



# The Miner's Inch

*A Melodramatic Comedy*  
*July 2025      Volume 25-7*



## Can Grazing Reduce Wildfire Risks?

**Douglas McIntyre, Editor-in-Chief at Climate Crisis, explains how grazing could be an innovative solution to reduce wildfire risks. "Wildfires are often fueled by dry vegetation in fields and mountainous areas. Introducing farm animals to graze in these fire prone regions could naturally reduce vegetation decreasing the likelihood of fires. This low intervention method highlights inventive practices."**

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This novel idea is not new; it has been around for years. In this county, the cattle ranchers would take their cattle to the mountains for summer grazing. This kept trails open, reducing

the overburden of grass and other edible vegetation. I remember the cattle drives through Georgetown when I grew up there. It was a live connection to the cowboys on TV for me.

Enter the college educated environmentalists to save the world. They stopped cattle being taken to the mountains because of environmental concerns (???). The forest service went along by stopping cattle grazing. Prior to cattle grazing being stopped, there were no major fires like the Caldor, King or Mosquito that I remember.

Then the overburden started accumulating, trails became overgrown and fewer traveled by hikers enjoying the very same nature the environmentalists were saving (???) Even the lumber industry supported by our national forests from which the county received money for education started to have issues, lumber mills closed, and jobs went away.

I have asked myself many times why the recent fires have been so large with all the new firefighting equipment and better trained fire fighters. Many answers can be put together or maybe just one. The first, "Have we been good stewards of our wild lands?" Next, "Have we listened to environmentalists and their preached environmentalism, in my opinion, too long and lack of common sense?" Was there human error? Maybe there is another darker reason if you believe in conspiracies.

We did have fires that were fought without airplanes or the new equipment available now. The Icehouse-Union Valley Fire, Pilliken Fire, Kelsey Fire and Sand Fire come to mind. I never thought I would see one fire that started in Pollock Pines and ended at Hell Hole in Placer County destroying countless acres of our forest and wildlife. Add to this the recent Caldor Fire that started in Grizzly Flat and ended south of Meyers

destroying 240,000 plus acres of forest and wildlife along the way.

**The fact remains that All of Us must do our part to protect ourselves and the wildlife that cannot. The native Americans and the early day miners used common sense.**

In my opinion, "the environmentalists" set the stage for all the recent fires in the state because of their book learning (???) with no practical experience or common sense. They are not totally at fault either. Our state, federal and county leaders can also take some of the blame because they went along to get along and maintain their jobs. Case in point, "The Three Desperadoes & the Outriders from Dry Gulch" have created an Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention along with a Vegetation Ordinance to be enforced by code enforcement, a division of the county administrative office. (why???) Enter the police state and more Control.

While we are on the topic of environmentalists, they can also take a bow to stopping dams being built to supply water for drinking, agriculture, wildlife they say are protecting, flood control. There is no given amount of water every year. We will need water not dry faucets or mud.

Now, consider the state and county demanding affordable housing. More houses mean water shortage and rationing in dry years. As the number of houses grows, even in wet years there eventually will not be enough to supply all the needs. **NO** water for agriculture equals **no** food. Case in point, years ago the county gave to the El Dorado Irrigation District, land to build the Texas Hill Reservoir to supply water for the Placerville area. Now, EID wants to sell it for housing. This reservoir should have been built years ago. Depending on the

size of the dam, it takes years and money to build.

We had the opportunity to build the Nashville Dam and four others back in the 60's with the help of the Bureau of Reclamation for about 68 million dollars. Again, the environmentalists and river rafters chanted their song of "**NO**" and our leaders listened. Now we cannot even build a bridge to Mosquito for this amount.

My father used to tell me that a dam should be built below Chilli Bar about a half mile down river where there is a natural narrowing of the canyon, put a road across and make it easier to get to the Georgetown Divide, create backup water storage and recreation activities to maybe Pollock Pines or Camino in the American River Canyon. Our possibilities with common sense, care and compassion are endless. Every idea is worth investigating.

**"We cannot rely on the "Gang of Five or the Three Desperadoes" to make our decisions." *Editor***

*Oh What A Tangled Web We Create,  
When First We Think to Deceive!!!*

## **Section 504. Sheriff Salary Limitation**

The Sheriff's Salary initiative, commonly known as Measure A, and passed by a majority of the voters at a general election on November 7, 1972, is hereby repealed.



The Board of Supervisors shall, at least annually determine the existing average salaries for the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol for each class of position employed by said agencies.

Effective on the first day of January of each year after this charter provision first becomes effective, the Board of Supervisors shall adjust and determine that the average salary for each class of position as set forth herein be at least equal to the average of the salaries for the comparable positions in the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol.

As used herein, the term "comparable class of "position" shall mean a group of positions substantially similar with respect to qualifications or duties or responsibilities using the following positions as guidelines:

Undersheriff  
CaptainLieutenant  
Sergeant  
Deputy Sheriff  
Clerk



The provisions of this section shall prevail over any otherwise conflicting provisions of this charter or general law which may relate to salaries of County officers or employees who are **NOT** elected by popular vote.

