

Opinion from America's Outback

COWBOYS, NOT COMPUTERS

"Up Front: Never Give Up" in the Summer 2023 edition was excellent. I prefer a book to a Barnes and Noble Nook. My library is filled with books I've read, touched, cuddled on any given night, and turned all those wonderful pages. To me, there is a certain awe about holding a book in my hands. Give me print. As you can see, I am writing with pen and lined paper. The old technology suits me just fine. No computer and no email address. I spent 30-plus years in the computer industry and could see where technology was headed. I didn't like it and wish I grew up a cowboy.

JOE GRISAFI, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Please keep telling everyone what is going on. This country is in trouble and needs us all.

PAUL EBNER, LANSING, IOWA

MULE TRADERS *via Internet*

Curtis and Leroy saw an ad in the *Herald-Citizen* in Cookeville, Tenn., and bought a mule for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the mule the next day.

The next morning the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry, fellows, I have some bad news, the mule died last night."

Curtis and Leroy replied, "Well, then just give us our money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

They said, "O.K. then, just bring us the dead mule."

The farmer asked, "What in the world ya'll gonna do with a dead mule?"

Curtis said, "We gonna raffle him off."

The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead mule!"

I picked up your Spring 2023 issue at a thrift store for 25 cents and found the most worthwhile reading in a magazine *ever*. Great work and can't wait to get my subscription now. My husband and I were raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm, but my family had great quarter horses too.

JACKIE BERGE, BLUE MOUNDS, WISCONSIN

Thank you for the dedication and work you have put into preserving our cherished rural way of life and supporting the hard-working folks who keep our country strong and well fed.

TERRI ARINGTON, COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA

Right on, Vess, for your article, "Baxter, Don & Ian," in Fall 2023. I, as well as you, have shared the acquaintance and friendships of



Leroy said, "We shore can! Heck, we don't hafta tell nobody he's dead!"

A couple of weeks later, the farmer ran into Curtis and Leroy at the IGA grocery store and asked, "What'd you fellers ever do with that dead mule?"

They said, "We raffled him off like we said we wuz gonna do." Leroy said, "Shucks, we sold a thousand tickets fer two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$1,998."

The farmer said, "My Lord, didn't anyone complain?"

Curtis said, "Well, the feller who won got upset. So, we gave him his two dollars back."

Curtis and Leroy now work for the government. They're now overseeing the bailout and stimulus programs.

Limit all U.S. politicians to two terms. One in office. One in prison.



Baxter Black, Don Edwards, and Ian Tyson for many decades. You hit it right on the nose of each one's personality. The truth is that none of them grew up on a ranch or even close to the cowboy world, but their exceptional talents were born and developed as being great students of the cowboys and their culture (a parallel of the life of Charlie Russell). I, as well as you, have had the honor and pleasure to have shared the stage with both Baxter and Don.

BILL LOWMAN

SENTINEL BUTTE, NORTH DAKOTA

SAY IT AIN'T SO

This was a gift subscription. Unfortunately, there is no way I will subscribe to your magazine. I do like ranch stories, horses and I eat beef. But there is so much that is not conservative about your magazine. Too many "talking points" taken out of context, political speak meant to lure you in without whole stories. Stuff that has not been fact-checked and a whole lot of opinions people claim as fact.

TRACY ROSS, WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

A little extra—use as you see fit. Excellent magazine. We've been in the cattle business since 1889.

TOM TASH, POLARIS, MONTANA

To John Hoak: Thought I'd drop you a note to say how much I enjoyed your article about a true westerner in Frances Kelly ["Hard Country," Summer 2023] She led a different life in another time and world from ours today and your engaging story brought the real West to life.

HAL PARTENHEIMER, TROPHY CLUB, TEXAS

My lifelong friend Mac Hoskins and I were reminiscing about the recent article in "Confessions of Red Meat Survivors" about our

former employer, Shirley Rugg. We recalled a day off from haying in the mid-1960s to help dip a couple bands of sheep at her Parker's Mill place. At the end of the day, we were soaked from head to foot with an unknown chemical concoction that would likely result in someone getting life in prison in this day and age.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Shirley's crop manager, the late Jim West, who I worked for seven summers. Jim and his wife, Carleen, for sure had a hand in "raising" me and many young hay hands over the years. Their example and lessons on hard work, morals and ethics surely had a lasting impression and reinforced those of my own saintly parents. Too bad youngsters today miss out on many of those growing-up opportunities.

