statements about what a great job of resource management we are doing. To say we haven't got very far yet is an understatement. However, one point is becoming very obvious, "how conservationists view ranchers in general."

Most conservationists see the rancher as a capitalist whose main motivating force is to make dollars producing red meat. From the conservationists’ point of view the rancher is mining the land in pursuit of dollars and will continue mining as long as there is a blade of grass left. When it is gone he'll move on and make dollars some other way in some other place. That of course is exactly what ranchers did from the late 1800's until the 1930's. During the past 50 years, ranchers and government agencies have spent large sums of money trying to rehabilitate the damage done earlier. From the environmental viewpoint, nearly all this rehabilitation was done to make cow feed so the rancher could make dollars.

With the conservationists commonly accepted viewpoint that ranchers values are tied primarily to dollars, it is no wonder that the Izaak Walton League could truly believe that Harney county residents would be better off with the south half of it in a national preserve rather than in ranching. It is quite possible that such a preserve could generate more jobs and money for Harney county than ranching.

From our standpoint and that of the many ranchers we know, the conservationists' picture doesn't represent the rancher's values. Ranchers need to make a living so they can continue a lifestyle based on self reliance, some independence, and the opportunity to make their own decisions and be responsible for them. Most ranchers' values are tied closely to working the land to produce end results such as healthy livestock, productive hayland, reliable confident children, vigorous grasslands, and the like.

This is pretty heavy stuff for a column entitled 'Cow Camp Comments.' We don't pretend to have crawled through the hole in the barrier to see the environmental community. What is important is that the general public does not hold them in any higher regard than the ranchers. However, the environmental community is mounting a public education campaign on grazing issues. We bet they have a better view of the general public and how to influence it than do the ranchers. We'd best get with it and find where the public is and what they will need from the public land in the future. Then we've got to manage our cows in a manner that ensures that the public gets what they need as a result of the positive effects of the use of cows on the land. At present there is too much public and private land in a deteriorated condition. We ranchers as well as public agencies need to address this situation. Too many ranchers in the past have been part of the problem. It's time we become an aggressive and positive part of the solution.

It is quite obvious that the public can get along without the red meat produced from these lands today, and they probably may not need it in the near future. What they do need is livestock management that improves the resource for all users. If we will only manage our livestock as a tool to improve the whole resource for everyone's benefit and publicize it, controversies like the grazing fee battle will soon become non-issues. It's time to start chipping holes in that barrier and see the public's side. Thirty-nine thousand livestock permittees are going to see their way of life continue only if the 265 million Americans who are our landlords feel we are using their land in a manner beneficial to the future of all Americans.

The Most Expensive Cowboy in Wyoming

I count a Ph.D. among my titles alphabetical;
The concept 'manual labor' for me is quite heretical.
But my cowhands up and left me on the brink of calving season,
And that, my friends and neighbors, is the one and only reason
I'm the most expensive cowboy in Wyoming.

Where once I sat behind a desk with frown administrative
And signed great stacks of rainbow forms in dup- and triplicative,
From my warm bed I stumble now and stagger to the stable
To help a mooing mother who is willing but not able
With a breech birth in a blizzard in Wyoming.

I've published my research results, so elegant and rational,
In conference proceedings and journals international;
But why, if I'm so flaming smart, am I now standing here,
My good right arm two feet inside a Hereford heifer's rear,
A bovine obstetrician in Wyoming?

But someday in the future, all roseate and beatific,
When I return to (Glorious day!) activities scientific,
And other cowboys have been hired to ride the lone prairee,
I'll hoist a few at T. Joe's Bar for I'll no longer be
The most expensive cowboy in Wyoming.

— Dick H. Hart