



Opinion from America's Outback

SWEET WINDY HORSES

The article on "Smells" [by Sam Parsons, Winter 2015] reminded me of my late friend who was like a brother, growing up on an adjoining farm in Ohio. His dad told of the two of them riding on the hay wagon behind the team when one horse "broke wind" as we used to say. Little Max looked up and said, "Gee Daddy, don't that smell good!" His dad knew right then he was raising a farmer.

JAN TREECE, SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Thank you for publishing my article, "Smells" [Winter 2015]. But...just for clarification, I live in central Virginia, not Appalachia. That region is in the coal fields of southwest Virginia and the entire state of West Virginia. Sort of like giving a Montana cowboy a North Dakota address!

SAM PARSONS, FOREST, VIRGINIA

So sorry. My photos that illustrated your story were taken in Appalachia, I'm partial to those hills (and banjos), and I was born in a Brit coal town!—Ed.

GOOD SMOKE

I am pleased to see that *RANGE* won seven first place awards in the better magazine contest [Winter 2015]. I'll make it number eight.

On the inside cover of the magazine is an ad for the Nevada Beef Council. What a great picture of the gray horse, border collie and some black cows. That cowboy was well mounted as that horse was pickin' 'em up and layin' 'em down. A little further in the issue is the article and picture of the La Junta sale barn by Chesna Smith. I bought cattle there 40 years ago. They may have spruced it up a notch as I can't remember what it looked like back then. Dave Skinner's article, "Identify Your Enemies," left chills up my spine. And the article by Michael Coffman, "Green Billionaire\$," made me want to lead a fight to get all of those people eradicated! Dr. Coffman is to be congratulated on his research on the EPA. That organization has to be

stopped, but how?

I read the issue cover to cover; once on the afternoon I received it, then again in the morning. Great information and pictures of working cowboys. Takes me back a few years. Keep up the good smoke!

WILLIAM GROSS

HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA

OUCH!

I find your magazine *distasteful!!!*

MICHAEL MCCULLOCH

MIDLAND, TEXAS

I suppose all those medical organizations, etc., are all wrong when they say to reduce your red meat because it is healthier, or Pat Robertson of CBN the 700 Club when he stresses eat more fruits, vegetables, beans and nuts and get off that fast food. Yes, I suppose they're all wrong and you're all right. Real hypocrites. Stick it where the sun don't shine.

BRAVELY ANONYMOUS, PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Love your magazine. Keep it up!

MARVIN BRANCH, TRACY CITY, TENNESSEE

WHAT A TREAT

Thank you for the wonderful Red Meat Survivor article about Victor Garber whom I knew when I lived in Big Horn, Wyo., in the late '40s and '50s. He and his brother Orr were a great ranching family. Actually I knew their mother best as she was our teacher in high school and was so knowledgeable about the history of the area. She told us her mother had served dinner to the James boys when they passed through Big Horn. I also remember her taking us on field trips to show us wagon ruts from the Bozeman Trail. It was an awesome experience and one that's irreplaceable today. Just thought I'd share my remembrances of the Garber family.

SHIRLEY HARRINGTON, DILLON, MONTANA

SHORT-TERM FAN

Would welcome one-year sub. Would subscribe longer, but I don't even buy green bananas.

C.A. BERTHOT, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA

The Winter 2015 issue has a very in-depth article by Dr. Michael Coffman about the EPA ["Green Billionaire\$"]—where it started, how it has evolved and who is behind and benefiting from it—a MUST READ. My personal goal is to read everything I can get my hands on and try to ferret out the truth—pretty hard to do, but *RANGE* gives one good perspective.

DIANE DEWESE, VIA EMAIL

Find it at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

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INNOCENCE

Thank you for using my story, "Horses & Cows," in Winter 2015. Myths we hear at wild horse meetings are amusing, but so many people believe them—like wild horses mate for life, wild horses have family groups so when they are gathered it breaks up these groups causing much sorrow, and they wean colts at six months, how the colts and mothers grieve. Note: My experience is if a mare is pregnant and the colt is off three days, she wants no more to do with it.

I heard one the other day that beats them all. "If the males are castrated, they need to implant artificial testicles in them so they won't be ostracized by other horses."

JACK & IRENE WALTHER, LAMOILLE, NEV.

I and my two older brothers were raised on a ranch in Park Valley, Utah. All have continued in agriculture with livestock interests and range interests. I was on the faculty of New Mexico State, Iowa State and Brigham Young University as an agricultural economist.

Keep up the good work in protecting ranchers and agriculture from the intrusions of too much government!

SYDNEY JAMES, OREM, UTAH

You at *RANGE* are the very best!

DAVID CAPEHART, CONNEAUT LAKE, PENN.

Love you folks.

JOHN DRYER, TONTO BASIN, ARIZONA

Will we ever get our country back to what we grew up in?

STEVE & TRUDY ALLISON

ENTERPRISE, OREGON

RANGE TRASH

We did not give permission to send this magazine. Frankly, it went in the recycling bin as soon as it came.

