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# BLACK HILLS



# PAHA SAPA

April 1980

Volume I

## REPORT

Number VI

The Newspaper of the Black Hills Alliance

### WARN findings confirmed: McGovern's office 'misled'

by Evelyn Lifsey

Indian Health Service statistics confirmed reports from Women of All Red Nations that radiation levels in some Pine Ridge water exceed federal standards and that the miscarriage rate on the Reservation is higher than the average for Indians and for the United States population as a whole. In a report released March 27, 1980

by the acting director of the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service (IHS) the miscarriage rate for the last five years averaged 6.35 times that of the U.S. average.

IHS statistics indicate that 15.8 miscarriages occurred nationwide per 1000 births during that period. On Pine Ridge, the rate per 1000 births was 100.4. In 1979, the miscarriage

rate on Pine Ridge was almost twice the rate for the Aberdeen service area, which covers the Dakotas and parts of Iowa and Nebraska.

Women of All Red Nations (WARN) is a national grassroots organization of Indian women. They organized in 1978 to protect the health, culture and lives of their families and communities. WARN members on Pine Ridge, after observing high incidences of miscarriage, birth defects and cancer deaths began investigating these health problems and conducted an informal health study. The women solicited experts and technicians to check the drinking water on and around the Pine Ridge Reservation. Preliminary reports indicated that public

wells have high levels of nitrates and radioactivity, and that there is an unusually high number of miscarriages and cancer deaths.

WARN held a press conference in Rapid City in early March and related their results to the public. They called for a comprehensive health survey and demanded safe drinking water be brought into contaminated areas. Neither of these

the IHS is now doing a series of water tests.

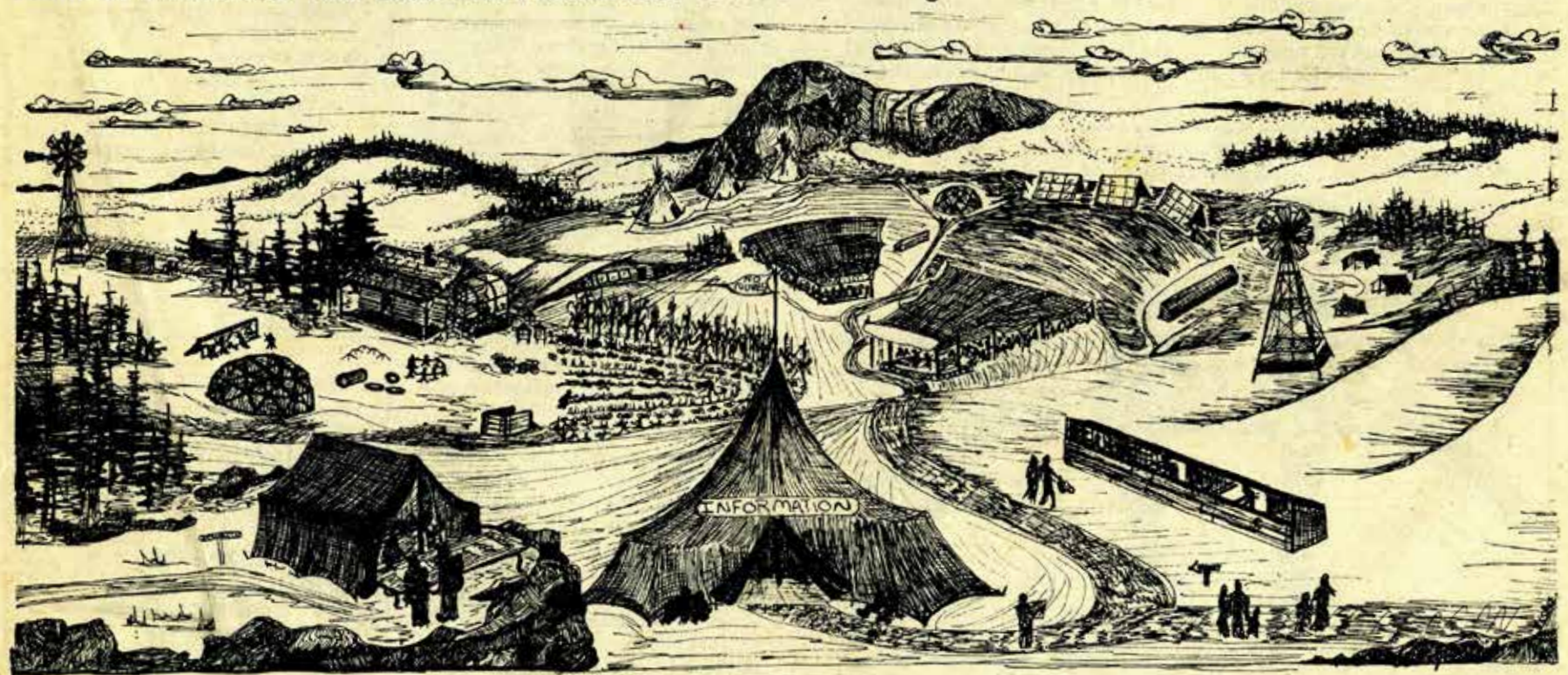
Shortly after WARN's health study was released, Dr. E. S. Rabeau, acting director of the Aberdeen Area IHS, called Senator McGovern's Rapid City office. Rabeau reported that results of water tests from Pine Ridge were in, and that "none exceed the federal standards

of 15 picocuries/liter of gross alpha," according to McGovern aide Randy Frederickson. When McGovern's office released a press statement nationwide that Pine Ridge water was safe, his Rapid City office was immediately contacted by a close associate of WARN. According to Frederickson, "We discussed the IHS report, and I realized we had been misled." Frederickson has

reporting that drinking water did not exceed safe levels.

The actual results showed that public well water at Manderson and Oglala Community Pumphouse exceeded federal safety standards for gross alpha radiation. Gross alpha is most often measureable in water when radium is present. The public  
**continued p.10**

Featured inside--The 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering



# Nuclear weapons closely linked to South Dakota uranium mining

by Lillas Jones

**Editor's note:**

This begins a three-part series on nuclear weapons. Next issue, we'll talk about nuclear secrecy, new weapons, and the effects of proliferation on the economy. The third part will focus on nuclear weapons and defense, health problems and bomb manufacture, and nuclear ethics.

It is hard to research and write about nuclear weapons without getting depressed. With power plays in the Mideast and talk of draft registration, it is difficult to ignore the possibility of war. Living in western South Dakota, we are also neighbors to a Strategic Air Command base and nuclear missile bunkers.

But most people see only a vague connection between all this uranium mining. They see orders for nuclear power plants being cancelled and wonder why the uranium rush is on in South Dakota.

The answer is the military - projects like the MX missile, nuclear-propelled submarines, and cruise missiles. The government has always used more uranium than business has, about 95 percent of the uranium mined in the U.S. through 1970. The Atomic Energy Commission (pre-

decessor to the NRC) received about 80 percent of the total uranium purchased through 1975. Accounts of national energy use don't usually include these military uses of uranium, and the exact figures are hard to get.

The available information was summed up in a 1978 article in Science magazine: "Nearly all the uranium requirements and nearly all the global changes created by nuclear energy to date are due to military uses." So, when we talk about uranium mining, we are talking mainly about fuel and weapons for the U.S. government.

The connection between civilian and military uranium is still close. The government's work is contracted out to private corporation. And although the non-government use of uranium is mostly for energy, while government use is mostly for weapons, the two applications are tightly tied together.

Before uranium gets to a nuclear power plant, it is milled and refined. The power plant, while boiling water, also produces plutonium-239, the fuel used in most atomic bombs manufactured today. Further processing is needed to make reactor waste into bombs, but the hard part is the technology between uranium ore and plutonium. Having a nuclear reactor and fuel for it brings one much closer to having nuclear weapons.

As of last year, 24 nations have nuclear power plants. Eight of those were countries who had not signed the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty - including South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, Israel and Pakistan. As orders for U.S. power plants have dropped off, more reactors are being exported. The U.S. has exported more reactors than anyone else - 57, compared to 23 from the U.S.S.R.

Two U.S. corporations, General Electric and Westinghouse, account-

ed for 50 percent of the total international sales of nuclear plants. To bring that statistic home, a Westinghouse subsidiary, Wyoming Minerals, has an exploration permit in Fall River County.

Nuclear reactors produce 400-500 pounds of plutonium a year and only 10 pounds are needed to make a bomb. The U.S. assumes that less industrial countries won't be able to use their reactors to make bombs. For example, when reactor technology was sold to Pakistan, the U.S. government believed that the country wasn't industrially ad-

vanced enough to produce nuclear bombs, and assumed that other nations wouldn't sell Pakistan the needed technology. But facts have proved otherwise, Pakistan developed its own bomb manufacturing and is expected to have nuclear weapons in the next couple years.

The possibility also lingers that nations who can't buy reactors can develop atomic weapons. Despite security measures, plutonium disappears from reactors and processing plants. In 1978, 202 pounds of bomb-grade uranium were "unaccounted for" at a Pennsylvania nuclear plant, and by 1977, 160 pounds of bomb-grade uranium had been lost at Connecticut's four plants. The U.S. government figured in 1965, that a total of four tons of bomb-grade material were unaccounted for - enough to make many nuclear weapons.

The government's main fear that someone would "hold up" a power plant has not yet become reality. What has appeared is evidence of slipshod controls over radioactive materials.

One example is the plant run by Nuclear Fuel Services (Getty Oil) in Erwin, TN. That plant makes fuel pellets for the Navy and has been closed at least six times for

inability to account for as much as 150 pounds of highly-enriched uranium at once, and has registered a total loss of 247 pounds in 12 years. The plant was closed last fall because of these problems, but was scheduled to reopen the end of January because the Navy needed the fuel.

In New Mexico, 5,000 pounds of semi-refined uranium were stolen from a fuel fabrication plant last February. Two men who worked there simply borrowed a company pickup to make the heist. And problems with power plant security were aired in December when at least 11 guards at the Trojan plant in Oregon were arrested for running a drug ring on plant grounds. The guards were bored and poorly paid - about half of those hired at the plant quit each year. So the idea of bomb material being "diverted" is not in the realm of myth.

Nations that are not ordinarily considered a threat and that are not as constrained by world opinion as superpowers, are in possession of the technology materials to create their own little holocausts.

