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BLACK HILLS PAHA SAPA REPORT

The Newspaper of the Black Hills Alliance

May-June 1980

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The heart of the Black Hills, South Dakota, and the focus of attention of this summer's 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering. See inside for details, logistics and plans for the coming heated gathering.

photo: R. Jane Neuman
Nuclear secrecy not necessary

by Lillian Jones

Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series on nuclear weapons. Last issue's article focused on scurry for military uses, the nuclear power weapons connection, and security for nuclear materials. Next issue, the third part will focus on nuclear weapons and defense, health problems and bomb manufacture and nuclear ethics.

"Nuclear secrecy" is a loaded phrase. In some respects, popular assumptions about nuclear secrecy are myths. In other ways, the cloak of "security" has also covered the public's right to know when it is threatened.

An example of the failure of "nuclear secrecy" was shown by a suit filed by the U.S. government against the Progressive magazine in 1975. Edward Tellier, co-creator of the hydrogen bomb and an ardent peace-activist advocate, estimated that more than one million people share the "secrets" of thermonuclear weapons.

The Progressive commissioned a reporter, Howard Morland, to demonstrate how loosely "nuclear secrets are kept." Morland's article raised a First Amendment "Miranda" warning to the press that hasn't completely died down since the suit was dropped in September.

Marked use of public documents, interviews and visits to nuclear facilities to describe the triggering mechanisms for hydrogen bombs in hypersonic terms suggests the article didn't include many things needed to build such a bomb--the technological know-how, the needed industrial capacity, the espionage, the mathematicians, or most important--an ample supply of atomic bombs.

Nevertheless, weeks before publication, the government obtained an injunction to stop the magazine from printing the article. The government's recent suit to try to abridge freedom of information is an "item "might possibly" harm national security."

In an effort by the government followed to make sure the "secrets" remained out of the public eye, the Progressive's court briefs and affidavits were censored. The magazine's staff was not allowed into the Los Alamos library where some of the information had been gathered. A book that had been declassified four years earlier was declassified and removed from library shelves.

Fusion, a nuclear industry magazine, joined the suit because it felt that such secrecy would cripple scientific research. Three physicists from Argonne National Laboratory wrote affidavits saying that Morland's information wasn't secret. And when the Department of Energy's census of council documents failed to protect truly important information, the physicists asked Sen. John Glenn to investigate the Department of Energy (DOE) and the DOE responded by classifying the physicists' letter to Glenn.

Adding a sense of humor to the proceedings, Charles Hansen, an amateur bomb-hobbyist, organized an "I-bomb design contest." The winner would be the first person to have his or her design classified by the DOE.

The wide distribution of the letter led the government to try to send a newspaper before his letter was published. Although an injunction against publication stopped the Daily Centennial, the Madison, Wis., Press Connection published the letter the next day. Hansen's letter included diagrams. Its publication "declassified" the information the Progressive wanted to print. This led to the government dropping its suit against the "secrets".

An important scientific article, "Nuclear Hawaii."

Third, the myth of need for secrecy has, as the Progressive noted, "allowed the government to withhold information on the safety hazards of nuclear power, an offshoot of its secret weapon program. And the technological connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons have been consistently shielded from public view."

This last point was examined in the first part of this series of articles.

Some "Secrets"

Some "secrets" the myth has disguised: a bomb with the power of one million tons of TNT, which has tested a pedagogical bomb under a bed, security measures used for bomb transportation, or a man who reads military manuals that says "a nuclear bomb is being moved."

In western South Dakota, we are generally aware that nuclear bombs are "hidden" in bunkers throughout the area. We can find out, relatively easily, where Ellsworth Air Force Base employs 6,209 of the 10,000 military personnel in the state. The Department of Justice publishes a "Distribution of Personnel by State--By Selected Locations. But no one warns us when a 'move' has begun or when a bomb is moving a bomb, and we don't know how much radioactive waste is stored on the base. We won't know when the bomb in our area pose a new threat to our lives in time to get out of the way."

There was a "red alert" at the base in November 1979. The author called Ellsworth several hours later to ask what the alert and was told that nothing unusual was going on; that it was a fire drill, a "common occurrence."

The next day's newspaper showed that, in fact, a computer failure had sent out a false message that the U.S. was under attack; B-52 bombers had been sent into the air. During the six-minute alert, President Carter wasn't even reached. The Rapid City Journal reported that there were other such false alarms that were similar in method. In an attempt to prove that knowledge of nuclear risks should be public, a group called The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has sent out to get information about the estimated 3,000 nuclear weapons stored at 110 military sites in the state. The suit hopes to "show what risks the weapons might pose to the public."

Edna Greenberg, a general Accounting Office researcher who testified to several officials about weapons sites, had to be secured; and Ed Greenberg, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before the government builds a nuclear weapons storage site, from one mile from the end of a...
From July 18th through the 27th, 1980, people from many parts of the world will be in this Black Hills. They will be here to educate one another and learn about viable alternatives to nuclear power. To document and diagnose the threats to our survival, and to begin to determine the best methods of assuring a future for ourselves and our children.

The gathering will feature three main events: 1) A Citizens' Review Commission on the Energy Development Corporations, 2) An Alternative Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency Project, and 3) A Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Ranch and Farm. The Survival Gathering is sponsored by the Black Hills Alliance in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Dear Reader ...

We ask that those who come to the Survival Gathering be sensitive and committed to working with different cultures, such as traditional Indian people and 3rd and 4th generation ranchers, and farmers. People must appreciate the nature of this gathering and the land we will be using for ten days. First of all, the gathering is a place of work, not a festival. It will be on private property which has been donated to us by members of the Black Hills community. Surrounding this designated area are lands used for agriculture and grazing — the backbone of our economy and the sustenance of life. These guidelines may be difficult for some to agree with, but the values of many of us who live here may be different from the values of people who live outside this area. Remember: We must live and organize here when you are gone. Help make our job easier by cooperating. You would like to emphasize the respect and dignity of the diverse groups and values which are coming together. We appreciate and expect your cooperation.

—Black Hills Alliance

You can volunteer

If you will be in Rapid City during the month of July and would like to volunteer any time to the office work or to Volunteer Coordination, please fill out the form below. The Black Hills Alliance office will need reliable people who can staff telephone, run errands, answer telephones, coordinate after volunteers, distribute literature and carry other items.

Pre-Registration for the 1980 International Gathering for Survival of the Black Hills

If you wish to participate in for the Gathering:

☐ Alternative Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency
☐ Citizens Review Commission on the Energy Development Corporations
☐ Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Ranch and Farm
☐ National Coordinating Office
☐ Security/Peace Keepers
☐ Mobilization/Transportation
☐ Fundraising
☐ Volunteer/Coordinating

Time committed:

Please explain any special skills or knowledge you can contribute in these areas:

Name

Address

Phone

1. NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS
2. No destruction of land or property.
3. No guns, explosives, or violent behavior.
4. No animals to protect livestock and promote healthy living areas.
5. Respect for our elders, children, the different cultures, and one another.
6. All outside literature must be approved by the Communications/Media coordinators and...
Survival Gathering site specifications established

The 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering is being held on a 1000-acre site outside Rapid City. Located five miles north of Exit 63 at Interstate 90, the site is bordered on the north by Ellsworth Air Force Base, on the east by Interstate 29, on the south by Highway 240, and on the west by an unpaved county road.

