

Mr. Hornady that this group of individuals do not discriminate solely against OUT-OF-STATE people. They have no compunctions about being unfriendly, discourteous, overbearing, and superior acting to everyone — resident and nonresident alike.

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I had been hunting for the previous week at Rex Lanham's "Flying W" Ranch. One afternoon one of his pilot/guides asked me to accompany him to the Taylor Ranch airstrip to deliver some important papers to Stan Potts. Potts is a licensed outfitter and was legally camped on the strip.

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However, he kept boring in, until I demanded to know who *he* was. His name was Sidsider (this is perhaps only an approximation of proper spelling). We found that he was working on his doctorate under Dr. Hornocker.

He took great pains to point out that this ranch was purchased with money received from the National Science Foundation, National Geographic, etc. . . . that the state of Idaho put up *very* little money and that the ranch did not belong to the people of Idaho . . . but to the regents of the University of Idaho.

I asked him to explain the difference between the University of Idaho, the regents, and the people of Idaho. He replied that it would be too complicated for me to understand!

I am glad that Mr. Hornady had the opportunity to meet the people of the Flying W, Rex Lanham, and his staff and those truly representative of the friendly people of Idaho.

Up to this point I had always supported Dr. Hornocker's work with the mountain lion. Now I think we should put a bounty on them and perhaps with the demise of the cougar we would get rid of the obnoxious group at the Taylor Ranch.

I hope Mr. Hornady will accept my apology on behalf of the people of Idaho and will come out to hunt again. I assure him the stupid bunch of ?*@%†* at the Taylor Ranch are *not* typical of our citizenry. — NORRIS GESAS, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

December, 1970

THE OUTDOORSMAN

Taylor Ranch Biologist Lacks Hospitality

Editor, The Outdoorsman:

I read with great interest the letter of Mr. Stephen D. Hornady of Windthorst, Texas, published in a recent issue of *The Outdoorsman*, in which he complained of rude treatment by the staff at the Taylor Ranch.

I would like to point out to

ARTHUR L. BENNY

MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVE

16 NORTHEAST 55th STREET · SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

January 6, 1971

resident

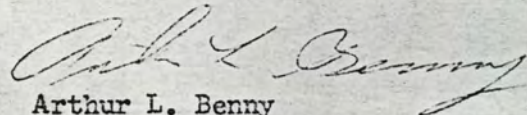
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Perhaps there is an explanation or second side to these stories. If
so, I would certainly like to hear it.

Needless to say, I am extremely disappointed in those people purporting
to represent my Alma Mater.

Very truly yours



Arthur L. Benny

cc: National Geographic Society
with enclosures

Mr. George Dovel
The Outdoorsman
6520 Strawberry Glen
Boise, Idaho 83702

RECEIVED

JAN 8 1971

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY of IDAHO

To: Prof. Erickson
Will you please
weigh out a
letter or fact
sheet on this
so that I can
send a response
to Mr Benny

Thanks

E. Hartung

FOR THE

PROCESS INDUSTRIES

ARTHUR L. BENNY

MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVE

2816 NORTHEAST 55th STREET · SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

January 6, 1971

Board of Regents
c/o Office of the President
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Gentlemen:

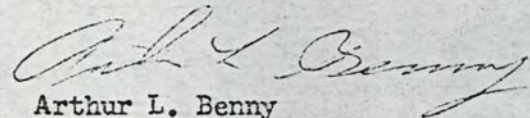
Enclosed are copies of two letters to the editor of the *OUTDOORSMAN*, a monthly paper published in Boise. I grew up in Idaho (Craigmont and Coeur d'Alene) and graduated from the University with the Class of 1943. For the first time in my life I am ashamed of my association with the State and the University of Idaho.

Such churlish discourtesy is just not acceptable anywhere in today's society and particularly in the wilds where a little friendly help can mean the difference between life and death.

Perhaps there is an explanation or second side to these stories. If so, I would certainly like to hear it.

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E. C. Hornady 1970

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NORRIS GESAS, Idaho Falls, Idaho

APRIL 1975

Non Resident Says Hospitality Lacking

Editor, The Outdoorsman:

Even though I have now spent part of some six seasons in the Idaho Primitive Area, I am one of those hunters that some Idaho sportsmen would rather not have invading your fine country — a "Non-Resident Hunter."

