

Opinion from America's Outback

AWESOME

"The Call of the Cow Country" is an awesome read. Much of Harry Webb's early days happened right here around Thermopolis. Thank you for your determination to keep the light burning for our western way of life.

DAVE DENTON, THERMOPOLIS, WYOMING

For the past 50 years I've enjoyed handling my cattle but time has caught up with me. Keep sending me *RANGE* because I really enjoy every part of it. God bless!

DEAN BARTEL, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

I enjoy all the different experiences and points of view in *RANGE*. It needs to be said.

E.A. PERRY, FERNLEY, NEVADA

REPULSIVE

I first subscribed to a ranching and water magazine, not a political propaganda magazine. Your publication has become so far to the political right that I find it repulsive.

J. POFFENBARGER, REDMOND, OREGON

I'm glad my subscription is expiring. Your magazine is depressing to read. We have enough troubles here where I live that we can't do anything about. I don't need to hear and read about more troubles out West.

JIM BODWAY, MENASHA, WISCONSIN

PLAIN & LEVEL

How do you keep getting better and better? What great articles in Spring 2012—all of them—from "Old Hat," the proper way to catch a hat and ventilate it by Dave Secrist, to "The Sniveling of Brats" by Sharon Beck. I do believe that Mrs. Beck went to the Tim Findley school of "plain and level thinking."

TOM & DOROTHY JEFFERSON, ELKO, NEVADA

RANGE is my favorite. It is nice to look forward to reading intelligently written articles.

REAGAN AND "THE WIN" PICTURE

Thanks for the story in your Spring issue. It is mostly true! [See "A Hero For Our Times" by Steve Thompson.] Here's the photo you asked to see.

It is early May 1989 and President Reagan is just out of office. He has been a Ranchero since 1967 and was in my Maverick Class, so we joined the club at the same time. He was on the ride for three days and came to the races with a few of his security people. The mule race had become huge and was one of the most competitive and featured races on Rancheros. President Reagan was up in the announcer's booth at the finish line where he had a perfect view of the action.

I was fortunate enough to have an unbelievable ranch and racing mule named Miss Gillie. She was good to brand on, team rope on, and trail ride. She was the Grand Champion "Cow Working Mule" in 1987 with me as rider at Bishop's Mule Days. She had won two previous races on Rancheros and one at Bishop.

We had a full gate that day with eight mules running. I got a good start as she was easy to manage at the starting line. It was a tight race, but we held on to win by a length. I was elated and yelled up to the president, "Come down get your picture taken with this democratic symbol." Much to my surprise, he came down and said to me, "Since she's a winner, can we make her a Republican?" My reply was that she would be the first Republican ass!

DR. BERT JOHNSON, LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA



Members of the Los Vigilantes camp gather for the photo. Dr. Bill Magladry holds the banner, Dr. Bert Johnson in helmet, former President Ronald Reagan, and "Big George" Chamberlin, a famous mule man, is presenting the trophy.

You definitely have a corner on that market!

SANDI KAUL, MCARTHUR, CALIFORNIA

THE RIGHT PLACE

This is the only magazine that I read from cover to cover. My grandfather came here in 1886 and started a ranch. I still live here and wouldn't live anyplace else.

ORA G. KNOWLTON, BYNUM, MONTANA

The sage grouse is just one of the many threats soon to hit. The Department of Labor is proposing that ranch kids, farm kids, 4H and FFA kids be regulated and banned from most labor at their parents' farms. It's already hitting congressional hearings. Can't use power tools; herd animals; can't work while hot, cold, humid; can't climb a ladder taller than three feet. It's the government gone wild under Obama and his reality-challenged, out-of-

touch Beltway dolts.

(COMRADE) LARRY ANGIER, JACKSON, CALIF.
See "Sixteen," on page 71, and special report on sage grouse next to page 40.—Ed.

Love your magazine. Love your country.

ANN T. MURRAY, PALOMINO VALLEY, NEVADA
P.S. I like being British. We have the most rigid code of immorality in the world.

I have come to the conclusion that the reason liberals hate your magazine so much is the fact they do not understand simple truths printed in plain English. It is totally foreign to them.

I just couldn't resist commenting on Lee Pitts' silly spin on hybridization in your Spring issue: A fellow who drives a Prius, as I do, can be considered a thoroughbred by recognizing that the Prius is the product of the marriage of a gas guzzler and electric motor

resulting in a hybrid that is better than either parent, much like the mule excels its parents. By the way, the Prius, under a heavy load, farts less than the gas guzzler, just like the mule farts less than a draft horse, also under a heavy load. I am a redneck conservative Republican who thinks it is good business by keeping my driving habits the same and at the same time reduce my annual fuel costs by \$1,800, merely by adding a “hybrid” to my herd.

