

## Opinion from America's Outback

### HALLELUJAH

Great news! Trump just pardoned the Hammonds [July 10, 2018].

VESS QUINLAN, FLORENCE, COLORADO

Though I note that both good men had served a majority of their draconian sentences, it's a good day for the Hammonds. The work you and your staff, colleagues and readers did to highlight this abuse of power and justice was doubtless the driver in achieving the Hammonds' release. We should all be thankful that Mr. Trump holds the White House.

Keep up your vital work. America needs you, and you are greatly valued and appreciated.

JOHN H. HOAK, SHERIDAN, WYOMING

### WELCOME HOME!

Dear Dwight and Steve and Susie: What wonderful news. Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, you're free at last. And thanks also to President Trump. And to all your myriad friends and supporters—individuals, organizations, and associations from sea to shining sea—who fought long and hard for your

### A REAL CONSERVATIVE?

June 20, 2018: Talking to Lars Larson today [broadcasting as a "conservative" out of Portland, Ore.] was a waste of breath. His mind was closed on the Hammond debacle tighter than the bark on a tree.

We have all heard the rumors that Dwight and Steve may be close to receiving a presidential pardon, and because Lars has insisted over and over again that the Hammonds do not deserve one, I merely wanted to tell Lars' audience that there must have been a reason that the Hammond family—aka "June, Ward and Beaver Cleaver"—suddenly decided to go against the entire Department of Interior and jeopardize their ranch, their savings, and their freedom. In a way, I blame myself for the start

pardon and freedom. My love to all.

R.J. SMITH, VIA EMAIL

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Bless you for your passion. Sometimes we feel so alone and *RANGE* gives us hope, friendships and that feeling of belonging. Without ranchers, farmers and truck drivers and semis, this country would be chaos in three days. God is good!

EARLENE ANTONELLI, NUCLA, COLORADO

Thank you for such a truthful and revealing publication to help us keep abreast of what is really going on in our world.

ORDEAN & KAREN EBEL

FESSENDEN, NORTH DAKOTA

I live in southeast Colorado by choice. There are two mountains west of me. Both over 12,000 feet. We continue to see more government intrusion in our way of life. Thanks for caring.

MOREY MACCORMACK

COLORADO CITY, COLORADO

### KICK OR KISS WHAT?

The elitist thinkers in our capital need a swift kick in the hindquarters. It seems appropriate since most of them are referred to as a horse's anatomy anyway. Our bureaucratic lawmakers see the West as their very own, very large playground to do with as the whim suits them. They just don't get it. Maybe we need to steer them with our own Cowboy Think Tank. We'll call it HOWL (Help Overcome Washington Logic). Only real westerners need to apply. I would like to nominate Lee Pitts and Hank Vogler as joint CEOs. These two could lead with cowboy logic so clear even a politician could understand it.

RON SCHIRM, BURNS, OREGON

Bunch of old farts playing cowboy who wanna

of this juggernaut back in the '80s. Because water in the Great Basin doesn't escape via rivers to the ocean, the Hammond family legally claimed and were blessed with water that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had abandoned.

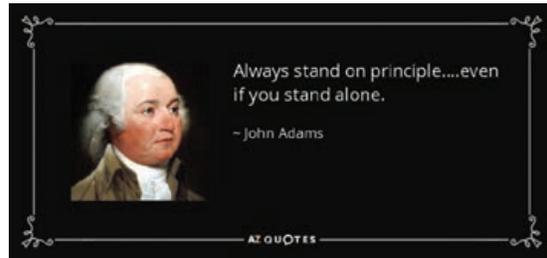
As *RANGE* readers know, beating the government can be a death knell for private citizens and will start the full force of the government against you. This would make me the evil neighbor kid, Eddie Haskell. I witnessed the escalation of the government harassment of these fine people. I testified in the trial where most of the charges were dropped and Dwight and Steve thought—as the meter was running on several lawyers—if they pled to lesser charges that would be the end of it.

kill everything that's not a cow and kiss Trump's ass. No thanks!