SAM PEERY, LOGAN, UTAH

Your donor was probably hopeful.—Ed.

(Continued)

Enjoy *RANGE*—so good to get good facts instead of the B.S. the big press puts out.

JAMES DYER, NAMPA, IDAHO

Love *RANGE* magazine. You tell it like it is. People need the truth.

SHIRLEY PEDEN, FALLON, NEVADA

MEAN DOGS

Our families have ranched for over a hundred years, making our living from just cattle. My grandpa did not like dogs, my dad did not like dogs, and my husband does not like dogs around cattle. Most of the pictures in the late 1800s and early 1900s with cattle and cowboys in them had no dogs in the picture. That tells us something. When you had to make a real living from cattle, they came first when food was hard to come by in the 1800s. Why do people think it is okay for dogs to abuse a cow? She gives us leather, food, jobs, purpose, exercise, fresh air, health—WOW! Yes she is not smart, but humans should try to understand her more.

Do you think the cowboys in the 1800s could chance a dog around their colts? Did doctors put people back together in the 1800s like they do today? I have seen horses with young colts move quickly and trigger the dogs to go in and bite them, cowboy on top. It's so much fun the dogs never stop biting. Many real cowboys years ago tried never to set up wrecks like these. They had enough as it was, and they couldn't afford it.

I am writing this to you because I see too much for dogs and not enough for the cow in your *RANGE* magazine.

BRAVELY ANONYMOUS, BOISE, IDAHO

All of us in the West will try to keep you going. *RANGE* is great and informative!

CHARLENE PERRY, DECKER, MONTANA

CHEATING SCOFFLAW?

Your reporting on environmental, political, and land-use issues is so biased that I will no longer support your magazine. The Fall 2014 issue with its articles on land use and ownership, and particularly the one on Cliven Bundy ["Patterns of Harassment"], showed egregious distortion of issues and facts. And no, Bundy, you are not the "last rancher from here to the Pacific Ocean." There are many of us ranching in the West, being good environmental stewards and law-abiding citizens. I cannot figure out why *RANGE* supports a bloviating idiot and cheating scofflaw. What a horrifying image he projects of ranching in the West to those who followed his story.

ANN GUERIN, LANGLOIS, OREGON
Perhaps you didn't read Vin Suprynowicz' entire special report?—Ed.

Bert and I were so impressed with the thoroughness of Vin Suprynowicz' special report, "Patterns of Harassment," that we'd like to order 200 or maybe even 500 copies of the Fall 2014 issue to distribute to cattlemen at the Utah convention next month. Please tell Vin how much we appreciate his great writing style too, besides his professionalism and thoroughness. His articles were fantastic.

KATHY & BERT SMITH, OGDEN, UTAH

A superb series, Vin. I see on the horizon another book for my collection. And an extra thank you for tipping me off to *RANGE* magazine. What a breath of fresh air to this right-coaster from the South.

JOHN TAYLOR, VIA EMAIL

I wish there were more like you!

JANIE HUNTSBERGER, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

A friend loaned a copy of *RANGE* to me. I grew up in a city but now live in a semirural area. Although I do not share the living experiences described and discussed in the magazine, I do share the values. It is time for me to exert my independence and have my own subscription.

SUSAN JO FINE, MOJAVE, CALIFORNIA

I like your magazine. I am on your side. Keep up the good work. May God bless you.

EARL HORSELY, ARGILLITE, KENTUCKY

OUTHOUSE FOR RANGE?

I used to subscribe to *Cowboy Magazine*. When they went out of business, they suggested *RANGE* magazine for which I am very grateful. I was rereading some of the old issues and ran across this poem. Just for your enjoyment, I thought you might get a chuckle from it.

We shorenuff luv yer magazine

We use it here at camp

It reperlzints the cowboy life

We reed it by the lamp

We save it to reed a cuple times

Befor it meetz is fate

Cuz oncet it makes the outhouse

Fer reeden, it's too late

The pages contane good reeden

It fits the cowboy kind

And way out in the country

Paper's hard to find

I'd make one suggestchun tho

If you wood permit

Them pages is too glossy

Cud you soften 'em up a bit?

(Uhnominus, Springtown, Texas)

Keep up the good work. *RANGE* is the best magazine on the market!

LARRY BAKER, SUNRISE, FLORIDA

I MISS YOU

I wanted to let you know that last week the California Beef Council was placed in the difficult position of cutting 2015 promotional program budgets by 12 percent from the budget numbers of 2014. The devastating drought that has hit the West has reduced cow numbers to the point where our projected revenues for this year have fallen to 2009 levels. As a result, none of the promotional programs escaped cuts. I am sorry to report that the proposal from *RANGE* received no funding in 2015's budget. We want to wish you the best in your business efforts going forward.

BILL DALE, CBC, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
We understand what California's been going through and want to thank you for many years of CBC beef ads. But I sure will miss seeing a beautiful slab of beef in RANGE because those ads make subscribers (and me) salivate.—Ed.



