

Alaska Libertarian

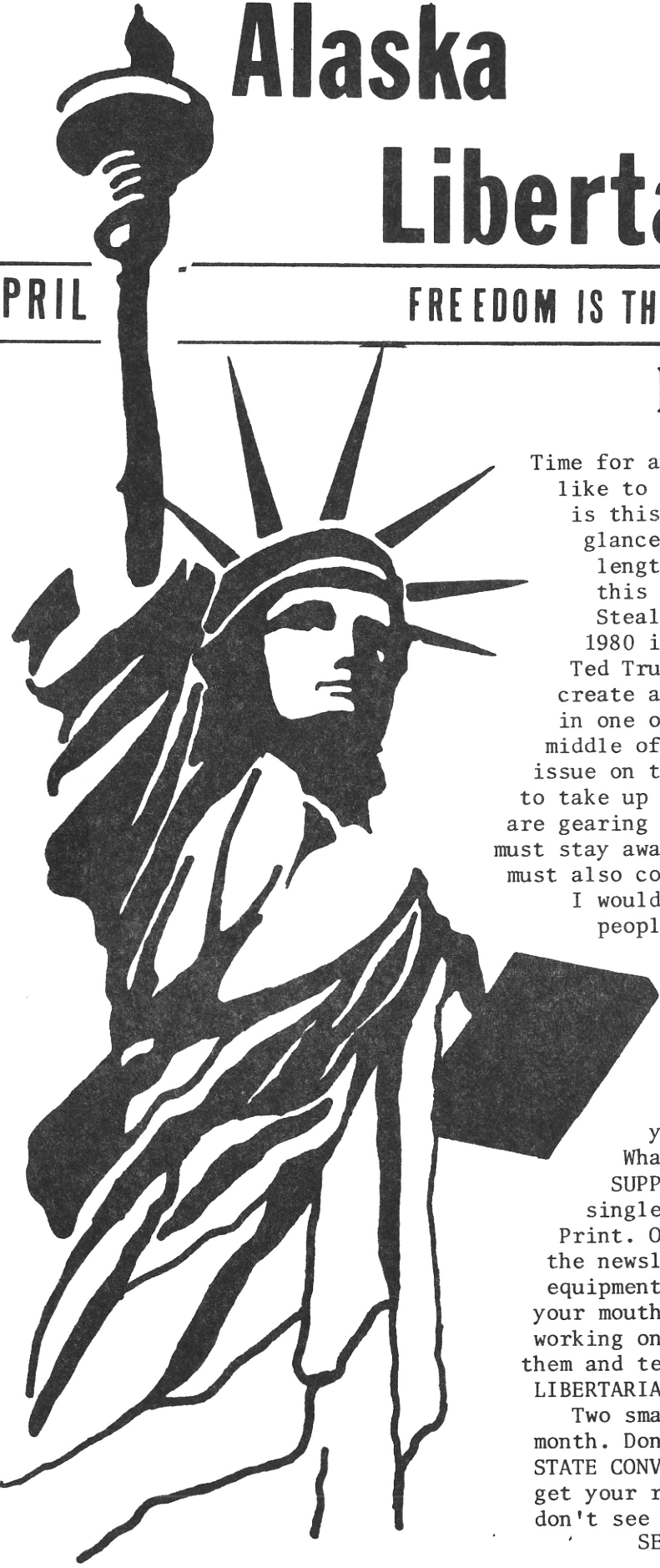


APRIL

FREEDOM IS THE ISSUE

Vol. 5 No. 3

HEAR YE, HEAR YE



Time for another column: the view from the top! I'd like to talk about several things this month. First is this issue of the newsletter, which at first glance seems rather short on articles, due to the length of the center article. (NO foldout again this month.) The article, "They're Fixing to Steal Your Land"; first appeared in the March 1980 issue of FIELD & STREAM and is authored by Ted Trueblood. I feel that living in Alaska can create a rather isolated effect, even when living in one of the larger cities. While we're in the middle of a petition drive to get the Tundra rebellion issue on the ballot in 1982 or to force the legislature to take up the issue, the anti-Tundra/Sagebrush folks are gearing up to "head it off at the pass". I think we must stay aware of what the "opposition" is doing. We must also continue to push for what we believe in.