ED WEBER, KEIZER, OREGON

Nice comeback. You ought to be a writer. On second thought, I'm starving to death as it is and I sure don't need any more competition. I hope you didn't think I was criticizing people who buy a Prius, or the Prius itself. I think rather highly of them actually. But it doesn't matter what I think. I'm glad you like yours.—Lee Pitts

ENVIROS DO WELL

What *RANGE* writes about is right on. I am going on 84 years old and feed cattle twice a day and bale hay and haul wood and all of the work to keep this place going. The farmers, ranchers and loggers get blamed for everything. We have lived on our place for 52 years. I have always said that the environmentalists are out to do this country in and they are doing a darn good job.

JANET M. KEPPIINGER

PHILOMATH, OREGON

CRYING WOLF

The Spring issue is packed with exceptionally great stories. I just finished reading the story about J.D. King, so I watched his movie [“CryingWolf,” www.cryingwolf-movie.com] while snowflakes fell outside my window. JD is to be applauded for such a great work. The message is right on, and the scenery, wildlife pictures and historical documentation are outstanding. This young man has really hit the nail on the head about wolves, cattle ranchers and hunters and, in so doing, preserving the West for our grandchildren. This film should be required viewing in all junior high schools, but that's not allowed so every 4H, FFA, scout leader and parent should educate their children by showing it.

HARRIET CRUM, JOHN DAY, OREGON

I only wish that every senator and representative would watch J.D. King's invaluable film, “Crying Wolf.” It is almost unbelievable! The control our government has over us puts us in the 15th century.

BILL MILLSAP, CENTRAL POINT, OREGON

RANGE CALLING KOCH BROS.

I am beginning to wonder if the Koch brothers are financing your work. Global change is happening. I don't know if it is natural or man made, but denying it won't make it go away.

FRISKYL@EARTHLINK.NET

The warmth we are experiencing in the U.S. is one of few places in the world having warmer-than-average temperatures. The rest of the world is in the freezer, some record setting. The global temperature has continuously gone down for the past six months or so. It is now 0.14 degrees Centigrade below the set point established in 1979. See Dr. Roy Spencer's website (dr-royspencer.com). He is the world's authority on satellite temps, which are more accurate because of all the sources of error with ground-measured temps.—Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.

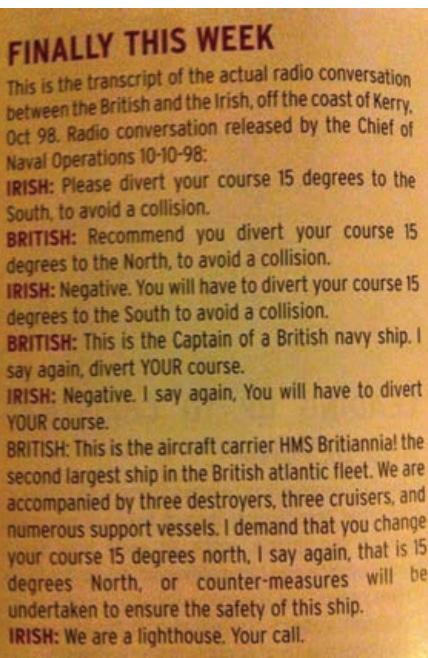
NOT ENOUGH OR TOO MUCH?

I like the magazine fine but why can't you get it out more than four times a year?

MARY FRENCH, HULETT, WYOMING

This magazine is dreadful.

PAULINE WILBER, CENTENNIAL, COLORADO



OLD MOM

Just so you know, my husband and I are caring for my almost 101-year-old mom. We were all listening to KSFO's Barbara Simpson Show yesterday and we really enjoyed your segment about “Call of the Cow Country.” Mom was especially enthusiastic and immediately asked us to order a *RANGE* subscrip-

tion and the book. She has lost her sight and I read things to her. My dad grew up raising sheep and Mom's family raised chickens, both in Utah. My great-grandmother knew Porter Rockwell. She hid him when he needed it and he protected her from renegade Indians.

JUDITH MACLEAN, NAPA, CALIFORNIA

Typically I don't subscribe to magazines, but yours I might have to so that I'm sure to get it.

JEREMY KRALL, DEARBORN HTS., MICHIGAN

WHO'S THE PROGRESSIVE?

Dr. Coffman's article about federal lands in the Winter 2012 issue contained much useful information. However, his credibility was reduced with the following statement in the last graph of Part II: “This nation cannot afford to reelect the progressives who have given us the disastrous policies that have created the \$14.7 trillion mess America is in today.” Dr. Coffman should recognize that much of the huge deficit is the result of the Bush administration squandering the surplus inherited from the Clinton administration, starting two unfunded wars, cutting taxes for the rich, and promoting a drug-company-favorable unfunded Medicare benefit. Of course, maybe he meant George Bush as a “progressive.” I had not heard him so designated before.