BOB HARRIS, PAYETTE, IDAHO

16-WHEELERS

In "Truckers for Trump," Letters, Fall 2023, Mark Dowie used the term "16-wheelers," apparently referring to tractor-trailer combinations in a truck stop. In the 46 years I spent in the trucking industry, I never saw a 16-wheel rig; 18-wheelers, yes. So much for the credibility of this contributor.

DON SMITH, SMITH, NEVADA

I am sorry but you got punked by Mark Dowie and his letter "Truckers for Trump?" Now throughout the 2024 election cycle, the Progressive/Socialist/Left-wing/Democrats (repetitious) can say, "Even the uber-conservative *RANGE* admits Trump's base are Fascist, Neo-Nazis." I just finished a 7,500-plus-mile trip from Pensacola, Fla., to Seattle, Wash., through 17 states with a 40-foot, fifth-wheel camper. I did all my diesel fill-ups, breakfasts and lunches at truck stops: Love's, Travel America, Pilot, etc., and did not see one trucker with a MAGA hat or a Swastika tattoo.

MIKE JONES, MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA
Mark Dowie, an award-winning writer who used to teach at U.C. Berkeley, sees the world the way I used to from a lib bubble common in Marin County, Calif., and New York City. He calls me and all Trump voters racist, homophobic, Islamophobic, misogynistic and all the nasty terms used to label people with a differing viewpoint. Denial and/or delusion is sad but we have a right to say/believe anything we want. We had many weeks of email chats but he has now blocked me and I miss the discourse.—Ed.

I was hoping to get this photo in one of your issues. We have long subscribed to *RANGE*



and just love it and would like to share this cute picture with other readers!

JOHN & MELISSA ROLLYSON, ROY, MONTANA

How did the Bidens get here? In 2022 President Joe Biden signed an immigration act which included idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, terrorists, soldiers of fortune, welfare recipients, and any other body that he hopes will vote democrat and continue to destroy our country. I am a Vietnam combat veteran, 74 years old, and am sick of watching our country destroyed.

DAVE MOLONY, SCAPPOOSE, OREGON

WHO'LL QUIT FIRST?

At my advanced age, 84, it's too much stress for me to learn high-tech communication so I appreciate *RANGE*'s beautiful hard copy and it doesn't bother me a bit not to have all the extra perks that often come with digital magazines and newspaper subscriptions. Plus, I'm protected (I think) from unjust things happening to those deeply involved with the technology you pointed out in your message to us. Years ago, freelance writing for horse magazines was fun. Now, without computer skills, it's over. Not my love for horse training. My beautiful 16.2 hand, 20-year-old half-thoroughbred, half-quarter horse gelding keeps that lifetime love alive. Who knows which one of us will have to quit first?

ELAINE PERSONS, KOOSKIA, IDAHO

If you folks go digital, I'll quit you. I don't do computers or smart phones. Got a flip phone and live off the grid. *RANGE* is the best magazine in this good ole West.

ROBERT HARRIS, RICHLAND, OREGON

When we got out of Afghanistan, we left Americans and billions of dollars in equipment and cash behind. The Taliban is now selling U.S. equipment and China got 73 percent of it. One of the Marines present at the airport gate saw a suspicious Afghan with a package. He could not get permission to fire and 13 American lives were lost. My writing is a little difficult; am 91 years old and still take care of myself. Great stuff in every issue.

EMIL CELL, LAKE ZURICH, ILLINOIS

Like you, I eschew the Internet save for family email. The world would be a better, safer place if it had never been invented. I definitely prefer the print version of your mag that I can hold in both hands and dog-ear special pages for future reading and use. Fight the good fight in print, even if you do decide to go digital.

KENT PEARCE, GALT, CALIFORNIA

For me, it's print all the way. But if we can find a few more believers online, it will help spread the word! And it's only \$9.95 for digital.—Ed.

KEEP YOUR HAT PULLED DOWN

I was really honored to be part of *RANGE* magazine's "Confessions of Red Meat Survivors" in your Fall 2023 issue. Then I read about Mrs. Mendenhall being 103 and I thought, heck, I am just a dang kid at 86, but that thought didn't last too long. You blew my hat in the creek when I opened that box and it was full of *RANGE* magazines! I am thinking you are the most loved lady by all the cattlemen, sheepmen and farmers you work so hard for—the most hated by those dang liberal left-wing communists.

CJ, I know you are busier than a one-legged gal in an ass-kicking contest, so I'll get out of your way. But keep your hat pulled down doing what you do for us.