The land is being donated by a South Dakota resident and is so far designated into three sections: parking and camping areas, land for workshops and planned activities, and uncommitted space. There is virtually no water on the site. You are urged to bring your own water containers. Provision is being made, however, to meet the basic water needs of the Gathering for food, fire protection, and medical tests. To meet sanitary needs, consider bringing packaged towels or cloth napkins and your own soap. A drinking supply of water for the Survival Gathering is a priority at this time. Waste management will be provided. All approved materials requiring strict site security will be maintained. Site Crews will move into the site starting June 10, pending security clearance. The Site Crews will begin construction of all the physical needs of the Gathering, including buildings, stages, communications centers, gates, showers, fences, cooking areas, workshop areas as well as displays for the Appropriate Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency Project. All structures are designed so they can be built in 10 days or less.

None is to arrive for work without prior approval from the Site Coordinating Committee, although anyone interested in site construction is urged to contact the coordinating committee at the Black Hills Alliance offices. Site Crews are urged to bring their own supplies also, only above ground, non-flammable stores can be used.

THERE WILL BE NO ALCOHOL

Check below to indicate your exhibit or workshop area

- Solar
- Agriculture
- Housing
- Wood
- Water
- Wind
- Biomass
- Alcohol
- Ground
- Other

Name:
City:
State:
Address:
Zip:
Phone:

Organizational Affiliation:

Community-base technologies focus of Appropriate Technology project

Wind generators, organic gardening, bio-alcohol fuel production, quilting bees, Solar Greenhouses, Earth houses, horse-drawn wagons. All are community-based, small scale, energy conserving appropriate technologies. All will be a part of the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering Appropriate Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency project.

These technologies exist now. They are becoming part of communities across South Dakota and around the nation. They can be adapted in virtually any community.

The range of community-based technologies includes many alternative means of dealing with current day-to-day survival issues including energy, land-use, transportation, food and agriculture, community economic development, housing and more.

The Gathering still seeks participants to demonstrate or exhibit what they are doing in community-based technologies. The emphasis is on participatory workshops and hands-on exhibits.

Already, approximately 50 participants are committed. The AT/LS staff will accommodate all participants but space is limited and the deadline for applications is June 20.

Participation can vary from actual exhibits to workshops to simply attending the Gathering wearing a large badge saying, "Ask me about your area of knowledge!"

The key is that the AT/LS project will be a continuing learning experience, a chance to show what is being done now in communities and what other people and groups are doing.

For more information, please call Meg Williams or Pat Collins at (605) 343-3197 or write: Appropriate Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency project, Black Hills Alliance Box 250F, Rapid City, SD 57709.

If you are interested, please fill out this form below and return it to the Black Hills Alliance as soon as possible. Please print clearly; phone number is critical; we will call as soon as we receive this form.
Citizens' Review Commission to study energy developing corporations

The Citizens' Review Commission on Energy Developing Corporations will be a seven-day event, part of the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering. The Commission will examine various threats to humans posed by local, regional and international activities of four energy-developing corporations involved in exploration or mining ventures in the Black Hills area.

These four corporations are Union Carbide, Burlington Northern Railroad, Rio Algom Ltd, and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). TVA is a quasi-governmental utility with mining and milling interests throughout the United States. It is the largest electric utility in the country.

Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) was chosen as a focus because of its involvement in every phase of operation. It operates mining and milling facilities across the western U.S., and controls and operates the government's uranium enrichment and testing facilities at Oak Ridge, TN, and Paducah, KY.

UCC trained South African technicians at the Oak Ridge enrichment facility. These technicians returned to South Africa to speed completion of an enrichment plant which supplied the bombgrade ore used in recent nuclear tests conducted by the South African and Israeli governments, according to an Institute for Policy Studies booklet, South Africans: Foreign Investment and Apartheid.

Union Carbide has claims on thousands of acres of land in and around the Black Hills and may soon begin mining operations in the Craven Canyon area of the southern Black Hills. Recent court actions by attorneys for the Black Hills Alliance and local residents have stalled UCC in its mining attempts.

Burlington Northern Railroad owns coal reserves in the United States totalling over 14 billion tons. It is among the largest coal mining corporations in the country, according to its IO Report, annually with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Burlington Northern has one feeder line going through the Black Hills to the Homestake Mining Co. gold mine and has plans for more expanded lines in the area if uranium and coal mining expand. Burlington Northern's proposed line increases were reported in the Jan. 25, 1980 Hot Springs Star.

Rio Algom Ltd. is the Canadian subsidiary of the international mining conglomerate Rio Tinto Zinc Ltd. (RTZ) owns and operates, with Newfoundland Mining, the Rossing uranium mine in Namibia, southwest Africa. The Rossing mine is the world's largest uranium mine. Rio Algom has extensive holdings in the Black Hills. It is also one of the largest Canadian uranium mining firms involved on the land of the Dine' (Navajo) people in the Southwest, according to Engineering and Mining Journal, November 1979.

Current mining expansion plans in Canada's Ontario province, with identified uranium reserves of 16 percent of Canada's total, represent the largest mining expansion project ever undertaken in Canada, according to the Journal.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is buying up vast tracts of western United States land to provide itself with the estimated six to seven million tons of uranium ore needed in the 1980's for its reactors. TVA has three operating reactors, and 14 more are planned or under construction, according to a May 1979 statement by H. David Freeman, Chairman of the TVA Board of Directors, speaking to the Senate Subcommittee on Anti-trust Monopoly and Business Rights. The U.S. Congress passed legislation this term which raises TVA's debt ceiling from $14 billion to $30 billion so that those plans are rerouted.

TVA also supplies all the electricity for Union Carbide's enrichment facilities at Oak Ridge and a large proportion of the power for the Paducah plant, according to the Progressive magazine, August 1979.

TVA is the largest holder of claims in the Black Hills near Butte, SD. According to its draft Environmental Impact Statement, TVA will site two deep-shaft mines and operate three other mine minimills.

Westinghouse Corporation, TVA received 15,000 acres of land in and around the Black Hills, according to Engineering and Mining Journal, June 1979.

In addition to the above, testimony will be heard on the Tri-lateral Commission, Export-Import Bank and other international development banks, Westinghouse, Rockwell International's Rocky Flats nuclear weapon plant, Peabody Coal Company, Inelco and the council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT).

Witnesses will be brought before the board of the Citizens Review Commission to give their explanations of threats to survival presented by energy developing corporations. These witnesses will be local residents, residents near mining or milling facilities elsewhere in the United States, experts familiar with the environmental and health effects of mining and milling operations, and international witnesses who will describe the threats presented by such corporations in their particular countries.

Discussion and examples of exploitation of land and peoples will not be limited to the four corporations mentioned above.

The Citizens Review Commission, which will bear the presentation concerning the activities of the corporations, will be composed of local residents, members of various local, national church organizations, national minority groups and various professional groups.

The Black Hills Alliance and the Survival Gathering Committee welcome the participation of any and all groups interested in exposing threats to survival.

Working people focus of jobs and energy workshop

How can appropriate technology fulfill the needs of working people? Miners for Safe Energy will bring film, speakers and workshops to the Survival Gathering in an attempt to focus attention on this question.

Films will be shown Monday, July 24 through Thursday, July 24 in the evening. National and local labor leaders will be speaking in two Jobs and Energy workshops Sunday, July 20, and Thursday, July 24.

Dr. Joseph Wagnier, formerly of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, who has done extensive studies of the effects of uranium mining and miners will also make a presentation at the Survival Gathering.

The Jobs and Energy workshops will feature panel discussions on local and national strategies for a non-nuclear future.

