



Opinion from America's Outback

BLOOD PRESSURE SPIKE

I thank God himself for your wonderful magazine. It's the only bastion of common sense left it seems. I've gotten to the point that I cannot watch the news, listen to the news on the radio, nor read any magazines or newspapers anymore. It's just not worth the spike in my blood pressure! Thank you for keeping me sane!

LINDA DAVENPORT, COUNCIL, IDAHO

All the ranchers who don't believe in climate change will eventually have to believe, and anyone who thinks Trump is a real anything is just plain stoopid. It's for sure that this country is *not* going to last forever.

NO NAME BY REQUEST, IN NEVADA

GOD'S OWN COW COUNTRY

Born, raised and lived in southern Connecticut for 55 years. My grandfather had a small dairy farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont we visited when I was a child. That's where love of country and livestock all started. Our vacations were almost always deep in New England countryside or camp-

ing at rustic mountain sites away from "civilization." Saved our earnings, spent wisely, retired from the aerospace industry and rat race, packed up the 4WD and headed west, even though New York City was the furthest west I had previously ventured.

We found the Sandhills of Nebraska, God's own cow country, and rested our feet outside city limits where it was quiet and animals both wild and domestic outnumber people 100 to 1. A new friend kindly loaned out a few *RANGE* issues. Didn't take long to know I too needed a subscription. Thank you for producing a great magazine and spreading truth and knowledge. We love the smells of country in America's Heartland, our new home, as well as having a renewed appreciation and respect for cowboys, ranching, farming and protecting our precious resources.

KEN MARTELL, NORTH CENTRAL NEBRASKA

SKINNER'S MAGIC

Your magazine, my bible, just arrived here, deep in the heart of Texas, and I read it from cover to cover. It's so refreshing and informative. I especially liked Dave Skinner's "Octopuses Garden" in Fall 2018. His investigative reporting is always spot on. I was particularly interested in the "Funds" and who and where all the money comes from. When you see the sites of "environazis" and they are asking for donations and "they" will match it threefold, you wonder where the money comes from, and now thanks to Dave Skinner, I'm beginning to get the total picture.

SHIRLEY LEESON, BULVERDE, TEXAS

HAMMOND

Thank you for sharing the inside story of the Hammonds. President Trump's pardon is a wonderful closing chapter on their nightmare

of hell at the hands of government tyrants.

Your magazine has the finest writers and photographers who are trying to keep alive the spirit of the West—a reverence for the sacred rights of life, liberty, and property.

KATHY SMITH, OGDEN, UTAH

Finally we have hope. Let us hope and pray the president's pardon of the Hammonds starts to turn things around. We must not let up on our support of congressmen who can make this happen. Praise the Lord.

JOHN W. GILLIAM, LENORE, IDAHO



There is more than one voice in the wilderness and we thank you for being one of them.

ANDY SMITH, ELKTON, OREGON

I was perusing Fall 2018 before putting it in my waiting room, as my *RANGE* always seems to grow legs and escape my office if I don't read it on arrival. The excerpt by Car-

(Continued)

From the Trenches

RANGE ruminations and developments.

By Todd Macfarlane

For the better part of the past 30 years, CJ Hadley has been so busy chopping wood at *RANGE* magazine that she has seldom slowed down long enough to sharpen the ax. And while she and *RANGE* do a great job telling the otherwise untold story of producers in the West and educating consumers about the realities and challenges producers face—a lot of serious meat and potatoes, with just enough sugar to help the medicine go

down—she has never been one to talk much about herself, her own challenges, and the ever-evolving *RANGE* magazine story.

Well, that's about to change.

During the Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity in mid-September, while Forrest Lucas, Dave Duquette, and Protect the Harvest were in town for the Wild Spayed Filly Futurity (see stories in Spring 2019), Marjorie Haun and I likewise descended on Carson City for a big powwow with CJ, to talk mostly about how some old dogs can learn new tricks and brainstorm new ideas about how to advance the work of *RANGE*.

It's still way too early to tell where it will all

lead, but one of the most important developments is *RANGEdex*—an archive/index (started by Ellen Muth at Great Basin College in Elko and digitized by University of Nevada student Andrew Galloway) of more than 100 issues from the past 25-plus years and now available at www.rangemagazine.com.

RANGE is also taking social media more seriously, under the capable direction of Haun. And since CJ is so quiet about herself and the inner workings and developments at the magazine itself, I'm going to start saying more about that. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. More to come later. (CJ didn't think I could do this in 300 words or less.)

olyn Dufurrena, “Quinn River Crossing,” brought back memories of surveying with my father as a teenager. Keep up the great work.