BOB DEBRAGA, CORNING, CALIFORNIA



I regret waiting so long to order a copy of Bill Jones' "The Body Burning Detail" and thank

him for writing it. Brought back many memories of when I was the same age and rank with the 1st Marine Brigade in Vietnam April 1965 to March 1966. I too have been a sh—bird and well remember the smell. Even now at the memory I refrain from licking my lips.

DAVE TAYLOR, JOHN DAY, OREGON

Please extend my subscription for another two years and use the extra to help keep the jackals away from your door. We need you and *RANGE* more than ever.

LINDSEY (LYNN) SMITH, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

I read with great interest “The Wind Killers” by David Wojick in Fall 2023. Alas, again no suggestions as to how to mitigate the problem. It seems to me that if it was mandated that one blade was to be painted black (or any dark color) to break up the usual pattern might be a solution, or incorporate a geometric pattern on one or all blades to accomplish mitigation. Wish there were more issues of *RANGE*.

TOM SELVES, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

HUH?

I’m sorry that it took so long for me to discover *RANGE*. I feel that I “missed the party” for too many years. That said, I have great trepidation about your stepping down. I’ve seen

many great organizations go through a change in leadership and it often results in disaster for the operation. Being a die-hard pragmatist, I truly don’t care about your personal political affiliation; I care about your product. And your product is stellar! It should be required reading in all our public schools. I have never seen such a collection of common sense published in one single place. Please reconsider stepping down. The “Silent Majority” absolutely depends on *RANGE* and its commentary.

C.N. WAGGENER, VIA EMAIL

I appreciate your kind words but have no desire to step down. My editorial was written badly. I said, “I love being editor and am not ready to quit but there are far better, younger and brighter publishers/administrators than me.” RANGE needs a better leader for “the business side, which could make some money.”—Ed.

MY VOTE DOESN’T COUNT

My wife and I recently moved to Arizona. We traveled downtown to Phoenix to the Maricopa Recorder’s Office to vote. We had our passports, a receipt for paying property tax and a utility bill for our residence. They said that was good enough information to register. When it came time to vote they told me I wasn’t qualified. I explained to them that my wife and I registered downtown together with



VIA INTERNET

the same credentials. They said my vote would be a Provisional Ballot and they gave me the number to call Maricopa County Recorder’s Office to check the “status” of my ballot. The person I reached was not aware of what I was talking about. Basically, my vote didn’t count.

MARTIN HILL, SURPRISE, ARIZONA

SAVE OPHIR PRISON

“Overthinking: The art of creating problems that don’t even exist.” I found this quote on the bulletin board at the Veterans Clinic. Keep up the fight. I think the folks who want you to digitize are too weak to turn the pages of *RANGE*. I rest my case. Save Ophir Prison.

WILLIE SLADE, 5TH DIVISION, USS LOS ANGELES, STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

Would like to see more from my friend Dan Happel. What a great article about Agenda 21. [“The War on the West, Continued” in Fall 2023] We are there!

LEONARD WORTMAN
DEER LODGE, MONTANA

UNCLE JOE’S FOLLY

I’ve lived in California my whole life, been on a horse once and it bolted back into the barn and enough was enough. I’m concerned about this Bureau of Land Management lands’ perversion Biden is heading. I read in the *Wall Street Journal* he plans on spending \$1.6 billion to clean the atmosphere. In my letter I stated he is too early in that he has to clean up the country first of Superfund disasters and those that emit toxic waste via dumps in cities and states. Build a gigantic elevator to raise these toxics off the land and send it into deep space where no life will be harmed.

Back to the BLM land issue: these persons

A PERFECT ANGEL

I came into this world of Godly parents 93 years ago and have been involved in ranching ever since. As a result of this, I have been associated with some of the best and finest people who ever crossed this earth. If I should try to mention them, it would be impossible. There are just too many good family, friends, associates, and neighbors to do this, but if this should happen, I

would be amiss not to mention at least three or four good horses, several dogs and even some good old cows in my list of friends. I’ve loved them all. Not only have I had all this, but the good Lord blessed me with

one of his most perfect angels to be my wife, partner, and mother of three wonderful children for 63 glorious years.

I have enclosed a couple of photos and a

little pamphlet that proves and shows some of the blessings of my life. The photo of one of my favorite horses and the love that we had for each other, and the little pamphlet more or less covers my precious companion



and sweetheart’s life for many good years. The photo of the steer and me (as a young man) is from 1948. This buddy of mine went on to become Grand Champion of the



Intermountain Livestock Show of 1948 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He bought my first used car, paid for my college, and then made a little of the down payment on the first piece of land I ever owned. Life has not

only been good to me, but it still has many joys and blessings, including all my copies of *RANGE* magazine.