Discussion topics also include examination of the number and kinds of jobs created through appropriate technology with these created in the nuclear industry, mining, and health hazards to uranium miners and their families; alternatives available in this area; the possibility of working within unions to encourage appropriate technology; and uranium mining and the solar industry.
The 1980 Black Hills

Forum links genocide and disappearance of family ag

Last January a number of Lakota people sat down with people from agricultural communities. It had been obvious that while Indian and Indian people shared the same threat from Black Hills uranium mining, New other parallels became clear. Several members of the conference—the Burea of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDg) have failed to serve the interests of the people they were mandated to serve. The advocacy of consumerism has been destroying the spiritual values of both Indian and agrarian traditions. Farmers are moving off their land faster than Indians are relocating to cities; corporations need ranchers about as much as they need Indians. A quick history lesson shows that communities have frequently been expendable by big business and large-scale industrialization; many times in cooperation with government roads said: it was too risky to invest in a transcontinental railroad. Congress authorized generous loans to the Union Pacific Railroad for construction. Credit Mobilier, who handled the construction, diverted $73 million of its initial $50 million loan. Richer congressmen ignored this action, and Union Pacific itself was given 20 square miles of land for every mile of track laid, and where Indian people had been living for hundreds of years.

Another example of government-corporate cooperation is the Teapot Dome scandal. In 1926 Navy oil reserves in Wyoming were manipulated into the hands of the Secretary of Interior for production. Interior Secretary Fall then leased the Teapot Dome area to oil executives. Fall eventually received one $1.3 million for taking for himself, and the oil men went free.

High-voltage powerlines, water diversions for mining and damming, and the growth of centralized agriculture are contributing to the extinction of the family agricultural unit. In Minneapolis, early this year, a Minnesota farm woman referred to the family farmer as the "new Indian."

According to Point C of the United Nations Convention on Genocide, genocide is defined as "de liberately inflicting on the group, conditions calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

The Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of Family Agriculture was re-created based on this definition. Indian nations maintain that two-thirds of North American uranium resources and one-third of all western "low-sulfur" U.S. coal reserves are on Indian reservations. If Indian treaty lands are considered, over 50% of the uranium and one-half of the coal reserves are on legal Indian lands, according to a report by Winona LaDuke of Women of All Red Nations (WAA). While the United States began making international treaty agreements with sovereign Indian nations soon after American independence was won, it has been a series of laws that consistently violated these treaties.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced Indian living in the eastern United States to move west of the Mississippi River. President Jackson enforced the law in spite of a Supreme Court ruling that the law was illegal. Congress passed the General Allotment Act of 1887 to dissolve Indian nations by destroying their land base. Many laws were passed and since have served to legalize the violation of international law, appropriate Treaty land and impose a foreign culture and system of government on the original inhabitants of the land.

The Real Indian was published in August 1979. Charges that "sufficient evidence exists to establish a case that the U.S.

Alternative education to be explored

The Black Hills Survival School 1980 and the Interweave Education Project are the two areas within Education for Survival. These two areas will explore some principles and theories of alternative education. As a demonstration model, the Survival School will participate in demonstration activity in the following areas:

No. 5
The study of food. Survival will range from indigenous berries and their nutritional uses to simple, site-specific techniques in the design of appropriate technology.

Art, dance, drama, music, stories and other forms of universal communication will be the focus of the Arts. Workshops teaching the evolution of these art forms to education and the interaction of the struggles we face in our society (e.g., teaching nuclear development through drama, teaching history through music) will involve young people at the Gathering.

Activities ranging from kung fu and yoga to organized recreation such as softball and volleyball are planned.

The Survival School will examine appropriate technology and contrast it to technology which depends on the use of non-renewable resources. Educators will present these technologies and how they relate to our ecosystem's capabilities and needs.

Other contemporary issues which young people will be involved in discussing include equal assimilation and conditions within prisons. Beyond developing awareness of these issues, ways of effectively making change will be examined.

The Interweave Education Project is designed for educators and will focus on community building, organizing and how to integrate skills, techniques, knowledge and resources in formalized education. Workshops on ecosystems, survival skills, "hard" vs. "soft" energy development, conflict resolution, human dignity and other topics will be led by Great Quapaw USA, The School of Living, the Education Experience Center, and other organizations and individuals involved in these areas.

As a part of the Survival School, an exhibit of artwork by incarcerated American Indians is being coordinated nationally and regionally. Help is needed to transport the work from the institutions to the Black Hills and back again. If you are planning to attend the Gathering and would be willing to transport artwork from a nearby institution, please contact Education for Survival as soon as possible.

The role of the Forum on Genocide and Planned Extinction of Family Agriculture will be to expose scenarios where land and people topics are to be covered include destruction of natural resources, family and community, and destruction of a viable economy. Among the specific topics will be history, farm policy, farming and health, water and land ownership, and survival of small businesses.

Anyone willing to grade a "working conference" success is encouraged to participate in the Forum itself or as an associate workshop. Communities and organizations are being invited to submit ideas for Forum coordination before the Gathering.

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Communications/Media to assist press at the Survival Gathering

Communications/Media exists to aid the media in reporting on the Survival Gathering, to provide a work area and up-to-date information to the press, and to facilitate interviews between the media and expert witnesses, speakers and other guests participating in every area of the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering.

Press packets will be available in early June and will contain tentative agendas, a brief fact sheet with information on the site covering the Black Hills region, position on the goals and purposes of the Black Hills Alliance, a list of to-date speakers, performers and other pressworthy individuals, a map of Rapid City with directions to the site, a pre-registration form and other general information.

There will be a limited number of press badges so please obtain one early. Everyone on the HIA press list will receive a press packet.

If you are not on our list but would like to be, please notify the HIA office.

The press is requested to identify press identification to the Survival Gathering. Upon registration, representatives of the Black Hills Alliance will make contact with press personnel and determine any special interests or needs. Press packets will be available throughout the 10 days of the Survival Gathering.

The press will be advised on the location of an interview area. There will also be work areas with tables, chairs and shelter for the exclusive use of the press.

There will be pay phones at the media work area, as well as other locations at the site. An area for press only will be designated, but the press will not be secured and the Survival Gathering Committee assumes no responsibility for equipment.

Security to insure orderly Gathering

The purpose of security and rules enforcement at the Black Hills International Survival Gathering is not to make a regimented event, but to create an atmosphere of fun and education which everyone can enjoy.

Security work crews will provide information, directions and fire control, and will insure a peaceful and relaxed environment.

Security is being formally organized by the Survival Gathering Security Work Group. All participants at the Gathering are required to be security conscious, self-disciplined and self-sufficient.

All guests will be required to purchase and wear a participant’s pin. Pins will be available from the merchandising office for $3 on July 1. Pins will be available from the Gathering site throughout the 10 days.

The will be camping and parking available at the site. All campers will receive a sticker, which must be displayed at all times. This procedure will assure orderly and peaceful entrance.

Your help is needed. The Survival Gathering is a massive event, and discipline and cooperation are required at all times. All organizations should organize their own small group security in order to satisfy their safety and camping requirements.

All those who wish to make security their primary commitment to the Survival Gathering must fill out a security form available at the HIA office and be on site July 12. There will be 24-hour training session which will include crowd control, people-to-people communication, fire prevention and control, medical emergencies, search and rescue, and wildlife. A total of 800 security people will be working throughout the 10 days. There will be four-hour shifts daily.

If you are not working primarily with Security, but wish to be involved, please send us your name and address, time committed, your references and your experience. If accepted, you will be held to your commitment.

Security needs vehicles, communications equipment (CB’s, walkie talkies, etc), canvas bags, rope, medical kits and other items. The Security Work Group also welcomes additional personnel.