White-tailed deer fawn. © C.J. Hadley

May you continually be blessed.

ELLEN HANSEN, BERYL, UTAH

As always you and your contributors produced another outstanding issue, Winter 2014/2015. Hank Vogler's article sums up the problems of environmentalism. In the Fall 2011 issue of *RANGE*, you published my definition of an eco-terrorist. Nothing has changed for the better. The radicals won't come out to the ranch or go to the forest to see what works and what won't. It's all about power and control of the producers.

STEVE JENNINGS, DILLON, MONTANA

Wow, I just now noticed that *RANGE* was on Facebook. I have been getting this magazine for years. It is one of the best magazines on the market. I suggest that people subscribe to it if they want to be informed on what is going on in the West. It is terrific.

KENNETH COLBER, AMERICAN FALLS, IDAHO
You can thank Facebook editors Carolyn Dufur-rena and Ann Henderson. They have more than

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10,000 likes, they are talking to people in 45 countries, and a single photo reached 4,786 people, all with no help from me.—Ed.

SACRIFICE & HARDSHIP

We appreciate the research done to present the real truth about what is going on in the government and how it so often negatively affects the folks who work close to the land. The ranchers and farmers are, in our humble opinion, as vital to our nation as the military which defends our Constitution and freedoms and we want to express a widespread thanks to all your farmer and rancher readers. Their faithful commitment to their families, land, creatures and communities, often at great sacrifice and hardship, do not go unnoticed to us.

CRAIG & KATHERINE KENNINGTON, VIA EMAIL

LOVELY GOLD

Congratulations, CJ, for winning a gold medal at the Will Rogers Medallion Awards in Fort Worth, Texas. "Brushstrokes & Balladeers" is a beautiful book and really deserves the recognition! Anyone who has not yet purchased it needs to do themselves a favor and buy it. I treasure mine.

JANE LAMBERT, STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA
See page 81 for "B&B" and page 22 for an excerpt from Jane's medal-winning book about Charlie Russell.—Ed.

Get close enough and everyone looks a little rough, but there are benefits to a common housefly—keeps ranch hands from dozing in



Common house fly. © Alan Hart

the shade too long, elicits parental vocabulary lessons for the benefit of farm children (they are usually exposed to their first cusswords watching their mom try to keep a fly off the gravy bowl). And there are detriments—left to their own devices, houseflies will flavor the gravy with what the dog, cow, horse, sheep or pig left unattended.

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA

Just a note to express my deepest appreciation to you—not only for the magazines, splendid calendars and books—but from watching you since the late 1980s from *Silver & Blue*, through *Nevada Magazine* through all the struggles, blood, sweat and tears, scratching, clawing, and total absolute determination and unswerving persistence to protect, defend, promote and advocate for an industry, culture and a people, some still stuck in the 1800s—while the 21st century calls for their crucifixion. As Queen Esther said, "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16), and of her, Mordecai said, "Who knoweth whether thou art come (to the West) for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:15) I have watched as you have given the gift of self when there was almost nothing left to give—"No greater love hath a man than this—that he lay down his life for his friends." As for you, I am so very grateful.

STEPHANIE LICHT, ELKO, NEVADA

PERFECT PITTS

We have enjoyed reading Lee Pitts' columns in *RANGE* since 2005. We find his articles to be informative, humorous and, of particular note, well written. It is clear to us that he has "walked the walk" and we look forward to many more of his great stories.

DON & DARLENE SMITH, SMITH VALLEY, NEV.

Words cannot express the gratitude for the job you do.

SANDY ROBIDEAU, EUREKA, MONTANA

Do you have available a list of all California elected public officials who have subscriptions to *RANGE*? The articles in your publication should be required reading for them. Every school should be required to have copies available in every faculty lounge for the use of the lizards who frequent those spaces.

WILLIAM SMITH, APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
It would be sublime if gift subs could be sponsored for elected officials and faculty lounges. Note: All members of Congress receive a sub thanks to western ranchers, but their state offices and local politicians should have a sub, too. Call 1-800-RANGE-4-U for a special "decision-maker price."—Ed.

Great balance in *RANGE*. It blesses me every time it comes. I am thankful.

JIM PERRY, YAKIMA, WASHINGTON



"I'll protect you." Clay Walker holds Thomas at the Cowpunchers Reunion Rodeo in Williams, Ariz. © Bev Pettit

SAVORING HARRY

A really big *Thank You* for publishing Harry Webb's stories in a very polished publication—high-end art reproductions, glossy paper and all. I am savoring every chapter. He certainly could tell a complicated story very well, making it easy to understand. Congratulations, CJ, for completing your promise to Harry in such a beautiful way.

C.A. MAY, VIA EMAIL

A treat, indeed. Look to the right for Harry's duet or go to www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

The only thing bad about this mag is it takes forever until the next issue!

KEVIN TINKER, VIA FACEBOOK