EARLE KIRKBRIDE, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

Thank you for your comment. Of course, you are right on. I was not referring to the current administration but to all the progressive administrations and Congresses going back to the early 20th century, including Democrats and Republicans. Republican progressives are usually called neocons or rhinos. I guessed (incorrectly it seems) that everyone knew that. Progressives have pretty much controlled our government for the past 40 years and have had tremendous influence before that. Their governance has been disastrous, especially the past 12 years. I have just finished a new book that focuses on this issue. It's time to clean house regardless of party.—Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.

TRYING TO SLEEP EASY

Just received my first copy of *RANGE* and really like it. I quickly perused Michael Coffman's “Our Federal Landlord” in Winter 2012 and decided I'll have to read it during the day, because if I read it at night I'll go to sleep pissed.

The feds still have a proposal to create an entire park system of the northern tier from Lake Superior to Glacier. And so few people know or care what it means. Unbelievably, I've actually encountered some business owners who think it will be a good thing for rural

America and northern Minnesota.

J. REED ANDERSON, FOSSTON, MINNESOTA
Don't miss Dave Skinner's "The Wild Wild Wet" (Fall '11) and "Wrong Wrong AGO" (Spring '12) at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

KIDS, DOGS & TRUCKS

This is a picture of my granddaughter, Addison Lucas, when she was 10 months old. It was taken



coming down the mountain with a load of wood. The dog is Ozzie. The picture was taken on Addison's great-grandpa Eaton Roughs' ranch, which is about an hour's ride east of Fortuna, Calif. Everyone who sees this picture falls in love with it and says, "It needs to go in a magazine somewhere!" *RANGE* is the first magazine I thought of. It comes to our office and I read it cover to cover. Great stories and a great magazine. Hope you can print this!

TOM CARTWRIGHT, FORTUNA, CALIFORNIA

TOO MUCH SPIN ON SALMON RUNS

Full vindication it may not be, but lies and myths exposed recently in Siskiyou County, Calif., just plain felt good. ["Saving the Dams," Fall 2011] In what is now considered a "whistle-blower complaint," Dr. Paul R. Houser was fired from his Department of Interior job after questioning top officials for "spinning" the benefits of removing four Klamath hydroelectric dams and downplaying the negatives. Dr. Houser was an integrity advisor overseeing the internal process. It appears Sec. Ken Salazar and his agents have used skewed data and sham science in a drive to destroy the four dams. Greenies and government agencies claim it will take dam removal to "fix" poor salmon runs in Klamath River, yet destruction of the dams will take

several years, which officials acknowledge will negatively affect salmon runs and wildlife habitat. This is a contradiction, to say the least. But wait, now state and federal fisheries' agents are admitting to an abundance of Pacific salmon expected to return to the Klamath River system in fall 2012. It is the highest estimated return in 31 years and should exceed 1.6 million salmon. And the Klamath dams have not been removed. Landowners in Siskiyou County are now wondering what's the real reason for removal of the Klamath dams.

Then \$900,000 was allegedly embezzled from the Yurok Tribe of Northern California by three biologists. Million-dollar search warrants were issued on former Yurok Tribal Forestry Director Roland Raymond and two biologists, Ron LeValley and associate biologist Sean McAllister. The warrants allege burglary, embezzlement and conspiracy to commit a crime. Falsifying data on the spotted owl and other scientific studies is also alleged.

Like many rural areas hit with overregulations due to the Endangered Species Act or Clean Water Act, Siskiyou County and its citizens have documents, scientists and eye-witnesses proving many of the lies and myths stated against them are just that—lies and myths. Now if only vindication can truly bring the needed change.

LIZ BOWEN, CALLAHAN, CALIFORNIA

SHORTWAVE IN VIRGINIA

I heard CJ on Beth Ann's Common Sense Coalition Radio show via shortwave and, in a rare moment of wisdom, I decided to order a subscription, calendar and a copy of Harry Webb's book, "Call of the Cow Country." I could hardly put the book down, great calendar, and the magazine is a triple-A plus!

The last issue had numerous letters relative to the wolf issue. I was photographing in West Yellowstone a couple of summers ago and spent several hours observing a pack rendering a mature buffalo to absolutely nothing but a skull and spinal column.

Keep on keeping on—be strong and of good courage!

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

I have enjoyed your publications and listening to you talk. You are a great inspiration, tough and true.

HELEN DOUGHTY, MSLS, LIBRARIAN
JOHN MUIR MEDICAL CENTER
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

\$20 FOR AN OLD CAP

Just got off the phone with Fred. He was at the San Andreas airport, wearing his *RANGE* cap. A guy came up to him and said, "I'll give you \$20 for that cap." Fred asked him why and the man said, "I love that magazine." He has every issue since #1. Fred said, "Any friend of CJ's is a friend of mine," and gave him the cap.

SUZANNE FINNEY, ADA, MICHIGAN
Good Fred needs more stuff! See page 85.—Ed.