Health for Survival educates, provides self-help

During the ten days of the Black Hills International Survival Gathering, Health for Survival will be conducting 18 workshops, open forums and panel discussions each day. The workshops and forums will analyze the human aspects which have, as Barry Commoner states, "broke the circle of life.

There are four themes of Health for Survival: radiation and chemical contamination of all living things - women’s health and midwifery, holistic health and an on-site medical facility to meet the needs of the Gathering.

Healthcare on Radiation and Chemical Contamination will be drawing prominent speakers and private consults from all over the nation (see confirmed speakers’ list following this article).

Women’s Health and Midwifery will include sterilization abuse, what is good health, the effects of radiation on women, how to start a self-help clinic — including how to do pelvic exams, institutionalized weakness — how women are left weak, Nestle’s Baby Food, a case of corporate malpractice, alternative methods of childbirth, and many more workshops be presented during the ten days.

Holistic Health will examine corporate designed medical systems and present alternative maintenance, self-help and natural healing.

Other topics within Holistic Health are the politics of food, politics of health, self-help treatment for powerline and radiation sickness, nutrition and diet, including dietary herbs, and alternative diagnostic tools. Topics will be presented in the form of speakers, discussion groups and panels.

The purpose of Holistic Health is to develop our understanding of health as a balance between creative life forces and the ways we relate to our environment.

The On-Site Medical Facility will encompass three primary functions: immediate first aid; health screening for conditions such as high blood pressure; and health maintenance, including infectious disease control screening and prevention. The On-Site Medical Facility will also provide health tips for the Gathering. It is recommended that everyone break up on camping skills before arrival.

Health for Survival welcomes applications from paramedics, nurses, doctors, alternative health practitioners, stenographers, typists and other volunteers to help staff the medical facility and aid in the health workshops. Donations of first-aid supplies, outdoor gear and tents, tips, etc. are also welcome. Please contact Pat Cole at the Black Hills Alliance office to volunteer services or materials.
The 1980 Black Hills Survival Gathering

Survival Gathering Mobilization/Transportation Contacts

If you would like to compute your approach, contact the organizer nearest you, or the Black Hills Alliance in Rapid City. For general information on the Survival Gathering, contact the organizer nearest you.

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P.O. Box 379
Rapid City, SD 57709
(605) 342-2152

List of Regional Contacts Continued

continued from p. 8

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1015 S. 1st Ave.
Rochester, NY 14620

Evelyn Barron
218 11th St.
**Survival Gathering**

**Friday July 18**

- Welcome address - mass gathering 4:00 pm
- Speakers, musicians, general announcements and other information

**1988 Black Hills Survival Gathering**

- Black Hills Survival School:
  - Survival, the arts, language, power, recreation, land vs. soft energy development and contemporary issues will be going on as part of the Survival School.
  - Visual performances
  - Music, stories, song
  - Poetry

**Appropriate Technology / Land Self Sufficiency**

- The following exhibits will be on-going throughout the ten days of the Survival Gathering:
  - Solar power: solar air systems, solar water heaters, solar farm production
  - Passive solar wall, hands-on workshops
  - Earth houses - slide show and workshop

**Saturday July 19**

- Solar greenhouse - hands-on workshops
- Earth houses - slide show and workshop
- Passive solar wall - hands-on workshops
- Earth houses - slide show and workshop

**Sunday July 20**

- Solar electric generation - hands-on workshops
- Water storage - hands-on workshops
- Earth houses - slide show and workshop

**Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Farm**

- Presentation on uranium mining and milling
- Workshops on uranium mining and milling

**Citizens Review Commission on Energy Developing Corporations**

- History of South Dakota and the Black Hills
  - Part I
  - Part II
- Corporate analysis and internal energy development
- What skills are necessary for your environment and how do we teach them? "Hard" vs. "soft" energy development: demystifying the technical terms of uranium mining and milling occupational and alternative alternatives

**Health for Survival**

- Universal knowledge of health hazards
- Powerless struggle
- Medical support for CPS training programs
- Health effects on Three Mile Island

**For our children**

- A message for out-of-staters

- Your effectiveness in talking about energy issues to local people while in South Dakota will be enhanced if you use discretion in your behavior and dress.
- Residents of the diverse South Dakota communities will be most receptive to modestly dressed, polite travelers.
- Please use this opportunity to reach people not involved in "the big picture" by taking a moderate approach in your speech and action.
- A little personal sacrifice will reap important rewards for the safe energy movement.

- Nature in the classroom and creating an environmentally sound learning situation, how to teach human dignity in the classroom

- Hard vs. soft. Energy development.
- How to teach self-control and ecological awareness

- Utilization above traditional healing
- Homesteading - the diachronicogany against it

- Mass meeting health effects of chromium, lead, energy development

- Low level radiation hazards
- Health hazards of uranium mining and milling occupational health hazards
- Agent Orange

- Transportation and storage of nuclear wastes
- Pollution prevention and health hazards
- Horrors and alternatives

- Peace in Montauk
- Biological warfare is wicked
- Basic life support and CPR training
- Fertility awareness
### Tigring Calendar

**Monday, July 21**
- Appropriate technology and land sufficiency: tile clay napkins, natural gas, improved cookstoves, traditional technology, traditional food, traditional housing.

**Tuesday, July 22**
- Appropriate technology and land sufficiency: tile clay napkins, natural gas, improved cookstoves, traditional technology, traditional food, traditional housing.

**Wednesday, July 23**
- Appropriate technology and land sufficiency: tile clay napkins, natural gas, improved cookstoves, traditional technology, traditional food, traditional housing.

**Thursday, July 24**
- Appropriate technology and land sufficiency: tile clay napkins, natural gas, improved cookstoves, traditional technology, traditional food, traditional housing.

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### Calendar continued

**Friday, July 25**
- Special Events: To Be Announced

**Saturday, July 26**
- Guests and speakers:
  - John X. Yoo, Senior International Business Technology Assistant, United Nations Peacekeeping Training Center
  - Margaret H. - Appropriation

**Sunday, July 27**
- Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Form

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### Appropriate Technology

**Land Self-Sufficiency**

- Appropriate technology and land sufficiency: tile clay napkins, natural gas, improved cookstoves, traditional technology, traditional food, traditional housing.

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### Calendar continued

continued from p. 11
Sierra Club maps area uranium exploration
by Nancy Burks

There are 2,345 square miles of the Black Hills under uranium exploration. This area includes 5,748 uranium claims, most of which are staked in the Black Hills National Forest, and 355 square miles of leased land. The Black Hills chapter of the Sierra Club produced a map that shows at a glance the potential impact on the entire Black Hills region from uranium activity. Jim MacKean, a Rapid City resident and member of several environmental groups researched county courthouse and state records last May through September. A product of this research is the Black Hills Area Uranium Activity Fact Sheet, which features a map depicting claimed and leased areas and land under uranium exploration permit in the six Black Hills counties.

Copies of the Fact Sheet are available from the Black Hills Group of the Sierra Club, P. O. Box 1284, Rapid City, South Dakota. The original maps are available for study at the Rapid City office, Room 3, in Rapid City. Detailed information about each May entry is compiled in a reference notebook.

Uranium initiative strategized in Huron
by Miriam Olson

The Committee for People’s Choice sent out invitations across South Dakota for concerned citizens to help kick off a campaign to put Uranium Choice Initiative on the ballot. A petition with close to 29,000 names was submitted to the Secretary of State this past February, requesting that South Dakota be allowed to vote on uranium and nuclear development projects in the state.