Weapons sales and manufacture are big business, with many of the large federal contractors being the same corporations who are looking for uranium in the Black Hills area. For example, Westinghouse had \$802,128,000 in defense contracts in fiscal year 1977, making it number 12 among the federal government's military contractors. Number 332 on the list was Standard Oil of California, also known as Chevron

with \$296,545,000 in federal contracts and an exploration permit in Perkins County. Exxon, which has applied for permission to explore on Buffalo Gap National Grasslands south of Edgemont, was number 38. Gulf Oil was number 81 and has permission to drill 42 holes in Wolf Canyon, Custer County.

We cannot assume that once nuclear power plants have been shut down the Black Hills will be left alone. The realization may have been slow in coming but it is clear that nuclear weapons are integral to the future of our area. It is also clear that the U.S., by exporting nuclear power around the world, is spreading the threat of nuclear war.

The "peaceful atom" was an afterthought of the nuclear industry, and the ties between energy and weapons remain close.

Jacques Cousteau voiced the danger well when he said, "Human society is too diverse, national passions too strong, human aggressiveness too deep-seated, for the peaceful and the war-like atom to stay divorced for long. We cannot embrace one while abhorring the other: we must learn, if we want to live at all, to live without both."

The Black Hills Paha Sapa Report wants to expand. You can help us by sending original works of any kind, and news from your area. Include S.A.S.E. if item is to be returned.

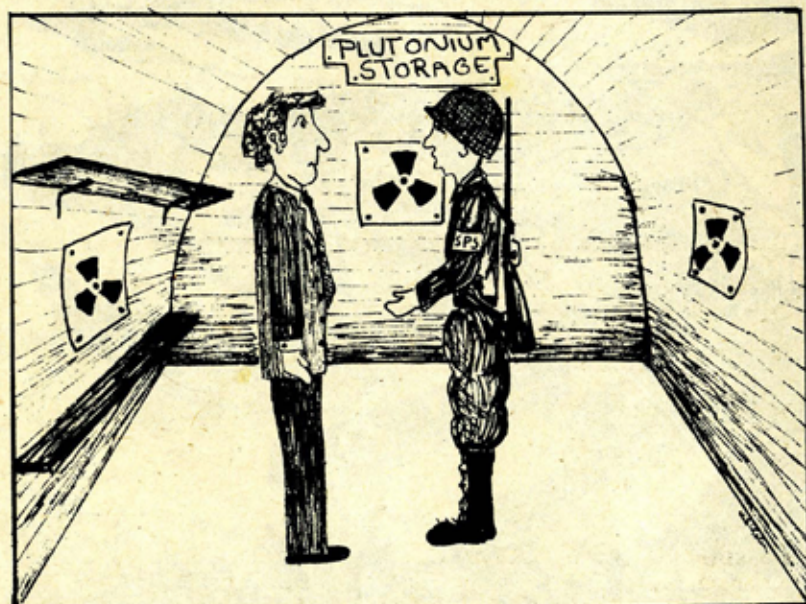
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WELL, It's got to be HERE somewhere!

# BLACK HILLS INTERNATIONAL SURVIVAL GATHERING

**Editor's Note:**  
The 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering will be held July

18-27, in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is sponsored by the Black Hills Alliance.

by Sherry Oswald

We rely on our children for the survival of this planet. Through them, we must envision living in harmony with the natural life systems of the Earth. To make our visions real, we must develop an awareness in our children of how crucial all life systems are to humankind. These educational concepts will be the focus of the Education for Survival section of the International Survival Gathering.

We will analyze the threats to our survival and to future generations. We will then ask if the schools are doing all they can to promote healthy attitudes toward the en-

vironment, or if they promote values that lead to an unhealthy one. A careful and complete examination is needed.

We offer a challenge to all people with skills and knowledge—a challenge to promote a deeper awareness of our dependence on the Earth among our young people. And we challenge educational systems to support these efforts.

Through two projects, "Education for Survival" will promote unity among all people concerned about

## Education for Survival

the education of our children. The first, **Inservice Education Project**, will provide educators an opportunity to raise questions and to discover how to teach survival concerns. There will be discussion groups on curriculum development geared to maintaining a healthy environment, centered around the following topics: teaching about ecosystems; teaching about appropriate technology and the hazards of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons; human dignity in the classroom; teaching self-concept,

community building, and conflict resolution; educational alternatives; and surviving in your own environment.

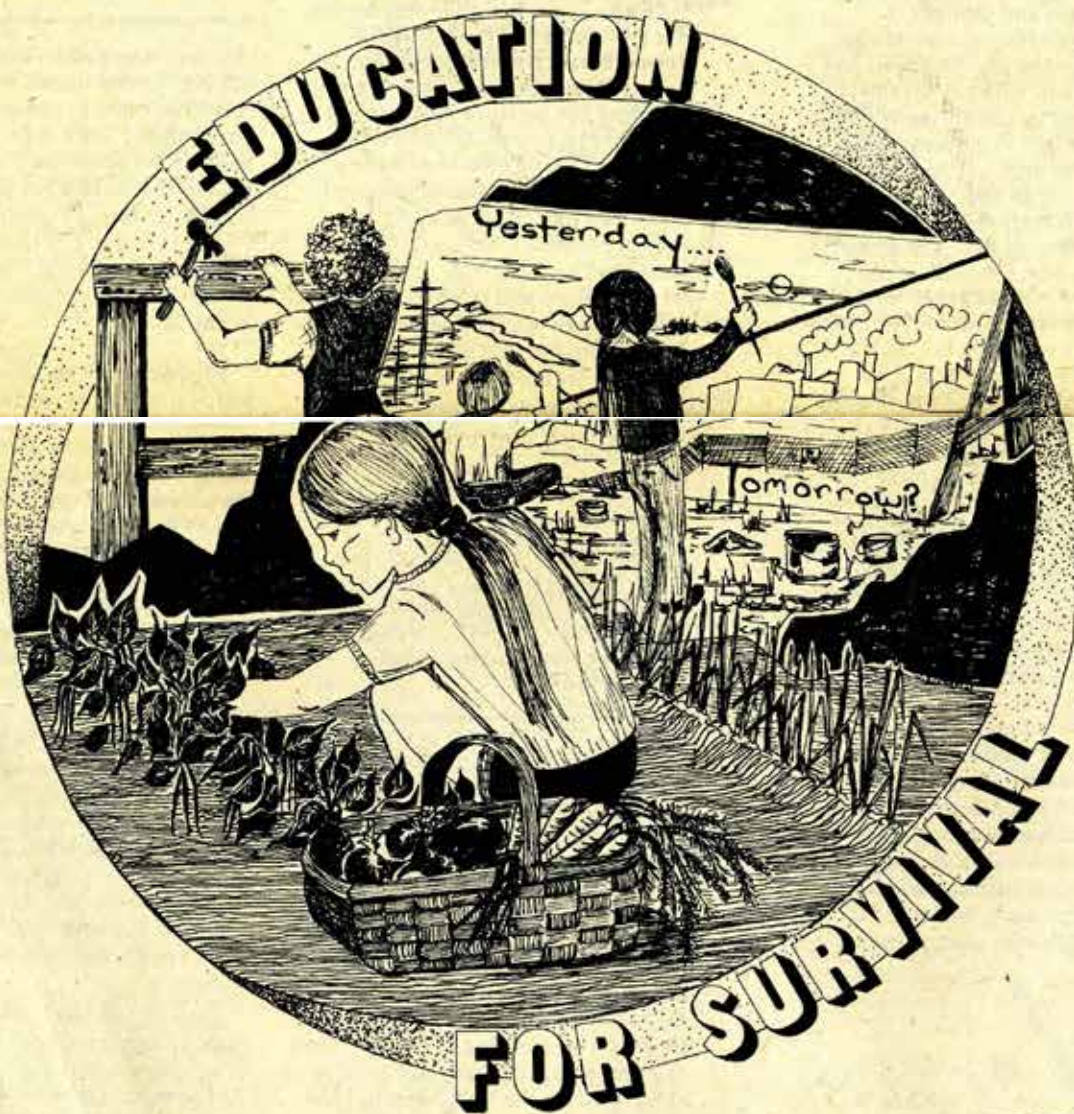
Organizations and corporations throughout the country have developed school materials and programs presenting nuclear energy as a viable alternative. For example, in southern California, Pacific Gas and Electric, the operator of a nuclear power plant, has a "Nuclear Energy Mobile" which is equipped with balloons, sweets and a clown—and information for children on how clean and cheap nuclear power is. The Inservice Education Project workshops will address the problem of corporate influence in the schools and will develop materials that traditional schools can use. Alternative means of supplying energy needs must balance the widely propagated belief that uranium and coal are our only choices.

The second part of "Education for Survival," the **Black Hills Survival School-1980**, will demonstrate some alternative education programs that have successfully developed holistic values in young people. This demonstration will be modeled after Native-controlled survival schools, other alternative

throughout the United States, which insure the development of individuals, traditions, cultures, lifestyles and histories.

The model school will cover such topics as basic survival (rural and urban); art and culture; language, with emphasis on sign; hazards of non-renewable resources and alternatives to those resources; games and relaxation; and contemporary issues. The Survival School staff will also provide day care for the children of those working on the Gathering.

As all areas of the Black Hills International Survival Gathering, "Education for Survival" seeks individuals and organizations who are concerned about the quality of life, and who want to insure a viable future. If you have skills and knowledge that will strengthen this goal, we welcome and urge you to participate. Please consider what your contribution will be.



### Education for Survival—Pre-Registration Form

Please indicate the area(s) you are interested in:

Black Hills Survival School—1980

Inservice Education Project

\_\_\_\_\_ facilitator

\_\_\_\_\_ facilitator

\_\_\_\_\_ participant

\_\_\_\_\_ participant

If you are unable to participate in "Education for Survival," would you be interested in passing information to others? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in facilitating a workshop or group discussion, please submit a brief proposal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **EDUCATION FOR SURVIVAL**  
P. O. Box 2508  
Rapid City, SD 57709

# The Johnson County Wyoming cattle war

**Editor's note:** This is the first of a three-part series on the Johnson County Cattle War.

by Homer Ayres

Those who have read the history of Wyoming know that there was real trouble for the "family" ranchers just before the turn of the century, when the old, established cattle outfits decided to get them out of the country by violence. Not a few were murdered in cold blood. Some of the big outfits were foreign corporations, some were corporations organized in the eastern United States.

