

## FIRST DRAFT

# OUT TO PASTURE

Ninety years ago, Taylor Grazing Act initiated livestock management on public lands

A week before the Taylor Grazing Act was signed into law on June 28, 1934, by President Franklin Roosevelt, The Daily Sentinel signaled its approval of the measure, which passed during the worst drought of the century.

“Such regulation as the bill establishes is imperatively necessary,” the paper said. “If the abuse of public lands by a privileged few is permitted, unregulated, we can only expect more frequent droughts and find our land becoming a veritable Sahara.”

The law, named for sponsor Congressman Edward Taylor of Glenwood Springs, was historic. But it still had to be implemented.

The first public meeting regarding implementation of the new law was held in Grand Junction in September. A raucous crowd of approximately 1,000 people gathered at Lincoln Park Barn and split into two groups — cattlemen on one side and sheepmen on the other.

At the request of Farrington (Ferry) Carpenter, who conducted the meeting, they removed their guns to prevent disagreement from turning deadly. Then they got down to work.

In 1934, public lands were desperately overgrazed, but there was no control of the open range by the government’s General Land Office. And ranchers saw little need to limit livestock on the range.

Author David Lavender, who grew up on a cattle ranch in southwestern Colorado, was told that when the first ranchers came into the region “they looked at the endless sea of grass and told each

other it could never be eaten out.”

Such attitudes sparked massive growth in livestock herds. In 1870 there were 4 million head of cattle and 4.8 million sheep in the West. By 1900, those numbers had exploded to 19 million cattle and 25 million sheep.

Federal laws exacerbated the problems. The 1862 Homestead Act and later bills encouraged people to move into the semi-arid West, adding their livestock to public lands. As homesteaders poured in, they also claimed prime meadows, streams and water holes that livestock needed.

Itinerant sheepmen, called “tramp sheepmen” by many, created more problems. They were operators with no home ranch, but large flocks that they herded wherever the grass looked promising.

These pressures created a clamor for government action early in the 20th century. However, proposed bills were repeatedly killed by powerful Western congressmen.

Then the Great Depression added still more problems for ranchers, and Western political views began to change.

Ed Taylor had been working for 15 years to get some sort of federal regulation of the public ranges. Modeling his legislation in part on U.S. Forest Service grazing rules that had been in place for decades, Taylor finally won support for his bill in 1934.

President Roosevelt threatened to veto the bill over language that defined grazing rights essentially as property rights. So, Taylor amended it to say grazing permits would be “safeguarded” as much as



BOB SILBERNAGEL



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Congressman Edward Taylor, right, received a gavel commemorating the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1939, five years after the law was passed. Handing him the gavel is Richard Rutledge, who replaced Ferry Carpenter as director of the Division of Grazing. In the middle is Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes.

possible, but issuing a grazing permit “shall not create any right, title, interest, or estate, in or to the lands.”

The law also required a director of the newly formed Grazing Division be hired to administer the law, and that public meetings be held in each of ten affected states to inform ranchers about it.

Ferry Carpenter, a Republican, was a well-respected rancher from Hayden, Colo., and a lawyer who had litigated a number of grazing disputes. With Taylor’s support, Carpenter was appointed Grazing Division director by Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes.

When Carpenter held the first meeting in Grand Junction on Sept. 17, 1934, he had received little direction from Washington on how to

implement it.

Ickes had told him he would send 15 or 16 men from the U.S. Geological Survey to help him set up the act. But, Carpenter said, “That was about all in the way of instruction that the secretary gave me.”

Because the U.S.G.S. men didn’t understand grazing or the conditions of the ranges, Carpenter worked with the stockmen in Grand Junction, then Rifle and Meeker, to establish six grazing districts in Colorado. The stockmen then elected representatives to serve on grazing advisory boards for each district.

Over the next four months, Carpenter held 16 similar meetings in ten states across the West. By early 1935, two-thirds of the open range was being administered under the act, and local ranchers served

on grazing advisory boards to determine appropriate livestock numbers in each district.

But Ickes was furious. He wanted primary administration of the act to come from Washington. He called Carpenter to Washington that summer and fired him. However, at the urging of Congressman Taylor, Carpenter was reinstated within days by President Roosevelt.

Provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act changed with amendments passed in 1936 and 1939. Lawsuits challenged the legality of the act, but it was upheld.

Carpenter’s relationship with Ickes remained tense, and he finally was forced out in 1938.

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CARPENTER RANCH PRESERVE

A portrait of Farrington (Ferry) Carpenter hangs in his old ranch house near Hayden. The ranch is now owned by the Nature Conservancy, which manages it as a working cattle ranch where agricultural production and conservation can work together.



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Sheep grazing in the West, circa 1905. Itinerant sheep herders who took their flocks wherever the grass seemed best, often had conflicts with cattlemen. Overgrazing by both sheep and cattle prompted calls for federal regulation of public ranges, and led to the Taylor Grazing Act.

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# Guests beware: You're guinea pigs in my recipe adventures

As you know, we've recently entered prime Invite People Over for a Barbecue Season, now that it's officially summer, which can only mean one thing: trying a new recipe when company's coming over! What better time to do it?