ANONYMOUS, BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

I thoroughly enjoyed Bill Jones' "Snakes, Cowboys, Religion & Other Mysteries" in Summer 2018! Since I live in an adjacent part of the country, I can attest to the existence of similar practitioners in this area as well. Keep on kickin' the libs.

JIM PASS, GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA



### YUK!

A friend of my husband's ordered *RANGE* for him and it goes against all our principles and beliefs. Take us off your list. I don't want to see it in our P.O. box again.

BARBARA LAVENDER, HAMILTON, MONTANA

Great photos and stories. Trump needs to be locked up.

ROBERT PAYNE, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

Your beautiful magazine is the strongest voice we have to spread the truth about our threatened lifestyle in the West, and you do it with such grit and humor! I hope you keep up your good work telling our story for years to come. This doesn't mean I'm done writing for you.

KATHY MCCRAINE, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

*Kathy is a regular contributor to RANGE and au-*

*(Continued on next page)*

The government was trying to get them to give away pristine lands on Steens Mountain. The list of governmental overreach infractions is endless. Even though the Hammonds have never violated a Bureau of Land Management regulation, they are still being denied their permits that are entwined with private land and getting out of jail will only get them halfway back to being whole. Meanwhile, vindictive feds are still trying to extort their property on the mountain!

Lars did not want to hear about what caused the Hammond family to be shoved into this mess. I hoped the full story and that truth could be aired. I was wrong!

HANK VOGLER, ELY, NEVADA

thor of "Oreja Outfit: Arizona's Historic O RO Ranch 1993-2013," which won a Silver Medal in the 2018 Independent Publisher Book Awards for Best Regional Non-Fiction. Check [www.kathymcraigne.com](http://www.kathymcraigne.com).

I just received the Summer 2018 issue and absolutely loved Kathy McCraigne's black-and-white photography in "Oreja Outfit," the great photos for "A Dog's World," with Carolyn Dufurrena's words (say hi to Linda!), and the marvelous images in Outback Roundup 2018! All of the articles were outstanding, but what touched and broke my heart was the Precious For Sale ad! Wow, she is absolutely gorgeous!

TOM STACK, CITRUS SPRINGS, FLORIDA

### TIMES HAVE CHANGED

It's 92 here on July 4 and feels like 103. Happy Independence Day. By the way, to show how times have changed—and for the worse—on July 4, 1957, Sen. John F. Kennedy read the entire Declaration of Independence on the *New York Times'* classical music radio station. The *Times* used to print the Declaration on the Fourth. And on July 4, 1962, President Kennedy gave an Independence Day address at Independence Hall in Philadelphia before a crowd of nearly 100,000. Do you think there is a Democrat or lib alive today who has even read the Declaration?

R.J. SMITH, VIA EMAIL

You are one hell of a great American.

MIKE GUENTERT, JOSEPH, OREGON

I love the West but was totally unaware of what is happening to our ranchers. Really appreciate your magazine.

FRED CHRISTENSEN, ANITA, IOWA

### CALL OF THE COW COUNTRY

Harry Webb books are delightful and interesting. My favorite subjects are Nevada history and anything "cowboy." The books contained both. In fact, some of the old ranches mentioned show up on my Nevada Map Atlas. How wonderful it must have been to meet Harry and to receive a few of his personal belongings. I liked the lady's leg horse bit the best, reminded me of the lady's leg lamp in the classic movie "A Christmas Story." Keep on publishing!

GLENN SHAW, BLUE DIAMOND, NEVADA  
Check page 24 for info on Harry's "Call of the Cow Country" and "The M Bar."—Ed.

The article, "Playing Chicken With Property Rights" [Summer 2018] by Marjorie Haun could have easily been entitled, "Embattled Lady Vet Struggles to Keep Her Farm and Liveli-

hood." Haun chose political correctness over truth as she made Susan Raymond the villain instead of Hostetler and her bias is so evident. This was never about "Right to Farm." It was about an inappropriate industrial activity dropped into a neighborhood of small family farms and ranches. Early in the permitting process, both an area planning commission and the county planning commission voted unanimously. The report to the commissioner was to reject the application.