[Amended by Charter Amendment ratified November 7, 1995, effective

January 26, 1996; Stats. 1996, ch. 2] (El Dorado County Charter)

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You will hear a lot about Section 504 of the El Dorado County Charter. We, as taxpayers of this county, have been taken advantage of for many years because of this section. You may ask yourself how and why? Here are some key words in this Section. There are words that are stated that are cleverly worded, in my opinion. Words like “**Sheriff’s Salary Limitation**” and average salary for each class of position computed from taking the average of comparable positions and salaries in other police agencies using the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff’s Department and drum roll please, the California Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol is the **spoiler** that pushes the average into the stratosphere. It is **nowhere comparable** to the Sheriff’s Office of El Dorado County. It

does not fit “comparable class of position” as stated in the charter.

Here is another part of the Section 504 that has been added to allow **OTHER** county employees to be added to the salary average “general law which may relate to salaries of County Officers or employees who are **NOT** elected by popular vote.” With this in mind, the District Attorney, The County Counsel, Public Defender and County Administrative Officer are currently tied into this section for salaries. They have no connection with the Sheriff’s Office. Rumor has it code enforcement officers may be linked in as well. The past County Administrative Officer worked long enough at his new salary for three months and retired with a nice “**Golden Handshake**” to maybe parts unknown.

Now, ask yourself where was the “**Gang of Five**”? Sitting on their hands as usual. (REALLY???) They hate to make any decision on their own. If they cannot hire an outside consultant for "X" dollars to tell them what to do, they rely on guidance from the County Counsel, County Administrative Officer, staff or an advisory committee for something or if all else fails, developers, SACOG (Sacramento Area Council

of Governments), **just not their constituents that elected them to office.** The day is **coming very soon** when tough choices will have to be made for this county. The looming future budget deficit (???,???,???) is just a subtle preliminary wakeup call for **all** of us. Too many years of "**living the good life**" on government grants with no oversight is coming **HOME TO US**, One and All

*Up, Up, and Away, Yikes!!!,  
The Balloon Has A Hole & We  
Are Going Down!!!!*

The "**Three Desperadoes & "Madame Minn"** just sit on their hands as usual. They hate to make any decision on their own. If they cannot hire an outside consultant for "X" dollars to tell them what to do, they rely on guidance from the County Counsel, County Administrative Officer, staff or an advisory committee for something or if all else fails, developers, SACOG (Sacramento Area Council of Governments), just not their constituents that elected them to office. The day is coming very soon when tough choices will have to be made for this county. The looming future budget deficit (???,???,???) is just a subtle preliminary wakeup call for all of us. **TOO** many years of "**living the good life**" on government grants with no oversight is coming to an **END. WE** are along for the ride because "The



**Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**" have failed in their fiduciary responsibility to US.

What all of us know up close and personal every day when we wake up, go to work, raise our families, hope to retire and live out our last years. The utopian dream of socialism has made a disaster out of California. Gone are the days of the "**golden state**". Isn't it remarkable that all the vocal disciples of this failed venture into socialism are all doing extremely well on our misfortune. In my opinion, socialism has and always will be a failed social engineering disaster. Why??? Because human nature and the seven deadly sins take over. We are only humans, which means we have our faults, our weaknesses. We have let people with their own self-interest tell us how to live to their advantage, not yours as promised.

Even the "**penal colony**", aka El Dorado County is not exempt from its turn in the "**bucket of doodoo**". Why do I say this? Because the "**penal colony**" has been living beyond its means for years. Months ago, the "**Gang and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**" bragged about a new budget of **\$1.1 billion dollars**. (Really???)

Let's do some math. \$1,100,000,000 divided by 195,000 people in the county (men, women & children) and the result is \$5,128.21 per person.

Now let us see where the most money comes from into "**penal-colony**" coffers: **government grants, state and federal at 50.1% of the proposed budget.**

Simple math again, that leaves 49.9 % of the county coffers comes from businesses???, agriculture??? property taxes, fees, fines DTOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) a slush fund, in my opinion for all the wants of our county government and the "gang", just not used as intended for road maintenance another story, and you predominately.

Sounds good on paper, right? problem, the grants could be going away, if they already have not been canceled. The State of California is seeking loans for medical care for **illegal aliens**. We have our own people to worry about. I have never heard of the State of California asking for a loan. We have the homeless problem that the government publicly wishes would go away, wrong it is a good money maker for ??????? with grants.

There is that word again, "**grants**". Now let us get to the icing on the cake and retirement costs to Calpers, salaries and medical for some county employees, the top 100 in 2024 per county paperwork available from the county. There are 100 people with total cost to us per year ranging from \$495,784.12-\$232,915.00.