College officials expressed support for the initiative, and the majority of the people who signed the petition had a similar reaction. This referendum will affect our future for thousands of years to come. Everyone is asked to share their concerns and spread the word,” said Phill Strippol of Lead, SD. South Dakota is not unique in trying to allow the people to legislate nuclear development. Sections.

Treaty Conference to be in Montana
by: William Means, IITC Executive Director

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) is sponsoring the Sixth International Indian Treaty Conference. The conference will be held on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation five miles west of Loganpole, MT, from June 27th to July 2nd, 1969. The conference will be at Jim Many’s place on Big Water Creek.

The conference will deal with sovereignty, treaty rights, energy development, water rights and other survival issues that concern Indian people throughout the Western Hemisphere. The conference will also have a Youth and Elders Commission, as well as other workshops to deal with pressing issues.

At this conference an annual report of the activities of the International Indian Treaty Council will be given, and goals and priorities for the future will be set for the coming year. We expect attendance of 500 people, including delegations from throughout the Western Hemisphere and allies from around the world. Also present at the conference will be the Black Hills Alliance to discuss how Treaty Rights should be used to limit and reduce uranium mining and other activities危害 Indian land, our sacred Mother Earth.

Everyone is welcome, for more information, contact the IITC at 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 or call 212-986-6000.
Walk, run, rollerrskate, bicycle or
or wheelchair for safe energy

by Jan Miller

From July 18-27, 1980 people from many parts of the world will gather in the Black Hills to participate in the Black Hills International Survival Gathering. In order to raise money and community support for the Survival Gathering, the 1980 Black Hills Solar Energy Move-A-thon is scheduled to occur on June 7. The Solar Energy Move-A-Thon is being produced as a joint fundraising event in which participating organizations will receive 50 percent of the net proceeds, after expenses, from each of its movers or walkers. The other half of the proceeds will go to help support the Black Hills Survival Gathering.

Participating organizations will find movers and the movers will find sponsors who will donate money for every kilometer covered by the Mover.

The paperwork, accounting, routing, food, music, comfort stops, first aid, security and overall coordination will be provided by the Move-A-Thon Committee of the Black Hills Alliance.

If you decide to join the Move-A-Thon, contact the Black Hills Alliance office immediately and we will tell you how to get sponsors, what to wear and other logistics. Your Alliance office, Box 2506, Rapid City, or call 621-277.

Nuclear secrecy not necessary

continued from p. 2

particularly dangerous runway at the Honolulu International Airport. The Federal Court in San Francisco ruled recently that an EIS should be prepared for a project in that area. The Atwood also ruled that nuclear weapons are a potential hazard to the public, and that the information the suit requested would not hurt national security.

Some others aspects of nuclear secrecy have become much less hid

ed in the last few years. Among these are the effects that military spending has on the nation’s econ

omy, including fewer jobs and more inflation.

The amount of money spent by the government is staggering. Where is this clear? In the weapons industry. According to the Riverside Church Disarmament Program, 30 percent of every tax dollar goes to pay for the military and for past wars. Since 1950, the money the Pentagon has spent every year has more than changed the lives of all U.S. citizens combined.

Researcher Dr. James Anderson from Lansing, MI reports that about $70 million of our taxes go to the Pentagon every year, and only about $100.2 million in spent by the mili
tary in our state—so that a net loss of around $60.8 million a year. Twenty percent of the U.S. popula

tion lives in Congressional districts which spend more than the Pentagon than they receive.

This drain on spending power means a drain on state businesses, fewer purchases. And less business means more unemployment and we fare worse.

In the next 10 years, the U.S. is slated to spend $1.8 trillion on the military, which also employs 12 percent of the third and one-half of the nation’s engineers and scientists.

About one-fifth of the military budget or $32 billion in 1978, is spent on weapons. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that if the money spent on nuclear weapons was spent on health care, there would be 84 percent more jobs, or if it was spent on education, 147 percent more, or if another way, $1 billion creates 70,000 military jobs, but creates 100,000 construction jobs—some of which we could use in South Dakota.

The money spent on weapons in 1978 was more than the combined bud

gets of the Department of State, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce and Interior.

The drain for weapons isn’t replaced by spending at a local business. In addition, military spend

ing doesn’t produce goods and ser

vices— we can’t go to the store and buy a tank, and most of us can’t use services at military bases.

If the current rate of military spending hurts our economy in so many ways, then who benefits? The tax money on weapons and military hardware goes mostly to large corporations.

In some cases, the auto in

dustry spending hasn’t kept comp

ties that are essentially unsound from losing money and asking for more federal money as bailouts. But in other cases, companies that already make huge profits also have lucrative military contracts with the Federal government.

An example is Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), one of the 25 largest industrial companies in the U.S. ICC says in its 1979 Annual Report that the company had a 41 percent increase in net income and 17 percent increase in sales over 1978. Mention is also made of the operations it runs for the government at Fedsak, KY and Oak Ridge, TN. The Oak Ridge plant, which makes the major compone

ts of fusion bombs, includes one-half of the equipment in the country’s nuclear weapons production complexes. UCC gets a $232.8 million tax dollars every year to run the plant.

Another corporation working in the Black Hills, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) supplies all the power for the Oak Ridge complex and more than one-half the power for the Pediah plant, according to the August 1979, Progressive magazine.

These two plants have used more than 20 percent of TVA’s total power in recent years. And TVA itself was created at taxpayer ex

pense as a government-run company.

Other companies with highly pro

fitable businesses that also receive military contracts include Standard Oil of California (Esso), Exxon, and Gulf Oil with 1979 profits of over $1.7 billion, $1.3 billion and $1.3 billion, respectively, and uranium exploration operations in western South Dakota. Two other major oil companies, each with about $2 billion in 1979 profits, had 1977 military contracts for $18.1 million and $95 million-Mobil and Texaco. The frustration of the current situation was voiced by Lloyd J. Dumas, professor of Industrial and Management Engineering at Colum

bia University: “We can and should do highly accurate missiles and high

performance nuclear submarines, but we have forgotten how to build a decent railway system or even a decent railway car.”
Uranium mining activity spreads in Wisconsin

by Lillie Jones

Reports from the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy indicate that citizen activity is picking up in northern Wisconsin in reaction to a variety of environmental threats in that area.

Much like South Dakota, northern Wisconsin depends on tourism, agriculture, and logging as its economic base. Some Wisconsin residents feel that way of life is now endangered by plans to mine and smelt copper and zinc, uranium exploration and possible nuclear waste disposal, according to reports.

Wisconsin is heavily dependent on nuclear power, which provides about 30 percent of its total electricity. The controversy over that state's power supply has recently reached South Dakota.

The D. S. Public Utilities Commission has filed suit for Sioux Falls customers to pay part of the $80 million the company says it's lost when the Wisconsin Public Service Commission wouldn't grant permission to build a nuclear plant near Tyrone, in west-central Wisconsin.

Since the plant was cancelled, the front and back ends of the nuclear fuel chain have come to Wisconsin's northern counties. Some of the companies interested in uranium there are Kerr-McGee, Exxon, Anaconda, Phillips Petroleum, Kenacotta Copper, Minatome, Noranda, U. S. Steel and Western Nuclear. Currently, land in eight Wisconsin counties has been leased for uranium exploration.

Residents of the isolated and beleaguered northern counties have decided to become involved with the issues affecting their environment. Based on reports from the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy, a Madison research group, a series of uranium exploration and mining moratoriums have passed.

