Ranch where I spent a memorable and very happy childhood [“Wild, Wild West Remembered,” Winter 2022/2023]. For my father, Harvey, it was hard work with small financial reward, so he convinced me to leave New Mexico and join the corporate world.

JOHN BISSELL, FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA

TIME TO COWBOY UP

I was impressed with Chance Gowan’s article, “Where’s the Beef?” [Spring 2023]. Good research about the corporate levels and political manipulations which are similar to other industries. One thing needing more mention is the ineptness of producer organizations (unions?) where the rank and file get to “pay yer money,” but with damn little choice. Even going further...can’t seem to find two ranchers/farmers to “agree” on what day it is, let alone “cowboy up” to get into the fight together! Might be we “need a revolution,” no guns, but using “road apples” at 10 paces! Hey...they’re “recyclable”!

RON SPIKE, RONAN, MONTANA



I picked up a copy of the Summer 2022 edition during a horseback trip at Hunewill Ranch in California and fell in love with the many heartwarm-

ing stories. I read it cover to cover and totally understand the many different views in the letters column ranging from love to dislike. The Summer edition had many nice stories about kinship with horses and about families and the Winter edition much more politically charged articles.

I like them all and as a former farm boy from Sweden (shown here on Polka with my father) I am well aware of the hardship farmers and ranchers have to endure and the constant pressure from government and

people in office who have no connection to the rural lifestyle and the demanding work it entails.

Growing up in the '60s on a small farm, we were too poor to afford a tractor and I longed to live like my friends nearby who had more modern equipment. But now, living in Southern California’s hustle and bustle, I look at it and wonder, did I really live that life or was it just a dream?

Keep fighting for all farmers and ranchers.

ANDERS JOHANNESSON

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

A FEW GOOD ONES

I just wanted to say how much CJ and RANGE meant to my brother, Alan Hart. Alan passed away recently, but he fell in love



with the wonderful people he met as he traveled out West and all the love and kindness they showed him. God bless you all.

DEBORAH HART DOLLAR

WARRENSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Fred, Dave, Darrell, Suzanne, DJ, Cynthia and I all miss that talented hillbilly. He was a good writer, photographer, teacher and friend.—Ed.

My husband, Chuck Cundy, loved RANGE. He always had extra copies that he handed out to people we met traveling, explaining the importance of the magazine. Hopefully some new people got the message. Chuck was born in Rock Springs, Wyo., and died on April 21 in Cora at 76, after combatting



BETTY CUNDY

cancer. He joined the Air Force, was a military policeman and sentry dog trainer. He flew corporate jets for Johns Manville Corporation out of Denver and was a bush pilot in Alaska, often carrying cargo and dropping smoke jumpers. We were married for 36 great years. Chuck was an adventurer and adhered to the words of T.S. Eliot: “Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.”

BETTY CUNDY, CORA, WYOMING

We thank Chuck and Betty for being enormous contributors and great friends of RANGE.—Ed.

Betty Jones, lovingly known as “Grandma Betty,” passed away on June 29, 2023. Having run churro sheep and cattle for most of her 90-something years, she collapsed while working the animals with some of her grandchildren on her McCracken Mesa farm in San Juan County, Utah. She died that night.

Betty was of the Folded Arm People Clan. She was born in Blanding, Utah, about



COURTESY JONES FAMILY

1927, and being from a Navajo ranching family remembered the 1934 passage of the Taylor Grazing Act and the changes for good and ill that it brought to livestock grazing in southeastern Utah. While quite young she married an older Navajo rancher named S.P. Jones, and with him bore 12 children. She was known for her honesty and outspokenness and gained notoriety as one of the leaders of the movement against the Bears Ears National Monument. The letter she wrote to President Trump in opposition to the national monument gained her a place at



“A fool contributes nothing worth hearing and takes offense at everything.”

— Aristotle

his side when through presidential proclamation he decreased its size dramatically.

She leaves behind many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews and other relatives. Beloved by people throughout the communities in southeastern Utah and elsewhere, Grandma Betty Jones will be greatly missed.

