Survival Gathering draws 11,000; unifies on land issues

Regional mtngs focus on Survival

by Jo Shuman and Evelyn Utsey

One of the major goals of the Survival Gathering was to give people an opportunity to discuss the threats to survival in their specific area of the country. On Saturday, July 29, more than 1500 people divided into 10 groups, representing 9 regions of the U.S. and the international community.

The goals of the Strategy Sessions were to: decide what the survival issues are, to develop ways to deal with survival threats, and to set short and long term goals for action.

While some of the regions represented urban areas and others represented rural areas, each committee agreed that we are all dependent on the land. The direct threats in our neighborhoods and regions differed from one state to the next, but common ground was found by recognizing that, without a healthy land base to grow food, support wildlife, retain religious heritage and provide outdoor recreation, none of us can survive. This is best summarized by the slogan from southern Minnesota: “If you kill our farms, our cities will die.”

Meeting in small clusters on top of the Survival Gathering ridge, individuals told of their reasons for attending the Gathering. Some had chemical power plants in their backyards; others had kids who played in uranium tailings. Some had members of their families die from radiation-induced cancer, while others were discovering toxic waste dumps in their communities. Some had been drinking contaminated water.

Land is a sacred trust and a precious resource. Together with the water that flows under and through it and the air that flows around it, the land has been created, given in sacred trust, to all living creatures. The land is one, its water, soil, air elements within and living creatures are whole, not meant to be divided and abused. Mother Earth nourishes her children, and they are to treat her with respect. They are to live in harmony with her and with each other.

But the sacred trust has been violated. The harmony has been shattered. The land has been demonized because it has been treated as a commodity. Mother Earth has been violated by individuals and corporations who abuse or appropriate her for their own selfish ends.

The abuses of the land are many: overuse of sacred Indian lands; strip mining; grassland plowing; soil and water poisoning and depletion through excessive agricultural, industrial and consumer use; lack of land conservation practices; capital and chemical intensive agriculture; overgrazing of pasture lands; displacement of native plant varieties; irresponsible forestry practices; dumping of chemical and radioactive waste. Many of these abuses result from an economic system that exploits Native Peoples, farmers and ranchers, taking from them ownership or control of their land base.

The forms taken by appropriation of the land include stealing Native Peoples’ land to satisfy the greed of those seeking mineral or agricultural wealth; seizure of rural lands in general through purchase by large corporations, or govern
Nuclear weapons costly, controversial and accident prone

by Lily Jones

Editor's Note: This was to be the last in a 3-particle series on nuclear weapons. Due to length, the last part will be printed next issue and will cover nuclear weapons facilities and public health, nuclear testing, and ethics. The first installment dealt with uranium for military uses, the nuclear power-weapon connection, and security for nuclear materials. The second part considered nuclear "screwy" and the effects of weapons spending on employment and the economy.

Large sums of the money spent on nuclear weapons are going to develop a variety of new weapons: the Trident submarine, the MX missile, the cruise missile, the neutron bomb, and others. Each of these projects is the subject of controversy for various reasons.

The second of thirty Trident submarines was launched from Groton, CT, last April, amid a protest by about 1000 people, 211 of whom were arrested. According to the Navy, the submarines carry 16 multiple warheads. A single Trident can destroy 408 targets, each with a blast five times more powerful than the one at Hiroshima. One Trident submarine costs about $9 billion.

Besides the cost, Trident is a centerpiece of a proposed communications system for the submarines. The Navy was to install an "Extra Low Frequency" (ELF) field in northern Wisconsin and Michigan to upgrade those communications. The project would involve burying 158 miles of antennae in the area. According to a variety of experiments, summed up by the Provoceous magazine, this would expose man and animals to electrical radiation that affects brain and blood chemistry, changes heart rates, and increases stress and bone tumors. Residents of the area have fought the ELF project for over a decade, but local resistance hasn't seemed to stop the Navy for long - it keeps coming back with new proposals under new names. Nonetheless, the future of ELF remains in doubt.

MX Strike Local Protests

The future of the MX missile is also in doubt. The MX would be the largest project ever undertaken: 2% times bigger than the Alaska pipeline, according to John Bedworth, Nevada and Utah are the most likely homes for the $3.9 billion mobile missiles, but Wyoming, Minnesota and North Dakota have also been considered.

The Air Force projects that the MX would involve building 4600 shelters which, without support facilities, would house about 35 square miles. The Pentagon says the entire project will cost up to $14,000 square miles.

Simple division shows that the money for the MX should, indeed, be used to build two new $30 million hospitals for each of the 16 largest U.S. cities, a $20 million hospital for each of 100 smaller cities, a $12 million clinic for 1000 small towns, and 1000 new college at $20 million each - and much more.

Conversion to the nuclear weapons program in Utah and Nevada centers around the use of radioactive water supplies - especially for the 13,000 new permanent residents and up to 150,000 temporary residents the Air Force estimates the MX would bring to an area now containing only 60,000 people. In Nevada, the legislature voted $24 to $2 against the project. Both Nevada's and Utah's governors have gone on record against the MX as have the residents of the six Indian reservations in the area - parts of which were bypassed up by the project.

At public meetings, local people also objected to being a nuclear target. Others, according to an article in the Denver Post, feel that the twenty to thirty year usefulness the Air Force predicts for the MX isn't worth the environmental damage the project would cause in the fragile area. Opponents are also coming from taxpayers outside the targeted area because of the huge cost of the project. Others point out, that the Department of Defense and DU Tavale, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, questions the need for the MX and its huge cost. Air Force research chief LL. Blom, Kelly Burke admits that "It's by no means clear that we're going to have an MX."

Missile map missing from Moll

by Anonymous

In May, during "Low Enforcement Week," a map was displayed by the Defense Department of the Air Force at Runway Bolling in Rapid City. The map showed the locations of the nuclear missile silos in North and South Dakota. Being interested in seeing such a map, a member of the Black Hills Research Department rushed right out to the Mall, only to find that the display had been taken down.

Over the next few days, a string of phone conversations between the Department of Defense and the mall indicated that the only information contained in the May-June issue of BHP's Report on the non-existence of nuclear secrecy and government attempts to keep the public in the dark was known when it is threatened by the presence of nuclear weapons.

Destroying Life, Saving Property

Controversy over new weapons is not limited to Trident and the MX. However, another subject of extensive debate has been the neutron bomb, which would destroy life within 1000 yards and kill most people within a mile, while leaving property intact.

Opponents of the bomb point out that the fact that it would leave property more precious is the most dangerous aspect of the weapon. They say it shows why the bomb should be used where the country doing the bombing is a might-making it perfect for use in Third World countries or in internal disputes.

Another weapon under development that "only" hurts long things is nerve gas. According to Automobiles, current technology has created gases that kill when as little as one ounce of gas makes contact with the skin. The magazine pointed out that chemical warfare is most likely to be directed at civilians, not military forces. Another of the "strategic deterrents" of weapons is the cruise missile, a tiny nuclear weapon that has a range of 1500 miles and flies at treetop level. The cruise missile comes in two forms - a bomber-launched version being built by Boeing Aerospace Co. and a ground launched version being built by General Dynamics Corporation for use in Europe.

Accidents Can (and do) Happen

Bomber-launched cruise missiles were involved in an accident that the U.S. Air Force didn't know about. In a series of articles last month, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported that in August, 1979, one missile crashed in Utah's desert, and in December two crashed near California town - one crashed caused a fire and occurred 800 miles short of the target.

The government's contention that the information that had been on display was not "public." Finally, the BHA wrote a freedom of information Act request and received a map of South Dakota missile sites from the Department of the Air Force. The map bore the legend "Peace - it's our profession." The series of events brought home the information outlawed in the May-June issue of BHP's Report on the non-existence of nuclear secrecy and government attempts to keep the public in the dark.

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A prime nuclear target
Ellsworth Air Force Base has largest stockpile

by Randall Forsberg

Ellsworth Air Force Base, in Box Elder, South Dakota, 11 miles east-northeast of Rapid City, is the location of 167 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and 30 strategic bombers. This represents the greatest concentration of land-based nuclear might of any military base in the world.

The 167 Minuteman III ICBMs are located in concrete-reinforced underground silos spread out on the land around the base. Each missile carries a 1.5 megaton warhead. That is the equivalent of 1.5 million tons of TNT. The missiles from this base alone could destroy all the major cities in the Soviet Union, wiping out 30 percent of their population and 60 percent of their industry. They could do so literally with the turn of a key, in an attack that would take only 30 minutes, with the missiles going up out of the atmosphere and coming back down on the 'other side of the earth at 20,000 mph, leaving no time for defense or evaporation.