I would also like to talk about all the terrific people who "put their money where their mouth is".

The ADVERTISERS. These are the people who really support the LIBERTARIAN PARTY full time, not just in an election year as a lot of us do. I won't argue the point that these people would like to see a return on their advertising dollar, nor am I saying that if you don't advertise in the newsletter your not supporting the LIBERTARIAN PARTY.

What I want to say is, "SUPPORT THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THE NEWSLETTER". Two people who I would single out are Paul Arvold and Mel Lauer of Quik Print. Once a month they stay late in order to print the newsletter, donating both their time and their equipment. Now that's really putting your money where your mouth is! (And Mel isn't even a member, but we're working on him.) If you get a chance, go by and see them and tell'em you read about them in the ALASKA LIBERTARIAN.

Two small points to wrap up this column for another month. Don't forget April 15th (What for?) and the STATE CONVENTION comes up the first week in May so get your reservations in as soon as possible. If I don't see you between now and then,

SEE YOU IN FAIRBANKS!!!

LATE NEWS

WALL STREET- Reacting favorably to Reagan's inauguration, the stock market moved sharply to the right yesterday. Stocks leading the rally included General Motors, General Electric, General Haig, and General Westmoreland.

DETROIT-Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca, in his latest attempt to guarantee federal hand-outs to the ailing corporation, revealed plans for the merger of Chrysler and New York City.

THE RENTAL

You need it -- we rent it!

456-6595

2020 S. Cushman St.

Mon. - Fri. 8 AM - 6 PM

Saturday 8 AM - 5 PM

INDEPENDENT RENTAL, INC

Save a lot of steps
Come to us first
for

THE HARD TO FIND



PUMP HOUSE SUPPLY

PUMPS AND EQUIPMENT
104 EAST FIREWEED LN. 99503

(907) 279-8224

**Pumping Equipment
For Every Application**

MAILING
P. O. BOX 2796
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510

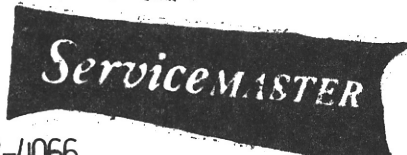
GINA'S CORNER

NUTRITIONAL SUPPLIES
215 CUSHMAN
FAIRBANKS, AK. 99701

907-452-5380

ServiceMaster

LeRoy Wiedeman



452-4066

HOME PHONE 452-8912

CLEANING &
SERVICES

ALASKA LIBERTARIAN

Published by the
ALASKA LIBERTARIAN PARTY
205 E. 4th Ave, Box 141
Anchorage, AK 99501

