

FIRST DRAFT

Wilderness concepts forged in part at Trappers Lake

On December 10, 1919, Arthur Carhart wrote a memorandum to Aldo Leopold on the subject of protecting some national forest lands from road-building, timbering, cabin construction and other development.



BOB SILBERNAGEL

"There is a limit to the number of lands of shore line on the lakes," Carhart wrote. "There is a limit to the number of lakes in existence; there is a limit to the mountainous areas of the world, and in each one of these situations there are portions of natural scenic beauty which are God-made, and the beauties of which ... should be the property of all people."

That memorandum became "one of the most significant records in the history of the wilderness concept," according to the website for the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Mizzoula, Montana.

In 1919, Carhart and Leopold both worked for the U.S. Forest Service, Leopold in New Mexico and Carhart in Colorado. They had met a few days earlier in Denver, after Leopold learned of Carhart's recommendation that the area around Trappers Lake, in the White River National Forest, remain undeveloped.

Trappers Lake was formally protected in 1920, and is now part of the Flat Tops Wilderness Area.

Leopold, then an assistant district forester in New Mexico, had been contemplating ways of protecting parts of the Gila National Forest in western New Mexico. The Gila Wilderness Area became the first administratively designated wilderness area in 1924.

It would be another 40 years before Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964 and began legislatively protecting wilderness areas throughout the country.

For much of this nation's history, however, wilderness was viewed as something to be tamed or overcome. It was

an impediment to civilization, agriculture and industry. But by the 19th century, a few voices had begun to speak out on the need to protect at least parts of the natural world.

In the 1820s, author James Fenimore Cooper began to achieve fame with the first of his Leatherstocking novels. Characters in his early novels declared the importance of preserving

and protecting the natural world.

In the 1830s, famed painter George Catlin offered one of the earliest ideas for a national park, which, he suggested should include not only wild lands and creatures, but native people: "A nation's Park, containing man and beast in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty," he explained in a letter to a friend.

Henry David Thoreau proclaimed in 1862, "In Wilderness is the preservation of the World."

By 1872, the United States had established the first national park in the world. The legislation that created Yellowstone National Park mandated regulations to preserve the park's natural resources "curiosities and wonders" and provide for "their retention in their natural condition."

The nation also began working to protect its once vast forest while still allowing uses such as logging, grazing and recreation. This culminated with the creation of the U.S. Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture in 1905.

At the end of the 19th century, a growing number of people, John Muir prominent among them, were arguing for more national parks and the protection of more wild lands.

Despite this, at the end of World War I, the Forest Service was focused primarily on timbering, grazing and building roads to accommodate those uses and the increasing number of citizens with automobiles eager to visit their public lands.



ARTHUR CARHART WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER/Special to the Sentinel

Arthur Carhart preparing for a canoe trip. This photo is believed to have been taken in what is now the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area of northern Minnesota, which Carhart helped preserve after his efforts at Trappers Lake.

So it was that the 27-year-old Carhart, the first landscape architect at the Forest Service, was assigned in July 1919 to survey Trappers Lake and develop a plan for laying out several hundred summer home lots around the lake.

Instead, Carhart returned to his superiors in Denver a recommendation that the best way to serve the public was to leave the Trappers Lake shoreline unmarred by houses and roads.

Leopold learned of Carhart's proposal during a Forest Service meeting in Salt Lake City in November of 1919. Intrigued, Leopold, 33, met Carhart in Denver on Dec. 6, 1919. And he asked the younger man to explain in writing his thoughts on preserving wild lands. The result was the "Memorandum for Mr. Leopold, District 3," quoted above.

Carhart soon left Colorado and led the effort to protect what became the Forest Service's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota. He returned to Colorado in the 1930s and wrote several books about this state. He died in 1978 in California.

Aldo Leopold remained with the Forest Service in New

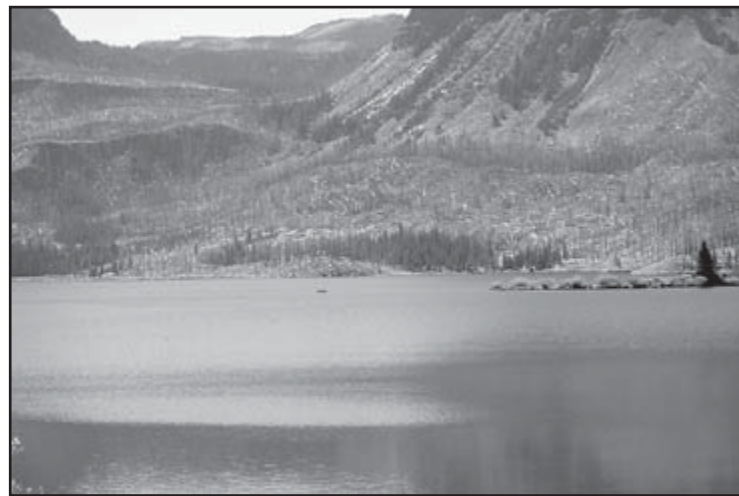
Mexico until 1924, then moved his large family to Wisconsin, where he held several jobs before he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin. He became the first collegiate professor of game management in the United States.

He also became an outspoken advocate for conservation and hunting, as well as for wilderness protection. He acquired a small farm along the Wisconsin River, where he wrote his famous book, "A Sand County Almanac." He died while fighting a grass fire at the farm in 1948.

The ideas he and Carhart discussed 96 years ago, beginning with Trappers Lake in northwestern Colorado, were instrumental in forging the system of wilderness lands we have today.