MARJORIE HAUN, LA SAL, UTAH

Check “*The Matriarch of McCracken Mesa*” in Fall 2022 via rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

STRANGE NEW WORLD

I’m fascinated by the way people stick to their political party no matter what. You still claim to be a Democrat even though you can see some of the flaws in that party. I’m an Independent, have voted both ways, but find little I can agree with the Democrats on. Bill Clinton fought to get people off welfare, Biden voted to cut welfare spending, Obama and Schumer were for closing the southern border, the Democrats fought a civil war to keep slavery and now want to compensate blacks for that evil. The Democrats impeached Trump for “bribing” Ukraine on a phone call while we watched a video of V.P. Biden threatening to withhold a billion dollars if Ukraine didn’t get rid of the investigator looking into Burisma, a company where his son sat on the board [for \$85,000 a month]. I don’t understand why everyone is not an Independent and weighing both sides of the issues—only available by watching more than one news channel.

Oh well, maybe the problem is that I woke up (no pun intended) in another world where children can choose their sex without the parents knowing about it, we have gone from energy independence selling oil to others to now buying it from others at an inflated price, Adidas is modeling

women’s swimsuits with a male model, we had to rename the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile, Aunt Jemima is off the label of my syrup and we are renaming our sports teams so no one can be offended. I’m offended they are renaming my sports team. Bottom line: Kudos to you for using common sense and truth. Sorry it is costing you subscriptions. I’ve already gone online and made a donation to compensate you for letting me rant which saved over 50 cents soon to be over 60 cents since the same government that went broke running a warehouse in Nevada is running the postal service.

DAN CALIENDO, ANDOVER, KANSAS

GUNS, GUNS & GUNS

Before the rest of the Republican Party jumps in, I wish to announce my candidacy for president of these United States. I have a one-word platform—guns. Guns in our homes. Guns on the border. Guns on the streets of our cities. In the words of that great patriot, Samuel Adams: “Arm the people!”

Guns gave us our independence. Guns preserved the Union. Guns helped us to win the West. Guns gave us the means to defeat Nazism and Japanese imperialism and halt the advance of communism in Europe and Asia during the Cold War.

We have a First Amendment because we have a Second Amendment. I sleep sounder at night knowing that there are millions of guns in the hands of my fellow Americans.

DON FEDER, FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

RANGE is a beacon for me in the high desert of Idaho. Every time a copy arrives, it’s like being a kid at Christmas. I host a radio talk show in Twin Falls. A listener handed me a copy of the magazine a few years ago, and I was hooked. Many mornings, I cite stories and statistics you’ve published. Keep up the fine work because I’m getting spoiled!

BILL COLLEY, KLIX RADIO

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

I’ve added a little extra so you’ll have beans, flour, rice and coffee at cow camp this fall!

SKIP DOTY, PALISADE, COLORADO

DON’T BEND

Stay with the hard print. You are one of few who still stand for truth and haven’t bent to cultural pressure. Never change but hold to the sacred values you have always adhered to. There’s something about holding a book or magazine in your hands that is so much more assuring than digital that can be lost in an in-

stant. Your magazine will still be here 10 years from now or longer, whereas digital may be in a vapor. Prayers to you and your publishing for many more years of *RANGE*.

You are one of those immigrants who have been a very great asset to our country. I’m glad truth changed your values and ideology to what it is today.

HENRY WILSON, ODON, INDIANA



This image has been retweeted 883 times, along with the resulting views, which are over 90,000. There is a lot of power to educate the public in simple ways using social media.

MARJORIE HAUN, RANGE SOCIAL MEDIA BOSS
LA SAL, UTAH

We could never make you see how *RANGE* has enriched our lives—so much truth, virtue and humor. We thank you so much.

KIM & CORNELIA LANGRIDGE
ALPINE, TEXAS

Keep doing what you do best, only with more pressure on Congress to “follow the money?”

GARY NEAL
SHINGLE SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