Oh, the times I've offered up a bowl of something with a half apologetic/half defiant, "I've actually never tried this before but it sounded good." And you know what? I would estimate that at least 65% of the time it HAS been good!

I suppose a wise host would make a recipe at least once before offering it to others, but nope. Seize the day and the hapless guinea pigs who have no choice but to be polite, that's my motto!

I blame the internet, New York Times Cooking and genetics.

Beyond being a medium for cat photos and porn, the internet is for recipes. I know I'm treading a minefield of issues even bringing this up — everything from intellectual property to creative work to the ongoing, decades-long fallout from our initial "give it away for free" model — but I get a ton of recipes

off the internet.

In fact, one of the best recent developments of my life is the "jump to recipe" button. This allows me to get right to the recipe and decide it sounds tasty, because I'm generally meandering around the food internet at lunchtime or after work, when I'm hungry. Everything sounds amazing when I'm hungry.

And once I've put the ingredients on the grocery list, why, I have no choice but to make it! For company! Which explains the weird barley salad I made one time that called for pomegranate syrup — not easy to come by, I will have you know! — and tasted, if I had to describe it in one word, mealy.

Me: Here's this salad I've never tried, made from ingredients that don't seem like they go together!

My guests: Mmmm. Who knew salad could be this dense?

The problem is, I'm highly suggestible when it comes to good food writing and nice photos. This is why New York Times Cooking has been a particular downfall.

They send me an email every day, and

how am I supposed to resist sentences like this: "Sandwiches tell stories of the delicious, stories we should hear and repeat." Preach it to me! Tell me a story of sandwiches!

The sandwich in question is a halloumi, arugula and tomato sandwich, and I'd be lying if I said I didn't have to Google what halloumi is (a type of Cypriot cheese, turns out). Anyway, it never in my life occurred to me to make a sandwich from these ingredients, but now it's all I can think about. We're not having hamburgers the next time people come over, we're having halloumi sandwiches!

Never mind that I'm not even sure where to get halloumi or, for that matter, many of the ingredients in these New York Times Cooking recipes that presume ready access to, say, Macedonian markets. All I know it, the act of cooking is, in part, about chasing a high.

Here's what I mean: I made another New York Times Cooking recipe involving harissa, another ingredient I had to Google, and chicken and a yogurt sauce and other stuff, and it was so delicious I about lapsed into a coma. I mourned that I could only give it five stars.

And the fact that I was sharing the meal with someone? That made it even

more delicious. I took a chance on something that sounded good and it paid off! Why wouldn't everyone at the barbecue want such an experience?

So, I feel a little like I'm chasing that high when I cook. It seems worth the risk of culinary failures.

Plus, new things are fun! I learned this from my mom, who also is inclined to offer untested recipes to company. She's an amazing cook, so the failures have been very few, but we don't let her live them down because we're jerks.

Anyway, I learned from her that reward does not come without risk, and that rarely is something so bad as to be inedible. Weird? Sure. Declared "interesting"? Definitely. But that's why you offer it to company! They're obliged to NOT say what they're thinking, which is, "Wasn't there a handy goat you could have given this to instead?"

So, fine, bring your goat to my next barbecue if you must, but won't you feel silly when this spicy corn and shishito salad (still not sure what shishito is) turns out to be yummy.

Rachel Sauer is at [rs81501@gmail.com](mailto:rs81501@gmail.com) and thinks her attempt at French toast casserole, which somehow managed to be both soggy and dry, is best forgotten, with apologies to her guests.



RACHEL SAUER

## PASTURE: Taylor Grazing Act initiated livestock management on public lands

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Also, with limited money during the Depression, there were few rangers and few resources for range improvements.

A number of ranchers in a few states at first adamantly opposed the law. Some threatened to shoot anyone they caught trespassing on what they considered "their" range. But most ranchers supported the act.

In 1946, President Harry Truman approved a reorganization, combining the Grazing Division with the older General Land Office into a new agency called the Bureau of Land Management.

More legislative and executive changes came in succeeding decades: The National Environmental Policy Act of 1976 required the BLM to consider the environmental consequences of its actions, including those related to grazing.

In 1995, the BLM changed the Grazing Advisory Boards to Resource Advisory Councils to get broader public involvement about the management of the land.

Over the years, politicians, livestock interests and environmental groups disputed whether grazing fees were adequate, if the public ranges were still being overgrazed, and whether other uses of public lands were properly considered.

In 1981, Charles Moore, one of the first district graziers in Colorado, defended the early actions of those involved. "We didn't try to be strict on numbers, but every year the [District] Grazier and the user would examine the allotment as to overgrazing. The biggest share of the stockmen were good cooperators, but a few caused a lot of trouble," he added.

Scientist Wesley Calef was more critical. Ranchers, he wrote, mostly recommended whatever they thought was best for their operations, while the Grazing Division gave them too much leeway and had little scientific data to support its decisions.

Clearly, the Taylor Grazing Act didn't end problems on the ranges. But, as Lavender noted, the act "was necessary and should have come sooner than it did," so that public ranges could begin to recover from "the brutal raping of the past decades."