**The true story was hidden for years, and even today . . . there are places where the Johnson County war is not discussed.**

The violence came to a head in 1892 in a long, dramatic shoot-out not far from the city of Buffalo, Wyo. The true story was hidden for years, and even today in Wyoming there are places where the Johnson County war is not discussed, since the sons or grandsons of those who took part, on one side or the other, are still around.

As we drove south from Buffalo, on the old highway, we crossed a ravine bearing a sign: "Invasion" a few minutes later on the main street of Kaycee as the title of a saloon: "Invasion Bar." The name "Invasion" comes from an almost unbelievable, wild-west operation known in the annals of the cattle country as the "Johnson County War," or the "Invasion." In this shooting and killing conflict, the "bad guys" were the owners of the big ranches and their hirelings, and the "good guys" were the little fellows, the "nesters," who moved in to settle along the creeks and rivers and make homes under the Homestead Act.

The nesters sought to dig out a future for themselves, and grow small herds by giving them extra care from the feed they raised on their holdings. This threatened the

great cattle empire claimed by the owners of the cattle companies, financed by British and U. S. capital that had the advantage of the free, public domain's rich grass. It was termed "free range."

On a small scale, the Invasion cast a shadow on events to come later on a national and international scale. This writer grew up in a livestock country in South Dakota, and knew many of the old cowboys, some whom came up the Chisholm trail from Texas. They had punched cows, or ranched themselves, at the time of the Invasion, some as far as 200 miles to the east of Johnson County. The knowledge gained from watching the struggles over the grass, and from hearing about past range wars, was a good basis for understanding the nature of big capital, agricultural and industrial, and the machinations of politicians and diplomats.

Company cattle got no winter feed except the prairie grass, and drifted at will with the storms, to be gathered by the spring roundups and brought back to the home ranges.

When the little settlers moved in and fenced up their places, it obviously interfered with the range stock's ability to drift and maneuver for shelter, feed and water. The corporate managers of the big spreads, and the owners, didn't like the settlers one little bit. But it

would eat Wyoming grass.

Agents for the companies finally organized what might be called a "search and destroy" mission with hired mercenaries, most of them from Texas, to actually murder some 70 of the leading small ranchers in Johnson County and the surrounding area, along with the Mayor of Buffalo, the Sheriff of Johnson County, and a few townspeople at the county seat.

The plan called for blowing up a church and the courthouse in Buffalo. The big companies raised \$100,000 from among themselves, and the killers were to get \$5 a day (which was a high wage in those days); board, their firearms and mounts; and a bonus of \$500 for each killer for each person mur-

dered by the mob collectively.

The plan was, according to the historians, that three or four hundred of the settlers would become so terrified that they would pack their belongings into their wagons, and with the horses under the lash, drive out of the country to safer locations. Perhaps they would go back to where they came from.

But the plot did not turn out like the plotters anticipated, and the little army of killers came within an ace of all getting killed themselves.

"The government-owned 'free range' would be free forever from any inroads by farmer or any other class of settlers....," commented the Denver Daily News in a review of a book about the Invasion written in 1894, two years after it took place. The cow paradise would be safe.

As an excuse for their murderous plot the leaders of the big stock-growers launched a propaganda campaign extending from coast to coast, branding the settlers they wished to eliminate, or run out, as cattle rustlers. The big ranchers were to be judge, jury and executioner.

In some places in the early days it was customary for certain big ranchers to simply ride up to a new settler's place and tell him to get out. As there was no law within miles to protect the settlers, they

authority over the area with guns. So, with his little private army the big fellow held the range.

**The plan was . . . that three or four hundred . . . settlers would become so terrified that they would . . . drive out of the country to safer locations.**

The late Marie Sandoz stated what she thought were the guiding principles of the big Wyoming ranchers in her book THE CATTLE-MEN: "There was no denying the British cattle interests and their employees were determined to have Wyoming ranges regulated and orderly. Perhaps they looked upon the American public domain as something like their own backland, to be gifted by the king to his favorites or appropriated by any aggressive chieftan with the long bows to hold it.

Anyone setting a foot on it thereafter was a trespasser or a poacher, not too different from the predatory animals with a bounty on their ears, or taken connected, their scalps. The early British colonists has put a bounty on the scalps of the Indians, introducing to the aborigine the scalp knife. In the West the bounties were the predators or cattle-wolves mainly, and the Indians, occasionally comancheros. The settler or small rancher moving onto the free-range country, whether rustler or not, was considered the most predatory of all.

"There was no legal way to get empires of grass from the public domain anywhere except Texas, through the state lands. . . While the organizers of foreign cattle companies often hid this from their investors, their American representatives and ranch managers tried to hold their government grass by armed men, by herds on grand and overawing scales, and often by great ranch houses. . . While even the grand houses were on free land that any bona-fide homesteader could file on, improvements and all for the \$14 fee, if he liked hot lead. . ."

**[T]he big Wyoming cattle ranchers . . . controlled the . . . legislatures. The politics of the cow were "dirty politics" at the lowest.**

Where the cow was concerned the big Wyoming cattle ranchers ruled the roost at the center of government in Cheyenne—and in most of the counties. They controlled the state officials and legislatures. Often top public officials were ranch owners themselves or had cattle interests. The politics of the cow were "dirty politics" at the lowest.

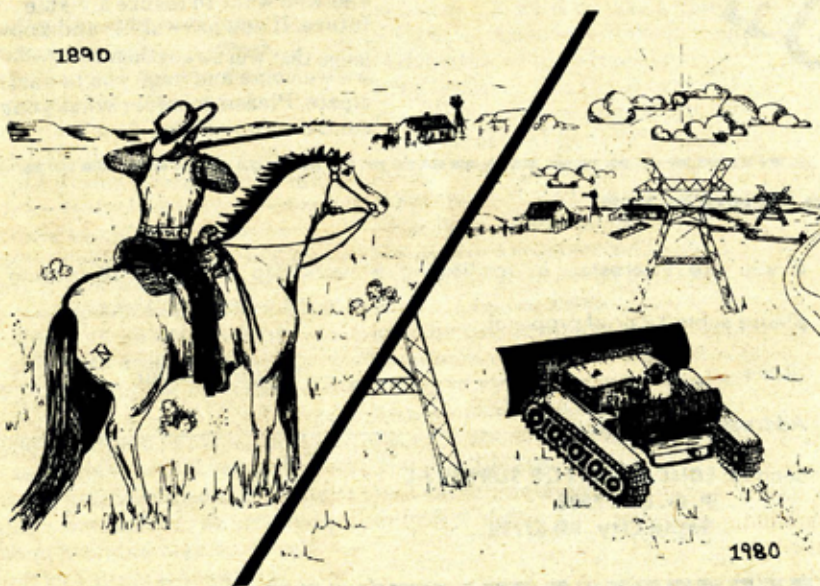
concerned: bad men versus evil men. But like the nice stockholders of many ruthless corporations, the owners of the big ranches were not dark alley cutthroats. Many of the blue-bloods were society's finest. But big ranch stockholders expected dividends, and dividends came from selling grass-fat livestock. Nesters messed up the whole scheme of producing grass-fat cattle.

Failing to upset the intent of the Homestead Act by making life miserable for the settlers through state laws, which actually outlawed the brands of those who didn't belong to the Stockgrowers Association, the big companies resorted to the lynch rope and the shot-from-behind-the-rock, and finally, wholesale murder.

That the settlers in Wyoming were called "rustlers" by company ranch interests is not surprising. The plowmen who settled on the virgin plains under the Homestead Act, trying to establish homes, were dubbed "wild jackasses" when they turned to politics against the entrenched interests that charged them too high interest, too high freight rates, too high prices for their equipment and controlled the price of everything they sold to make a living with. And even in my day any little guy attempting to bust into politics found the machine putting out the story that he, perhaps, used to steal a few horses.

To be continued next issue

1890



1980

# Corporations still can't get it right Mineral exploration South Dakota style

by Nancy Burks

Citizens of South Dakota are becoming more aware of the Division of Conservation's role in energy development. More landowners are being approached by mineral-seeking corporations for use of their land, and more people are attending Conservation Commission hearings.

The South Dakota Division of Conservation (DOC), under the Department of Agriculture, is the state agency that issues mineral exploration and surface mining permits. State law forbids exploration with heavy or drilling machinery without a permit. South Dakota doesn't have any laws or regulations on underground mining, but this session's legislature is in the process of drafting them.

It is important to understand that the surface of the land and the minerals beneath can be owned separately. A surface landowner cannot prevent exploration and mining of his/her land if someone else owns the minerals. In other words, mineral rights have priority over surface rights. The surface owner can only prevent unreasonable methods of exploration and mining, and seek compensation for any damages suffered.

Mineral exploration includes the actual prospecting, plus soil disturbance and road construction necessary to get exploration machinery to the site. The process for getting an exploration permit is not com-

A company or individual files a Notice of Intent to Explore with the county Register of Deeds, then submits an application with reclamation plans describing proposed activities and a fee to the DOC. The DOC then prints a notice, for one day in one county newspaper, that says an application has been received, vaguely describes the land under consideration, and announces the date of the meeting on the application.

The public can give input at the meeting, held before the Conservation Commission. At the meeting, the Commission decides whether or not to grant the exploration permit. If all the laws appear to have been followed, the permit is granted.

A mineral exploration permit lasts a year, and during that time as many as sixteen connecting townships can be prospected. An operator can request that certain information be confidential, which is supposed to maintain competition between operators.

If any member of the public wishes to contest the granting of an exploration permit that person may file a petition to initiate a contested case and the application should then be set for a contested case hearing.

Once a hearing has been scheduled, other persons may become involved in the proceeding by filing a petition to intervene. The testimony at the hearing may be transcribed and put on public record.

The Notices of Intent to Explore,

the application and the reclamation plan are all public record on file with the DOC in Pierre. However, the DOC will only release a general description of the land to be explored upon and will release no information on the location or geologic nature of the exploration holes.

A bond is paid to cover bare reclamation costs if drill sites are abandoned by the operator. To determine how much the bond will be, potential damage to wells and

holes and location of surface water sources. South Dakota law used to require an inspection of the permit area after the reclamation plan is submitted and before the permit is granted, but this law was repealed by the last legislative session.

If a proposed permit area contains historic or cultural sites, or is home to a rare or endangered species, a company can be denied a permit.