My partner and I have just completed a back pack hunt for sheep, on which we succeeded in bagging one legal ram.

By the way, I have written

several times in the past couple of years to the Idaho F&G, requesting that they give serious consideration to limiting sheep hunting in the Idaho Primitive Area to a permit drawing, later season, and with qualifications for a legal ram considerably greater than they are now.

This brings to point the main reason for this letter. We were hunting the ----- portion of the Primitive area, where I have hunted the past three seasons, on this sheep hunt. My partner having reached the limit of his ability to move to another area in search of another ram, we decided to contact our pilot to come get us two days earlier than had previously been planned.

When we asked Mrs. Jess Taylor if she would make the call for us on their radio, she told us that she could not use the radio for such a call; that the radio belonged to the "University" who had purchased the Taylor Ranch (it seems for Dr. Hornocker's extended three year lion study).

We then asked a girl at the University quarters there if she would make the call or allow us to make the call on the University radio. We were told that the University supervisor had given explicit orders for no hunters to be allowed to make any calls on "their radio".

Also, in the conversation with the girl, we found out that "they" (University personnel I suppose) were *mad* at us for having used their air strip in the first place. Now, I'm still a pilgrim at the backwoods area, but that was the first time I've experienced a complete lack of hospitality there. In fact, we felt that their attitude toward us was one of deliberately making things hard on us because we were hunters — and backpackers at that.

So, we proceeded to Rex Lanham's Flying W ranch, and were met with the greatest of hospitality and friendliness. The call was made for us, permission to use their air strip for the flight out was readily given. We were then taken in a jeep back down to the river to get our packs (which we had left there, not knowing how we would be received, and having no desire to carry those heavy packs any further than necessary), and were made to feel genuinely welcome. Such a contrast in attitudes toward us here from what we had received at the Taylor Ranch.

Public funds must have been used in the purchase of the Taylor Ranch, and if so, how can the public be refused reasonable use of such facilities?

I understand that there was another backpacker refused use of the radio at Taylor Ranch just the day before we asked to use it, and he also was refused (his need was for food from his pilot). He was also allowed to use the radio at Rex Lanham's.
— STEPHEN D. HORNADY,
Windthorst, Texas.

(ED. NOTE: A legislator advised that \$41,000.00 of state tax money was appropriated for such expenses as transportation and radio maintenance at the University-owned Taylor Ranch, during the last legislative session.

We have experienced similar hospitality at Mr. Lanham's private guest ranch.)

January 12, 1971

Arthur L. Benny
2616 N. E. 55th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Mr. Benny;

Thank you for your letter of January 6, 1971 referring to the two letters published in the Outdoorsman alleging discourtesies experienced by Messers. Stephen Hornady and Norris Gesas on the occasion of their visits to the Taylor Ranch.

I have asked Dr. Erickson about these charges, the particulars of which are described later in this letter. It would be helpful, however, if I might first provide you with some background information concerning the University's purchase and operation of the Taylor Ranch.

The Taylor Ranch, a 65 acre deeded property located in the Idaho Primitive Area, was purchased in 1969 from Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Taylor for use as a Wilderness Research Facility. The purchase price was well below market value and made with endowment (non-appropriated) funds. Two principle conditions of the purchase were (1) life time residency rights on the ranch by the Taylors, and (2) that the ranch, and particularly the airstrip, would not be opened to public use.

This use restriction has resulted in some adverse criticism. However, it does not pose a hardship on the public since the Forest Service maintains a public airstrip at Soldier's Bar, only 3 miles from the Taylor Ranch. At the time of the incidents reported in the Outdoorsman near-continuous air service to and from Soldier's Bar existed as well as message sending facilities.

Now for particulars relating to the allegations contained in the letters published in the Outdoorsman.

Mr. Hornady charges in his letter that he was denied use of the radio at Taylor Ranch and this is true. However, the refusal was due to the fact that Mr. Hornady and his hunting partner landed at the Taylor Ranch and proceeded to hunt sheep despite being advised that this was not permissible. Further, they professed a close friendship with the Taylors whom upon being advised of the incident were most disturbed. It seems reasonable, therefore, that Mr. Hornady and his

partner were refused use of the Taylor Ranch radio.