LANCE K. ROBERTSON, DDS
OVERTON, NEVADA

OH MY!

Congratulations and kudos, as usual; it would be more newsworthy if *RANGE* wasn't winning awards.

JAMESON PARKER, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
RANGE won six first places, seven seconds and three thirds in the Nevada Press Association Better Newspapers and Magazines Contest, judged by Wyoming Press Association. See all winners at www.rangemagazine.com. Click on “RANGE WINS.”—Ed.

It is a small world. My bonehead English teacher in Oregon was Mary Swallow. She was from Ruth, Nev. On my first writing assignment, she put a note in the margin saying that they had special help for foreign students and would I let her know what country I had come from. When I pick up my [NPA First Place Column] plaque in Las Vegas, maybe I can find Mary and send her a picture.

HANK VOGLER, ELY, NEVADA



Is the best bid for Precious over \$10,000?

LEE, BIG TIMBER, MONTANA

My beautiful 1957 Chevy Bel Air sold for much more than that. My future-old-lady fund is fatter and that all-American beauty is improving in a loving place with my eye doctor in Sparks! Photo shows Doug's first day, CJ's last.—Ed.

You're a 20-mule borax team all by yourself!

JONAS DOVYDENAS, LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

Is that a good or bad thing?—Ed.

Regarding “Ssssugarrfooooo!” in the Fall 2018 issue. As always Steve Wilmeth's writing amazes me. What a marvelous message!

JOHN BACON, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

I used to get invited to a pretty good number

of dinner parties and special events but for some reason I'm no longer invited. You're so knowledgeable I thought perhaps you could help me understand why. Oh...wait a minute...is it because I have a Trump/Pence sign in my yard?

TERRY SULLIVAN, WASHOE VALLEY, NEVADA

A POT OF GOOD STEW

The Fall issue was extraordinary. Perhaps it was the good news of the Hammonds being pardoned and sent home. The basic wisdom of Jim Steele should change a few minds, but probably won't. Skinner, Perryman and Vogler articles were instructive and well written as usual. Hollenbeck's article about a lady we all loved was great. The Calico story was a delight, as was Jones on Baxter and Baxter on Baxter. “Up Front” was brilliant and should convince your critics that you have been right all along and are not just some cranky old lady from Carson City, but don't count on it.

VESS QUINLAN, FLORENCE, COLORADO

Read CJ's “Up Front” on the Hammonds going home in Fall 2018 and darned if I didn't get something in my eye...

CHRIS MUNSON, VIA FACEBOOK

Jim Beers' “The Reign of the Unelected” in Fall 2018 was outstanding. I tip my favorite hat to you for the job you continue to do, and to Mr. Beers for being precise and to the point. We the people must stand up and be counted, take back our country and promote the Constitution. Only we can do it.

SHARON LIVINGSTON, LONG CREEK, OREGON

DON'T QUIT NOW!

CJ, thanks for remembering my birthday. I forgot but Jody reminded me it was my 83rd. Still don't feel so damned ancient but probably because we are so active. I watch your struggles and read *RANGE* almost entirely when I get it. We are in Florida and I love being able to look out of my study onto mangroves and my boat, and I am fly fishing any evening right here. We leave shortly for the Amazon and Chile and back to Zimbabwe in March. Best from both of us.

ALLAN SAVORY, FLORIDA & ZIMBABWE

Keep working. The world needs you!—Ed.

DECIMATION

There are very few cows left on the Ruby Mountains in northeastern Nevada. The range sheep are all gone except for one band on the south end. Very few deer left. At one time there were two bands of Sorenson sheep

in Lamoille Canyon but once the range sheep were gone NDOW planted Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (which have died off twice and will again). So for 40 years the feed and brush have continued to grow with nothing to eat it (the USFS has let this happen), and now the entire mountain is ready for a big fire!

MIKE LAUGHLIN, LAMOILLE, NEVADA

The U.S. Congress just passed HR 6687 which will allow ranching to continue in the Point Reyes National Seashore indefinitely. The bill was drafted and introduced by our liberal Democratic congressman, Jared Huffman, and co-sponsored by Rob Bishop (R-Utah), who you probably know. This will help preserve the only large ag and ranching “green belt” remaining within a one-hour drive of a major American metropolitan area. Thought you should know.

MARK DOWIE

POINT REYES STATION, CALIFORNIA

Check Carolyn Dufurrena's award-winning “Dancing on the Dark Side” in Winter 2018 at www.rangemagazine.com. Note: HR 6687 has yet to pass the Senate.—Ed.