Current Uranium Exploration Permits: 11  
(S.D. Division of Conservation)

Special thanks to Black Hills Sierra Club

CORPORATION		COUNTY
Rexcon	EX-1	Custer, Pennington
Johns Manville	EX-2	Meade, Lawrence
American Copper & Nickel	EX-3	Lawrence
Kerr-McGee	EX-32	Butte, Lawrence, Meade
Silver King Mines	EX-5	Fall River, Custer
Silver King Mines (TVA)-(renewed 3/6/80)	EX-5	Fall River, Custer
Energy Reserves Group	EX-21	Harding
Pathfinder Mines	EX-24	Lawrence
Union Carbide	EX-25	Fall River
	EX-31	Fall River
Wyoming Mineral	EX-26	Fall River
Chevron Resources	EX-34	Perkins

Pending Uranium Exploration Permits: 1  
Anaconda Copper

Davison, Hanson, McCook, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton, Bon Homme

### URANIUM CLAIMS; BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST: 5,163

Of the 5,163, Tennessee Valley Authority has about 2,498 and Union Carbide about 1,097. Generally speaking, a claim is roughly 20 acres.

ACREAGE UNDER URANIUM LEASES (private land): 218,747

TVA holds more than half of the leased land.

### FOREST SERVICE - CURRENT PLANS OF OPERATIONS 1979-1980

1. Gulf Mineral, approved exploration plan from June 1979 to August 1980 in Wolf Canyon, Custer County. Drilling program is for 42 holes, with 10 acres of surface disturbance.
2. Silver King Mines, approved exploration plan from May 1979, to April 1980, drilling 555 claims in Custer and Fall River counties.
3. Union Carbide - Craven Canyon Horizontal Mine shaft: approved plan of operation for July 1979 to January 1980. BHA attorneys have halted this project for the time being.

### FUTURE URANIUM PLANS

1. Silver King Mines/TVA - Edgemont Uranium Mining project: plans for three underground and one open pit mine near Burdock, S.D. in Fall River county.
2. Union Carbide - five year project plan: eight underground and two open pit mines plus a heap leach processing facility. The area involved is Craven Canyon Long Mountain and Robinson Flats in Fall River county.
3. TVA - Decommissioning of Edgemont Uranium Mill: removal and disposal of 7.5 million tons of radioactive material, draft Environmental Impact Statement due May 1980. Cost is \$25 million.

water storage and crops and its unique or historic sites are supposed to be ascertained.

Soil and plant conditions, estimated cost to reclaim disturbed land, and the number of holes to be drilled should also be considered. The minimum bond is \$250 per hole, but a company can submit a blanket bond of \$20,000 to cover an unlimited number of holes.

The reclamation plan is a detailed document that should cover soil conservation problems with erosion and water resources, protection of endangered species of wildlife, and preservation of cultural resources.

Reclamation plans should, by law, show well location, spacing of drill

The landowner has the right to state preferences for reclamation of the land. These preferences, including means of access and precautions under special weather conditions, have to be considered by the DOC and the operator. Roads and trails should be constructed to minimize environmental damage, and drilling areas should be restored "as nearly as practical to original condition or to a substantially beneficial condition." (Agency Rules of South Dakota).

The laws also describe exploration standards and methods including minimum acceptable plugging methods for drill holes. Drilling wastes must be put back into the

hole with a non-slip plug, five-foot column of cement grout and topsoil. Water-bearing rock layers have to be sealed in a special way with bentonite gel to prevent water contamination.

Within 60 days of drilling an exploration hole, a geological report should be submitted, including drill logs which tell how deep the hole is and what layers of rock were penetrated. The hole is to be capped immediately unless the DOC approves a temporary delay. If an aquifer is pierced, the DOC should be given immediate notice and a written report within 30 days.

The Commission has the authority to suspend or revoke an operator's permit for reasons such as failure to reclaim or violations of law, but past abuses have often been ignored by the Conservation Commission.

A state inspector gave false testimony to enable Kerr-McGee to get a uranium exploration permit in the northern Black Hills. After the perjury was revealed the DOC cancelled and then re-wrote Kerr-McGee's permit. Last July, Union Carbide Corporation began digging their 2,000-foot mine shaft without a permit.

When BHA attorneys pointed this out to the DOC, a \$1,000 a day fine was assessed. Later, the fine was cut in half, after Attorney General Meierhenry asked the court to treat Union Carbide mercifully.

Meanwhile, more uncapped exploration holes drilled by Union

Carbide have been found and reported. Finally, the DOC has allowed Silver King Mines, contractor for Tennessee Valley Authority, to continue uranium exploration work even though, according to attorneys, their application is incomplete and inaccurate drill sites have not been properly reclaimed and there is evidence of some area water wells going dry.

The Conservation Commission is composed of nine members, appointed by the governor. One member represents urban interests, two represent the surface mining industry, one is from the soil conservation district directors and four represent agriculture interests.

The State Secretary of Water and Natural Resources also sits on the Commission and members serve a three-year term.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are Wilbert Blumhardt, chairman, from Bowdle; Harold Hartenhoff, Bushnell; Vernon Spartz, Madison; Lloyd Beckman, Brookings; Maynard Larson, Yankton; Leonard Schultz, Batesland; James Hunt, Pierre; Les Parry, Vermillion, and Robert Neufeld, Pierre. All but one of the current members live East River, and the only West River member lives more than 150 miles from the Black Hills.

If interested parties and concerned landowners choose to attend Commission meetings and hearings then the commissioners will be encouraged to act on their role as protectors of the health, safety and welfare of South Dakota residents.

## Alliance lawyers, Hills residents battle Union Carbide

by Evelyn Lifsey

Union Carbide Corporation is the 21st largest corporation in the country and, according to its Product Directory, enjoys more than \$8 billion in sales annually.

Major interests of Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) are EverReady Batteries, Glad Wrap products, Pre-stone Antifreeze—and uranium.

UCC has been exploring for uranium in the southern Black Hills for more than four years. The Corporation received its first permit in July 1979, even though one was required for years before that.

A permit for a horizontal mine shaft in Craven Canyon was first granted last fall, but has not taken effect because UCC has faced opposition from ranchers, townspeople and other concerned citizens of the southern Hills area.

A Custer resident and the BHA have also challenged the U.S. Forest Service approval of UCC's operating plan without requiring an Environmental Impact Statement.

Southern Hills residents charge that UCC has proved itself irresponsible and lacking in concern for people and the environment. (See December issue, *Black Hills Paha Sapa Report*, Vol. 1, No. 3).

UCC's federal and state reclamation plans for the shaft are considered by many to be grossly inadequate. A major problem with UCC's plans for reclamation of the area is that the corporation is attempting to call activities "exploration" that are, in fact, mining.

UCC proposes to excavate a 10-foot by 12-foot by 2000-foot horizontal mine shaft in order to extract 5,400 tons of high grade uranium ore. According to the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) filed by the Forest Service, the company will then stockpile thousands more tons of ore near the site.

At the September 6, 1979 State Conservation Commission hearing in Pierre, UCC admitted that construction of the mine shaft is the

initial stage of mining operations, but that UCC is calling the shaft "exploration" to avoid an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission licenses.

As long as UCC is considered in the exploration stage, it may file less stringent reports and secure permits more easily than it would for mining operations. Although UCC will actually be extracting thousands of tons of radioactive

to the ore pile, a distance of about 16 miles; and the 400 miles from the "exploration hole" to the processing plant in Wyoming.

The Craven Canyon area, where Union Carbide proposes to surface mine within the next five years, is rich in historical and religious heritage, as evidenced by the many carvings and drawings (petroglyphs and pictographs) visible on Canyon walls. Yet the EAR lacks complete data or analysis of these archeolo-

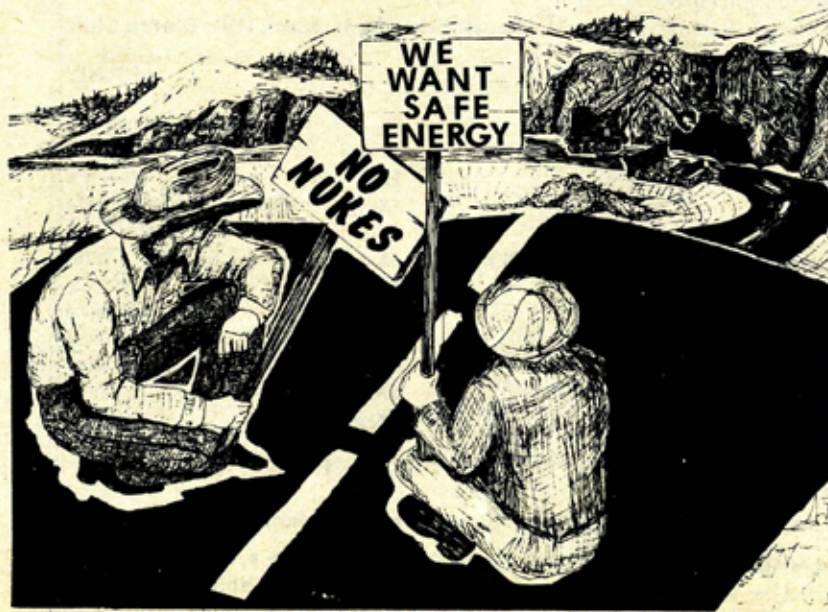
In October 1979, Union Carbide stated in a brief to the Forest Service that the Black Hills Alliance is not concerned with the environment and merely employs obstruction tactics to impede the corporation's progress. In the same brief, UCC states that the "BHA is an anti-nuclear group dedicated to disrupting nuclear energy at the exploratory stage (if it can) without regard to actual environmental impact, mitigating measures or eventual reclamation." The brief further states that "BHA is attempting to stop exploration for nuclear fuels by alleging concern for the environment and Indian culture (sic) when neither is threatened."

Uranium-related activities come under extensive federal guidelines specifically because they have the potential to threaten the environment, including all living things.

UCC lambasts the Alliance because the BHA demands an Environmental Impact Statement that includes future UCC activities of milling and impressing planned for the area, because it demands studies on the health effects to area residents, and because it is concerned for the archeological significance of the Southern Hills and for several endangered infected species which are found in the Craven Canyon area.

The battle in the courts is a necessary extension of the Alliance's commitment to get the word out on the dangers of the nuclear fuel chain and the benefits of alternative technologies. The courtroom activities must be complemented with community work and education, BHA members feel. People in areas that may be affected by uranium development should understand the legal, social and ethical issues that are present.

