



Opinion from America's Outback

OH MY!

Word of your awesomeness is spreading.

TONI SOPOCKO
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA

Keep making good smoke. I appreciate all you do for our industry.

ROB R. BEARD, EL PASO, TEXAS

My best beloved, Vess, and I grew up in a country with no guns, no privacy, no property rights, and no free enterprise of any type. I was born two years after the barbarians had walked in on the farm and grabbed it at gunpoint from my father "to make everybody equal to everybody else." Shortly thereafter, some became "more equal than others," as George Orwell put it. We went through hell (literally) to escape from there and build a new life. But even if our new life is a success, our hearts are broken witnessing, for the last 35 years, the slippery slope on which our adopted and beloved America is moving. The noble work *RANGE* is doing is both brave and unthankful, I am sure. We wish you and everybody related to the publication all the best. Our thorough understanding is based on what we call "having working knowledge of communism."

ELENA DRAZEV, PH.D., CRAWFORD, COLO.

SAY IT AIN'T SO

My ancestors were pioneers and ranchers in South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Washington. Everything has been, by illegal steamrolling, guv-mint, destroyed. You are publishing true history—now. Public schools are closing the door on the dustbin of the greatest country in the history of the human race.

BILL DAVIS, JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA

You are correct! The West is under "siege" by

the feds and Easterners who move West and then urbanize the land and advance their "agenda" of green technology. We really do not need or want them in Wyoming!

VICTOR BOZIC
GILLETTE, WYOMING



VIA INTERNET

It was disappointing to read Dave Skinner's "The Front Line" in *RANGE* [Fall 2014] because his biased article contains inaccuracies and innuendoes based largely on paranoia and negativity. Obviously the writer sought out only

opponents of the Heritage Act and made little attempt to interview anyone else. *RANGE* readers deserve better.

GENE SENTZ, CHOTEAU, MONTANA

Did you complain when Montana Quarterly senior editor Jeff Welsch interviewed only Coalition members for his beautiful Fall 2011 magazine spread? Never mind that Mr. Welsch's primary job at the time was as Greater Yellowstone Coalition's PR guy. At least award-winning writer Dave Skinner does not hide behind a cloak of trumped-up objectivity.—Ed.

My husband Jim is 70 years old and has ranched his whole life. He came to California from New Mexico in 1969, where his fam-

GOV'T EXHAUST

Each day, 1.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂—a "greenhouse" gas) is expelled by six billion people (the world's human population about four years ago). This I calculated from data gleaned from a number of college-level physiology texts. Those texts did not, however, give data pertaining to the exhaust inherent from the current occupants of our national government or even from those who ruminate about nature that is really beyond human control—the world's climate, for example.

RANGE is a valuable read.

FRED FREEMON, TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA
(Retired industrial chemist and instructor in physiology)

You and your staff do one hell-of-a-great job. You should be in government.

DEAN TWITCHELL, CHALLIS, IDAHO

Hope you can keep up with your fantastic work. I know it's not easy! From a fourth-generation cattle rancher in California, fifth and sixth generations will continue as long as possible on ranch in family since 1863.

SANDRA SOUTHARD
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA

TALK ABOUT THE FRONT

Always read your magazine from front to back, but especially enjoyed Dave Skinner's article ["The Front Line," Fall 2014] on the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana. We live about 60 miles east of the front near Interstate 15 in the Golden Triangle, a vast wheat and barley growing area. We visit the front often and believe it is perfect the way it is, and we sure don't need the federal government trying to fix what is not broken by expanding the wilderness. Unlike the heavy gumbo we have at home that holds the little rain we get and turns out good crops, the soil on the front is rocky and it takes a lot of rain to grow enough grass to feed one cow. The ranchers on the front have to be good stewards of the land to make a living and do not need the Heritage Act.

DAVID KLETTE, DUTTON, MONTANA



COURTESY MARY JOHNSON

ily had ranched on the desert since the early 1900s. Now it feels like he's back there because it's the first time in more than a hundred years that this pond has ever been dry.

MARY JOHNSON, LE GRAND, CALIFORNIA

COWBOY JUSTICE

RANGE articles are typically well written and unbiased; by the mainline media it's B.S. Why then do I no longer subscribe? The answer, for me, is depression! I read the articles and see the loss of a way of life. You all are doing a great job—too good. The reality of all that's happening in this country is overwhelming

and I prefer to not read about it. It provokes an urge for cowboy justice. Somebody get a rope!

TERRY STANCLIFT, RANCHESTER, WYOMING

We need people like you telling our story.

JIM LEWIS, YATES CENTER, KANSAS

GET OUTTA THE RAIN

I wish more people had an idea of what the EPA, BLM and Washington bureaucrats are doing to us. Most of them don't know to get in outta the rain, yet they are dictating policy to the rest of us. I don't carry a firearm and I don't agree with civil unrest, but Harry Reid calls me and my kind "domestic terrorists." So I guess I won't be going to the National Finals Rodeo this year, thanks to Harry Reid, because Vegas is his district.