LORIN “PUDGE” MERKLEY, VERNAL, UTAH

on Capitol Hill are sugar junkies who search for gratification and the grandiose highs at any cost and since they see BLM lands as a yard sale item they think no one will notice. Yikes, that's so damn wrong. To conclude, those elected must be asked "Were you raised as a gift junkie and grew up with excessive expectations?" If so you're not fit for the job.

GREG CRAWFORD
FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA

Makes me sick to see what is going on in our once great country. Keep fighting with the truth. Here's a little extra for what the heck.

MICHAEL SISAK, NAPLES, FLORIDA

Ran across this while cleaning my office. It's entitled, "Know More Miss Steaks":

*I have a spelling checker
It came with my PC.
It plainly marks four my revue
Miss steaks I cannot sea.
I've run this poem threw it,
Your shore real glad too no
It's letter perfect in its weigh;
My checker tolled me sew."*

It dates back almost half a century, but it's still good!

CHARLES WILLIAMS, ROWLETT, TEXAS

I read the Summer 2023 article by Patricia Aiken about Texas Slim ["Taught by Dirt & Grit"] which caused me to reflect on how much government regulation has forced small businesses to quit as they didn't have the staff to keep up with the regulations affecting that business.

CARL JONES, VIA EMAIL

**AAA says properly
inflated tires can
save drivers 3 cents
a gallon.**

**On the other hand
properly counted
votes can save
Americans \$3.00 a
gallon**

Really love *RANGE*, read it cover to cover and pass it along to my neighbors! Thank you for excellent articles like Texas Slim and his Beef Initiative. *Epoch Times* now has a video featuring Texas Slim called "Behind the Beef Smear." Amazing convergence!



Reality: "Wait! Did you say 'taco meat'?"

There are 100 goats at a time being fed out on what used to be the Peters Ranch where I grew up in Amsterdam, Idaho, near the Nevada border. Still love my print editions of *RANGE*.

MARTHA PETERS WINN, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

We have a USDA-approved slaughterhouse here, Central Oregon Butcher Boys. I recognize the irony of using email to cast my vote for a continued hard-copy magazine, but please add my vote for the print version.

DAVE FREITAG, PRINEVILLE, OREGON

RANGE is easily the best magazine I read, not just in terms of content and writing excellence, but more so your bedrock understanding of what ails our nation.

JIM PETERSEN, THE EVERGREEN FOUNDATION
DALTON GARDENS, IDAHO

Please don't go all digital with the magazine. There's no Internet up at my hunting cabin and I need something good to read in the outhouse. Keep the extra \$100. With the way things are going, CJ might be able to buy half a tank of gas with it.

ROBERT J. OBERMEYER
KALISPELL, MONTANA

Maximus, the black Ram 1500 Limited, and I thank you! Right now it's \$5 a gallon in Carson City and close to \$7 in California.—Ed.

NO RADIATION!

RANGE is such a great magazine. We really enjoy it. We live off-grid due to my sensitivity to radiation (anything wireless). Although my old desktop computer is hardwired so there is

no radio frequency radiation, there are still EMFs. I can't be at our office outbuilding too long. We have no electronics in our tiny cabin and I love being able to read magazines in my EMF-free sanctuary. Please continue print.

LISA ENGELS, KINGMAN, ARIZONA

Reading "Whys & Wherefores" about our excess of lawyers reminded me of a bad joke. "Do you know why New Jersey has the greatest number of toxic waste dumps in the U.S. while California has the greatest number of lawyers?" New Jersey had first choice. Smile.

CHUCK DECKER, VIA EMAIL

P.S.: We live on the property where the Double O Ranch graze their cows. We are not fenced so the cows often come by to visit and leave deposits—i.e., organic material—for the garden.

This tempest in a teapot about digital or not is moot. What you do is so important, it doesn't matter how we receive it. The import is that we receive it. You have a gifted enterprise, albeit exhausting, and I don't know how many of us depend on you and your team for a God's Eye, as it were, in this maelstrom of lies, lies and more lies in the media. You cannot be commended enough! God grant you the serenity to press on.

RUSTY ETHEREDGE, VIA EMAIL

WHISKEY, RANGE & LEVIN

Keep up the good work. No to digital. After a day's work making dust or sawdust I retire to my deck to sip whiskey, enjoy the mountain view, listen to Mark Levin and read *RANGE*. Can't/won't do that with digital.