The briefs written by Union Carbide and by the appellants are on the file at the BHA Research and Documentation Center. The Center is open six days a week for public use.



ore from the ground, thereby exposing workers and the environment to contamination, mining regulations designed to protect life and land would not be enforced.

The EAR omits any assessment of outlying areas that will be affected by the activities, according to Alliance attorneys Andy Reid and Phyllis Girouard. These include the land that can suffer contamination through airborne radiation; the haul route from the shaft entrance

gically significant sites, which may also have religious importance. Complete analysis of economic or social impacts is also missing. These analyses are required by law.

In order to deal with local opposition, Union Carbide has hired two prominent law firms, a lobbyist at the State Capitol, and a public relations official who had relocated from Southeast Asia to deal with the company's problems in South Dakota.

## Nemo Valley residents prepare to battle mining companies

by Tock Frantz

The Black Hills became the center of heightened conflict in 1874 when Custer's expedition to the Hills discovered gold in French Creek, near Custer. Likewise, the iron issue in Nemo goes back to the 1880 Jenney Expedition, when iron ore was found throughout the Nemo district.

More recently, in 1958, Pittsburgh Pacific Company filed 14 claims covering 248,046 acres in Benchmark, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Benchmark is about four and a half miles northwest of Nemo.

Details on company mining plans are difficult to obtain. Obstacles to clarity are "confidentiality," which prohibits release of certain data which would benefit Pittsburgh Pacific's competition. (See "S. D. Mineral Exploration" this issue).

Several weeks ago, after many

years in court, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it was not necessary for Pittsburgh Pacific to file an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on its iron ore mining plans. Since then, residents of Nemo Canyon have heard rumors that equipment is being moved into Nemo Valley to begin the mining process in the spires and cliffs that are 2-1/2 billion years old.

The State of South Dakota which wants an EIS on the project, intends to appeal the court decision. Members of "Concerned Citizens of Nemo," an environmental group from that area, are interested in filing a friend-of-the-court (amicus) brief in the case.

A more detailed report will be forthcoming in the May issue concerning the exploration and mining activities in the Nemo area.



Nemo Valley mining

## Paha Sapa Printing provides progressive press

by Kathy Sullivan

While standing in front of the folding machine, rancher Marv Kammerer smiled and murmured, "Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful."

Paha Sapa Printing has opened its doors to inhouse printing. Since February 19th, the Davidson 233 press has been turning out literature and bulk mailings for the Education for Survival, Mobilization/Transportation and Appropriate Technology work areas of the upcoming Survival Gathering.

Run for Survival flyers detailing activities planned this June, general office publications and stationery for Alliance attorneys are also being printed. Our pressman can hardly keep up with the machine.

The need for a print shop to serve the BHA and other concerned groups has become increasingly clear. The wealth of information on soft technologies, new findings on health hazards and contamination, and other important local news can now be put in people's hands more easily and less expensively.

Printing International Survival Gathering literature, a priority of the print shop, will help people understand the Gathering's structure before they arrive at its door.

Seven rooms adjacent to the downtown Rapid City BHA office were secured on February 16th for Paha Sapa Printing. The entire office staff turned out to haul in the press, two folding machines, a paper cutter, photocopy machine, addressograph machine, a light table and supplies for the press.

Three people are currently working full time at Paha Sapa Printing, doing all the bookkeeping, layout, machine operation and maintenance work.

David Tilsen of Haymarket Press in Minneapolis breathed life into the prints shop with his efforts to recruit machinery and train our staff. Many other people also donated time, money and materials to the establishment of Paha Sapa Printing. Because of their commitment, western South Dakota is now home to a print shop dedicated to protecting the Black Hills.



## Miners for Safe Energy enters newspaper business

The Black Hills of South Dakota has a new publication in its midst. Miners For Safe Energy, formed last autumn, has published the first issue of its newsletter, the **Northern Hills Safe Energy Times**.

The paper has articles on the easy accessibility of solar technology, labor-environmental coalitions,

all working people by virtually destroying the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and many other activities of local interest.

For your copy of the **Northern Hills Safe Energy Times** write Miners For Safe Energy, P.O. Box 247, Lead, S.D. 57754.

## — Earth Day '80 —

### BHA, community plan weeklong events

The **Black Hills Alliance** is planning a week long agenda to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Earth Day, which is Tuesday, April 22. The activities will celebrate 10 years of environmental awareness since Earth Day, 1970.

Sherry Oswald of the Rapid City BHA says that people should not think of April 22, 1980, as a deadline or a time limitation. "We must plan for the future and create ongoing projects to continue and increase environmental awareness," Oswald says.

The Sierra Club, the Black Hills Energy Coalition, ACORN, Rapid City schools, area churches and the Audubon Society are also working on events for Earth Week. ACORN is contacting local businesses and asking them to conduct an advertising campaign concerning environmentalism with a focus on energy alternative companies. Supermarkets will be asked to promote recycling - for example, encouraging customers to recycle plastic bags, which are made from petroleum. Local bicycle shops will be asked to teach people how to tune-up their bikes, and a ride-a-bike-work day is planned during the week.

Oswald said that Rapid City officials will be approached about getting bicycle paths and bike racks throughout the city.

Western South Dakota Community Action will be considering a community garden. This would be organized through Community Action Teams.

Area churches will kick off Earth Week on Sunday, April 20, with the theme of stewardship of the earth.

Sherry Oswald, who is also the Education for Survival coordinator for the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering, would like to see the Rapid City schools be the focal point for Earth Week, coordinating their special events on April 22. She says, "The kids hold the key to our future. Education is the most vital aspect of environmental awareness we have."

The whole community needs to be involved, Oswald says, "not only as participants but as planners."

People who wish to have input in Earth Day '80 should contact their church, school or community center or **Black Hills Alliance's** Rapid City office.

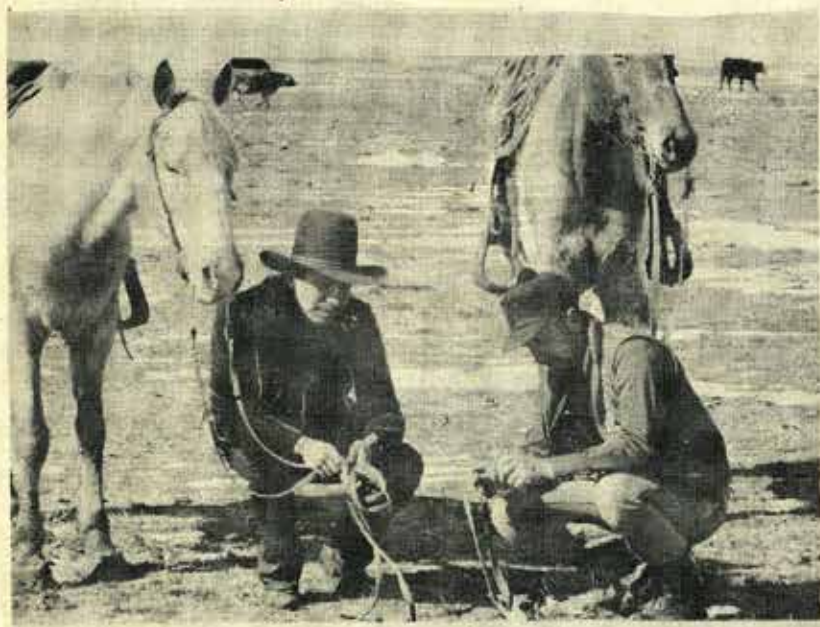


photo by Ken Stroud

Homer Thunder Hawk (left) of Porcupine, and Marvin Kammerer of Meade County are two landowners working with the Rapid City BHA. Thunder Hawk's land lies close to an area contaminated with grass-

hopper control chemicals sprayed last year on Pine Ridge Reservation. Kammerer's ranch borders Ellsworth Air Force Base, where nuclear weaponry is stockpiled.

### BHA-CAT work for low-income people

Building solar collectors and donating them to local families was the purpose of a public workshop in late February. The Rapid City Community Action Team (CAT), Rapid City BHA, and People for Solar Energy sponsored a hands-on workshop with the Public Utilities Commission that more than 300 people attended. Two solar collectors were built on Saturday, February 9. One elderly woman and her family, the other

to a ranching family.

Participants in the workshop learned how to reduce their heating costs up to 30 percent through simple and efficient technology that uses the sun.

CAT and the BHA are working together to build more collectors with interested people and to help people gain the information and skills necessary for meeting their own needs.

# No Nukes News . . . Moratoriums . . . Community Action Around the World

BHPS Report p. 8 April 1980

## British Columbia

A seven-year moratorium on uranium exploration and mining in British Columbia was announced on February 27. The moratorium is effective immediately. Premier Bill Bennett stated that British Columbia can continue to meet its economic goals without developing its uranium resources and that nuclear power does not have a role in the government's energy strategy.

Bennett said, "it is clearly the mood of the people of this province that they are not prepared to live with uranium mining. What uranium resources BC has will be left in the ground until the people decide otherwise."

Three companies were exploring in British Columbia and had estimated the existence of more than \$800 million in uranium reserves, according to the February 28 Vancouver Sun.

## Vermont

Thirty-three out of 36 towns handling town meetings in Vermont in early March voted to prohibit uranium mining in their areas, according to the March 9 *Boston Sunday Globe*. Union Carbide Corporation and a West German company are two mining firms that have prospected for uranium in Vermont, although no one is actively exploring at this time.

Aerial photographs have shown extensive uranium ore deposits in southern Vermont.

Vermonters voting to prohibit the mining say they are concerned about the health hazards associated with the mining. They also feel that dangers far outweigh any possible economic benefits from the mining, according to Melvin Cole, a Selectman from a southern Vermont town.

## Pennsylvania

Ninety-two electricians at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Harrisburg, PA halted work on February 20, 21 and 22 after two electricians were suspended for refusing to work in a "hot area." The area was not clearly designated a contaminated area. The Three Mile Island reactor, still in a crisis situation one year after a near meltdown, is now releasing radioactive Krypton gas into the atmosphere in an effort to comply with NRC demands to decontaminate the plant.

## Australia

Members of the Australian Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union are refusing to handle contracts for 4,000 tons of fabricated steel for the Ranger Uranium project. This is the first union to impose a ban in the uranium industry since the Australian Council of Trade Union (ACTU) congress in September 1979 (see article this issue). The Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union's action should strengthen the ACTU policy, according to a trade union spokesperson.