JIM JARNAGIN, PALMER LAKE, COLORADO

RANGE is the first magazine I have ever read from cover to cover. I am not a rancher or a farmer, just an old retired truck driver, but your writers cover the issues that are extremely important to everyone in this country. DAN SWEET, KETTLE FALLS, WASHINGTON

Keep *RANGE* coming, it's the very best.

DAVID D. CAPEHART

CONNEAUT LAKE, PENNSYLVANIA

HER MAJESTY?

G'day, CJ. I think it is in the national interest that you do not get sick and die. To this end I respectfully suggest that you do not get older. I have been doing this for a few years now and so far it seems to be working.



The next time I see our gracious queen I will recommend that she makes you a dame of the British Empire for your unwavering support of free speech.

Yours in awe,

GRAEME CAMPBELL

KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

Without a doubt, you folks have put together one of the finest magazines that I've ever put into my hands! As someone I know once said, "Well done, good and faithful servant...."

JIM PASS, GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

RANGE gives the *real* news—not a washed-down version.

ALVIN FOX, MCCOLL JUNCTION, NEBRASKA

I am a retired logging contractor. Logged in the Amazon, Louisiana and Colorado. Caught it all. Read your magazine from cover to cover every time.

BUCKY FRANKLIN, CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

ALL-TIME FAVORITE

I'm so glad you got a Wrangler award for "Brushstrokes & Balladeers" from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. I love the artwork and the poetry is awesome!

GAY MEYER, STONE LAKE, WISCONSIN

"B&B" is a finalist for the Will Rogers Gold Medallion. See page 82.—Ed.

You keep us informed of what's going on. We are also in a drought area in southeastern Colorado. Since 2007, we have had three to four years with normal moisture—eight to 15 inches. The last three springs (2012-2014)—enough rains go to summer pastures half to two-thirds stocked. Most ranches have sold half or all their livestock. We're fortunate to still have two-thirds of our cattle by lots of hay management and lots of luck.

DON & LAURA MING, 33 BAR RANCH

PRITCHETT, COLORADO

RANGE is on the frontline in the battle for rural enterprise and against the forces of liberal urbanism (and Agenda 21).

JOHN M. LUCAS, VIENNA, VIRGINIA

Team up with Tom DeWeese. Stop Agenda 21.

BARRY BORG, VALLEY CITY, N.D.

Go to www.americanpolicy.org.—Ed.

HEROES

I am a disabled World War II veteran and went into France, Omaha Beach D3, on 9th of June 1944. I had three birthdays overseas: my 21st in North Africa, my 22nd in Borage-Hedgerows in France, and my 23rd in the graveyard city of Berlin, Germany. I was 92 on June 21, 2014. I was in the Army overseas for 886 days and still carry four pieces of shrapnel embedded in me that I got in the Battle of the Bulge, Belgium, in 1945. When reading *RANGE* I sort of feel a little guilty and don't want to be a freeloader. You have such good stories. Be happy. I am.

KENNETH C. HANNA, KNOXVILLE, IOWA

Please renew the subscription for Tina Davis. I am proud of her for having the nerve to write to you in favor of horse-slaughter facilities. She and I live in a very difficult part of the country—a narrow, beautiful valley which was originally mining and farming country—

along with being the base for the old, practical Forest Service. "Real" people are in the minority now, as the place fills up with the "politically correct" who call themselves environmentalists while carefully destroying the land (and local society) with their self-serving 501(c)(3) groups invented to financially support themselves and their "causes" at the expense of the rest of us.

KAY REIBER, TWISB, WASHINGTON

Enclosed is a small check for your foundation. We hope, of course, that the foundation can continue its fine work in preserving what little freedom we have left. We think we're blessed here in Arizona because of the spirit of the West. Let's hope that continues.

RAY NEWTON, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

For info on RCF, see page 5.—Ed.

GALVANIZE OUR YOUTH

What if larger ranches around the country offered the use of their ranch lands during certain times of the year (to include winter) to organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America and what if these organizations used the land to teach the ways of life and the outdoors? Would this not help to familiarize young men (minds) on how to be good citizens and become Americanized in what the country was and is about? The National Rifle Association should also be induced to join such a venture along with others to galvanize the youth of today into understanding that America is still the beautiful.

History tells us that one must capture the youth. This has been shown by how the rewriting of America's education standards, etc., has converted several generations into questionable citizens with no belief in religion or Christian behavior. When a child is not allowed and is suspended from school for using the term "God bless you" when another student sneezes, it is time to "right the boat."

HUGO VON PLATEN LUDER

HOLUALOA, HAWAII

I love *RANGE* calendars and buy bunches every year. I began riding so that I could spend time on real ranches. I continued to ride after watching the remarkable working relationships between horses and their cowboys or cowgals. I admire many kinds of riding—it all takes skill, strength, and vast amounts of physical courage and mental concentration—but there is simply nothing more truthful and gorgeous than this working relationship. Out West, ranchers always told me, "Listen to your horse; the horse will know best." It was so true. Training here, no one has

ever said, “Listen to your horse.” Of course, with my current little reiner, I seem to require a translator. At any rate, the calendar is just full of the best photos. Buy some.

JOAN CHEVALIER, HAVERSTRAW, N.Y.