Editor: Stan Scott

Compliments of

DICK RANDOLPH
INSURANCE
AGENCY

1105 Cushman
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Like a good
neighbor,
State Farm
is there.



-AUTO-
-FIRE-
-LIFE-
-HEALTH-

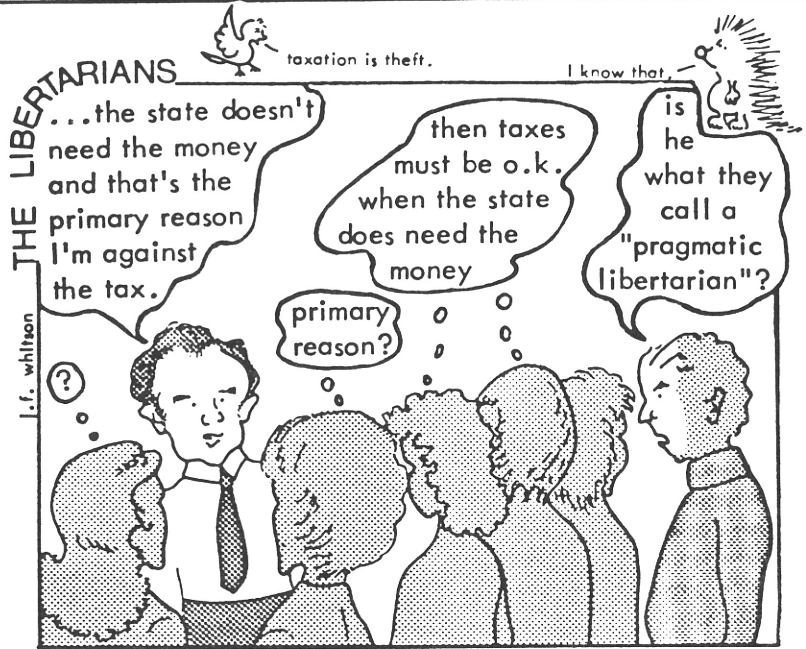
456-7787

In Idaho thousands of acres of state land have moved into farmland, mines, and subdivisions this way. Since most of the federal land in Idaho does not make a clear economic profit for the government, the state undoubtedly would put millions of acres of mountain and range land on the auction block if it gained title.....

"Steve Symms, Orrin Hatch, and other ultra-conservative politicians claim to be enemies of what they call 'land lock-ups.' There is no lock-up more complete than a 'no trespassing' sign on private land."

There you have it.

(The above article is reprinted with the written permission of CBS Publications, Inc. It originally appeared in the March, 1980 edition of FIELD & STREAM. It's author is Ted Trueblood.)



"YOUR PLACE OR MINE"
VACATION - TRAVEL SERVICE



Nicole Bergland

Residence Exchange
Rentals Sub-Lets
House - Sitting
U.S.A. & Abroad

854 Bear Creek
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 979-5985

Quik PRINT → 278-4556

702 WEST NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD.

FAST OFFSET PRINTING
Free Pick-up & Delivery

REPLACEMENT GLASS
CO.

CORNER-ARCTIC AND FIREWEED
2457 Arctic Blvd. Anchorage, Alaska 99503
279-8484 and 276-7277

Payroll P & L
Quarterly Reports
Bank Reconciliation

Any Business

Wittry Bookkeeping Tax Service

520 W. 24th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Reasonable Rates
274-5705

REAL ESTATE ...

A PROVEN TAX SHELTER

WILL HEPBURN
A LIBERTARIAN REALTOR

HOMES & APARTMENTS

DYNAMIC REALTY BUS: 279-7611
RES: 333-5317
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

They're Fixing to Steal Your Land

I've been hunting and fishing on your land for years-and I've never asked permission. You may not have thought of it before, but if you are an American citizen you own somewhere around 2½ acres of land. We all do. There are roughly 600 million acres of public land in the United States, chiefly in national forests and range land, and it belongs to all of us. Most of it is managed by the United States Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

This, I emphasize, is public land. We can wander on it at will to hunt, fish, camp, or enjoy its freedom in countless other ways. It produces fish, game, timber, minerals, including oil, gas, and coal, grazing for domestic livestock; and its water-sheds provide most of the precious water upon which the Western economy depends.

It is the land still held by the Federal Government after trying for 100 years to transfer it into private ownership. Now, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, it is to be retained and managed for the greatest public good. This irks a lot of Westerners. They would like to mine, graze, log, and subdivide the public lands without restriction--without thought of the future nor regard for the rest of us.

Their greed has touched off a new attempt to steal the public lands. It has an innocent-sounding name, "The Sagebrush Rebellion", which somehow conveys the feeling that the poor, put-upon Westerners are finally revolting against the abuses of an overbearing Federal Government. Don't be fooled. What they want is YOUR land--and they want it for nothing too.

They've already fooled a lot of people. Last fall NEWSWEEK devoted eight pages and the cover to a poorly researched story called "The Angry West vs. The Rest". It should have been titled "The Greedy West Wants the Rest-Free." Quoting various natural resource users and the politicians who today do them, the article dwelt at length on the sad plight of the West and blamed it on the Federal Government. The cover showed an angry-looking cowboy with a rifle across his saddle beside the quote, "Get off our backs, Uncle Sam".