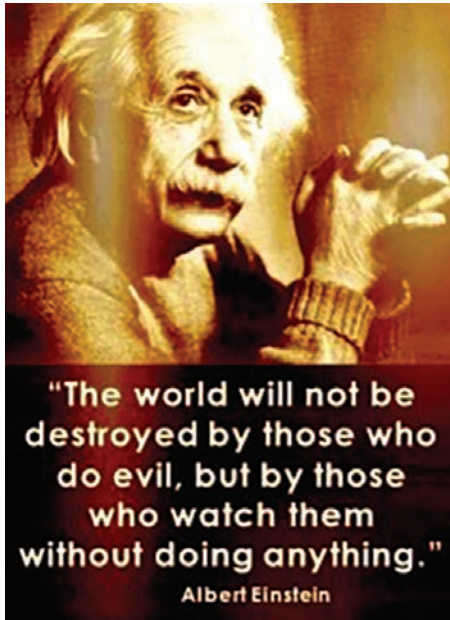
"Hang & Rattle." (I have adopted Hank Vogler's sign-off. Hope that's okay.)

MIKE McMILLION

FLORISSANT, COLORADO

It's okay!—Ed.

VIA INTERNET



My technology is rotary dial phones, carburetors, standard transmission, manual roll down/up windows for AC, and black-and-white TVs. I prefer the hard copy.

MARK AUSTIN, WILCOX, ARIZONA

Three generations of Americans have been pacified by too much screen time.

MARJORIE HAUN, LA SAL, UTAH

I am renewing my gift subscription and my subscription for two years and I am sending a check for \$300 to help out a little. I enjoy your magazine so much and know quite a few people in your articles and "Red Meat Survivors." I have survived on red meat for a good many years myself.

HONEY DEFORD, BANNER, WYOMING

RANGE is a huge encouragement to me to stand strong.

PEGGY GODFREY

MOFFAT, COLORADO

Vess Quinlan's "Baxter, Don & Ian" is the finest memorial the three of those special entertainers could have. It was 1985 when we began attending Elko's annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering. One afternoon as we approached our car to go to an event, Baxter, one of our very favorites, approached and asked if he could get a ride with us. It was a memorable time!

DONNA ANDRESS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thank you for all you are doing to protect the range out West.

ANDREW HUTCHINSON

ORANGE, VIRGINIA

Good to know there are still places and people who do right for themselves and country, although we have to be more mindful of government intent. God bless you and keep doing the good job you're doing. Here is some extra to help with the fight for our country.

ROBERT & MARY HAMILTON

TRINITY CENTER, CALIFORNIA

I am 85 years old and to get something worth reading makes my day.

WAYNE GARDINER, VERNAL, UTAH

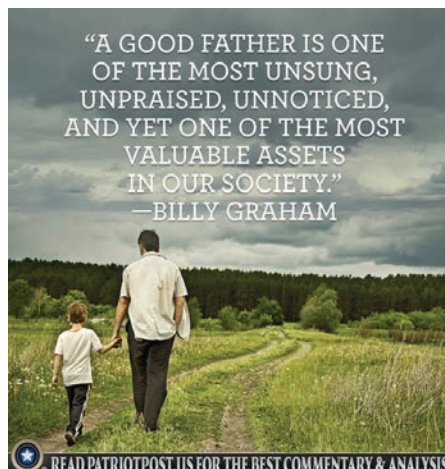
STAND STRONG

I am a big supporter, and this is the best magazine out there. Expose the left. Here's a little extra support.

FRED INMAN

CONCORDIA, MISSOURI

I used to live in Kings Beach and Truckee in California and really appreciate how *RANGE* is sticking up for the ranching families! All men and women of goodwill are



connected by lines of light—light being Love! And we will prevail! We just must do the best we can in our local areas and have to help the effort where we can. This is the year of awakening.

SUSANNA LERIS FERRY

WESTCLIFFE, COLORADO

Go digital and you will end up with a bunch of zombies who don't know which end of a cow grazes and won't even care. You have made it to the top, why go downhill now? This "Hot Iron" monumental bronze couldn't be cast because I didn't do digital.

JOHN GILLIAM, LENORE, IDAHO

RANGE is a huge encouragement to me to stand strong.

PEGGY GODFREY, MOFFAT, COLORADO

Keep up the good work. Shine the light on the truth. Give 'em hell!

THOMAS SIKES, BIG ISLAND, VIRGINIA

You are a hero and a champion and to all of us who live and work on the ranches and others who love America, freedom and independence, *RANGE* is an inspiration and treasure.

BILL HUMPHRIES

TUCUMCARI, NEW MEXICO