BRUTAL COLD

Cynthia Baldauf’s photo in your 2015 Real Buckaroo Calendar of three horses pulling a



hay wagon at subzero temperatures brings back so many memories of growing up in southeast Wyoming in the ’50s, ’60s and early ’70s. Winter of ’61 and ’62 was especially brutal and I have images engraved in my mind of our team of draft horses and mules looking just like that.

CATHY BOYD SELBY, VIA FACEBOOK

Keep up the fight. Yours is the best magazine on the market!

GARY D. REID, CULLMAN, ALABAMA

The libs won’t believe the pictures of summer Arctic ice growth, but they will believe Gore’s lying words.

G. BLOOMINGDALE, GOLETA, CALIFORNIA

NEVER NEVER NEVER

Bravo! I remember the first issue, and the fight to keep it going. Congratulations, dearest CJ! You didn’t let the buzzards get you down. I am so proud of you, all you represent, and all the blood, sweat and tears you have shed to make this the best publication against some stiff, obscenely funded competition. Every time I think of you I remember the frog, half ingested by the crane, with the frog’s fingers around the crane’s neck, saying, “NEVER, Never, NEVER Give UP!”

STEPHANIE LICHT, ELKO, NEVADA

The letter entitled “Child Labor” in Summer 2014 closely mirrors my own summers age 15, 16 and 17. My kids and grandkids just roll their eyes! However, walking my great-grandfather’s dairy farm in Bombay, N.Y., on the Canadian border and visiting my summer place of work outside Canton, N.Y., sent shivers of nostalgia and emotion through me. How come it takes age 80 to reconnect with these events? Love to all, Jack.

J.W. CROWLEY, BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

My husband and I really enjoy your magazine but were extremely disappointed in the outside wrap that had “Xmas in Autumn” on the cover. I am offended that you would leave “Christ” out of Christmas.

SAUNDRA HORBLIT, VIA EMAIL

The last thing I would do is disappoint a subscriber, but Xmas is not a derogatory term for Christmas or I would not have used it. According to Snopes: “[T]his usage is nearly as old as Christianity itself, and its origins lie in the fact that the first letter in the Greek word for ‘Christ’ is ‘chi,’ and the Greek letter ‘chi’ is represented by a symbol similar to the letter ‘X’ in the modern Roman alphabet. Hence ‘Xmas’ is indeed a perfectly legitimate abbreviation for the word ‘Christmas’ (just as ‘Xian’ is also sometimes used as an abbreviation of the word ‘Christian’).”—Ed.

HAGE THE HERO

Thank goodness Wayne Hage had the common sense to realize some 25 years ago that the feds would try to aggravate him enough that they could get him to do something rash and force a shootout, kill him, and get him and his family off the land. So he was packin’ a camera instead of a pistol that day. And they couldn’t do to him what they did to Donald Scott—and tried to do to Cliven Bundy. They did successfully rustle some 100 of Hage’s cattle. Hard to stop them when they were all wearing bulletproof vests and carrying semi-automatic rifles. If I remember, cattle auctioneers in the state refused to sell stolen property. The feds had to auction off Hage’s cattle and I believe they had to do so in another state. The U.S. Forest Service often claims it needs all those millions and millions of rounds of high-power hollow-point ammo in case it runs across a hippie growing pot in the woods. Right!

I vividly remember the day I learned of Hage’s takings’ suit against the United States. I was in Sacramento preparing to spend a week driving up to Seattle through the various national forests looking at all the dead and dying trees resulting from federal mismanagement. We were having breakfast early on a Sunday morning in 1991 and there it was on the front page of the *Sacramento Bee*. “Rancher sues United States. Hage v. United States.” A great American hero.

R.J. SMITH, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Love “Waiting for a Plane” by Cindy Baldauf on flights out of the Big Hole. [Fall 2014]

JAN ELKINS, VIA FACEBOOK

URBAN/RURAL

Damn fine reporting and writing by Vin

Suprynowicz. I can only hope that some people who can effect change will read and learn from “Patterns of Harassment.” We have a real conflict in this nation between urban dwellers and country folks, not just ranchers and farmers. Numbers for rural living, not rural relocating, are probably the lowest ever recorded. Most citizens do not even have grandparents who live on farms anymore. They think raising livestock is a Disney movie, involving no sweat, no pain, and all gain. (Most of our elected representatives fall into this category and all the AP press corps.) Agriculture let this misinformation happen by not engaging its critics and now we all have to act rapidly if our industry (small ranchers and farmers such as me) are going to survive. Clueless regulations will choke all of us out and it is here in the East too. Ignorant voters swayed by “save the hare from wealthy ranchers” will help enact new laws that just can’t be complied with. Thanks for your part in educating the public.

SAM PARSONS, FOREST, VIRGINIA

My all-time favorite magazine. My only problem is I read it too fast, and then have to wait three months for the next one.

ED DEUSENBERRY, VIA FACEBOOK

JUMP!

Please tell [former New York City mayor] Mr. Bloomberg that a gun is like a parachute. If you need one and don’t have it, chances are you will never need it again.

HANK VOGLER, ELY, NEVADA