Actually, the West is like a boy in jail for peddling pot who blames his troubles on the lack of a bigger allowance; it's all Dad's fault. Same here. The Federal Government subsidizes the loggers by building roads that cost more than the return from the timber that's hauled over them. It subsidizes stockmen by allowing them to pay less for grazing the public lands than they would pay for grazing comparable private land in the same areas. The miners are free to do virtually anything they please under the archaic mining law of 1872. There would be little irrigated land but for the Federal Government. It even pays counties "in lieu" money to make up for taxes that might have been collected if the land were privately owned.

In addition, the public-land states get half the money from mineral leasing on Federal land 25 percent of all national forest receipts, 25 percent of BLM grazing receipts, and a substantial highway subsidy.

But that's not enough. Last July the Nevada Legislature passed a bill transferring title of the public lands within her borders from the Federal Government to the State of Nevada. A joke? It seemed so at first, but the clowns weren't joking. They started the Sagebrush Rebellion, and you'd better be alert to its dangers. It's not the first attempted land grab, but it may be the most dangerous.

Of course, only Congress or agencies authorized by it can transfer title from the United States to a state or local government. But the Sagebrush Rebellion, by its very name, has a strong appeal to the simplistic; and the something-for-nothing hopefuls are flocking to its banner like ants to a picnic. And a lot of politicians see it as a golden opportunity.

Senator Orrin Hatch, of Utah, introduced a bill in the United States Senate that would transfer title of most BLM and Forest Service land to the states. Congressman Steve Symms, of Idaho, said last fall he was preparing similar legislation for introductions in the House. Various state officials throughout the West are getting their names in headlines by dancing to the same tune.

I suppose Senator Hatch and Congressman Symms think they're leading a new crusade. But maybe not. Maybe they do know their history and simply think the time is ripe for another try at stealing the public's land. After all, more than thirty years have passed since the last attempt failed.

In 1946, Senator E. V. Robertson, of Wyoming, introduced a bill that would have transferred to the Western states virtually all public lands, both forest and range land, including the minerals in them. (At the time Senator Robertson owned a sheep and cattle ranch and held a grazing permit for 2,400

sheep in the Shoshone National Forest.)

Bills with a similar objective were introduced by Senator Pat McCarran, of Nevada, Congressman Frank A. Barrett, of Wyoming, and perhaps others. But Senator Robertson's bill was outstanding. It brazenly provided for a commission in each state to supervise the transfer of this land to private ownership, and it even specified that holders of grazing permits were to be given first chance to buy the land they used-at an absurdly low price.

There would be no public lands today if his bill had passed. There will be none tomorrow if the Sagebrush Rebellion is successfully completed.

The great land grab of the 1940's, the biggest attempted steal of publicly owned resources up to that date, was first reported by Bernard DeVoto in his "Easy Chair" department of HARPERS MAGAZINE for January 1947. He told about a meeting of the American National Livestock Association (cattle) and the National Woolgrowers Association (sheep) in Salt Lake City the previous August. At that meeting the delegates voted to secure legislation turning all of the public lands over, first, to the states and eventually to private ownership.

Following DeVoto's scoop, many other writers turned the spotlight of national publicity on the proposed steal. National conservation organizations got into the fight. In the July 1948 issue of HARPERS DeVoto wrote:

"This premature publicity stopped the program in its tracks. Public opinion in the West was so instantly outraged, so many organizations began to protest, so many western newspapers lined up in opposition that the program had to be-temporarily-abandoned. Bills implementing it had been prepared for introduction in the new Congress. They were never introduced-and various Congressmen hurried home to explain to angry constituents that it was all a mistake, that they had been cruelly misunderstood. There is no chance that, in the immediate future, any effort will be made to open the public lands to sale. The program has been laid away for future use; at present the issue is too hot for anyone to touch".

DeVoto saw clearly. The future is now. The Sagebrush Rebellion is the instrument that, its backers hope, will succeed where an earlier effort failed.

What are the public lands and how did they get that way? There are eleven so-called public-land states -- Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington. Acreage owned by the Federal Government (you and me) ranges from a low of 29 percent in Washington to 87 percent in Nevada.