OUR HERITAGE—UP IN SMOKE

Several elements of *RANGE* come together to remind me of 10 words that paint a memorable picture. First, there are the numerous articles you publish about the mismanagement of our property by the government. We know of many government employees who have morphed from civil servants into masters of everyone and everything. Their mismanagement has changed our public resources into public liabilities. The scorched-earth results remind me of the 10-word image shown in boldface below. Second is the section titled “Amazing Facts & Quotes” in which some people like Winston Churchill, Will Rogers and Mark Twain pack the maximum meaning into the fewest words, giving us something we can visualize and remember. Third is the article “Just Write a Letter” (Fall 2018) by Dr. Barry Perryman, including a letter by Charles M. Russell, which is what I'm attempting now.

The image that came to mind is in the book “Trails Plowed Under” by Charles M. Russell published in 1927 with the introduction by Will Rogers. One story is “Dad Lane's Buffalo Yarn.” He writes: “As far as you can see she's black, with now an' then a smoulderin' buffalo chip that still holds the fire. It's a sorry sight; a few hours ago this country wore grass that'd whip a hoss on the knees an' buffalo fed by the thousands. Now she's lifeless, smoked

an' charred 'til **she looks like hell with all the folks moved out**. It's the same all day—black, without a livin' critter in sight..."

ANDY BOYD, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

The people who write in and chastise *RANGE* for its conservative viewpoint are just "typical" of the majority of the U.S.A. today. We who value America and its history and support our democracy and the election of President Trump are made to feel "less than" by these liberal folks. Meanwhile, the Trump supporters are overwhelmed with bashing the president and his administration by the liberal media every day. Finally, *RANGE* speaks the truth.

BARBARA MULLINS, ACCORD, NEW YORK

Concerning Jim Steele's article "Basic Wisdom" in Fall 2018. Before the spotted owl *lies* "logging kills spotted owls." No! Barred owls eat spotted owls. This lie shut down logging in the Pacific Northwest. We used to salvage log dead and dying, bug-infested timber before it became a fire hazard and, in turn, it became products we all use—lumber, paper and so on. Thanks to the buildup of fuel in our mismanaged forests, fires rage as never before. Thanks also to the asinine method of implementing federal budgets: the more you spend, the more you get next year. The USDA Forest Circus' biggest budget now is fire suppression. We always had dead and dying timber but we took care of business. When there was a fire we put it out. We never sat on our asses and monitored it waiting for it to burn out of control.

DEWEY DIETZ, PRINEVILLE, OREGON

A CLOSED MIND

This morning I looked toward the foothills, which I couldn't see through the smoky haze. It reminded me of a meeting with Jon Marvel at the state BLM office in Boise, Idaho. He was always intent on removing my cows and me from Juniper Mountain in the Owyhees. He said: "The only thing worse than cows is the so-called cowboy culture associated with them. I strongly support our goal: Cattle-free by '93."

"Even you'll have to agree," I replied, "grazing keeps fuel loads down, aiding in fire control!" Without hesitation, he smugly said, "I would rather have it burn than have one of your cows get a mouthful."

Here it is years later, amid smoke and fire, and he's not finished yet. Sixty-eight permits in the Owyhees are currently faced with reductions or outright elimination of grazing

brought on by Marvel's Western Watersheds Project. So-called environmentalists have disrupted resource management, resulting to a large part of fire devastation sweeping through America from sea to shining sea.

I'm not questioning the so-called conservationist movement's motives. It's a part, though, that when they go to court they often are awarded attorney fees and associated costs. This has fostered a litigator's paradise that is taxpayer financed. Those are the same taxpayers who are suffering the consequences of special-interest groups run amok, creating both economic and resource loss.

MICHAEL F. HANLEY IV

JORDAN VALLEY, OREGON

Your stories/articles about others who live and work the rural life are a kick. The photos of our West and way of life are splendid, showing the variety and beauty and how we have

so much to be thankful for. Your willingness to keep us (who live off the grid and down a long dirt road) informed of the goings on of our government has spurred us into action to do what we can to right the injustice.

KRAIG HORLACHER

WAITSBURG, WASHINGTON

As an old rangeman and retired professor from the Department of Rangeland Resources at Oregon State University, I enjoy reading *RANGE*. Sort of keeps my feet on the ground. I enjoyed Marjorie Haun's article "Redd-Blooded Civilization" in the Fall issue. It prompted me to write a note to Paul Redd, reminiscing about observing the Redd Livestock Outfit in La Sal back in the summer of 1954, when I was a graduate student at Utah State University.

DILLARD H. GATES, PH.D.

VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

LETTER FROM A HERO'S MOTHER

The following letter was written by Karen Vaughn, the mother of Aaron Vaughn, a Navy Seal who was killed on Aug. 6, 2011, along with 27 other heroes when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan:

Sometimes God uses the no-nonsense, salty sailor to get the job done. Appreciating what the man is doing doesn't mean we worship the salty sailor or even desire to be like the salty sailor. It doesn't even mean God admires the salty sailor. Maybe He just knows he's necessary for such a time as this.

I believe with all my heart that God placed that salty sailor in the White House to give this nation one more chance in November 2016. Donald Trump is what he is—and he is still the man he was before the election—and without guilt. I very much admire what that salty sailor is accomplishing.

He's not like me. That's okay with me. I don't want to be like him. I will never behave like him. I know we've *never* had a man like him lead our nation before. It's crazy and a little mind blowing at times. But I can't help admire the stamina and ability he has—acting with his heart rather than a calculated, PC, think tank-screened, carefully edited script. I still believe that is *why* he became our president and *why* he's been able to handle a landslide of adversity and *still* pass unprecedented amounts of good legislation for our country *and* do great works for *many* other nations, including Israel.

I'm *thrilled* with what he's doing for my nation, for the cause of Christ (whether intentional or unintentional, doesn't matter to me), and for the concept of rebuilding America and putting her *first*. I will not be ashamed of my position because others don't see him through the same lens.

Should it matter to me if a fireman drops an f-bomb while he's pulling me from a burning building? Would I really care about what came out of his mouth in those moments? Heck no! I'd *care* about what he was *doing*. He wasn't sent there to save my soul and I'm not looking to him for spiritual guidance. All I'm thinking in those moments is, "Thank you, *God*, for sending the fireman." *And Donald Trump is our fireman.*

I'll soon post this article again for those who still might not understand me. This man is crass. Okay. He's not careful with what he says. Okay. You feel offended that he's not a typical statesman. Okay. But he is *doing the job* of rebuilding the nation my son died for...the nation I feared was on a fast track to becoming a hopeless cause.

Forgive me if I'm smiling.

KAREN VAUGHN, VIA FACEBOOK

SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT

Your magazine should be sent to every senator and representative in Washington, D.C., including the Supreme Court. Here's an extra \$20 for Ruth Bader Ginsburg's copy.

TIM GRANT, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

All members of Congress, the president, vice president and secretaries get RANGE thanks to western ranchers. I'll send RBG your gift.—Ed.

Love *RANGE*. Government corruption is appalling. Only God can help us.

JACKIE SOUSA, EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

We will never get to the Greenies but it will keep them guessing. Thanks for the best reading published.

BRYCE PURKEY, MEEKER, COLORADO

Keep it up! Someone has to do it. How come you haven't been on FOX?

JANIE HUNTSBERGER, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

Too old and no tight dress.—Ed.

I thank you daily for your great creation. *Real Americans* and this 20-year mule packer and cook heartily applaud you!

KELLY DAVIS, GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

A CHANGED MIND

Although I did not agree with much of the political views that some writers expressed, I did learn many things. You changed my mind about the wise use of what we have. I have noticed over the years that many so-called experts seem to live on a different planet than me. I first noticed this in 1958, when I graduated from Stamford High School in Stamford, Conn. Several college-educated adults asked me where I was going to college. I said, "South Dakota State, because my parents went there." Many of them replied, "Oh, I have a cousin in Georgia" (or some other southern state). Others asked, "Aren't you afraid of the Indians?" They were serious! This is one basis for my distrust of authority.

RICHARD ALBRIGHT, ELFRIDA, ARIZONA

STRONG & DEDICATED

Such good news about the Hammonds' pardon by President Trump. Thank you! And also the good folks at Lucas Oil. And yes, I use their products. I am so impressed by the Hage family (Fall 2018). Talk about strong and dedicated. What a shining example for the rest of us. Even though they are out-lawyered and out-dollared, they are standing strong. Perseverance comes to mind.

Sure like "Easy Going Outfit" by Carolyn Dufurrena and "Federal Bait & Switch" by Todd Macfarlane. Our government at work. Just think of how many people have had to be hired for this fiasco. Shame. Then there is the one and only, good ole Baxter Black! Good writing. Hank, as usual. And "The Betrayal of Curtis Temple" by Patricia Aiken! Another example of the 1960s' radicals who have infiltrated our government.

MARVIN REED, RENO, NEVADA

HILLARY'S COMPUTER?

I totally understand the climate change advocates; they're still using the same computer that told them Hillary was going to win.

M & L RANCH, LEBANON, OREGON

You folks are outstanding kindred spirits and most appreciated by this freedom-loving old country boy. Keep it up—we need you!