Sources: "America's First Grazier, the Biography of Farrington F. Carpenter," by Edward Carpenter; "Confessions of a Maverick," by Farrington R.

Carpenter; "One Man's West," by David Lavender; "Early History of the Taylor Grazing Act in Colorado," by Charles F. Moore, Everett L. Brown and Henry E. Snyder; "History of Public Lands Livestock Grazing," BLM Nevada State Office; "Private Grazing and Public Lands: Studies of the Local

Management of the Taylor Grazing Act," by Wesley Calef; "The Wool Growing Industry," United States Tariff Commission; historic newspapers at [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CARPENTER RANCH PRESERVE

Ferry Carpenter as a young man, soon after he arrived in Hayden in the early 1900s.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### Sunday, June 23

Today is Sunday, June 23, the 175th day of 2024. There are 191 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On June 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law Title IX, barring discrimination on the basis of sex for "any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Also on this date:

**In 1860,** a congressional resolution authorized creation of the United States Government Printing Office, which opened the following year.

**In 1888,** abolitionist Frederick Douglass received one vote from the Kentucky delegation at the Republican convention in Chicago, effectively making him the first Black candidate to have his name placed in nomination for U.S. president.

**In 1931,** aviators Wiley Post and Harold Gatty took off from New York on a round-the-world flight that lasted eight days and 15 hours.

**In 1947,** the Senate joined the

House in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, designed to limit the power of organized labor.

**In 1956,** Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected president of Egypt.

**In 1967,** President Lyndon B. Johnson, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin opened a three-day summit at Glassboro State College in New Jersey.

**In 1969,** Warren E. Burger was sworn in as chief justice of the United States by the man he was succeeding, Earl Warren.

**In 1985,** all 329 people aboard an Air India Boeing 747 were killed when the plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Ireland because of a bomb authorities believe was planted by Sikh separatists.

**In 1994,** the movie "Forrest Gump," starring Tom Hanks as a simple yet kindhearted soul who had serendipitous brushes with greatness, was released by Paramount Pictures.

**In 1995,** Dr. Jonas Salk, the medical pioneer who developed the first vaccine to halt the crippling rampage of polio, died in La Jolla,

California, at age 80.

**In 2016,** Britain voted to leave the European Union after a bitterly divisive referendum campaign, toppling Prime Minister David Cameron, who had led the campaign to keep Britain in the EU.

**In 2020,** the Louisville police department fired an officer involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor more than three months earlier, saying Brett Hankison had shown "extreme indifference to the value of human life" when he fired ten rounds into Taylor's apartment.

**In 2021,** after 13 years of near silence in the conservatorship that controlled her life and money, pop star Britney Spears told a judge in Los Angeles that the conservatorship controlled by her father and others had made her feel demoralized and enslaved, and that it should come to an end. (The judge would agree to that request in November 2021.)

**In 2022,** in a major expansion of gun rights, the Supreme Court said Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

Answer to Sunday Crossword Puzzle No. 2,200 published today.

ALIST	EDGER	CASE	SLAM
LANAI	BERRA	ALLA	COCA
TONY	ROBBINS	ROOT	CANAL
SETSIN	POPE	PAUL	II
BYFOOT	TYRE	ETTE	
MARK	FOSTER	ETC	JARULE
OLA	SEALAB	ISO	MOO
CECIL	WILLIAM	AWELL	MAN
ANAS	SARGE	ESAI	
MISO	SOUP	TRIED	PERPS
TWENTY	NINTH	OFF	FEBRUARY
NOSED	STORY	SNOOPIER	
GOVT	WIEST	ABON	
ANTONIO	SABATO	JR	ENDED
HUE	DWI	RUNONS	RYE
ANNLEE	BYE	DINAH	SHORE
INON	ESPY	ELOPED	
JIMMY	DORSEY	BAOBAB	
OLDBAILEY	LEAP	DAY	BABY
ISLE	SIDE	OWNED	ELLIE
NAIR	CEOS	NEEDS	REIGN

Answer to Sunday, June 23, 2024 Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT PERSON WAS AWARDED DENTIST OF THE WEEK FOR VERY HIGH-QUALITY WORK, HE WAS GIVEN A LITTLE PLAQUE.

Answer to Daily Crossword Puzzle, Published Saturday

SEA	CAPO	POMP
ORB	OVEN	IDOL
USE	NINE	VIVA
PELICAN	MONEY	
KIN	HAT	
HADES	LUNATIC	
IRE	ELAN	LOVE
GIFT	OTTO	MAL
HAYRIDE	SCENT	
EDE	SHE	
COMMA	TAKEOUT	
AHAM	MILO	FRO
PILL	ANTS	JSA
TOTE	RASH	TAD

Answer to Jumble Puzzle, Published Saturday

Jumbles: ELDER SNIFF FRUGAL TATTOO  
Answer: When the tourists saw Paris' famous tower lit up at night, they — GOT AN "EIFFEL"

# OFF THE CLOCK

No work and all play

## EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE DAILY SENTINEL