## Belgium

Belgian union members shut down

the change room at the plant and occupied the control room in support of earlier retirement for workers who must work in "hot areas" of the plant. These workers are exposed to heavier radiation doses and run higher cancer risks than other plant employees. The Belgian Trade Union movement has announced broad solidarity with this action.

## South Dakota

Eighteen South Dakota organizations have called for an immediate halt to all uranium development in the state.

Press conferences in Rapid City and Sioux Falls were held on February 18 to detail the concerns and demands of the groups.

According to a joint statement the groups released, "The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has stated that uranium mining and milling is the most dangerous aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle. Federal and State governments have known of health-related problems arising out of past uranium development in South Dakota (from a 1972 Federal Environmental Protection Agency Study) and have done little to protect South Dakotans from health hazards...In the past, corporations have disregarded state laws by illegally exploring, leaving uncapped and unreclaimed exploratory drill holes, destroying pastureland, dewatering wells, jeopardizing historical sites and endangered species, and not following established permit procedures.

"The welfare of the people of South Dakota must be protected," the statement continued. More than 19,000 South Dakota citizens have petitioned to put the issues of nuclear development before a vote of the people..."

"We strongly urge Governor Janklow, state representatives and the

The Black Hills Alliance urges people to contact Governor Janklow, the South Dakota State Conservation Commission, Representatives and local newspapers to offer support of this moratorium and demand safe energy development.

Endorsing organizations include Amalgamated Meat Cutters, local 504; Black Hills Alliance; Citizens for a Non-nuclear Future; Miners for Safe Energy National Farmers Organization; Fifth District of Farmers Union; People for Safe Energy; Save Centennial Valley Association; Sioux Falls Acorn; Sioux Falls Black Hills Alliance; South Dakota Resource Coalition; Spearfish Black Hills Alliance; Stop Uranium Mining; Students for Safe Energy and Environment; University of South Dakota at Vermillion; United Sioux Tribes; Vermillion Black Hills Alliance; Vermillion Friends Meeting; Western S.D. Community Action Teams and Women of All Red Nations.

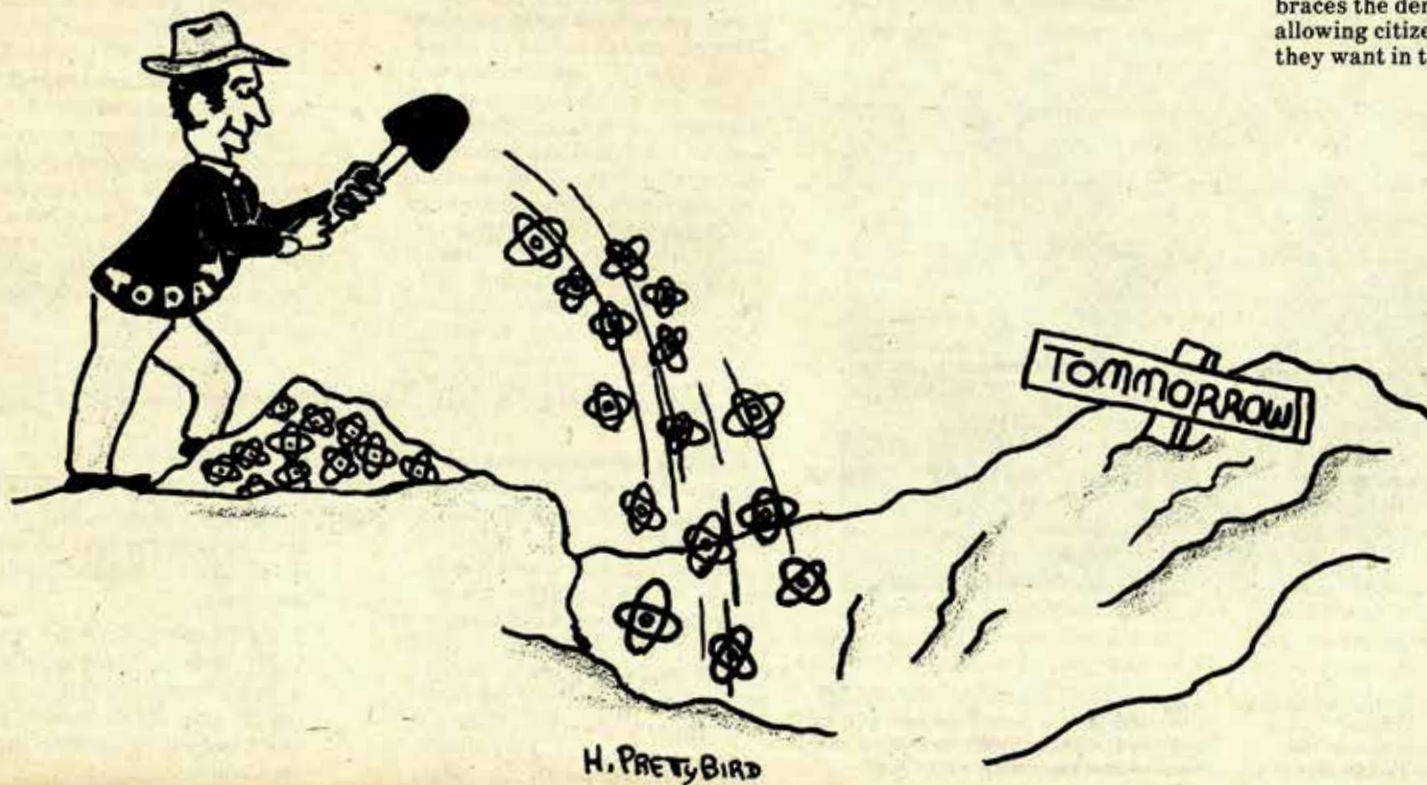
Eleven concerned and prominent individuals also endorsed the action. If you are a member of an organization that would like to endorse this statement, please contact the Black Hills Alliance at 342-5127.

## 20,000 South Dakotans

mission to declare an immediate moratorium on prospecting/exploring for uranium; to enforce that moratorium; to suspend all prospecting/exploration permits currently in effect; and to enact measures that will guarantee the health and well-being of the people, the land and future generations of South Dakota."

The people of South Dakota put their signatures on a petition which could enable citizens to vote on uranium mining, milling and waste disposal operations. Nearly 20,000 voters signed the initiative and Secretary of State Alice Kundert said the petition was "cleaner" than most. There were relatively few duplications or ineligible names.

The petition, sponsored by the Black Hills Energy Coalition, embraces the democratic process by allowing citizens to vote on what they want in their communities.



H. PRET, BIRD



## Tips to help you save energy

from

**IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR ENVIRONMENT** by the American Association of University Women.

Avoid water softeners—their phosphate contents run as high as 85 percent.

Teach your children well. Demand conservation workshops and the teaching of alternative technologies in school. Encourage them to raise pets and plant gardens. Go camping and hiking as a family. If you live in the Hills, take advantage!! Encourage bike riding and bicycle paths where needed.

Give conservation books, calendars and posters as presents. Spread the word every way you can.

### At Home . . .

Cut down on the use of frivolous appliances. Good quality hand items will do the same job as electric carving knives, can openers, toothbrushes, and frying pans.

Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Try to centralize activities at night when electrical usage is high. For example, children can do homework in the same room, so separate rooms don't have to be lit.

In the laundry room, remember phosphates cause overgrowth of green algae, and can destroy fresh water bodies. Don't use detergents with phosphates.

### Making a compost heap. . .

Compost lightens the soil and adds organic material, thereby returning some of the nutrients the plants have taken away. It holds moisture and is a fine mulch.

Put anything in the pile that was once living material: weeds, hedge clippings, sawdust, coffee and tea grounds, etc. (no bones or meat scraps). Add a few handfuls of lime or fertilizer, cover with a layer of manure and then with a layer of soil and then soak it well.

Turn the pile about once a week; keep it about as wet as a squeezed sponge and covered with soil. Adding a few earthworms will help increase decay. It should thoroughly decompose in 3-12 months.

Non-poisonous pest control—try it before you start spraying pesticides.

Water-blast aphids, leafhoppers and spittle bugs off your plants.

Some natural predators can be purchased. You can buy ladybugs and lacewing larvae for aphids; preying mantis for aphids, white flies, and spidermites; and trichogramma wasps for cabbage loopers and other caterpillars.

Sprout garlic or chives indoors, then plant it beneath your rose bushes to ward off aphids.

Planting marigolds within a three-foot radius of plants susceptible to attack reduces or eliminates nematodes, a kind of microscopic worm that injures plants directly by its feeding. Insects don't like the smell of marigolds, either.

Strong-smelling kitchen herbs can be used as insect repellent plantings, including basil, coriander, mint, rosemary, sage, savory and thyme.

You can kill weeds near sidewalks and driveways by pouring boiling water on them.

## Help Wanted

**IF YOU CAN READ** this you can help save the Hills. Please contact the Black Hills Alliance to find out what you can do in or out of the office.

**WRITERS, ARTISTS, TYPISTS** and so many others are needed for the many aspects of publishing the **BLACK HILLS - PAHA SAPA REPORT**. Technical and non-technical support is needed. Contact **BLACK HILLS - PAHA SAPA REPORT** at the Rapid City B.H.A.

### Wanted:

Black Hills residents who want to stop uranium development! We have jobs for you—out of your own home or the BHA office. Good talkers, good typists, good imaginations please call 342-5127. Outreach/Communications has a place for you.

Health for Survival is looking for contributions and medical personnel for the On-Site Medical Facility at the 1980 Survival Gathering. Contact:

**Ron Rosen**  
450 S. Meade  
Denver, CO 80217

## The Crud Stops Here

How would you like to go to court and face your state senator representing the opposing party?

That's what happened to Ronald and Shirley Glawe, of Sioux Falls early this year.

After the February hearing, NSP made the Glawes an offer for their land, which the couple refused. When the utility raised the price to what the Glawes felt it was worth, they accepted and sold their land.

In 1977 the Glawe's finished building their home, and in November 1978, a representative from Northern States Power told them the utility was going to build a powerline over their land.

A year and a month later, the Glawe's were served papers stating that their farm had been condemned. The couple was summoned to court in early 1980. The NSP attorney was Senator Dick Gregerson from Sioux Falls.

When asked why they didn't fight the utility, Ronald said, "What if I lost? Then I would be stuck with a farm with a powerline on it." "It's been a real education for me," says Ronald. He feels he benefitted in some ways from his confrontation.