DONALD L. OCHS, HOTCHKISS, COLORADO



Your *RANGE* article about them there "chickens" reminded me of an experience I had in the mid-'70s when I had a small

coastal hay farm in South Texas. I had a wonderful couple, Jack and Rosa Sawyer, who would occasionally buy some hay. Jack told me that often they would pick up some fried chicken to eat while they drove home. He said that they would be enjoying their chicken while they complained about the low prices of market beef. I'm sure they caused the Lord to smile.

PAUL & ROSE GEASLAND  
RESERVE, NEW MEXICO

### WHERE'S MY RIDE?

I'm 81 years old. Sometimes I forget where I tied up my horse. Oh...I don't have a horse!

DAVE SHAW, NAMPA, IDAHO

Thank you so much for what you do in the name of agriculture. I hope the donation is of some help; wish I could do more. Having spent my life working in and around the farming and ranching industry, it is important to have a voice for our farmers and ranchers. I love *RANGE* and read each issue cover to cover.

KURT DENKER, HARLINGEN, TEXAS

Gentle readers, I think I have it all sorted out. Those letters sent to *RANGE* from the "far left" are letters of frustration. Anything to do with the Bundys, climate change or the price of tea in Trump Towers seems to put them at their worst. It's this old cowboy's opinion that most are educated beyond their capacity to have any common sense whatsoever. I have tried to communicate with this species and there is no common ground, no compromise and no quarter. We are viewed as "mouth-breathing hay-seeds" from the back forty and our opinion is, well, just null and void!

"MAD" JACK HANKS  
WELLINGTON, COLORADO

The country needs you. You are loved in Libby,

Mont. You are always welcome at my cabin.

FRED STURGESS, LIBBY, MONTANA

*RANGE* is my bible. Best magazine in the West, country and world!

LEROY V. MORRISON, GLOBE, ARIZONA

### PORTLAND OR BURNS?

In early July there was a protest and occupation in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Portland, Ore. This protest caused closure of the office to employees and those needing the service for days. It seems to me that the feds owe the ranching community and others an explanation as to why the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge "convicts" are just that and still doing time, while no sentencing has occurred as a result of the ICE protest.

TOM TABOR, KALAMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Readers:

I am a falconer in search of areas to train/fly an immature female goshawk. Open areas with black-tailed jackrabbits and ditches with ducks would be ideal. We will be ready late August or early September. I am a retired firefighter in



Denver and this city has become difficult, to say the least. Need some open spaces with game!

DAVE WATSON, DENVER, COLORADO  
<moorehead7015@comcast.net>  
720-934-3264

I love the land and the people of it. I build barnwood furniture, blacksmith on a 140-year-old forge, Model "T" Fords, children, old dogs and watermelon wine, and the star-breather above, who put the breath of life into me. I stand for self-governance and the 1789 Constitution, and with the Bundys and the Hammonds and many others spread out across the land.

ERNE WAYNE TER TELGTE  
EUREKA, MONTANA

A great magazine! I'd subscribe for longer, but coming up on 92, I don't even buy green ba-

nanas. Yours is a great voice for the rancher against the bureaucracy in D.C.

LEON WEBBER, MIDLAND, TEXAS

Proud to sell the best magazine in America!