The 30 strategic bombers at Ellsworth are the most advanced type of strategic bombers in existence, the B-52H. These planes have an unboosted range of about 12,500 miles and are equipped and controlled by computer. They typically carry five nuclear bombs, with a yield of about 1 megaton each (3,000,000 tons of TNT equivalent). Actually, a megaton is a maximum, since the bombs are of an advanced "variable yield design." The yield can be varied by turning a dial. As a result, the military call them "dial-a-yield" bombs. B-52s are also equipped to carry nuclear stand-off missiles, for attacking air defense radars and surface-to-air missiles around the perimeter of the USSR. This is intended to clear an entry path up to 50 miles ahead of them, so that they can fly in unchallenged toward the cities and military installations that are their main targets.

These stand-off missiles, called SLAMs (subrange attack missiles), have a yield of 176 kilotons, or 176,000 tons of TNT.

With the new generation of "counterforce" weapons now being developed by both the USA and USSR, weapons designed specifically to attack the nuclear forces of the opposing side, Ellsworth is becoming a prime target for Soviet nuclear attack. The Pentagon estimates that over 200 strategic weapons might be set off around the base in a first-strike, counterforce attack: two ICBMs on each ICBM silo and a few on the bomber fields and command and control centers. The explosions would create tremendous overlapping blast waves, winds of 610-700 mph, immense fires and resulting climatic changes. The radioactive fallout of particles from the air would irradiate the entire southern region of South Dakota, leaving little human or other life.

This may sound like science fiction, something unrelated to our real lives, but it is very real. It is in the capability we and the USSR are building during the 1980s. The ability to attack nuclear forces, rather than only cities and conventional forces, will make nuclear war seem less suicidal and greatly increase the chances that it will occur in some crisis or by accident.

Rather than permit such developments, we should demand an end to the arms race, a freeze on any further testing or production of nuclear weapons by both the United States and the Soviet Union. This is not a stopgap or impractical goal. It can be checked and verified with high confidence by satellite.

The reason that the nuclear arms race has not been stopped before now is not that it can't be, but that governments have never tried. They haven't had the guts or the popular backing to take on the military, say no and put a lid on the thing. Stopping the arms race is possible; it is necessary for our survival. We have to do it and we can if we unite around this goal.

Randall Forsberg is the Director of the Institute for Defense & Disarmament in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Our Enemy

by John Somerville

For the first time in all history.
Against which everything human must now unite -
The good and the bad,
Those who believe in reason and those who do not believe in reason,
Those who believe in freedom and those who do not believe in freedom,
The exploiter and the exploited,
The poor and the rich,
The radical and the conservative,
The atheist and the believer,
The humanist and the anti-humanist,
The utilitarian and the selfish,
The saint and the sinner,
Joy and pain,
Happiness and misery,
Health and sickness,
God and the devil,
Life and death.
But how can life and death have a common enemy?
Is not death itself the worst of all common enemies?
What have we found that is worse than death?
Against which both death and life must now unite?
Is that which can kill the living thing in such a way
That the passage from death to further life is blocked,
What we before called death released the elements of life
In forms that could produce new life.
The dance of life had a silent partner called death,
And the dance could go on.
Our nuclear enemy can remove the silent partner and stop the dance.
It can kill the cell of life, kill life renewing death.
Transform this green and growing planet into a thing forever sterile.
Our nuclear enemy is not only a reaper that produces plenitude.
It is an economic system that seeks profit from reactors.
It is a political system that makes nuclear war possible.
It is an arms race that multiplies nuclear weapons.
It is a foreign policy that threatens to use them first.
It is education that does not teach the truth about the common enemy.
It is religion that does not denounce the common enemy by name.
It is ignorance that can be overcome.
We can overcome it.

John Somerville is President of the American Society of Missions and American President's Peace Fellowship Against Nuclear Warhead.
Archeological, religious sites threatened

by Phyllis Girouard

The Black Hills of western South Dakota (the Oahe Sapa), oasis of water, food, shelter and raw materials, have been inhabited by Native people since at least 8,800 B.C. During the 16th and 17th centuries the Plains Apeche, the Kansa and the Comanche were in the southern Hills. They were followed by the Arapaho and Cheyenne about 1750, and by the Dakota about 1770. Under the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the Oahe Sapa remained Indian land, although the United States has failed to honor the treaty since gold was discovered in the Hills in 1874. The U.S. Forest Service now asserts jurisdiction over much of the area, while other cases surrounding ownership are in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Oahe Sapa are considered sacred by the Dakota and other Native peoples. For instance, the Northern and Southern Cheyenne still make annual religious pilgrimages to Black Butte, which has been marked a state park in recognition of its religious significance. Many of the archeological sites throughout the Hills probably have religious significance, especially the mounds and aboriginal rock drawings of the way ancient peoples viewed and interpreted the world around them. Many sites have not yet been recorded, and few have been photographed.

Of particular archeological and anthropological interest are the numerous pictographs and petroglyphs painted and carved in the sandstone cliffs of the southern Hills. Over, for example, W. H. Over, "Indians Picture Writing in South Dakota," Archeological Studies Circular No. 1, 1941. To date, little effort has been made to interpret the drawings. The presence of such carvings makes it clear that the Black Hills were inhabited by people who left behind a record of their lives. Such a record is invaluable for understanding the ways of life of these early people.

One of the most important threats posed by a 2,000-foot-long, 10-foot-wide horizontal mine shaft to be blasted by Union Carbide been April "Bare Report" was mining in Craven Canyon, one of the most scenic areas of the semi-arid southern Hills and rich in the best examples of aboriginal rock drawings on South Dakota. More than 25 known archeological sites are within the affected area of the Union Carbide project, including nearly a dozen examples of rock art and habitations and hunting camps.

The state archeologist's staff believes that at least six of these sites should be examined for eligibility or nominated for inclusion in the National Historic Register, in the National Park Service, or in the State Archeologist's office catalogues numerous sites in the southern Hills that have been partially or completely ruined by earlier mining. The Archeologist has been able to help locate several of these sites.

The biggest danger posed by Union Carbide's Craven Canyon project is the increased traffic of mining machinery and trucks through the Canyon and roads in the area, which will encourage public access. Recommendations were made for a survey to be made before mining begins in the area.

The report also raises questions about the extent of uranium mining in the area, and the safety of workers and the environment. It is hoped that these questions will be addressed prior to the initiation of mining activity.

Union Carbide has already demonstrated its singular disregard for the environment in the Black Hills and was convicted of five criminal counts of violating the South Dakota pollution code. (Dec. 1979, Union Carbide Corp. v. U.S. Forest Service, 1111.)

Union Carbide also began blasting in the area this year, and the State Archeologist has not been notified.

The report states that Union Carbide should work on the Craven Canyon project before mining begins in 1979, through several state and federal initiatives initiated by local residents and the Black Hills Alliance. Experts in the interpretation of archeological rock drawings are badly needed to provide for the archeologist, anthropological and Native communities in the form of public protection and communications to the U.S. Forest Service and the State Archeologist would be very helpful.

The state, a comprehensive survey of the Black Hills has never been done and is essential now.

Union Carbide avoids environmental concerns

by P. K. Hammel

Black Hills Alliance attorneys are suing state and federal agencies for their actions approving Union Carbide Corporation's uranium exploration and mining plans in the Black Hills. The attorneys, Union Carbide (UCC), is in a company with a history of failing to get permits before starting work, and not mapping exploration holes as required by state law. (See "Bare Report," Vol. 1, No. 1, December 1979.)

In spite of the court's order, the state and federal agencies which regulate uranium mining and exploration have ignored state laws and procedures for federal laws protecting wildlife, historic sites and the environment. To approve UCC's uranium project, Alliance attorneys have appealed to the agencies to cancel the approval of projects and to consider more carefully the environmental effects of exploration and mining on water, wildlife, archeological sites and other resources.

Current Legal Challenges Involving Union Carbide

U.S.A. vs. Regional Forest Service/Craven Canyon Adit. This federal suit alleges that Forest Service officers violated federal laws on endangered species, archeological sites and the environment when they okayed Union Carbide's plan for an "exploration adit" on Forest Service land in Craven Canyon. The adit, more accurately described as a mine, will be a 10-by-12-foot tunnel reaching 2,000 feet into the canyon wall. UCC plans to extract and process over 400 tons of ore per year.
Energy issues fought in courts
by P.K. Hammel

Not all of the Black Hills Alliance legal team’s time is spent battling Union Carbide. Other current projects include a massive uranium exploration plan by the Tennessee Valley Authority, a private operator’s efforts to reopen an old uranium mine, and public rights to federal information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Here’s the lowdown:

BHA is in state court appealing the State Conservation Commission’s approval of T.V.A.’s contract for the drilling, which has already begun. 1800 holes would be drilled in the largest uranium exploration plan yet proposed for private and public land in South Dakota. The area affected is in Custer and Fall River counties. Last year’s drilling program penetrated aquifers near Edgemont twice, according to Silver King’s annual report to the Conservation Commission.

A Forest Service administrative appeal contests the Forest Service approval of Silver King Mines’ 1983 operating plan for uranium exploration in the Black Hills National Forest. The plan calls for about 574 holes in Custer, Red, Cau, and Bennett Canyons in Pennington County. These holes are included in the 1800 hole TVA state permit.

An attempt to open a uranium mine in July in the Black Hills failed quickly. Gene Nellis’ operating plan for reopening an old mine in Wolf Canyon near Edgemont was approved by the Forest Service earlier this year. But Nellis plans to start mining were thwarted by the state, which decided that Nellis lacked a deep shaft mine permit required by a new state law and a solid hazardous waste permit. It looks like Mr. Nellis will have to wait until next year to try again. Meanwhile, he’ll have to contend with the Alliance’s appeal to the Forest Service over its approval of his operating plan. The Alliance will also be investigating Nellis’ plans for the uranium to be mined. Nellis and Gulf Oil have been swapping leases in the area.

Last, but not least, BHA attorney plans to appeal under the Freedom of Information Act the repeated refusal by the U.S. Forest Service to release uranium drill hole locations, drill hole depths and elevations, and other sites near drilling operations. The drill hole information has been withheld to protect the “trade secrets” of mining companies. Nothing sites are not disclosed because public awareness of these would.

Judge Young’s courtroom in Hot Springs, S. D.


An otherwise routine review of a plan to drill 91 exploration holes in the Black Hills National Forest took a surprising turn. When Union Carbide asked the Forest Service to rule that no “third parties” in public groups, individuals or other interested parties can appeal decisions allowing exploration or mining on public lands. Claiming that only minor appeals may appeal, U.C.C. went on to say that the Forest Service can’t regulate mining because the 1872 Mining Act gives them the right to mine on public lands without interference from the Forest Service.

More Information Needed

There are a number of common problems with agency actions that allow Union Carbide’s uranium activities. No studies have been done to show what resources, such as water supplies, are present where exploration or mining is planned. Also, no studies have recorded how much radioactivity and other hazardous substances are there ("baseline") environmental data. This information is needed to find out what the effects of uranium development are. Alliance lawyers have also argued U.S. Forest Service officials do an overall Environmental Impact Statement to study the effects of all proposed uranium development in the Black Hills National Forest.

By considering each project separately, the Forest Service may not be able to see the forest for the trees," said one Alliance legal aid.

When the B.H.A. has challenged U.C.C. operations, the company has responded by attacking the Alliance. U.C.C. says the B.H.A. has no real interest in preserving the environment, and that it is spreading "half-truths" and "wild speculations" in an effort to further a "minority political viewpoint."

Significantly, while Union Carbide consistently attacks the motives, methods and policies of the Alliance in legal papers, the company has yet to recognize or respond to any of the environmental issues raised by the Alliance and other plaintiffs.

 court for a review of the Washington, D.C. Forest Service Chief’s decision to withhold the information.

Although BHA legal efforts have held off attempts to mine uranium in the Black Hills, exploratory drilling is proceeding rapidly. Many permits will be up for renewal by the end of the year.

Interested citizens are encouraged to contact state and federal officials concerning the environmental effects of uranium activities on the lands and people of South Dakota.
Contaminated Pine Ridge water concerns grow

by Evelyn Lifsey

The peoples of Pine Ridge Reservation are watching their babies die, and their young people appear to be developing cancer at increasing rates. Nobody knows exactly what's wrong, but everybody knows that something is.

Many of the facts are in, but it is not clear how they all piece together. Since Women of All Red Nations released a report in February stating that many Pine Ridge water systems were contaminated with radiation, nitrates and other toxic chemicals, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has confirmed that at least 12 wells are contaminated with radioactivity. In a report called "Drinking Water on Pine Ridge Reservation" released this past July 1980, the Environmental Health Services branch of the Indian Health Service (IHS) under the U.S. Public Health Service stated that water at Ogala and Slim Buttes exceeds federal "safe" levels for grospa, indicating radiation in the water. Ogala additionally has high levels of nitrates. These facts are disturbing because, as Jerry Brown of the Environmental Health Services (EHS) in Aberdeen says, "No one in the country will tell you that drinking radiated water will hurt you. Of course, not even you'll tell other. Nobody knows."

But there are also some other facts. The miscarriage rate on Pine Ridge Reservation is more than six times the national average. It's almost twice that of the average for Indian reservations, according to an IHS report released in March 1980. And though the complete statistics have not been gathered, there is an unexplained high rate of babies born with club foot and cleft palate. According to Lillias Jones, a Black Hills Alliance researcher, seven Pine Ridge babies have been born with cleft palate this year, while the annual national average is one in 20,000 births. "You can see little babies with a cast on their feet from the club foot operations," says Lakota Hardin of WARN, herself 5½ months pregnant.

"IHS and EPA agree there is a problem. Everybody agrees the water of the water's contaminated, that wells are contaminated," says Lorelei Means, co-author of the initial WARN health study and a nursing student, Bob Yellow Bird, director of the newly formed Office of Water Investigations on Pine Ridge echoes that. "Everybody knows the water is bad. It's bad for drinking," he says. But there is not yet any hard evidence that the water contamination and the miscarriage and deformity rates are connected. "They're going to make us prove the water is causing the illnesses before we can get our water replaced," says Means, "and that will take years. Meanwhile, we're all going to be drinking contaminated water."

But officials at the Environmental Health Services do not share Means' feelings. Work has begun to find clean water for the communities at Ogala and Slim Buttes. At Ogala, there is water that is within federal standards six miles from the contaminated well, according to Brackett. The EHS is considering going safe at Slim Buttes. At Slim Buttes, the EHS has drilled several test holes, but none have yielded acceptable water. Jim Lawler, a water specialist at EHS, says there is not acceptable water one mile away. However, there is no time limit for replacing the water, and residents will be drinking contaminated water until an adequate alternative system can be completed.

Although there have been rumors that federal funds are available for emergency water replacement, EHS says that's not true. "The communities of Ogala and Slim Buttes will pay for the new water systems," says Brackett. "It will show up on their water bills."

Lorelei Means is skeptical that digging new wells is a viable solution. "If they dig new wells the water could still come from the same aquifer or connected aquifers," she says. There is speculation that the source of contamination is still in the aquifers, themselves, or uranium development at the source of the aquifers. While either or both may be the case, it is also true that federal officials do not know which aquifers supply water to what parts of the Reservation. Pine Ridge is serviced by the Arkansas formation, the Ogalla formation and possibly another deep water source. In addition, some communities are shallow and pump surface water.

There is hope that some conclusion will be reached in the near future. Professors at Colorado State University have designed a project in which a comprehensive health study involving pregnant women and their extended families is coupled with complete analysis of water, soil, air and building structures. This project will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Dr. Robert Zimmerman for funding, which hopefully will be able to determine what the connection, if any, is between toxins in the water and growing health problems.

In the meantime, the Indian Health Service, in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other experts, is conducting a health survey. But, according to Bob Yellow Bird, the survey is little more than going through the health records. "It's pitiful," he says. There's no one doing a health survey. Yellow Bird has little faith in the IHS-CDC report. "They've withheld information before," says Yellow Bird, referring to the IHS statistics that showed high miscarriage rates. "They had access to a lot of government documents that they didn't release. There's no reason they wouldn't do it again," he said.

Yellow Bird, in conjunction with the Tribal Health Board and Women of All Red Nations, wants to issue a public health warning to distribute throughout the Reservation.

Jim Lawler doesn't think that's such a good idea. "If they want to run out and scare the hell out of people they can," says Lawler. "Radiation is natural. You get it from all over, every day. These federal standards are very conservative. I'd rather put a warning to tell people to stop smoking."

But at an infant's wake earlier this summer, a father was heard to say, "Nobody can tell me it wasn't radiated water that killed him."

"The IHS says the radiation hasn't proved dangerous," says Yellow Bird. "But they use statistics that are based on populations of 100,000 or a million. We're Ogala Lakota. There's only a few thousand of us here."

"When uranium is chemically activated, it is exploitable and mining operations. It becomes radioactive, meaning it begins a decay cycle by emitting tiny charged particles called neutrons. When these particles are ingested or inhaled into one's body, they continue the decay cycle. As a result, these charged particles affect the cells within our body, causing the reproducing machinery to become confused. The cells then begin dividing rapidly and uncontrollably, causing what is known as cancer."

from WARN Report II
Few real citizens against “ban”

New York Times article bybers for Safe Energy in Lehigh, S. D.

South Dakota Citizens Against the Ban — just what is that? You’ve seen it on the front page of the Rapid City JOURNAL and you’ve heard it on the radio. But we’ll bet you’ve never come across one of its members. Why? Because last we heard, this particular “citizens’ committee” was made up of one citizen — Angus Anson.

This particular “citizens’ committee” also has gotten the support of one of the most powerful corporations in America — Union Carbide. And this particular “citizens’ committee” refuses to say where it gets its funding or who is on its “steering committee.” Why would a “citizens’ committee” refuse to tell the public the truth about the organization? We can only wonder.

So, just what “ban” is Angus Anson against? Well, as near as we can figure out, he thinks the Uranium Choice Initiative is a ban. What it means, we don’t know, because we’ve read the initiative, and what it says in this any South Dakota uranium development, both private or state funded, will be out of the vote of all South Dakota citizens because it’s done. We fail to see how this is a ban. It simply gives us, the citizens, the right to make our own choices.

So we’d like your support to help us combat this man’s efforts. Buy a Uranium Choice Bumper Sticker for only 50 cents and plaster it proudly on your bumper, or buy as many bumper stickers as you like. We’re canvassing with you to make more people aware of the upcoming initiative decision. You got the initiative on the ballot now make sure it passes.

Then vote “Yes” on Initiative Two in November. You’ll be glad you did!

Contact Miners for Safe Energy at Box 247, Lehigh, S. D. 57754 or call 378-2045.

1950’s study revealed contamination

by Lillie Jones

A U. S. Geological Survey analysis of ground and surface water samples taken between 1954 and 1956, which was summarized and released in 1970, noted high levels of uranium in water on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Readings as high as 44 parts per billion were found.

The high readings were found in an area covering the western and northern parts of the reservation, the same areas found to have contaminated water in recent tests by the Indian Health Service and others.

The highest radiation level was found near Oglala, one of the two towns now slated to get new water sources because of radiation in excess of federal standards. The high radiation was officially reported to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in a 1970 Administrative Report by the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

The findings were not seen as a threat to the health of those who have been drinking the water. The last 25 years since the radioactivity was noticed, but only the high enough to suggest possible uranium deposits.

The amount of uranium in drinking water is not currently regulated by state or federal agencies. The Department of Energy’s Office of Radiological Health has not acted on the indication that there are no federal standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Standards and Criteria for Drinking Water, however, confirmed that no such standard exists.

South Dakota’s Office of Drinking Water indicated that there are no state standards, either, but that they are waiting for a federal standard to be set. The state has been waiting on a federal uranium standard “this month” since October, 1979.

Quakers review nuclear question

In the discussion of uranium mining and nuclear development, the one perspective that is in constant need of attention is the need for life itself. Questions we raise from a Quaker viewpoint are universal to man and women on both sides of the atomic issue.

The Vermillion Friends Quaker meeting supports the concept of a moratorium on nuclear development in the state of South Dakota until such questions as follows can be responded to by people who reside in the state.

Does the uncertain effects of uranium mining pose a significant threat to present and future life cycles?

Does current technology have sufficient safeguards for the handling of tailings and atomic wastes?

Is the argument that the United States needs nuclear energy to maintain its economic growth and power consumption rates misguided since it encourages uncontrolled use of the world’s natural resources?

Do the uncertain effects of nuclear power pose a significant threat to present and future life cycles?

Does abundant low cost energy contribute to the exploitation of the planet’s poor people for the comfort and recreation of citizens of rich nations?

Is the link between nuclear energy development and military weaponry significant enough to justify concern that nuclear energy development will be used by the military to destroy life?

These questions reflect concern for life. Respect for the goodness, or that of God, in all persons is a desirable position from which to conduct discussion of these issues. The profit motive of mining companies may lead the people serving them companies to speak and act in ways we consider wasteful and dangerous. The questions raised are submitted to them as well as all state residents. We encourage personal contemplation of the issue of nuclear development by all persons.

Jon Jacobs

“it’s no use son, I can’t stop the nuclear power movement. There are people out there who don’t care if we die.”
South Dakota Uranium Activity
August 1980

Compiled by P. K. Rammele, Black Hills Alliance

Current Exploration Permits
(S. D. Division of Conservation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORPORATION</th>
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<th>COUNTY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Silver King Mines (TVI)</td>
<td>EX-9</td>
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<td>Energy Resources Group (renewed 8/74)</td>
<td>EX-31</td>
<td>Fall River, Perkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawson Resources</td>
<td>EX-34</td>
<td>Davison, Hanson, McCook</td>
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<td>EX-47</td>
<td>Hutchinson</td>
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<td>Phillips Petroleum</td>
<td>EX-46</td>
<td>Hutchinson, Turner, Yorkton</td>
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<tr>
<td>EX-48</td>
<td>Minnehaha, Meade</td>
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PENDING PERMIT RENEWALS
(September 1980)

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<tr>
<td>Inter-Mountain</td>
<td>EX-2</td>
<td>Meade, Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Copper and Nickel (renewing EX-3)</td>
<td>EX-3</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
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<td>Union Carbide</td>
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<td>Butte, Lawrence, Meade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming Mining</td>
<td>EX-26</td>
<td>Fall River</td>
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PENDING NEW PERMITS: 1 (Sept. 1980)

Dull Minerals

GROSS AREAS BEING EXPLORED UNDER CURRENT EXPLORATION PERMITS

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<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF TOWNSHIPS</th>
<th>ACRE</th>
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<td>West River</td>
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<tr>
<td>East River</td>
<td>1,681,920</td>
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</table>

FOREST SERVICE - CURRENT PLANS OF OPERATION - 1980 URANIUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWNSHIP</th>
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Editor's Note: See April BHP report for details on S. D. Mineral Exploration laws.

The Commissioner of School and Public Lands recently offered more than 20,000 acres of state land in Butte and Meade counties for oil and gas leasing. Land in South Dakota that is not owned privately or by the federal government in state land, As South Dakota was settled by non-Indians in the 1800's, the State set aside sections 16 and 36 of every township for school land. A township contains 36 sections and a section is 640 acres. Besides school land, state land also includes state colleges and institutions, abandoned estates, land swapped with railroad companies, and donated land.

The Department of School and Public Lands (DSPL) is in charge of these lands and since 1919 mineral rights have been kept when public land is sold, transferred, or leased for grazing or agricultural uses. On lands sold prior to 1919, the State does not have the right to license minerals.

Mineral rights have priority over surface rights. The state is not responsible for damage to the surface of the land if the surface is owned by someone else and the minerals belong to the state. Ordinarily, the company holding the leasing permit or license to remove deals directly with the surface owner. In oil and gas leasing, the Commissioner may provide for some protection of the surface owner or user by adding certain language to the leases. That language would require compensation to the owner or lessee for damages to growing crops from exploration or removal of minerals.

The Johnson County (Wyoming) Cattle War

by Homer Ayros

This is part II of Homer Ayros’ three-part article on the Johnson County Cattle War. The first installment, which appeared in April 1984, was the writing camp of Nathan D. Champion and his partner Nick Ray — the first two victims of the invasion. Their cabin was just across Powder River from the town that grew up later.

Champion was well known for being the best man of the Big Horn and Buffalo Valley and being a rancher and settler. And for this he was a marked man with his name on the "dead list" in the little black book compiled by the Judge’s court constables. The invaders moved down the Invasion Trail to the Cherry Creek Ranch to push off Nate and Nick at the break of day. Then they were to proceed to Buffalo and dope and burn the victims, and to be followed by systematic killing of those on the Dead List by smaller moving bands.

The chief organizers of the Invasion were men powerful in politics, banking and merchandising.

The facts of the Invasion were kept hidden from the public for years. Only in the past two decades has the truth broken through the conspiracy of silence. Book, Bandon of the Plains, a story of the Invasion by Axa Mercur, editor of a Livestock Journal in Chyenne, at the time, was hunted down and destroyed by the invaders for a small amount of money as much as $1,000 a copy in the hands of the Wyoming stockgrowers who were kept in out of circulation.

Copies of the Mercur book in the Library of Congress were stolen or mutilated. When Mercur printed a confession of one of the hired invaders in his journal, he was jailed for libel, his printing plant wrecked, and he was virtually run out of Cheyenne, lonely, and with his life. But murder will out, so in time, the truth had spread across the country. Mari Sandor, a friend of Champion and Ray, in Nebraska farm, whose father "Old Jack," was marked for murder by certain big cattle men, included a splendid section about the Invasion in his book, the Cartoons.

In 1940 Mrs. Mary F. Baber pubished The Longest Rope, a story with much background of the Invasion by one who was kidnapped and shipped out of country to prevent him from being a witness at the trial of those who murdered Champion and Ray. In 1949 Mrs. Helen Huntington Smith came out with her book, The War on Powder River, the longest account of the whole bloody conspiracy, running 330 pages. The chief organizers of the Invasion were men powerful in politics, banking and merchandising, with big hatnames through the livestock commission houses where one of the winners of the British interest in Wyoming. John Clay, the publisher of the Wyoming Star, a beautiful woman and a part owner in a commission company with branches in all livestock markets. With such interlocking forces, the big cattle interests could intimidate hundreds.

In the summer the spotty and sometimes one of the owners, with their crew, rode a good horse flesh, "rushing it" with the cowboys who took the rough end of the cattle problem for a month. In winter they congregated in Cheyenne to live the settled, a place where wines, women and song were in long supply. It was expensive fun, but good things always seem to come to a band. Blizzards have a mean way of blasting in from the north where an old drifter, hard winters, where stock got fresh air and snow as a daily diet, left the way filled with rotting carcasses. The high test products of ranching banzania floated down the creeks and rivers along with the carcasses.

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Stockholders blamed managers for lower dividends and managers robbed their own hands of younger animals to sell, in an attempt to make a profit after losing winter feed. They tried to keep the count up by having their cowboys search for mavericks, paying for $2, $7.50 per head for each animal burned for the company. The mavericks might rightfully belong to a new company, or a cow of another big company miles distant. Or to some neighbor, who had given it up for dead — or drifted away so far it wasn’t worth hunting for. The rule of the range was "finders keepers" when it came to unbranded stock.

There is little question that settlers also burned mavericks. Anybody in a range county could rope and tie down an old cow with a brand of the Board of Livestock Commissioners takes himself the credit by such persons as the stockman saw fit to class as "runners," have the money sent to him as secretary of the board, in Cheyenne, and force the stockmen to make the pilgrimage to the capital building and show their property. It was believed that this would embarras and cripple the little fellows that they would go out of business. Thousands of cattle were so sorted, and considerable money than obtained was retained as the usual charge for the delivery of the animal.

Although some of the small ranchers pulled out of the country, it was evident that the ranges would not be cleared except by extraordinary drastic action. Thus the plot to murder in hurry the key men among the little fellows. Mari Sandor put it: "Even some who had been ready to kick up and quit the country decided to keep in a little longer." The invasion plot was said to have been hatched in July 1901, according to Sandor, by John Clay and a Major Wicut, a manager of the Scientific Falls & Company, the VE established in 1877.

There was a story that some knew that Wikut had borrowed $8,000 back in 1888-89 from John Clay’s British connections. The John Nelten up or was practically a money company, Collis in reality that sooner or later he would be closed out, and shown their property. It was big power. The time for such foreclosures lay in John Clay’s calculating hands," said Sandor. Clay was a key figure in financing, ranching, and head of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

Wikut and Foxter, a former Governor of Wyoming and manager of the Western Beef Company in Johnson County, went to Colorado to make arrangements for some force for the invasion. The outlaw Pickett, Tom Horn, had the band of mavericks burn out of South Dakota to recruit gunmen. James went to Idaho to recruit, and a Tom Smith who had successful backing of the horseriding, and went back to Texas where he recruited twenty-five gunfighters.
Displays, workshops, projects teach A.T. at Survival Gathering

by Dan Feldman

For those of you who were unable to attend the Survival Gathering, this brief rundown of the accomplishments of the Appropriate Technology Lands and Self-Sufficiency Project will bring you up to date.

Approximately 70 different workshops—covering a wide range of topics—took place at the Gathering. The participants included Christina Rawley, who reported events at New Alchemy Institute and gave a workshop on Solar Aquaculture. Another participant, Lee Swenson, told of the activities Parralones Institute has been involved in, particularly on the Integral Urban House in Berkeley.

A few of the other organizations represented in the Appropriate Technology (A.T.) workshops included the Small Farm Energy Project, the Franklin County Energy Project, and the Center for Ecological Polities. Mark Chernink and Jim Benson represented the latter two organizations and gave outstanding workshops on Community Energy Planning.


In Wild Game, there were also panel discussions on cooperatives on organic gardening.

Because of the international nature of the Gathering, there were a number of opportunities for information exchange across these boundaries. Two women from Sweden conducted a workshop on European Community Housing, and a group from Belgium presented a slide show called "Christian: A Few Days." Participants also set up a special workshop for Scandinavians and Americans to do A.T. networking.


On going at the Gathering were a tofu workshop by the Magic Bean Coop, sprout growing, and the building of a solar wall on a nearby farm house.

For those who wished to get experience in the actual construction of A.T. projects, there were a number of hands-on workshops. Three different solar hot water heaters were built. All those who arrived early had a chance to observe the construction of a methane digester. In addition, Aprovecho Institute showed how to build a Guatemalan-style adobe house and a portable greenhouse. Other hands-on workshops included brickmaking, log construction techniques, solar cookers, and a savanna wind vane.

The third part of the A.T. L.S.S. Project was a series of displays. Many of these were incorporated into the internal structure of the Gathering. For example, all the power used in the medical tents and the national office was supplied by photovoltaic panels. There was also a solar public address system in use. And anyone who questioned the staff camping and kitchen area would have noticed a solar shower.

Greenhouse Management, Biodynamic French Intensive Gardening, Horse Management and Health Care, and Parasite Identification were all part of the Wild Game activities at the Gathering. Participants were also able to attend special workshops for Scandinavians and Americans to do A.T. networking.

Some workshops dealt with the ongoing aspect of A.T. They included: Worker Self-Management, Labor Coops and Forest Management, and Greenhouse Management. In Wild Game, there were also panel discussions on cooperatives on organic gardening.

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The Black Hills Alliance would be grateful for any photos, essays, drawings or other recreations that Survival Gathering participants produced during or after the event. We are involved in compiling documents, slide shows, tapes, and other survival gathering items for distribution. Any personal contributions would be gratefully acknowledged and fully credited.
Food, land central concerns

by Ebeanor LeCain

Perhaps the most important outcome of the Survival Gathering has been the growing awareness of the need to build alliances. One effort in that direction is the People's Initiative on Food, Land and Justice. For the past few months, representatives of a variety of grass roots groups - farmers, farm workers, Native Americans and food cooperatives - have been discussing concrete ways of improving communication and cooperation.

Representatives from forty groups gathered in Ames, Iowa, last month to discuss ways of breaking down false divisions among people who in fact are allies. Participants included the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, the U.S. Farmers Association, and the Black Hills Alliance. From the Ames meeting came a call to action which dramatizes the urgency of food and land problems in the U.S.

The People's Initiative on Food, Land and Justice offers an umbrella for a variety of people's movements. Communication can be facilitated by a newsletter geared to food and land activists. Involved could be calls for strike support, notices of conferences and demonstrations, and stories of why certain organizing efforts worked. In this way, people in Nebraska can learn from the experiences of people in Nevada.

Another way the People's Initiative hopes to encourage alliance-building is through face-to-face communication to help bring people together. The People's Initiative will put out a pamphlet outlining food and land problems in the U.S., including stories of people directly affected by these problems and specific strategies for action on personal, local, regional and national levels.

Activists will be able to use this pamphlet to generate discussion among people in their area and helpfully to work on cooperative strategies. The responsibility of the network contacts and around the country would be:

1. Circulate the call to action and solicit endorsements.
2. Contribute to the activists newsletter and spread its use.
3. Build alliances regionally using the pamphlet or other meaningful work.

Further information, write Ebeanor LeCain, 104 Shottwell, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415-647-4309.

The struggle ahead is difficult, but with men and women of all sectors working together, we can create - and are creating - a new society.

What some of the farmers had to say

Merie Hansen, a Nebraska Farmer, had this to say about our current farm policy: "It's like a jackass standing belly deep in grass and yet starving to death." He pointed out that it has been U.S. government policy for the greater part of this century to do away with the small farmer. In 1947, Hansen reported, Life Magazine called for the elimination of 3 million farmers because they were "inefficient." There were an estimated 6 million small farms at that time.

Robert Arndt, Vice-President of the National Farmers Organization, affirmed this policy when he reported that in the goal of agribusiness to reduce the number of farmers in the U.S., is 600,000 by 1985. "Today they are on schedule," he said. "Because there are only 800,000 left.

Arndt also explained how import it is that farmers receive 10% parity of their products. Parity essentially means getting as much money for crops and livestock as the farmer invested in producing them. Today, farmers are getting about 50% parity. Arndt said. This makes them dependent on federal subsidies. Corporate agriculture controls the profits from the area but does not pay local or state taxes. Mr. Arndt explained how this drain on the local tax base kills small towns: "When small farmers are bought out and large corporate agribusiness move over, local farmers have to borrow money to continue to run their farms. Without profit the farmer does not pay taxes and therefore the local economy is nil. The reason that the small towns die is because the local tax base falls apart when small farmers are bought out." "And can be used to control the people if we continue to leave food production in the hands of a few," Arndt continued. "The small farmers need to do something to control their own destiny within the next 18-24 months or they will lose," he said.

"HENRY, I THINK WE SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN THE NUCLEAR POWER ISSUE RIGHT AWAY!"
Dependence on the Land

continued from p. 1

all creatures and the earth. We declare our dependence on the land, and urge all peoples to recognize their own dependence on the land for their lives and livelihoods.

2. We call for an end to the abuse and appropriation of the land. We invite all concerned peoples to struggle with us to achieve that goal.

3. We call for an end to all genocidal programs which uproot, displace and relocate Native Peoples and other rural peoples.

4. We call for all nations to acknowledge that international law holds that all treaties are binding upon the nations that contract them, and cannot be changed without the consent of all the parties involved.

5. We call for land justice for Native Peoples—recognition of their sovereignty and traditional forms of government, with the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty as the starting point for the just resolution of differences and the means for honing all other treaties.

6. We call for the return of federal and state lands in treaty areas to the jurisdiction of Native Peoples as the initial step in treaty resolutions; these areas to be maintained as man-scare harmonious with the natural environment.

7. We call for the recognition of the rights of family farmers and ranchers to exercise stewardship over family-sized holdings in treaty areas restored to Indian control, as long as they respect and care for the lands, through long-term, renewable guarantees.

8. We call for the promotion of family farms and ranches, especially through small-scale and family-oriented concerns, and for pacts that promote conservation practices that lead to the eventual elimination of agricultural dependence on chemical pollutants of the land.

9. We call for the revision of land taxes, estate and property taxes to benefit family farmers and ranchers.

10. We call for an end to the urban development that mixes rural land, and areas of natural beauty.

11. We call for the right of the people to determine how sensitive domain is to be used.

12. We call for control of rural water resources by the consortium of all land-based people, and protection of water quality and quantity for rural and urban needs.

13. We call for support of the labor organizing efforts of farmers.

14. We call for the elimination of all phases of nuclear energy development, and the promotion of safe and clean energy alternatives.

15. We call for an end to nuclear weapons development and the dismantling of nuclear weapon systems.

16. We call for an end to government’s role as a political arm of big corporations, and establishment of a people’s government.

17. We call for the expropriation of transnational corporate agricultural holdings, and their redistribution to indigenous and agricultural people.

18. We call for an end to the manipulation of the world economy by such non-elected bodies as the Tripartite Commission and the Committee on Economic Development.

19. We call for the establishment of a solidarity network with other peoples engaged in the international struggle for justice on the land.

20. We call for the promotion of solidarity and brotherhood among peoples of all races and social classes.

21. Finally, we call for the recognition of our responsibility to be stewards of the land, to treat it with respect and love as our Mother Earth, who is a source of our physical renewal and our spiritual strength.

We are people of the land. We believe that the land is not to be owned, but to be shared. We believe that we are the guardians of the land, the future of our children and of all generations to come.

The struggle will be long and difficult. But let us begin.

Appropriate technology video display workshop: one of many at Commonwealth Ranch.

Paho Seapa Printing, a print shop affiliated with the Black Hills Alliance, is now opening its doors to out-of-town printing. As a movement press, our primary concern is to turn out movement work at lower prices. We also have reduced commu-

nity rate end straight commercial rates.

We look forward to serving your printing and/or photocopying needs: be they posters, flyer,

er business forms, stationary, letter, legal or ledger size print-

We are located at 619 Main Street. Phone 345-5127.
Regional Meetings

continued from p. 1

There were many suggestions for direct action that can be taken right away. Many areas of the country, including the Black Hills, Harrisburg, and southwestern Minnesota, have taken corporations, utility, and state agencies into court, hoping to force recognition of environmental and health concerns. Some communities, especially large cities, have been holding mass demonstrations and rallies to draw attention to issues and educate those around them. Other people, including Indians in the Southwest, farmers in the Midwest, and urban people on the Northeast, have been using civil disobedience, both to prevent destructive actions (such as mining and powerline) and power plant construction and to assert their communities to the dangers. Still other groups are pushing for nuclear sanctions in their counties and states.

And finally, participants recognized the importance of Indian treaties and Native American sovereignty. This was a commitment from all regions to raise awareness of Indian people's needs and history, and the current imperative of violated treaties.

All land-based people - be they Indian, white, Asian, or Latin American - are caretakers of the land. In the U.S., Indian treaties, which are legal documents, can be used to demand accountability of a land and land resources. Today, we who wish to protect the land can use the treaties to our mutual benefit. As Madonna Thunder Hawk, one of the organizers of the Survival Gathering, said in a summary speech, "The land is not dead yet. There is a struggle that will go on among all the groups involved. We will go home and get back into the long, hard, tedious process of education, negotiating, organizing. This is the way we will save our Mother, the Earth."

Nuclear physicist Mikee Kaku gives a workshop on a typical Gathering afternoon.

"Nuclear power is our safest, cleanest, most practical source of future power."
Friends of the Earth promotes safe energy path

by Anna Komma

"Friends of the Earth fights hard around the world for the quality of the environment and conservation of our natural resources. Its international organization works through national lobbyiesta, state, state chapters, and member action. These range in strength from preservation of the whole of a world-wide transition to the "soft energy path.""

Amory Lovins, international spokesman for Friends of the Earth has developed the theme of the "soft hard and hard energy paths" in his books, public appearances and his work as an international energy consultant to government and organizations. According to Amory, there are two paths to choose between in creating our energy future. The hard energy path is destruction of environment, natural resources and the economy. It involves continued dependence on non-renewable energy resources which are controlled by multinational cartels and are produced and delivered in huge, centralized, capital-intensive, high-technology systems. Nuclear energy is part of the hard energy path.

The soft energy path involves a transition to renewable energy resources which are produced and used with appropriate technology in decentralized systems which aid energy self-sufficiency at the individual and community level. This path emphasizes conservation and utilizing the proper form of energy for the right end use such as solar for space heating and electricity for electronics.

Anna Komma is the state representative for Friends of the Earth. She can be reached at 222 South State, El Paso, phone 794-4622.

Survival

by Patricia Ferro

""They gathered at the meeting place from all around the globe. The endless hordes that came to learn, and touch the tribal robe. Lively exchanges, the era of guns got still as speakers voiced their truths. Words touched all minds and hearts as well of aged and of youth. Speak out again and let them..."

They came to our land again, and do not know it's wrong."

Let them hear the wailing of our people and see our women's tears. They come to take our land again, and do not know it's wrong."

Weapons costly

continued from p. 2

The cruise missile hasn't been the only weapons involved in accidents over 100 nuclear weapon-related accidents have happened. That doesn't count accidents at weapons-manufacturing plants, like Rocky Flats near Denver where there have been over 100 accidents. That also doesn't count traffic accidents, the two nuclear submarine lost at sea, earthquakes like the ones that damaged Love- more Labs in California, and the recent rash of computer errors that have led to the launching of nuclear missiles against imagined attacks.

Among the accidents at the Rocky Flats weapons plant was one in 1986, when hundreds of pounds of plutonium - the most cancer-causing radioactive material on earth - caught fire. Taxpayers paid for the clean-up, which cost $45 million, and according to independent studies, including "Atoms for Peace: Aoms for War" by the National Academy Research on the Military-Industrial Complex, the accident will cause 2000 or so cases of lung cancer in the United States in the next 50 years. Two other well-known weapons facilities have also had problems.

At Hanford Military Reservation in Washington State, Norman Sub- mon found that about 11,000 gallons of high-level nuclear waste leaked into the ground in less than two months in 1976 - a total of about 5 million gallons have leaked over the life of the site.

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico has also been the scene of a series of radiation leaks, according to articles in the Albuquerque Journal in 1979. The lab was built in 1943, and from then until 1956 wastes were dumped into a canyon that is a popular spot for outdoors enthusiasts. In an October 16, 1979 article, the Journal reported that 200,000 gallons of liquids containing Plutonium was leaked from a pipe that was plugged by plant roots in 1974, and Lab officials admit that for one especially ob- clusive element, tritium, "the best they can do is delay the release of H2O to the environment."

The public health effects of Los Alamos Lab and other nuclear weapons sites will be examined as this series continues in the next issue.
1868 Treaty could be ally in uranium fight

by Ellis Jones

Few documents have inspired as much misinformation as the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. This article is the outline of a series of articles on the issues involved in that Treaty.

What Does The Treaty Say?

The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty was signed by representatives of the Dakota Sioux Nation and representatives of the United States. It was fully ratified by Congress and proclaimed by President Andrew Johnson, making it, according to Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, "the supreme law of the land" on the same legal level as the Constitution.

The Fort Laramie Treaty is composed of 17 articles. Some of the Treaty's articles deal with education, crimes, farming, clothes, and the various specialties the U.S. was to provide for the Dakota Nation. But the most important articles, for the purposes of this series, dealt with land - the land that was reserved to the Dakota (the "reservation") and the lands that were given up by the Dakota in exchange for various services, promises, and goods.

The boundaries of the reservation were set by Article II. The area covered were now known as the western half of South Dakota, about 1½ of North Dakota, the northern edge of Nebraska, ¾ of Wyoming, and a good-sized corner of Montana - as well as the reserves that had already been established east of the Missouri River. The U.S. agreed that, except for government employees and their families, "the reservation shall ever be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside in the reserved lands. The U.S. also agreed that no white people could pass through that area without first getting the Indians' consent.

Under the Treaty, the Indians were allowed to continue hunting from the South edge of the reservation to extreme southern Nebraska. In exchange for these promises, the Dakota Nation gave up its claim to all other lands.

For the continuing validity of the Treaty, however, Article XII is the most important. That Article states that no agreement by the Dakota to give up any of its reserved lands "shall be of any validity or force" unless it is "signed by at least three fourths of all adult male Indians, occupying or interested in the same." No agreement has been signed by ¾ of all adult male Dakotas since that time.

An important footnote to Article XII is that the Dakota's history of the Treaty says that the Article applied to the entire Treaty, not just land. A series of Supreme Court decisions states that, legally, treaties say what the Indians who signed them believed them to say - that principle - now well established - came into being because there were so many cases in which poor language interpreters or after-the-fact changes by the U.S. made the written treaties say things that were not agreed on when the treaty was signed.

What Did The Supreme Court Say About The Treaty?

On June 30, 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court made a major decision on the 1868 Treaty called United States vs. Sioux Nation of Dakota.

What Happened Since The Supreme Court Decision?

Since June, two cases have been filed by the Oglala Sioux Tribal Attorney and the Black Hills. South Dakota. One case asks that the Supreme Court declare that the U.S. promised the reservation and that the government had no contract to work for them. This case is designed to prevent Congress from paying the Dakota Nation for the Black Hills region, because once money was signed over, the matter would be finished under U.S. law.

Understandably, the Treaty, the Supreme Court decision, and the lawsuits filed since have resulted in a lot of discussion in the Black Hills area. To some, the Treaty's status as defined by the Court is simply a matter of historical and modern fact. To others, the Black Hills claim is the outrageous expression of people who are living in the past. As in most controversies, many people's beliefs are somewhere in between.

How Can The Treaty Affect Uranium Mining?

The Supreme Court's recognition of the Fort Laramie Treaty and the recent lawsuits can be the determining factor for uranium mining in the Black Hills. One portion of the lawsuit filed for the return of the Hills asks that mining of resources be halted in the area.

Between the time that a case is started and when it is decided, more than an open season for uranium prospecting by issuing an injunction. If the judge in the case, U. S. District Judge Albert Schats of Omaha, decides that uranium mining would hurt the land in the Black Hills, he could issue an injunction against the corporations attempting to begin mining here. This could prevent mining for many years, considering how slow courts usually are. And if the case is decided in favor of the Oglala, uranium mining could be stopped for good, since the Ogalala Tribal Council passed a resolution against uranium exploration on their reservation.

The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty is a valuable ally to those who want to prevent further uranium mining in the Black Hills. It is not the only treaty between an Indian nation and the United States that can be an ally in the fight to stop destruction of land. Wherever there is a valid Indian treaty, if the Indian people in violation of the treaty want to prevent actions that would hurt the land, then such actions can be prevented.

To those who defend the U.S. Constitution, treaty rights - as the supreme law of the land - are part of what they are fighting for. To those who defend the land, those rights - as laws affecting the land - are part of what they are fighting with.
The crud stops here

A panel of the National Academy of Sciences reaffirmed its findings this past July that the health risks of low-level ionizing radiation are not great.

The linear-quadratic model used to determine the risk showed that 1,000,000 people exposed to one additional rad a year over a lifetime would result in 8,000-13,000 "excess deaths." A rad is a dose of radiation.

According to the Academy statement issued with the report, the number of cancer deaths is "extremely small...considering the uncertainties."


People At The Gathering

"Another lovely day." Jon Jacobs

From inside the walls to the Survival Gathering

Absorbing the daily update outside of these prison walls, I mentally observe with envy. I appreciate all of you taking the time to review the unethical situation, our Paha Sapa Wakan faces. I am especially appreciative toward you—the concerned individual, who have vital information to share with others, in the "Black Hills International Survival Gathering." It is reassuring to hear that my Oyate, the farmer, her rancher and others, are collectively uniting hand in hand, without the John Wayne Tomahawk atmosphere. With this type of understanding solidarity, the "Natural Survival" of the Black Hills and Surrounding land base, will be stronger.

Respecting the land...water, trees, plant life, rocks, fish, wings and legs that are indigenous to this geographical area. Now that both shores of the Western Hemisphere are practically covered by asphalt and concrete, what is the future for the fertile land between? I'm sure each of us may have given this some thought.

I sincerely believe a more clear picture will evolve from this "Gathering" after reviewing the complete difference between preservation of the land and the ideal technological dream. In this dangerous world of computers, nuclear energy, high voltage powerlines, coal-coal mining, radioactive waste and exposure, etc. It remains unclear what the next generation will be surviving on.

In this generation, no matter what race, color, sex, religion, or national origin, there is a human responsibility to exist but through the years, Kear-Metcalf, Exxon, Mobil, Gulf, Tennessee Valley Authority, Anaconda and countless others, have grossly violated our inherent right to the land. Presently, these multi-national corporations are threatening further devastation of the land with their applications for exploration permits. My native relatives in the southwest are suffering from these same corporate behavioral patterns. We native people are not only fighting these resource rapacious, but are also facing the federal government who is supporting their exploitative acts. So, in simple language, we are at war and always have been.

Especially now, when the federal government is proposing that we accept their "Almighty Dollar" in exchange for our Inherent land base, within the Territorial Boundaries of the 1868 Treaty, and especially our Paha Sapa Wakan. As our greatest Warrior Chief, Tanumis Wiwica-Crazy Horse stated: "One does not sell the land our people walk on."

Therefore, I am in total solidarity with my Oyate, Black Hills Alliance and all other concerned groups, organizations, etc. and their sincere efforts toward the preserving the Heart (Black Hills) of my Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people. Positive resistance in any matter or form against the blind greed of these multi-national corporations, will be of benefit to the future of our children and yet unborn who too, will be able to revive the natural beauty of the Paha Sapa Wakan and the wildlife within.

Solidarity toward liberation
Dick Marshall

The mining and milling of uranium is an insult to the health of all living things.
Case surrounded by controversy

Richard Marshall hearing to be held

by Evelyn Ulfsey

Editor's Note: This article is one of many which will explore in- 
dentes where individuals have been "interfered with" because of their activities in land/energy struggles.

On September 5, 1990, the South Dakota State Supreme Court will hear arguments for a request for a new trial for Richard Marshall, Dick Marshall in an Oglala Lakota who is in the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. He was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison on April 6, 1976. The trial was held in Rapid City.

In late 1972, an organization called Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization (OSCRO) formed on the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota. Dick Marshall was one of the founders of OSCRO. The purpose of OSCRO was to improve the living conditions of Indian people by working towards Indian control of Indian lands. This goal is in conflict with the U.S. government policy of establishing a reservation economy that is nearly completely dependent on U.S. government programs.

Working for Indian control of Indian lands also threatens the massive energy development industry. Today, about one third of this country's low-sulfur coal reserves and nearly two thirds of the uranium reserves lie on Indian lands, including the Pine Ridge Reservation. Community organizations, both Indian and non-Indian, work to prevent mineral exploitation as an obstacle to the energy industry.

Dick Marshall's high visibility in the Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization and later in the American Indian Movement, targeted him for state and federal attention.

The Death of Martin Montileaux

On March 1, 1975, Martin Montileaux was found wounded in the men's room of the Longhorn Bar in Scenic, S.D., just north of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Richard Marshall and Russell Means were charged with murder. Russell Means was acquitted in a separate trial in April 1976.

The prosecution presented several witnesses in Marshall's trial. Two of them, Halsey Merrill, the owner of the Longhorn, and Marion Poor Bear, Montileaux's sister-in-law, were at the Longhorn the night of the shooting. At a police line-up shortly after the shooting, neither Merrill nor Poor Bear identified Marshall or Means. However, they testified that Marshall and Means followed Montileaux into the bathroom, that they heard a shot, and that the two men then left the bar.

Poor Bear's hospital records indicate that she had been outpatient visits at various clinics and eight hospitalizations before the trial. Many of her admissions were for "bizarre behavior" and hallucinations, including psychosis and hysteria.

Poor Bear was presented as a witness in the court and Marshall's jurors when in fact she was and had always been unable to separate fact from fantasy. According to Elaine Poor Bear, Myrtle's sister, Myrtle is "forever lying to us, making up stories" and "we exploit all the time." Myrtle's father, Theodore Poor Bear testified that Myrtle "... makes up stories and other things. Like if anybody asked her to tell something, she was to make up, she would add a little more to it, but it was not true." Mr. Poor Bear testified at the hearing that everyone in their family understood Myrtle made up stories.

Many of Myrtle's stories involved AIM members, shooting deaths of her non-existent husband and boyfriends and other gay, but untrue stories. She also had drug and alcohol problems and was on medication.

The Case of Myrtle Poor Bear

FBI Agents David A. Price and William B. Wood produced Myrtle Poor Bear as a witness against Richard Marshall even though the FBI had no jurisdiction in the case.

The FBI "supplied" Myrtle to the prosecution only seven days before the trial, and to the defense only four days before trial. They had been interviewing her since January 1979. In fact, at the FBI and FBI records... of Price and Wood had been hiding Myrtle Poor Bear in various motel rooms for days during the entire time they interviewed her about Dick Marshall.

Agents Price and Wood did not follow standard investigating procedures for witnesses. Myrtle Poor Bear lied to them and was re-examined by the investigators about her information about the case. When they learned that Myrtle Poor Bear would be testifying, they requested her medical records. The prosecution told the court that those records were not available because Poor Bear would not sign a Waiver of Medical Privilege. It was learned in the post-conviction hearing that she never asked to sign a waiver.

Why Dick Marshall?

With every argument of the state refuted, why did the South Dakota Supreme Court uphold Marshall's conviction, and why did the lower court refuse to grant a new trial?

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Richard Marshall hearing to be held

continued from p. 17

Marshall’s new trial?
The day after Martin Monteluce was found wounded in the Longhorn Bar, a document entitled “Predication for Investigation of the American Indian Movement” was circulated by the FBI. That same day 30 AIM members were arrested throughout the country.

David Price had a long history of anti-Indian activities, including supplying a false witness at one of the Wounded Knee Trials and obtaining false affidavits from Myrtle Poor Bear in the case of Leonard Peltier, another Indian activist. In fact, on the very day that Myrtle was testifying against Marshall, false affidavits were written by Agents Price and Wood and signed by Myrtle were presented in Peltier’s trial. These affidavits were later found by the U.S. Attorney’s office to be completely fabricated by the FBI.

Despite the determination that Myrtle Poor Bear was a completely unreliable witness, and that the FBI fabricated evidence, U.S. Attorney General Civiletti ordered the FBI witnesses not to answer any questions asked by Marshall’s attorney and not to obey a court order to deliver many of the requested documents. The South Dakota judge allowed this order to stand without hearing the witnesses in contempt of court or ordering the documents produced.

Obviously, officials at every level wanted to be sure Marshall was convicted.

Marshall is only one person who has been jilted for opposition to governmental or corporate attempts to control land over the objections of local people. In particular, his case raises the issue of local control of energy resource lands.

The western U.S. is an easy target for energy exploitation for at least three reasons: 1) it contains most non-renewable energy resources that are the focus of current energy policies; 2) it contains large tracts of government-controlled land, including Indian reservations, Bureau of Land Management land, and parks; and 3) the centers of population and power are somewhat else, making our area “out of sight, out of mind.”

Indian reservations—being both more populated than other government-controlled land populated by people who have been “voiceless” in U.S. society—have been the first target of energy policies. Marshall’s case is an example. It is important to consider who will be next.

Wyoming Cattle War

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Wagons, horses, grub, bedding, firearms, ammunition, poison, and dynamite were organized in Denver for the invasion and steal by train to Cheyenne, and later Casper, with the Texas gunfighters in a coach with the blind driver. At Cheyenne they were joined by around twenty-five Wyoming people, with a couple of newspaper men to report the grand fight to aid Wyoming of “cattlemen.” Major Washburn, the military man, was in command. The Invaders decided to surround it, killing along the river and in the barn, and move in at dawn for the kill. What fooled things up was the fact that two trappers had pulled into Champion’s camp the previous night.

In the morning one of the trappers went to the barn to feed the horses, the other got stuck in the Powder River for a pull of water. Both were captured by the Invaders and didn’t get back for breakfast. Finally, Harry came out to take a look and was kid in the barn. Nate Champion was then on the alert.

An attempt had been made on Champion’s life previously. He drove away with rapid fire from his pistol he drew under his pillow as the gang of men burst into his door one morning about dawn while he was still in bed.

After scouting out the place the Invaders decided to surround it, killing along the river and in the barn, and move in at dawn for the kill.

As a matter of fact the whole country had been expecting an action something like the Invasion for some time, and some of the newspapers had predicted as much. Word spread last that after the wagon box train had pulled into the railroad yards at Cheyenne Champion managed to pull his partner back into the cabin and prepared for a long battle with the odds at about 30 to 1 against him.

He kept a blow by blow description of the encounter in a little diary. Bay died at 9 o’clock, he wrote.

To be continued next issue.
Union Carbide workers brain cancer victims
by David Norris

Spurred by a complaint filed by a Union Carbide employee last year, an investigation of petrochemical plants was launched by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor. Investigations have confirmed that an "excessively high" incidence of brain cancer has been found in at least seven petrochemical plants in Texas, West Virginia, Kentucky and California.

Eighteen deaths from brain cancer have been documented at the Union Carbide plant in Texas, where the original complaint was filed. The chemicals involved in ethane vinyl chloride and are believed to be the cause of the brain cancer.

Besides Union Carbide, the Dow Chemical plant, also in Texas, yielded 25 times more of brain cancer.

from the New York Times, July, 1980

Rural Tennessee farm aids Gathering

Many people dream about living in self-sufficient communities, independent of corporate-produced food and energy, but few actually make that dream happen. Residents of the Farm in Summerton, Tennessee, are a hard-working group of people who maintain a community that is almost completely self-sufficient.

The 1600 members of the Farm collectively own about 3000 acres of rich land where they live and farm. The group sustains itself by growing most of its own food and trading the surplus with the surrounding community, operating and inventing new forms of renewable energy systems, creating such as the Nuke-hut, a high powered radiation modeler — and sponsoring their own rock-and-roll band, called the Nuclear Regulatory Commission "NRC.

Michelle Murcheson, a Farm resident and a nurse (and a coordinator for the Gathering) said that hundreds of curious people visit the Farm, some for a weekend, others for months. Such long-term visitors are not charged money but they are expected to work their share in the Farm community. In addition, the Farm finds itself caring for hundreds of children who for one reason or another are given up by their natural families. These children are incorporated into Farm families, "but," says Murcheson, "they are foster children. Their parents can claim them at any time."

The Farm is a community resource rich in technical and organizational know-how. At the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering this past July, the Farm participated in full. The Farm sent some of its members to the Black Hills, ran workshops and booths, and helped coordinate the gathering, including doing the electrical wiring for the site.

The NRC band gave a concert.

More on Brain Cancer....

According to the August 20 Denver Post, the incidence of brain and other cancers in "of some cancers" at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Colorado.

According to Dr. Carl Johannes, director of the Jefferson County Health Department, employees at the Rocky Flats plant have eight times more brain cancer, nearly three times more skin cancers, and 25 percent more lung cancers compared with all cancers among white males in Colorado. The skin cancers have also appeared in abnormally high rates at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Facility in Richland, Washington, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at Livermore, Calif., and the Los Alamos, N.M., Scientific Laboratory, according to Dr. Johannes.
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For ordering information, call 605-342-5127.

All Indian, independent radio station established

“Our main objective is to break the communications gap between Indians and the outside world,” says Dave Little of Lakota Communications. For the first time, a completely independent, non-profit, community-based, all-Indian radio station is being established. Lakota Communications incorporated in May 1980, and will begin producing radio programs this fall. Broadcasting is scheduled to begin in late 1981.

Lakota Communications, based in Pine Ridge, S.D., evolved out of several people’s desire to bring reliable news and information to the Pine Ridge Reservation. "There are media services on the Reservations," says Little. "There is coverage, but it doesn't meet the community of Pine Ridge Reservation's needs. I doubt they meet the needs of other reservations."

Little feels that when issues arise that concern Indian people, they are watered down so they don't tell the whole story, "or else they might outrage white people," he says. "Everybody gets partial information. In this area, not only are Indians concerned, but non-Indians want to know too."

The founders of Lakota Communications felt that a radio station would be the best way to immediately fill the communications gap.

"Television and newspapers are considered big media in the most effective way to go. The only people in Pine Ridge with television are those with jobs and electricity," says Little. "Unemployment on the Pine Ridge Reservation is about 10% and little more than half the people have electricity."

Some of the topics Lakota Communications seeks to cover include: the Black Hills Claim; water contamination on Pine Ridge Reservation; social services available here; uranium mining and milling; and other energy development, including alternatives, history and culture to research young people's heritage; weather reports; Tribal Council news and more. In addition, the radio station will broadcast traditional and modern music.

Lakota Communications will broadcast on the FM frequency of 90.1 at 50 kilowatts with a 30 mile radius. Rapid City will not be able to receive the broadcast, but the entire Pine Ridge Reservation will be covered.

Lakota Communications will begin to construct their radio tower and broadcasting facilities next year.

The facilities will be energy self-sufficient, as a priority of the radio station is promoting solar and wind conversion. Lakota Communications will promote alternative energy development in the community.

All donations from money to radio equipment to lumber to documents should be sent to Lakota Communications, Box 2268, Pine Ridge, S.D. 57769.