To date, one county, Butte, and townships in Barron, Ashland and Langlade Counties have passed such moratoriums. Votes will occur later this year on moratoriums in all of Langlade County and in Washburn and Sawyer Counties.

In May, the third Wisconsin conference on uranium activities took place in Ashland. Area interest grew recently when Kerr-McGee made an agreement with Chicago and Northwestern Railroad covering 70,000 acres of subsurface rights.

Surface owners were not and have not been informed what land is involved.

Wausau, Waupaca, and Shawano Counties are under consideration as sites for a national nuclear waste disposal site, according to Lesli Byrle of Madison, WI.

Activity in Wisconsin has also been building for several years around plans by Exxon and Kennecott Copper to mine the world's largest copper-zine deposit. The deposit is near Crexden and the Saukage Chipewa's Mole Lake Reservation in Forest County.

The mine would release sulfuric acid and other pollutants into lakes the Saukage depend on for their livelihood of wild rice gathering. Wastes would also damage the Wolf River—a major waterway frequented by boaters and fishermen, because of the mine's proposed location at the mouth of the river.

Milwaukee residents are concerned that local industries, such as Allis-Chalmers, Bucyrus Erie and other major manufacturers of mining machinery will be providing equipment for uranium mining in the northern sections, according to a Milwaukee Black Hills Alliance report.

Uranium exploration is now taking place across northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and throughout South Dakota.

ND safe energy group one year old

Dakota Sun is a non-profit corporation that has grown directly from the concerns North Dakotans have about conventional fuel use and the slow pace of transition to renewable, water-based resources, according to Glenda Kepler of Bismarck.

Officially incorporated in May 1979, the group's stated purpose is "to promote the development of the state's renewable energy on the northern plains.

Kepler and Holley stated that the philosophy of Dakota Sun is that cooler, wind and alcohol fuels are technologically feasible and economically competitive now and an energy source of the future.

Dakota Sun works with public officials to develop laws and enables that promote renewable energy systems. The group also develops educational materials, gives workshops, and provides an informed perspective concerning North Dakota's energy system.

What is the future of the state's building code to be initiated with suggestions made for improvements to encourage installation of renewable energy.

Meetings have been held across the state to elect regional representatives to the board of Dakota Sun.

The group, wide, membership-supported corporation with regional and county coodinators throughout and national leaders, is working to promote legislation that would support the group's work.

For more information contact Dakota Sun, Box 3093, Grand Forks, ND 58201, or call 701-745-6800.

Local movie focuses on uranium issue

by Jenny Martin

Have you ever wanted to see a movie in the middle-of-the-mattress, felt frustrated because you had to control what you saw? Tall Nauman did, and she's doing something about it. A long-time South Dakotan, Talli is making a film about uranium mining in the Black Hills.

"This is a very heated issue and I want to present it from the point of view of a local person," Nauman says.

"Too often big, non movie companies come in with tons of money and reputation come in and make films, leaving out a lot of the fine points. This film will be made by and of the people of this area. And they will have access to it, for whatever they want to use it for," Nauman adds.

"Film is far and away the most effective media for communicating with many people. It's the same old story: a picture's worth a thousand words—but many funding agencies are still in the Dark Ages when it comes to film.

"They're afraid. They're afraid the film won't get finished. They'd rather give their money to a project that doesn't require so much capital. They'd rather fund films that are Hollywood and non-controversial. They have a million reasons for leaving you out here struggling." Nauman says.

Nauman says she's part of a movement across the country of independent filmmakers who are trying to get their films and their ways of making look better accepted and better supported.

Her film is called Two Roads to the Mountain. One road is in the one traditionally taken by South Dakotans and the other is the one taken by energy developers that are coming into the state.

"It will give people food for thought in their evaluation of the uranium mining issues," Nauman says.

The film focuses on third generation South Dakota rancher Marvin Kammerrer. It will show his lifestyle and how that will be affected by proposed uranium mining.

"Marvin is someone I respect and identify closely with. I think a lot of people feel this way about him. I only hope the film can do him justice. He's been wonderful to work with," Nauman says.

Two Roads to the Mountain will be shot through September and the film should be ready for release and distribution in February.

Nauman is aiming for a half-hour color film, which she hopes to have aired on local television. She also plans to make the film available to organizations and businesses who want to show it.

"I tried to make it as real, Nauman says. I'm not making this film plan because I have some very dedicated people working with me, to whom I owe everything. And we're always looking for other interested people.

People interested in working on the film or contributing to it may contact Ms. Nauman at 824 Prosper, Lead, SD 57754 or call (605) 954-1727.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES need a channel of information and news to keep them in touch with developments around the country. Nuclear Information and Resources Service provides essential information through its news magazine GROUNDWELL of the latest developments in nuclear industry; it is an information and the anti-nuclear movement. For only $15 receive GROUNDWELL for the next twelve months.

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NUCLEAR INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SERVICE
1214 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Research group, union call for new standards in uranium mines

by Evelyn Lifsey

Calling for emergency, temporary standards for exposure to radon daughters, the Public Citizen Health Research Group (PCHR) and the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) filed a petition with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) on April 22, 1989. Radon daughters are the radioactive decay products of uranium and can cause cancer.

The petition called on MSHA, part of the Labor Department, to protect more than 5000 uranium miners and tens of thousands of other underground miners. Under current standards, these workers face an increased risk of lung cancer due to radiation exposure.

The current permissible level for worker exposure to radiation is four working level months (WLM), a year. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), this level cannot be considered safe since the risk of lung cancer would be expected to double after 10 to 20 years of employment.

NIOSH brought this to public attention in 1976. Government-funded studies indicate that about 250000 miners suffer a cancer risk of 1 in 10000. In 1977, the government's own data showed that workers were actually exposed to an average of 6.4 WLM-five times higher than that shown by company records.

MSHA's own regulations provide that for an emergency change in standards and enforcement, according to petitioners, Section 81(b) of the Mine Safety and Health Act states that standards shall be set "which most adequately assures that no miner will suffer material impairment of health or functional capacity even if miner will suffer exposure to a given level of radiation due to hazards which he cannot recognize as such.

Rapid City, South Dakota, March 22, 1989—Judge Thomas Parker denied the Black Hills Alliance motion for a stay of uranium exploration operations of Silver King Mines, an operator for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Judge Parker based his May 27, 1974 decision on South Dakota law 126 SW, which says that a company may continue operations until the application has been finally determined by the agency (South Dakota State Conservation Commission).

The position of the Black Hills Alliance is that under S. D. law 126 SW, Judge Parker could have considered the outcome of the NHEA before deciding whether to grant the stay. The South Dakota State Conservation Commission has already decided in favor of the TVA.

Judge Parker refused to follow the NHEA in a recent suit brought by the Alliance to the state Supreme Court. The Black Hills Alliance contends that the TVA has obtained a uranium exploration permit renewal improperly, that the company did not make timely and sufficient application for renewal of its license, and that considerable environmental factors were not taken into account when the permit was renewed.

Homestake uranium interests span seven states

by Lillio Jones

It's not hard to confuse the uranium interests of Homestake Mining Co., and United Nuclear Corp. The two companies are related, but Homestake has been less visible in recent years. The United Nuclear Corp. has been more active in exploring and mining uranium in the western United States. The company is involved in projects in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Arizona. Homestake, however, has been focused on expanding its operations in South Dakota and Wyoming. In 1984, the company acquired a majority interest in the Grantsville mine, which is under construction. The company is also interested in developing uranium projects in Wyoming and Arizona. Homestake currently has operations in seven states, including North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada.