DALE LAMBERT, GRAEAGLE STORE  
GRAEAGLE, CALIFORNIA

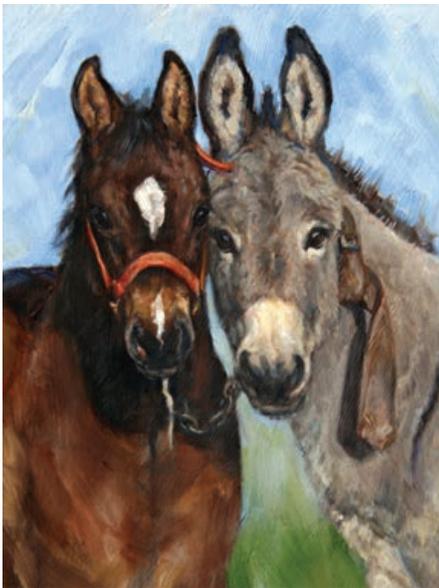
### THUMB'S UP

"Bundy's Faith" in the Spring 2018 issue was a wonderful testament to that family. God bless them! Todd Macfarlane's "In Search of Atticus Finch" on Marcus Mumford was a thumb's up. I hope the Finicums are successful in court and Lavoy's heartfelt devotion to justice and fairness is clearly vindicated. I wish peace and blessings to them in the loss they have experienced. I, like many others, can't put *RANGE* down once retrieved from the mailbox. Thanks to you and your staff.

JAN WILSON, LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON

In "Bundy's Faith" in Spring 2018 ["Up Front"] you have captured the essence of not only the travails, tribulations and trials of the Bundy family, but also the vast scope of the unconstitutional overreach of the federal bureaucracies, in particular the Bureau of Land Management.

WELDON C. TRAVIS, ROUGH & READY, CALIF.  
P.S.: If I had a million dollars, I'd buy Precious.



Burro with foal. © Vel Miller

Best magazine I've ever read!

STEWART RICHARDSON, HONEY GROVE, TEXAS

No thanks. You are too political for me!

JOE COOK, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

You do a good job of helping people understand what goes on in the West. Thank you for that. I

am an old sheepherder and cattle rancher, and even though I never owned a ranch, I made other people a lot of money.

BILL HAYS, DENVER CITY, TEXAS

Your magazine is phenomenal and the photos supreme. Keep it going!

KAREN OSOWSKI, LUTSEN, MINNESOTA

### BEAUTIFUL SAMMY

I was so excited to see "Ranch Raised" about Sammy Thurman Brackenbury by Lisa Michelle in the Summer 2018 issue. I saw Sammy years ago when I was a teenager at a rodeo in Yerington, Nev. I thought she was the most beautiful and best rider and roper cowgirl that I had ever seen. I have never forgotten her. It was about that time my dad gave me a little heifer calf and I named her "Sammy."

AUDREY GLOCK, YERINGTON, NEVADA

### YOU ROCK!

We enjoyed the view from Rusty, the horse, in "He Comes, the Old Man" by John R. Erickson in Summer 2018. It's our 93rd birthday this year, celebrating 74 years of marriage, unable after 25 years to make the trip to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. Luckily nothing hurts but "slower" has become our middle name! Used to do some hurdles in Junior High and once in awhile see a shrub or low fence and the spirit moves but the mind cautions. Love the variety of *RANGE*.

GAIL & DONNA ANDRESS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
*We miss you at CPG.—Ed.*

What incredible articles about the Wayne Hage family: "The Ultimate Land Clearance" by Ramona Hage and "Has the Fat Lady Sung?" by C.J. Hadley. Wayne Sr. was a good friend.

STEPHEN MARKS SR., WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

### THAT'S A LOT OF WORK!

The only problem with *RANGE* is that once you pick an issue you can't put it down till finishing! I have a Collector Set and am only up to 2003 but enjoying every word, particularly The Nature Conservancy series, which is thorough and factual. I love the comments from people who don't like *RANGE*, especially the lady in Australia who thought saving whales was more important than people. I would like to frame some of the photos they are so good. The child walking down the farm road on the cover of Summer 1995 by Linda Dufurrena reminded me of my daughter. I felt bad that the woman who wrote in accusing you of child sexual exploitation shows just how "lost" some people are. Last but not least was the way "Yo Soy Tomas" (Spring 2003) by Penny Porter touched me. Words wouldn't do justice to the piece so I'll

leave it there.... Waiting to get current!

MIKE KEMPE, SANDPOINT, IDAHO

### GETTIN' MODERN

I am a fifth-generation Lyon County, Nev., resident. My family began ranching in the Mason Valley in 1880. My great-great-grandfather built his ranching operation with wild horses. My great-grandfather carried the mail from Wabuska to Yerington on a mustang and my grandfather had a livery stable in Yerington populated with some mustangs. Over time we lost the need for the horse, replaced with tractors, ATVs, trucks and helicopters. Now the wild horse is looked on as a nuisance.