Part of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado were included in the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803. All of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and western Montana were acquired through the Oregon Compromise with Great Britain in 1846. The cession from Mexico in 1848 gave the United States title to 334,479,360 acres in California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. We bought 78,842,880 acres from the Republic of Texas in 1850. The Gadsden Purchase from Mexico in 1853 added 18,961,920 acres. We bought Alaska, all 362,516,480 acres of it, from Russia in 1867. The Public Domain once totaled nearly two billion acres!

So all of the land in the public-land states and Alaska once belonged to the United States. For about 100 years the Government followed a policy of disposing of this land as rapidly as possible. The public lands that are left are the lands nobody wanted during this century of conversion to private ownership.

Of the remainder, OUR LAND, the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior administers 471,420,276 acres and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, 160,243,743. They are the largest land stewards and the prime targets in the Sagebrush Rebellion, as they were in the attempted land grab of a third of a century ago. Other Federal agencies, of which the National Park Service with 19 million acres and the Fish and Wildlife Service with 24 million acres in National Wildlife Refuges control the most, administer smaller amounts.

At various times the Federal Government made large grants of land to the Western states. Under the Carey Act it gave them up to a million acres each, and when they joined the Union it gave them the school lands sections 16 and 36 of each township. (The public-land states were laid out in townships of 36 square miles, each of which is called a section.) There were many other grants to the states; the total to all of them, east and west, was 328,424,871 acres.

Yet the popular war cry of thirty-four years ago was: "Return the public lands to the states." It's the same today and as dishonest now as it was then.

Back in the 1940's the American Farm Bureau Federation, including its western affiliates, was one of the strong supporters of the stockmen's attempted land grab. In a short newspaper article published last November, W. H. Whitton, Idaho Farm Bureau information director, echoed and re-echoed the same old bromide. He said, for one thing, that Idaho's Senator James McClure and her two Representatives, Steve Symms and George Hansen, "Are on record as being in favor of returning these federally owned lands to the states..." NEWS-

Continued on page 6

Do you have.....

- * a spouse ???
- * a companion ???
- * a friend ???

Why not invite them....

to become a member of something that you believe in.....

the LIBERTARIAN PARTY!

FREE news!

With your membership or renewal, you will also receive the LP NEWS, the national party newsletter of libertarian action across the nation. You will also receive the Alaska Libertarian, Alaska's own state newsletter.

FREE membership!

Alaska law entitle a person to a tax credit for dues to a non-profit Alaska political organization. Your \$25 membership fee comes back to you. This year because of the silly laws, you get that "refund" whether you paid taxes or not!

FREE books!

You will receive free, from the Alaskan Party Restoring the American Dream by Robert Ringer, a #1 Best Seller, and The Law by Frederick Bastiat, one of the best libertarian books ever written.

PLEASE return with check for \$25 to Lydia Randolph Pouch V, Juneau, AK 99811.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

"I have read and agree with the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party."

"I certify that I will not in the name of the Alaska Libertarian Party advocate political positions, programs or policies which are contrary to, or in conflict with those adopted by a vote of the delegates at the State or National Libertarian Party conventions, although I retain the right to express disagreement with any of these if clearly representing only myself."

Signature

Date

Print your name

Work phone

Address

Home phone

Calendar

April 1 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

April 8 - Libertarian Party of Fairbanks meets in the Arctic Room of the Polaris Hotel, Fairbanks.

April 8 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

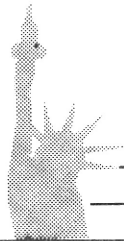
April 13 - Libertarian Party of Anchorage meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer School House on Third and Eagle.

April 15 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

April 16 - Kenai area Libertarian Party meets at the Golden Nugget Bakery, Soldotna.

April 20 - Deadline for articles for the May newsletter.

April 22 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.



peace.
prosperity.
freedom.

ALASKA LIBERTARIAN
205 E. 4th Ave., Box 141
Anchorage AK. 99501

Non Profit
organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Anchorage, AK
PERMIT # 448

David Nolan
1818 S. Jasmine
Denver, CO 80224