Consider the possibility

Are you considering what to do with the current uranium market? How are you planning to manage your uranium assets? Here are some options:

1. Sell your uranium assets: Consider selling your uranium assets to a reputable buyer.
2. Lease your uranium assets: Lease your uranium assets to a company that has a proven track record in the uranium industry.
3. Hold your uranium assets: Hold on to your uranium assets for future market conditions.
4. Diversify your uranium assets: Consider diversifying your uranium holdings across different regions and markets.

Homestake's Annual Report points out that the company's 20 percent share in the Grants mill was 226088 tons of ore processed in 1990. Homestake also has a 65 percent interest in a uranium mine in Ruby County, CO, known as the Pitchfork

Homestake is exploring for uranium in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The company owns 180 claims (about 25 square miles) in the area. A representative of Homestake told the South Dakota government that the claims were for uranium.

According to the company, the United Nuclear Corp. is a subsidiary of Homestake Mining Co. The company plans to invest about $100,000,000 in the operation of the Grantsville mine near Moab, Utah. The company also plans to invest in the development of a uranium mine near Moab, Utah. The company plans to invest about $100,000,000 in the operation of the Grantsville mine near Moab, Utah.
Occupation at Burnham, NM continues

by Winona LaDuke and Ewelyn Ideay

"Where will we all be 20 to 25 years from now when all the coal has been consumed and the companies operating these gasification plants have cleaned up and moved away? There will be nothing there, they will be working elsewhere, and we will be sitting on top of a bunch of ash with nothing to live on..." 

Lucy Rosswood, Coalition for Navajo Liberation, 1975.

While a final decision on coal stripmining at Burnham, NM, was still in the judge’s hands, Consolidation Coal Company of Pittsburgh began grading land nearly 100 miles north of Burns. By April 14, the company had bulldozed five graves.

Lawyers for Burnham residents went to court and got a temporary restraining order on April 14, but the company continued operations. By April 18, four days after the restraining order was issued, the company leveled an area for inoming equipment.

With the company operating in violation of a court order, Burnham residents were not sure what to do, and called for support. Within hours, nearly 20 persons, including Burnham residents and supporters, occupied the Consolidation mine site. Minutes later, 27 police cars and twice the number of personnel surrounded the site. After dispersing the situation, promoters moved 100 yards east and began setting up camp.

We decided that to get arrested would not be effective," said Laura Villegas, one of the promoters. At least 1000 Burnham residents face relocation because of the project. Approximately 30 people, mostly elders and mostly Navajo are maintaining their camp near the mine site. Another one-day restraining order has been issued from Denver and will run out on May 27, according to Larry Anderson of the Coalition for Navajo Liberation in the Southwest.

In order to focus national attention on the stripmining at Navajo land and the desecration of graves, the people of the Burnham chapter of the Navajo Reservation are holding a gathering of elders and all indigenous people from May 25 through June 2, as this paper goes to print.

A release from the Burnham Chapter house states that the purpose of the gathering is to discuss strategies to combat the destruction of the land and the people’s culture caused by coal stripmining now beginning at Burnham, NM. Consolidated Coal Co. and El Paso Natural Gas "have already desecrated burial sites, in one of the largest coal exploitation projects in New Mexico, 40,000 acres will be destroyed," according to the release.

Anderson stated that the situation at the site in Isleta, but that people are taking leadership from the elders. "We want to occupy as long as possible, and keep the company from expanding," Anderson said. He said that while community support is strong, media coverage is "scant.

Wide support is needed to stop further development of the Southwest National Garment Area, Anderson said. He noted that food donations, especially flour, hard beans, potatoes, sugar, coffee and canned goods are needed.

People who would like more information or wish to drop off food and other donations are requested to contact the American Indian Environmental Council, 304 Central SE, Albuquerque, NM or call (505) 243-7387 or 255-1509.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Black Hills Alliance will be held Saturday, June 23, 1980 at 9 a.m. in the recreation area of Canyon Lake Park in Rapid City, S.D. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Membership in the Alliance is open to all people who live and work in the Black Hills area. If you have any questions, please call the office of the Alliance.

The Northern Hills, Safe Energy Times, is one of the two month's old publication of miners for safe energy. Now is the time to support our work and subscribe. 

The spirit of the people is greater than the man's technology.

Huey P. Newton, 1968

Union local focus of uranium controversy

by Jenny Martin

Local 494 of the United Steelworkers of America (AFL-CIO), which represents some 1500 mine workers at Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, S.D., has recently become the scene of controversy about proposed uranium mining in the Black Hills area.

Raising the controversy is Miners for Safe Energy, a group of miners who began to organize in October to oppose uranium mining in the Northern Hills.

Local 494 is one of the largest locals of the United Steelworkers International in the country. The union operates five locals in the state with 13,221 members. The locals operate seven job sites in the state, with 80 per cent of the employees working in the local 494 area.

Knowing this, members of Miners for Safe Energy (MFSE) felt some uncertainty in approaching their local.

"Considering our International's position on nuclear power, we expected opposition to our position on uranium mining," said David Johnson, a contract miner at Homestake and member of MFSE.

In March, however, MFSE made three requests of the Local, which were granted: 1) that members of the group be allowed to speak to uranium mining issues at the upcoming monthly union meetings, 2) that an energy committee be set up within the Local, and 3) that the group be allowed to rent the union hall for a fundraising benefit.

At the two meetings April 10, David Reinhould and Bill Muddocks members of both Local 494 and MFSE, addressed rank and file assemblies. They were positively received, despite aggressive questions from Local President Dallas Tin- nell and others.

The reception was mixed," said Crystal Maddocks of MFSE. "There were people who were intensely listening and obviously interested, and there was organized opposition, which one union member mentioned right at the meeting.

At both meetings, Tinnell announced that he had appointed an energy committee consisting of himself and two other union members who are not members of Miners for Safe Energy. The committee would uphold the International's stand in favor of nuclear development and uranium mining, he said.

Active MFSE members, more than half of whom are or have been members of Local 494, feel that their greatest potential for influencing other working people lies in educating and organizing within the union.

"The union could be very important," said Reinhould, "especially because local miners are potential uranium miners and have a big stake in this."

MFSE members feel it is especially important to work with Homestake workers because they are a prime labor pool for more than two dozen multinational companies which are exploring for uranium in the Black Hills area.

"As a trained body of underground miners, Homestake workers could easily be lured into high-paying uranium mining jobs despite the health hazards inherent in the workplace," Johnson said.

Wyoming uranium miners are paid $50 to $150 an hour more than gold miners at Homestake, which is a partner in the Homestake-United Nuclear uranium processing plant in Grants, NM, and is expanding its uranium interests across the country. See "Homestake uranium interests: a case study."
Welcome to America: Caution—Radioactive

by Michael Garffy

Editor’s Note: The following editor’s note is Michael Garffy’s report from the National Citizens’ Hearing for the Radiation Victims in April. Michael Garffy is co-coordinating the Citizens’ Review Commission for the Survival Gathering.

From April 11th to the 14th, the National Memorial Institute for Radiation Victims held a hearing in Washington, D.C. The hearing included testimony from more than 40 states to share their stories and concerns. Many of the people present had suffered similar experiences of being exposed to high doses of low-level ionizing radiation. The venomous radiation had caused their bodies to undergo a variety of diseases associated with the anti-nuclear movement. Dr. Thomas Massey, Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, Sister Rosalie Bertell, Dr. Edward Martell, Dr. Joseph Wagoner, and Everett Mendelson.

Sister Rosalie Bertell called this a “license to murder” and stated that “we have initiated a death or not we can clean up our radioactive environment.”