Fast forward to today. We now raise corn and soybeans in Arkansas but still live in Lyon County thanks to computers and artificial intelligence. We have laser-leveled fields, computer-operated irrigation and wells, GPS and computer-assisted harvesters, drones to watch over the crops, and genetically engineered seed that is Roundup resistant so we no longer have to cultivate. We even have biodegradable irrigation pipe that can be plowed under instead of moved. All of this has eliminated a lot of the manpower that used to be needed to farm.

I'm just wondering: In 20 years will artificial intelligence decide that we humans are a nuisance and treat us like we treat the wild horse? I think I'm glad that I won't be around to find out.

RICHARD SANDERS, DAYTON, NEVADA

### LITTLE COWBOY

I thought this picture might be worthy of your magazine. Uncle AJ Duncan is teaching six-year-old Trace Lawrence how to brand calves. The branding took place on the Duncan Ranch in Lovelock, Nev. Trace is the youngest son of Tyler and Dani Jeanne (Duncan) Lawrence of Prescott, Ariz., and a fifth-generation Duncan



cowboy. Trace also gets to rope the small calves and drag them to the branding fire along with his brothers, nine-year-old Trevor and 13-year-old Tavis.

JOAN DUNCAN, LOVELOCK, NEVADA

### FORREST FAN

Some years ago, our local friendly well driller re-

placed an aging set of bowls in one of our irrigation wells. The new bowls increased the water flow from 1,000 gallons a minute to 1,100, putting more strain on the old electric motor and causing the thermal protector to shut the pump down on warm days. I called our friendly well driller and told him we would have to raise the bowls and sadly settle for 1,000 gallons a minute since we could not afford to replace the motor. He brought me a gallon of Lucas Heavy Duty Oil Stabilizer and dumped it in the pump gearbox. The reduced friction kept the motor from shutting down on even the hottest days.

I am happy to see Forrest Lucas advertising his "Protect The Harvest" in *RANGE*. I am a fan of Lucas Oil products and his politics suit me as well.

VESS QUINLAN, DENVER, COLORADO

### **RIDE IT OUT!**

I contacted my Post Office and was told that nondelivery sometimes happens! Thank you so much for making noise and getting my copy to me. *RANGE* is such an inspiration in these so very difficult times. Can we ride it out? You bet! We are as tough as nails. Take good care and keep stompin' 'em!

VALE GATZKE, CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

President Trump's full review of the U.S. government agency and courts' injustice in the arrest and imprisonment of Dwight and Steve



*Thanks to President Trump, Steve, Dwight and Susie Hammond were together again in Burns, Ore., on July 11.*

Hammond was greatly appreciated by the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have watched similar "bullying tactics" for several decades. The president's full pardon was anticipated on the basis of the principles for which he was elected. Please, thank our president and assure him that we are building a strong support to assure a mandatory second term to finish the agenda.

BILL & LAVON DENNISON, CHICO, CALIF.

Thank you and your staff for refusing to let the Hammonds' story die. I am often saddened by some of the things our government does but thank God this wrong has finally gotten a small degree of justice. Hopefully some of their money spent fighting for their rights will also be restored.

J. SLICK SAITERFELD, CULLMAN, ALABAMA

I've been "high-grading" your magazine for awhile—I'm an honest subscriber now.

ROBERT NORDHAUSEN, DAVIS, CALIFORNIA  
*Thanks! We need your \$20.—Ed.*

### **JUST NOT ENOUGH**

Our farm in Yuma County, Colo., is right on the Nebraska line. Before Coors went national, Wray, Colo., was the last place you could get Coors in cases. Archie's, the local bar on U.S. 34, did a land office business loading up semis with bootleg Coors destined for the East. We tried to drink it all up before it left the state, but we were woefully understaffed.

FRED GRAU, STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA