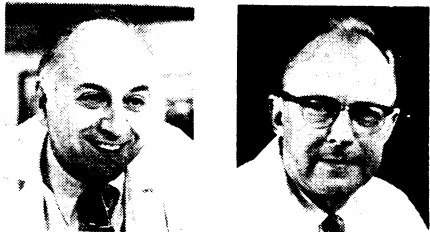


to the editor



Aposhian

Neel

Due to an unfortunate error the pictures of H. Vasken Aposhian and James V. Neel (SN: 10/30/71) were transposed. The picture on page 291 is Neel; the picture captioned Neel on page 299 is Aposhian. Our apologies to both gentlemen.—Ed.

Montana resists the developer

For many years of the past two decades I have forsaken the wild waters of California's High Sierra country for the blue-ribbon trout rivers of Montana. The change that time has wrought in Gallatin, Madison and other counties is not good.

Richard Gilluly's cover story "Montana Fights to Protect Its Environment" (SN: 10/2/71, p. 235) is restrained and perceptive on-the-spot reporting of a loyal native son. It is a timely sequel to his article of last April on the "institutionalized" myths which allow big private landowners to impose the costs of their autonomous land and water misuse upon others (SN: 4/10/71, p. 255).

Montana's fight against vested mining interests has a striking analogy in the plight of Inyo, our beautiful eastern Sierra county, the playground of millions. Last May our Inyo Register carried my story, "The Environment of a Region at Stake" in the mounting threat to Owens River Valley by the City of Los Angeles in its unmonitored export of surface flow and ground waters. Two great aqueducts carry 480,000 acre-feet per year 250 miles to the thirsty southern California megapopolis. After a full half-century of arrogant neo-Colonialism, "Concerned Citizens of Owens Valley," our new 1970 planning commission and the board of supervisors have only recently obtained state aid at the highest level, the Resources Agency.

We have learned that, with grassroots public support, watershed protection is hard to come by. Your article cogently points up that today's soul-searching corporate morality is indeed responsive to the New Era's political dialogue—environment and ecology.

Mr. Gilluly's readers will be grateful to Science Service for the publication of his article and for its encouragement to even-handed protection in the public weal.

John McClelland Abrams
Bishop, Calif.

The article on Montana's environmental fight has been read with interest and appears to be a very fair statement of the hearings at Billings.

The subject of environment and specifically the preservation of wilderness areas is indeed a complex and many sided one,

and one that arouses great emotions; it is seldom treated objectively. Nobody—even a miner—likes to see a scarred and defaced wilderness and I can agree that we have far too many of these defaced areas at present. Have you given any thought as to how these areas can be restored?

No matter how much talking is done, people have yet to demonstrate a real and consistent willingness either to curtail population growth or to lower their standards of living. Unless both of these items become realities, the need for more non-renewable resources will prove to be insatiable. Resources will eventually be mined wherever they are found, and the sponsors of wilderness areas are fighting a losing battle.

After spending the past summer in the mountains of the Utah desert, it seems to me that it is not the miners that are defacing the countryside—it is the people. People dump trash everywhere and anywhere, relay stations on the tops of mountains are surrounded by piles of cans and junk, hills are scarred with motorcycle and car tracks, and picnic and campgrounds are a disgrace.

Certainly let us establish wilderness areas, let us improve recycling and improved use of materials, let us up-grade education, let us cut down on population everywhere, but let us not go overboard.

Charles F. Park Jr.
Department of Mineral Engineering
Stanford University
Stanford, Calif.

Journal references

I am writing to tell you how useful I find SCIENCE NEWS magazine. For the last several years it continuously keeps me informed of the latest events in geoscience.

At the same time, as your regular reader, I wish to make a suggestion. When giving reference to a journal in which an article is published, you indicate only the date of its issue. This is not sufficient if the reader wants to find the article in a library. The librarians insist on having the volume, issue number and pages, otherwise the article is difficult to locate.

Perhaps you would find it possible to change your system of references to make it more suitable for library usage.

B. I. Silkin
Soviet Geophysical Committee
Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Our feeling has been that for the general reader the date of issue of a journal is more meaningful than volume numbers; for scientists and other readers more prone to want to look up the source article, we agree the volume numbers would be helpful. But the references are almost always to the current volume, and the issue date is at least an unambiguous clue. For these reasons and for clarity and conservation of limited space, it seems that for a news magazine of science, the date of issue is the most appropriate means of referring to journal articles. But we welcome dissenting views from other readers in the scientific community who may have experienced similar inconveniences.—Ed.

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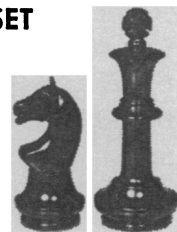
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