"We intend to get involved with other people who are working for human causes," say the Glawes.

For a copy of the **IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR ENVIRONMENT** handbook, write to:  
Mrs. Howard W. Harrington  
American Association of University Women  
774 Gailen Ct.  
Palo Alto, California 94303

### BHA Speakers Bureau



We would like to introduce you to the Black Hills Alliance Speakers' Bureau. Listed below are the topics which can be presented to your group, organization, or class. Travel food, and lodging must be arranged for each speaking engagement and an honorarium is requested (but negotiable), as our speakers do not receive a salary in exchange for the expertise they can offer.

The following topics affect all of us: Uranium Mining in the Black Hills; Alternative Energy Development (Renewable Resources); 1872

Mining Act; Health Effects of Low Level Radiation; 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty and the Rights and Responsibilities of the United States Government; Uranium for War and Peace, A Threat to All People; Black Hills Alliance, Background and Purpose; Multinational Corporations/Government Control of Resource Development (Trilateral Commission); Effects of Uranium Mining; Jobs and Energy; Health Effects to Workers in the Uranium Industry. Speakers will also address other topics, as requested. For more information, contact Ginny Eckstein, Black Hills Alliance.

## April Calendar

If there are any events happening in your communities that you would like to put into the Calendar, please contact the BHA in Rapid City one week prior to the event so we will have time to print and distribute to local chapters, support groups and interested people. Contact Kathy Jeffries at 342-5127.

April 20, 1980 - Rapid City: Live debate with the Black Hills Alliance and Union Carbide at 9:00 a.m. on KTEQ, 88.1 on your FM dial.

April 22, 1980 - Earth Day - a day to reawaken the concern for the preservation of the Earth's re-

sources. April 20-26, a whole week of activities will be in celebration of Earth Day. Contact Sherry Oswald at the Rapid City BHA for more information.

April 26, 1980 - Miners for Safe Energy: Drawing for MFSE window box solar collector. Winner will be announced on KDSJ radio, Deadwood, 9:05 a.m.

April 29, 1980 - Lead: Miners for Safe Energy will sponsor an evening with Lawrence County Legislators. Kay Jorgensen, Reed Richards and Jim Dunn have been invited to speak on energy development in South Dakota at the Moose Hall in Lead, 7 p.m.

## Yes, Virginia, the Survival Gathering is happening

Crammed into a conference room at the Town and Country Motel in Rapid City on April 4-6, 36 people gathered to coordinate efforts for the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering. Sponsored by the Black Hills Alliance, the Gathering will take place July 18-27 in the Black Hills. This was the fourth planning conference, and a final coordinators' conference is planned for the end of May. One of the Jobs of National Office Coordination is to arrange for these planning conferences.

There are ten work groups for the Survival Gathering project, and National Coordination is the umbrella for the other nine. It is the job of each area coordinator to see that goals are set and achieved, and that both local and regional staffs are working on schedule. The National Coordinator must have resources available that the rest of the staff can use, including structured guidelines for work groups

to organize around.

Every work area of the Gathering has developed its own color-coded letter and registration form. This format allows each department to do its own specific outreach, while simultaneously having a structure that can be used by the Survival Gathering project as a whole.

Each registration form has a brief explanation of the purposes of the work group, and a checklist of needs and possibilities for volunteers' services. For example, the Mobilization/Transportation form asks for everything from bus drivers to mechanics to C.B. radios. The Citizens' Review Commission requests details on experiences with destructive policies and projects of energy corporations. The Health For Survival form has space for people to register to coordinate workshops and to serve as medical staff at the on-site medical facility. Appropriate Technology/Land Self-

Sufficiency invites people and organizations to contribute to sustainable agriculture, biomass conversion, appropriate housing or to provide assistance in site construction. The Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of Family Agriculture and Small Business allows people to contribute to three major areas of participation: the current destruction of natural resources, of family and community, and of a viable economy. Security work group is recruiting 1000 people who have special skills as marshals, first-aid medics, emergency vehicle drivers, fire fighters and radio operators. Education for Survival invites workers to help build the Black Hills Survival School-1980, to participate in Inservice Education Projects or to set up display booths.

Four of the work areas sent out mailings to between 200-500 addressees. Other work groups sent information in bulk to special mobilization centers throughout the re-

gion for distribution to community groups and other organizations. Finally, a mailing including all the registration forms was sent to more than 400 organizations nationwide - about 50 of them South Dakota-based. These mailings allow groups which have access to large numbers of people to see what the work areas and needs of the Gathering are, and also provides the necessary information for organizations to reprint and distribute in their own communities. Fundraising is accomplished through a meticulous process of establishing contacts, approaching foundation representatives and insuring that donations received are spent in the most effective way possible. Experienced organizers are needed for this enormous job.

Communications/Media will be responsible for informing the press of the day's activities, arranging interviews, and doing extensive outreach to Black Hills media through public service announcements and press releases. Communications/Media is also scheduling the agendas for each of the ten days.

The biggest job the National Coordinating staff has is maintaining efficient mail systems. In addition to bulk mailings, two direct mail campaigns designed to solicit donations and commitments were organized, with a third scheduled for May. The upcoming campaign will contain

## WARN findings confirmed

continued from p.1

well at Manderson registered 19 picocuries/liter (pc/l) for gross alpha, and 25 pc/l were registered at Oglala Community Tribal Pump House, according to Environmental Protection Agency studies released from Orlando, Fla. in late March. In addition, the results from a third well

at the Federal standard of 15 pc/l.

Indian Health Service failed to take action after receiving confirmed reports of high miscarriage rates. Jacquelyn Huber, a lawyer for S.D. WARN, stated that "Somebody had those miscarriage statistics and didn't do anything with them." She indicated that the IHS is cooperating with her attempts to obtain relevant health data, but added that records are so complicated that "it took hours of discussion just to clear up what records Aberdeen receives and what information is recorded in those computers."

### Midland water poisoned

Results of radium tests should be coming in by the third week of April. If the EPA test results show dangerous levels of radiation, new tests will be warranted, according to Perry Brackett from the Office of Environmental Health in Aberdeen. If the test results remain high, there would be no promise that safe drinking water would be brought in. According to Terry Pourier, a top administrator at Pine Ridge Hospital, no water can be brought in until at least one year of water sampling has been completed.

Brackett pointed out that "Midland has levels over 100 pc/l and they're not getting any water." The ranching community of Midland has consistently tested high levels of gross alpha for many years. The Department of Housing and Urban

Development allocated \$375,000 last fall for Midland to fix its water system, said Randy Frederickson. Frederickson said that HUD prioritized Midland as a town presenting an "Imminent Threat to Public Health" because of high radiation levels in the water.

Women of All Red Nations and other private citizens wish to know the source of water contaminations. There is some speculation that the Gunnery Range in the northwest sector of Pine Ridge is currently a disposal site for nuclear wastes, according to Lorelei Means, of S.D. WARN. Also, in 1962, 200 tons of radioactive waste spilled into the Cheyenne River, which flows past the northwest corner of Pine Ridge Reservation. This spill has never been cleaned up.

### Federal agencies lax

There is widespread agreement that agencies designed to protect the public and to enforce safety regulations have been lax. The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977 commissions the EPA to take action if high radiation levels are present in drinking water, according to Frederickson. But the agency did not exercise its responsibility. Attorney Huber stated, "The problem seems to be that these Federal Agencies will not take action beyond their legal requirements to protect the public, unless forced to do so, by private groups." The Office of Environmental Health in Aberdeen has the responsibility for testing community systems for bacteriological and chemical contamination, and tests must be repeated every three years, according to Brackett. WARN charges that the IHS has had access to a study which documented dangerous gross alpha and nitrate levels in public water for some time. IHS statistics confirmed the danger level, but no

action was taken on the problem until WARN's study was publicized.

With test results still coming in, and speculation as to the source of contamination growing, Women of All Red Nations continues to work on its own to find the source or

organization has filed Freedom of Information Act requests and Requests for Information with the Federal EPA, IHS, BIA, U.S. Geological Survey and the Dept. of Interior, and with the State Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Water and Natural Resources.

The organization intends to keep the public informed about health hazards. According to a WARN spokeswoman, "The uranium mining industry hasn't moved into South Dakota on a large scale yet, like they have in the Southwest. If it does, things are going to get a lot worse. The people are going to suffer because the state won't regulate the mining companies, and the health agencies aren't doing the jobs they were set up and funded for," she continued.

"This is one thing the people won't ignore," Lakota Harden of S.D. WARN said. "We're going to follow through with this. We've been to the Human Rights Commission in Switzerland and the state commissions in Pierre. We can't ignore the fact that our people are dying," she said.

USA participated by donating their mailing lists.

The complementary task for direct mail campaigns is to receive, record and respond to incoming mail. Incoming mail must be sorted by area and given to the appropriate worker. Donations must be deposited in the correct accounts and new addresses recorded. Usually respondents offer expertise in more than one area and a typical donation includes money earmarked for special items. To insure that area coordinators receive the names and addresses of all who are interested in participating, a simple flow chart must be written on the envelope indicating where the letter should go.

The primary commitment of the National Coordination staff is time. The job is not as difficult as it is time-consuming. More workers are needed to help process incoming and outgoing mail, to make and receive phone calls, and to aid in other organizational needs, both in and out of the International Survival Gathering office.

National Office Coordination is ultimately responsible for the success of the Survival Gathering. By generating inspiration, enthusiasm and encouragement, the workers in National Coordination have turned a "chore" into an efficient process with much room for continued input from interested people.

If you are interested in donating your skills and talents for the coordinating effort, contact the Black Hills Alliance office immediately and say, "I want to help."

## Minnesota farmers make headway in powerline struggle

from Hold That Line News Service

In February 1980, the Chairman of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) decided that it would be worthwhile to consider the health/safety issues of the 800-kilovolt direct current Minnesota powerline from the angle of "probable cause." This decision resulted from mounting pressure on state officials by people living along the route, and is considered to be a breakthrough by concerned

farmers.

"Probable cause" refers to the idea that there is reason to believe that toxic emissions from the powerline are causing adverse biological effects. The traditional position of the government has been that there must be "scientific proof" of a direct cause and effect relationship between a facility and a specific biological effect before any action can be considered.

The MEQB and citizens along the line have been circulating survey forms on people's experiences along the line route. The list of adverse health effects includes 17 symptoms.

For people, some of these are:

- Respiratory problems such as sinus trouble, bronchitis, shortness of breath, chest pains, lung congestions*
- increased blood pressure*
- nausea*
- dizziness*
- numbness*
- shocks and others.*
- rashes*
- fatigue*
- stress*
- eye or ear problems*

The section on livestock includes:

- changes in milk production*
- stress or nervousness*
- breeding problems*
- aborted or deformed offspring*
- bacterial infections*
- others*

More than 200 forms have been returned to the MEQB, and about 70% associate problems people are experiencing with the powerline. The survey asks people to identify their doctors, nurses, veterinarians and other professional people who have witnessed changes along the line's route. These people will be screened, and some will be asked to present testimony before the MEQB. Other evidence that will be presented includes scientific literature and testimony from experts on the biological effects of powerlines.

The MEQB will then decide, on the basis of the evidence, whether or not there is reason to believe that the powerline is responsible for adverse biological effects along the line route.

Split wood      Not Atoms

### Utilities grow while demand shrinks

According to the South Dakota Resources Coalition, *ELECTRIC WORLD*, the journal of the electricity industry, reported that the U.S. will have 43 percent more electrical capacity than it needs in 1980. The Midwest Area Reliability Council reports that the eight-state Midwest region, experienced a 38 percent excess electrical capacity this past year.

Rural Electric has traditionally had an 8½ percent growth rate in electrical demand, which means output must double every 10 years. However, in 1978 Rural Electric's increase was just over six percent and last year it was 2.99 percent according to the Coalition.

Missouri Basin Electric (MBE), originally reported having 2400 megawatts available, but only a 1700 maximum demand. MBE raised its demand estimates to 2200-2300 megawatts. Missouri Basin Electric has an annual budget of \$795 million, of which \$710 million is for construction.

### 300 groups to converge on Washington Coalition plans D. C. action

The Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World is a national network of 300 groups including environmental, alternative energy, labor, women, student and anti-nuclear groups. The Coalition is working to bring people from across the United States to Washington at the end of April. The Coalition intends to stop America's expensive, life-endangering use of nuclear technology.

Friday, April 25, will mark the beginning of four days of protest against nuclear technology in the nations capital. The events in Washington will demonstrate many Americans' commitment to the Coalition's five goals: "Stop Nuclear Power,"

"Zero Nuclear Weapons," "Safe Energy," "Full Employment" and "Honor Native American Treaties."

Religious speakers, a massive march and rally, an alternative energy fair and peaceful civil disobedience at the Departments of Energy and Defense are some of the events the Coalition is organizing.

For more information, contact Ellen Somekawa, 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Mnpls, MN 55404 or the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World at 413 8th St. SE., Wash., DC 20003; 202-544-5228 and 544-5550.

### Rural South Dakotans won't benefit from powerline

Loren Zingmark, Manager for

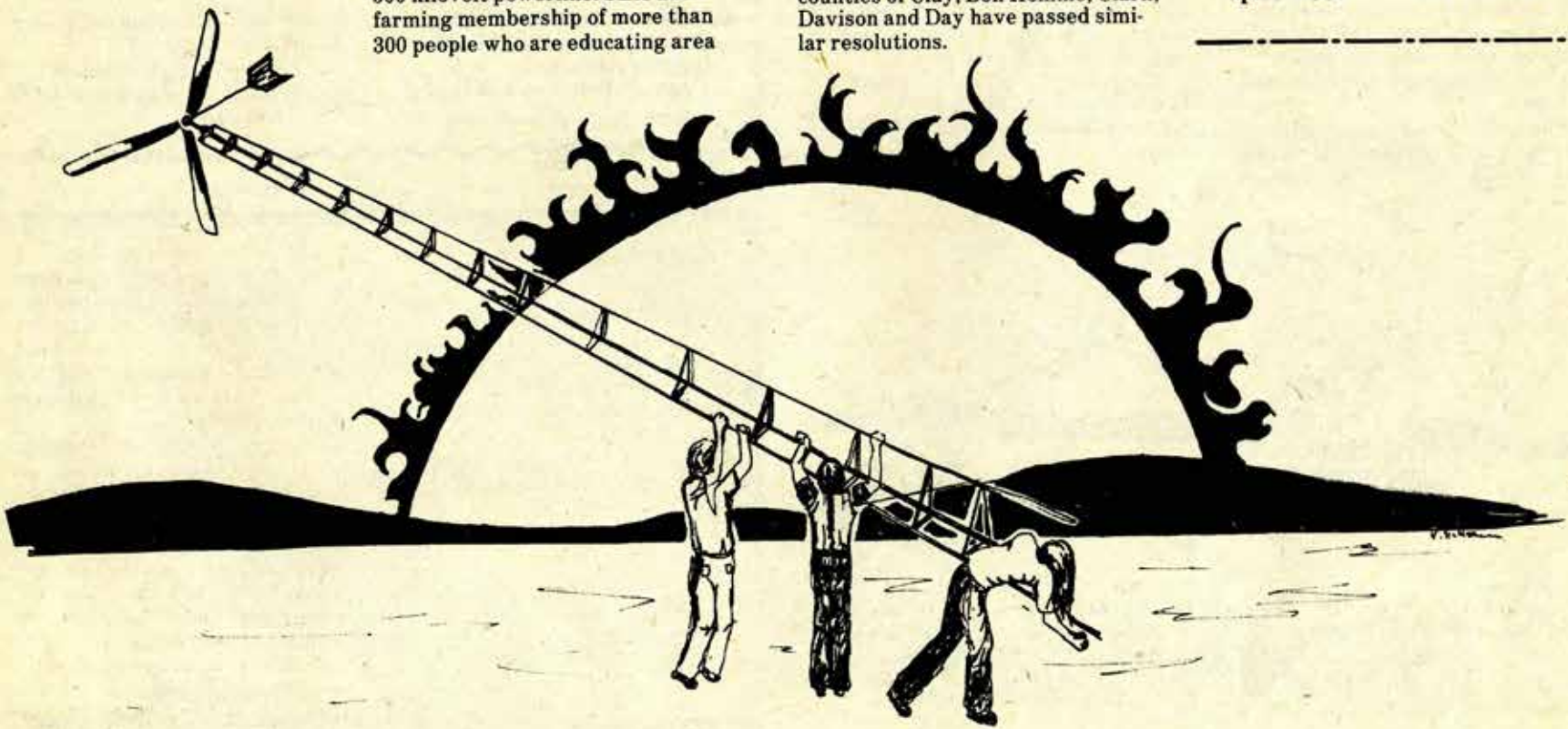
members of Safe Energy Alternatives and others that rural South Dakota will not benefit from the Mandan Powerline Project, according to Joyce Hodges of Lake Preston. At a recent meeting in Madison (McCook County), Zingmark told

the audience that Canadian electricity project costs six cents per kilowatt—twice what North and South Dakotans are now paying. Zingmark also said that East River Electric has all the power customers will demand through 1990, Hodges reported.

Safe Energy Alternatives (SEA) is a grassroots organization which formed to investigate the Mandan Powerline Project, an above-ground 500 kilovolt powerline. SEA has a farming membership of more than 300 people who are educating area

residents about the possible negative effects of the Mandan Powerline Project (see *BHPS Report*, March 1980).

Joyce Hodges, a Kingsbury County Commissioner, said the county passed a resolution that Nebraska Public Power District, primary sponsor of the Mandan, must show a need and benefit, and must prove that there is no health hazard before the line can run through Kingsbury County. Hodges reported that the counties of Clay, Bon Homme, Clark, Davison and Day have passed similar resolutions.



### East River update

A hearing in Pierre will take place on April 10 as this paper goes to press. Anaconda Copper Corporation (ACC), a multinational corporation that filed an application to explore for uranium in seven southeastern South Dakota counties early this year, will have its permit application reviewed for the second time. William Srstka, the hearing examiner, appointed by the State Conservation Commission, found several discrepancies in the company's original application. He recommended that ACC be allowed to revise its application and to insert several important features that were originally omitted.

One of these omissions, according to East River attorney Cindy Kirkeby, is the list of names and addresses of residents in each county of proposed exploration that ACC must furnish to the Division of Conservation (DOC). Kirkeby said she believes that the company has corrected the application so that

it now complies with the law, although she says she has not seen the amended document.

William Srstka recommended at the Feb. 28 hearing that Anaconda be allowed to amend its application, as opposed to starting the process over and following all procedures correctly. The DOC will have decided by April 10 to accept, reject, or amend Srstka's recommendation. Srstka is also a paid lobbyist for the Nebraska Public Power District, which is a primary sponsor of the Mandan Powerline project, and runs a nuclear plant in Nebraska.

However the DOC rules on Srstka's recommendations, the State Conservation Commission will not decide whether or not to grant the exploration permit until its May meeting, according to Kirkeby.

People interested in becoming involved or needing more information should contact Cindy Kirkeby at 624-6766 or Nancy Losacker at 624-8453 in Vermillion.

### Is the Wizard of Oz hiding in the Hills?

by Lillas Jones

Did the yellow brick road run across South Dakota? And is the Emerald City really a reference to the Black Hills? Yes, says Thomas St. John, the author of a recent paper on L. Frank Baum's classic, *The Wizard of Oz*.

Baum lived in Aberdeen, Dakota Territory, from 1888 until 1891, the period spanning the division of the Great Sioux Reservation into the current reservations, the creation of South Dakota, and the Wounded Knee Massacre.

In Aberdeen, as owner of a novelty shop and editor of a local newspaper, Baum knew what was happening around him. He would sit on the rough-cut boardwalks and tell children stories about the unique world. From these stories and from other experiences, St. John says, Baum created his classic in 1899.

The yellow brick road—a quick way to success—was probably a com-

ment on what St. John calls "the outlandish get-rich-quick dreams of the invaders of the Black Hills." The road led to the ruby and diamond studded Emerald City—like the Black Hills, a place of great mineral wealth. But, as Baum wrote, it was "a long journey" that was "said to be full of dangers to

do not like strangers to cross their country."

At the turn of the century, St. John notes, the connection between the Land of Oz and the Black Hills was taken for granted. The connection would be a good one to rebuild in the minds of the millions who have loved Baum's books only as "fantasy stories"—and especially in the minds of those who would like to destroy the Black Hills without regard to their special meaning to many contemporary people.

The full text of St. John's paper is available at the Black Hills Alliance Research Center in Rapid City.



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