MICHAEL R. CHRISTENSEN

JOHN DAY, OREGON

Thank you for what ya'll do to get the truth out there. God bless you all. Your brother,

CLINT A. LORANCE

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

HANG & RATTLE

In Fall 2018, Gwen Petersen writes that "Hang and Rattle" means to be a noisy pest. I believe it means to "hang" with the bronc you are trying to ride and "rattle" your spurs to impress the judge. Hank can settle that.

GENE HAMMERLUN, GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

Hang and rattle to me refers to riding a bronc. If you are in time you're pulling yourself back in under your swells and your chaps and spurs will rattle with every jump.—Hank Vogler

Keep marching to your own beat! Good job! It will pay off soon.

MURRAY & JUDY KEELER

ANIMAS, NEW MEXICO

I subscribe to *High Country News* to keep up with what the environmental radicals are up to. I know that the BLM people in Harney County must be extremely upset about the Hammonds being pardoned by President Trump. Thank goodness not all BLM people are bad. I used to work for the BLM and it looks like its folks in Modoc County, Calif., are trying to get along with the ranchers according to your new Fall issue. I am happy about that because I plan to relocate there.

Thank you for publishing such an excellent and necessary publication. If it were not

for *RANGE* and *Capital Press*, I would not have a clue what is really going on in the West I have lived in as long as I can remember and love so much.

FRANCES M. LONG, ROY, WASHINGTON

"Sign" of BLM management efficiency way out in Harney County, Ore., on Foster Flats Road, all BLM on map. Clear and concise directions! (Maybe a crew will be sent out from regional office to remove the evidence.) Other signage was a "reminder" that this area is under consideration for "wilderness designation." Nearest metropolitan area would be Frenchglen (population, approximately 12). I guess the feds are spending so much money enforcing regulations, there are few funds left over for signs to keep travelers safe. I just thought an old signpost with no directions was somewhat indicative of our federal "management plan" and symbolic of a way of life rapidly disappearing—the great American West.

BUD LYONS, SHERWOOD, OREGON

I picked up your magazine in Tractor Supply in Manhattan, Kansas. My...finally a good honest magazine!

ROGER LANGE, CLAY CENTER, KANSAS

MARINE TO MARINE

This is a photo of me and my seven-year-old grandson, Haze Bosarge. I call it "Helping at an Early Age." We have spent many happy hours together and taught each other much. Haze is now 23, a senior at Mississippi State University and an Active Reserve Marine. I am 83 and served as a Marine in the 1950s. Thank you for your work and dedication.

VAL E. BOSARGE, MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

I love *RANGE*.

DAN HERSHBERGER

DUE WEST, SOUTH CAROLINA





Here is Riley Hammond, daughter of Vanessa Hammond, granddaughter of Amy Zimney, and my great-granddaughter. Photo by Amy Zimney. Thank you, CJ and RANGE, for all you do.

LORNA ARCULARIUS
LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA



**LOG IT, GRAZE IT,
OR WATCH IT BURN**

Enclosed is a donation to the Range Conservation Foundation. With many of the Western states burning as I write this, it is of utmost concern for immediate implementation of proactive practices in our public lands. Millions of dollars per day are being spent on fire suppression in reaction to these devastating fires with a tiny fraction being spent on sound forest management practices. Have we

reached the point of no return?

Through public awareness by RCF and the RANGE magazine family, perhaps the powers that be will finally get the message before it is too late, as it is for many livestock producers and the timber industry. Log it, graze it, or watch it burn!

TERRI ARINGTON, REMINGTON MINE RANCH
COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA

Keep up the good work and maintain your strength for the long haul, for it surely will be.

KAREN BOURKE, NOVATO, CALIFORNIA



THANKS FROM DWIGHT

The sun is shining on the Hammond Ranch once more thanks to President Trump, Forrest Lucas and many others! We are more than happy to confirm that your thoughts, prayers, and encouraging efforts facilitated an early release. I am grateful for everyone’s prayers and was especially lifted by stories of family, daily life, and many wonderful photos that were shared.

I am thankful for our good cow/calf Western Video Auction results that we were privileged to view on the day of our homecoming on July 11. I look forward once again to witnessing the seasons unfold on the ranch.

I am happy to be home with my wife, Susie, and pleased to be reconnecting with family and friends in Harney County. We are anticipating some travel and time to appreciate the simple things that life brings.

I send heartfelt thanks to you all for keeping my thoughts positive and for sending your love and prayers, not only to me, but also to my family during this challenging time. I continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers as well.

God bless America.

DWIGHT HAMMOND, BURNS, OREGON