As concerns Mr. Gesas' letter a less clear picture emerges although a major distortion of fact is suggested. Dr. Erickson has discussed the matter with Dr. Hornocker and they are unaware of any untoward confrontation at the time of Mr. Gesas' visit. Furthermore, both Dr. Hornocker and Dr. Erickson reject the portrayal of Mr. Seidensticker as pompous, overbearing and the like. Rather they report that he is a most courteous and personable young man. It is also inconceivable that he would state that the Ranch was purchased from grant funds or that he would be unable or unwilling to discuss the relationship of the Taylor Ranch to the University, the Regents, or to the public.

In final evaluation, Mr. Benny, I'm inclined to dismiss these letters as indirect attacks on certain individuals and research programs of the University of Idaho. As you are perhaps aware, the Taylor Ranch has been the site of Dr. Hornocker's pioneer studies of the cougar, an animal both championed and despised. In addition, the University's purchase of the Taylor Ranch was not received favorably in all quarters, particularly by certain factions having vested interest in the Ranch or by those holding negative public attitudes toward the cougar. As a subscriber to the Outdoorsman, you are also likely aware that this publication has consistently opposed both the cougar research and the University's purchase of the Taylor Ranch. This is unfortunate because on balance the greater publicity concerning both issues has been favorable and has included volunteer contributions toward both.

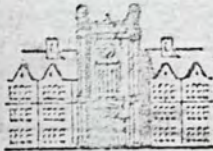
In closing this letter, Mr. Benny, I wish to assure you that the Regents, the Administration and the Director of the Taylor Ranch are very anxious that this facility will reflect favorably upon the image of the University of Idaho. To this end, every effort is being made to inform the public of its contribution to society and wherever possible to accomodate persons or groups having particular interest in the operation of the Taylor Ranch or its research activities. To this end, I should be happy to extend an invitation to you to visit the Taylor Ranch.

Thank you for your interest in the University of Idaho.

Sincerely,

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

MOSCOW, ID. 83843



Wilderness Research Center

Forestry Building
Ph. 208-882-3511 Ext. ~~2675X~~
6525

January 13, 1971

Dr. Ernest Hartung, President
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear President Hartung;

Enclosed please find a draft of a letter to Mr. Benny relative to the two letters published in the *Outdoorsman* criticizing the Taylor Ranch.

Unfortunately, Dr. Hornocker and I were not able to reach Mr. Seidensticker to learn particulars of his meeting with Mr. Gesas. However, Maurice should see him this week and if new information is developed he has promised to forward it to you. We are quite convinced, however, that this last incident is largely fabrication on the basis of the inaccuracies contained in the letter, and also the fact that we have not previously heard of the incident. I also checked with the Stanley Potts (the guide lease operator) and they are unaware of any difficulties. Further, it seems most unlikely that the people at the Ranch, including Mr. Seidensticker, the Taylors or the caretaker, would not have mentioned it to Maurice or myself.

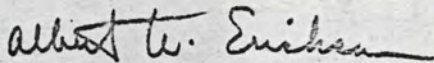
You will be interested to know that I called Mr. Benny and we discussed these matters in detail. He seemed quite reasonable and seemed to accept that the facts are somewhat different than portrayed in the *Outdoorsman*.

I'm quite convinced that this static is being fostered by the persons originally opposing the purchase of the Taylor Ranch. However, I think that we may have turned the corner on this. Last month I made a presentation before the Guide's Association and I believe that that group is reasonably assured that the University's motives are pure and that we do not pose a threat to them. Equally important

was the fact that Mr. Lanham of the Flying W Ranch (one of our chief antagonists) went out of his way to invite me to the business session banquet and proceeded to suggest that we get together and go over legislation proposed for reclassification of the Primitive Area, examine boundaries, and etc. This we will do this spring and summer.

I'm sorry that you have been bothered by these issues and I trust that they can be kept to a minimum in the future. If I can be of assistance in anyway, please advise.

Sincerely,



Albert W. Erickson, Director
and Professor of Wildlife Ecology

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Enclosure

cc: Dr. Hornocker