Nuclear Chain Victims - Mining

The 12 member hearings panel—heard testimony from former Navajo uranium miner Kee Begay and from Pearl Nabul, widow of a Navajo uranium miner who worked for Kerr-McGee. For 25 years, Nabul’s husband died in 1974 of lung and stomach cancer as a direct result of working for Kerr-McGee mining and milling facilities. Kee Begay said that he had been exposed to high levels of radiation, including lung, breast, and heart.

After a period of two hours of work, the enriched uranium dust on the floor was so thick that it had to be removed by hand. After six months only at the plant, Joe had open sores on his legs. His health had completely deteriorated, and his lungs had become black from the exposure. He has had trouble breathing for a long time.

Dr. Joseph Wagoner, a specialist in occupational-caused cancer added scientific backing to the highly emotional testimony of the widow, sons, and miners. He has extensively researched the adverse health effects of mining and milling uranium ore on both Indian and non-Indian workers. He stated that the disease caused by Wagoner and Dr. Victor Archer in 1974 and 1975, it was found that uranium miners were dying of respiratory cancer at a rate almost four times that normally expected. The killer was radon gas and the decay decay decay that the uranium gas is carrying.

What is ionizing radiation? It is the process by which an object absorbs or emits energy in the form of electromagnetic radiation. This includes X-rays, gamma rays, and alpha and beta particles. Low-level ionizing radiation can cause cancer and other diseases directly related to radiation... drinking and breathing enriched uranium. Some of Joe’s co-workers thought that he was a troublemaker. Joe never got a dime of compensation from Union Carbide and died struggling against the company.

Union Carbide denied that the termination of employment was related to contamination at the work place. OJC indicated that the Social Security Administration and Joe’s own private insurance company that he was not occupationally disabled. After that, his private insurance company stopped payment on his claim, and the Social Security Administration was not paid. The money that was scheduled to be given was never paid.

Joe’s eldest daughter died three years ago, and now Martha Harding Allen, his and Clara’s surviving daughter, is showing signs of radiation exposure and genetic damage. She is prematurely aging and has something growing in her stomach.

Joe’s death of fellow employee, a miner, was recognized as a “license to murder” as wearing a luminous wrist watch. He had found out that he had a cancer.

Joe began keeping a “death list” of the records of his fellow workers’ deaths. He was able to track down the high percentage of cancer deaths. Out of 200 healthy men who started with Joe, 40 of them died of innumerable cancer, cancer, or some other disease directly related to radiation or the toxic chemicals processed in the plant.

Joe spent 12 of his 18 years at the plant in the “hotbox” areas. He breathed uranium hexafluoride (uranium hexafluoride) and other chemicals that he thought were forming a base in the air, and he could taste it as it coated his mouth, tongue, and lungs. After a period of two hours of work, the enriched uranium dust on the floor was so thick that it could not be seen. Joe’s exposed sores on his legs.

Joe’s health got steadily worse, and he lost his ability to work. In 1970 Joe’s body began to function properly, and he was able to get up. The radiation then attacked his central nervous system, Joe died of two months before the hearings took place. Joe was one of the major forces behind the hearings.

Union Carbide says it is not responsible for anything that happened to Joe at the plant. Joe says he had profits and that his health problems had nothing to do with his 18 years of earning, long damage from breathing radioactivity at the plant and was too sick to testify at the Victims’ Hearings.

Tom Bernard also testified at the Hearings about the work he had been doing to make the first atomic bomb at Los Alamos, NM, in 1945. He was exposed to high levels of radiation at that time and had four children with severe genetic damage. His grandchildren also have genetic damage. He described how he was loaded enriched uranium, barehanded, from a van at the test site at Alamogordo. He concludes by saying that “those responsible for this are as guilty as those at the Nuremberg trials of Hitler’s Germany.”

The Atomic Veterans

In January 1978, the Department of Energy admitted to Congress that more than 400,000 military and civilian personnel were exposed to nuclear weapons tests and their radiation since the World War II. Another 569,000 have been employed at major federal nuclear facilities during the same time period.

The Department of Defense conducted hundreds of atmospheric tests between 1946 and 1958 before they were taken underground. During that time, hundreds of thousands of people were being exposed and were being discharged within three years of their employment.

Hiroshima victims connect uranium to A-bomb
by Colleen Regan

"We saw bodies, burned black, dead. We could not work without stepping on human remains. People were buried under houses. I still remember the cries of the helpless. There was nothing we could do."

"I was married a short time later. I gave birth to a beautiful son. He died at two of leukemia because I had been radiated."

August 6, 1945, 8 a.m. Hiroshima—The first use of atomic weapons in warfare.

The words of Mrs. Takeko Teko-shita, translated from Japanese by her companion, Shoji Ikeda, held the audience at Black Hills State College in silence. The April 15 public meeting, sponsored by Miners for Safe Energy and the Spearfish Black Hills Alliance, was a stop on the nationwide "Nuclear Victims Tour" coordinated by Mobilization for Survival.

Takeko and Ikeda are Hibakusha—survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"We are all survivors of those bombs," Ikeda said, "although we all did not experience the blast and the burns, we all carry in our bodies man-made radioactivity which never would have been there but for the nuclear explosions that have followed since 1945."

A third visitor, Toshikichi Murasami, represented the "Anti-nuclear group on the tour and added a sense of urgency to the hibakusha testimony.

"Do anything to ban nuclear power. I fear man will not live forever," he said.

Lorelei Meints also presented the findings of Women of All Red Nations (WAN) AEN preliminary health and water study conducted on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"The water supply is contaminated by radiation and chemicals—we believe this is the cause of the unusually high incidence of birth defects and cancers among Indian people," Meints stated.

Nuclear Victims Tour connected weapons use to the "front end of the nuclear fuel chain" uranium mining and milling by bringing together affected people for discussion and exchange of ideas. South Dakota already a nuclear weapon storage site, is now slated for massive uranium development.

She was given Roentgen Therapy three times a week for four weeks, alternating from the left ovary to the salpinx gland and then the right.

X-rays were six minutes long and 200 Roentgens. Her baby daughter was born on September 18, 1957.

Medical Exposures Medical exposure to radiation is perhaps the most serious problem facing the general public in terms of public health risk. The Roswell Memorial Cancer Institute showed that the x-rays given needlessly have contributed to significant increases in leukemia, other cancers, heart disease and genetic damage.

According to the Bureau of Radiological Health of the Food and Drug Administration, up to 80 percent of medical x-ray equipment is not certified for safety, and an estimated 50 percent of all x-rays given in the U.S. are given needlessly.

Mrs. Emma Mihal came to the hearings to testify to the gruesome details of her exposure to medical x-rays. Her doctor denied that she was pregnant when she was actually two and a half months along. He told her that she needed radiation treatment immediately or "she might never have children."

Welcome continued from p. 18

return with no medical help or follow-up by the Department of Defense or other government agencies.

Hiroshima victims connect uranium to A-bomb

Shoji Ikeda (far left), Takeko Teko-shita, Toshikichi Murasami and Lorelei Meints share their experience with South Dakota at the Spearfish stop on the Nuclear Victims Tour, April 6, 1989.
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General Assembly to Stop the Power Line - discussion on building the oil pipeline and the environmental impact on the neighborhood
Almanac - New Mexico tribal organization, expert on foxtailing
Dr. Judith Salatow - University of Connecticut; expert on Native American studies
McCallie School - College for women using Helicopter in the industry, and the use of women in the industry.
Ellen Tidman - organizer of the protest against the nuclear power plant in Vermont, and other activities
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