Information for this column came in part from the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Mizzoula, Montana, carhart.wilderness.net; Curtis Meine's book, "Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work;" and the Gila National Forest.

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BOB SILBERNAGEL/Special to the Sentinel

Trappers Lake, above, was formally protected in 1920.

BLOTTER

COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Camper destroyed in fire

Firefighters with the Central Orchard Mesa Fire Department extinguished a blaze that destroyed a fifth-wheel camper trailer on Saturday morning. An outbuilding at the 31 Road site also had significant smoke and fire damage, according to firefighters. Firefighters with the Grand Junction Fire Department also responded to the blaze that was reported at about 10 a.m.

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

Someone stole a firearm valued at less than \$700 from a vehicle parked in the 2800 block of North Avenue on Nov. 30.

Nadine Reid, 21, received a summons on suspicion of drunken-driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failing to notify the authorities of an accident and careless driving after being contacted in the area of 28 Road and Elm Avenue on Thursday.

Deborah Adamson, 53, was arrested on suspicion of drunken-driving and other traffic infractions after being contacted in

the area of North 24th Street and Elm Avenue on Friday.

Someone broke in and stole property valued at less than \$500 in the 1300 block of Colorado Avenue on Nov. 4.

Todd Menchey, 51, and Buffy Piper, 42, were arrested in the 1600 block of North Avenue on suspicion of knowingly causing injury to a person on Friday.

Donna Bowman, 63, received a summons Friday on suspicion of shoplifting items valued at less than \$750 from City Market, 200 Rood Ave.

Officers are investigating a report of vehicular assault in the 1500 block of Glenwood Avenue that was reported on Saturday.

Leah Richardson, 21, was taken to a hospital after being involved in a motor vehicle crash after allegedly drinking alcohol and driving.

James McKee, 22, received a summons Saturday on suspicion of throwing items at vehicles and littering after being contacted in the area of U.S. Highway 6&50 and Independent Avenue.

According to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office:

Deputies were dispatched to the 500 block of 32 Road on a report of a verbal disturbance on Friday.

Josh Golightly, 30, was arrested in the 3200 block of White Avenue on suspicion of criminal mischief and domestic violence.

GETTING IT RIGHT

"Getting it right" appears as needed to correct erroneous information that has appeared in The Daily Sentinel's news columns, to add details that should not have been omitted from a story or to correct typographical errors that changed the meaning of the story.

A procession for fallen U.S. Army pilot Brandon Smith will leave Martin Mortuary today and head east on North Avenue, connecting with the 29 Road Bridge and onto the Riverside Parkway. Smith will be laid to rest at 1 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado.

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REGION

SENTINEL WIRE SERVICES

Teen arrested on suspicion of murder

ENGLEWOOD — Englewood police arrested a 17-year-old youth on suspicion of second-degree murder after an 18-year-old man was found shot to death on Saturday night.

Police say the man was found in the parking lot of a mobile home park. Police believe the shooting occurred inside a vehicle.

Sgt. Brian Cousineau says the suspect and victim are not being identified and no motive was available.

Malt company plans two plants in state

MONTE VISTA — Proximity Malt is building two new regional craft malting plants in southern Colorado near Monte Vista.

The plants will provide beer ingredients to local craft brewers and other specialty malt users in the Mountain Southwest regions.

The company says it works with regional farmers to help them produce specialty grains.

The Alamosa Valley Courier reports the company will sell specialty malts using locally grown barley and other grains.

Crews to renew search for missing boy

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Searchers are planning to renew efforts to find the body of a 6-year-old boy swept away in September by floods in a small polygamous community on the Utah-Arizona border.

The Spectrum newspaper in St. George reports that crews from Colorado City said Saturday more recent floods have created new paths through waterways.

The child was with 16 women and children when a flash flood on Sept. 14 swept away the two cars they were riding in. Twelve members of two families were killed. Three young boys survived.

Man shot outside Salt Lake City store

SALT LAKE CITY — A man is recovering after he says he was the victim of a drive-by shooting outside a Salt Lake City convenience store.

Television station KUTV reports that Salt Lake City police were called to a hospital late Friday night after a man showed up with a gunshot wound.

Police say the victim suffered a gunshot wound in the upper thigh but is expected to survive.

According to the victim, he was walking toward a 7-Eleven on State Street and 21st South when a car driving by fired five shots at him.

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Wishing you Peace, Love and Joy!
Thanks to all of you for being a part of my life for the last 20 years. I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas! Pray for peace in our world!
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Attention All Dare to Care Auto Customers
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Mike Bambino, President of Dare to Care Auto
If we fill up in December there will NOT be a sign up for new Members in March as we will be full!
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12/25, Out & About 12/21, Monday, Noon
12/27, Real Estate Weekly 12/21, Monday, Noon
1/1, Friday 12/28, Monday, Noon
1/2, Saturday 12/28, Monday, Noon
1/3, Sunday 12/28, Monday, 5 PM
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1/1, Out & About 12/28, Monday, 5 PM
1/3, Real Estate Weekly 12/28, Monday, 5 PM
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1/2, Saturday 12/31, Thursday, 1 PM
1/3, Sunday 12/31, Thursday, 1 PM
1/4, Monday 12/31, Thursday, 1 PM
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12/25, Friday 12/21, Monday, 4 PM
12/26, Saturday 12/21, Monday, 4 PM
12/27, Sunday 12/21, Monday, 4 PM
12/28, Monday 12/21, Monday, 4 PM
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