We will, as the future seems to be going at some point be unable to pay these current salaries. folks, **the days of wine and roses are over. Ooo-ppp-sss!!!** Wait the cavalry is coming. Sorry, it it is just "**The Three Desperadoes ,Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**", doing what they do best. spend, spend and sit on their hands. There is a possibility that the "gang" will create more housing developments to

acquire new higher property tax and developers' fees by doing it.

Problem, the current infrastructure will not handle it, in my opinion. Thanks to the **skillful leadership** of "**past and present** **gang members and their outriders**". No matter how our Department of Transportation aka the "**Black Hole**" shovels cold mix into potholes, the fact remains that our roads were in better shape 75 years ago, in my opinion. When warm weather arrives, potholes will bloom like the flowers because of the **lack** of maintenance?????

Even recent overlays like Pleasant Valley Road are failing because of the "**cheaper fix**" according to a recent statement by the "**Keeper of the Black Hole**" aka the Department of Transportation at a recent meeting. We are facing a major financial impact because our roads have not been maintained properly. They will only get worse with the lack of grant money. They will continue disappearing in the dust. Again, the Department of Transportation according to the "**Keeper of the Black Hole**" said recently at a meeting that they use "**cheaper alternatives**".

We do not have the water to support a larger population because again of the "**skillful leadership**"??? The Texas Hill Reservoir site is being considered for selling to developers by the El Dorado Irrigation District. The county gave this land to EID to serve for future water supply for Placerville and the surrounding area as well as recreation.

Even the "**Sheriff of Nottingham & Version 2.0**" has been busy acquiring all kinds equipment and military hardware like drones, 2 helicopters, \$385,000 of ammunition which is a yearly expense, new vehicles, an incident command trailer (2) and much more plus the annual payment of \$2,000,000 to pay the cost of the "**New Crystal Citadel**" aka " the public safety building".

The people in Diamond Springs will be happy to know that the much heralded and promised bypass is still maybe four additional years away according to "**the Keeper of the Black Hole**" because road construction in the West part of the county is being done for the arrival of Costco as part of the County Improvement Plan (CIP). Surely, we do not want to rush into anything quickly, right????

The county needs your help going forward. **You make the decisions** for a change, not the **six figure appointees** which are part of the "**Outriders of the Three Desperadoes**". This is **YOUR** government, go to meetings, call your supervisor when you do not like a decision or pending action. **Together, we can change our county.** An added benefit of going to meetings or watching videos of them is because they are **better** than the situation comedy reruns on TV. Where else can you watch seven people at about 1.4 million dollars chase a gray squirrel around a tree??????

*When You Cannot Afford to Send Your  
Very Best. Why?????????????*

**TOO LITTLE & TOO LATE.** After almost five years of suffering by people that lost everything through **NO FAULT** of their own during the Caldor Fire, the County of El Dorado Rides in on an "**Old Gray Mule**" instead of a charging in on a "**White Horse**".

Big question, "**Why did it take so LONG???**" This should be embarrassing to every resident of this county. Does the lack of by people that lost everything through **NO FAULT** of their own in the audience show the community spirit? The "**Gangs of Five**" and **NOW** the "**Three Desperadoes and Madam Minn along with the Outriders From Dry Gulch Outriders from Dry Gulch**" may want accolades, however several rounds of **loud rasberries** should be heard instead.

There is a lot of **BLAME** that can be said about this fire, how it started, how it was fought and more. We have hopefully???? learned a hard lesson at the expense of these residents. Are we making the same mistake with the forest behind Swansboro Country and Mosquito??? The "**New Bridge to Nowhere**" has people buying up land to develop I have been told. The county will go along with this for the property tax to **offset a failing budgets** and **no fiduciary responsibility to us**. We have had fires along the southern county line, along the toe of the Crystal Range and along our northern county line. If a fire starts now, it will be up through the center of the county.

I have heard code enforcement is out telling people to clear around their house **EVERYTHING** including shrubbery that may be of for **sentimental value of a lost loved one**. They also are telling people that the requirements will continue to get stricter and home insurance will become even more expensive in coming years.

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how much land is owned by the county. Along roads, vacant land and yes county office buildings. They should have to comply with their own ordinance. Do not hold your breath or take a bet.

Is there a reason for this??? Has the possibility of the government trying to force us out of here crossed your thoughts??? Forcing us down to the lowlands in mini homes where we can be watched and controlled???? Only the elite will live here, like in "**THE HUNGER GAME**" movies. Maybe now is the Time check into **self-insurance, it can be done with work.**



## *A Brief History of the Miner's Inch*

This publication and all associated with it are a **satire** on "Life In El Dorado County aka the Penal Colony". All characters portrayed are to help the story line of this **satire**. They are **fictional characters**. Any similarity to real people is **not in- tended**. With that said, let us give you the characters with more coming in the future as satire thickens.

## *Mt. El Dorado*

*"Home of the "Three Desperadoes,  
Madam Minn & the Outriders from Dry Gulch"*

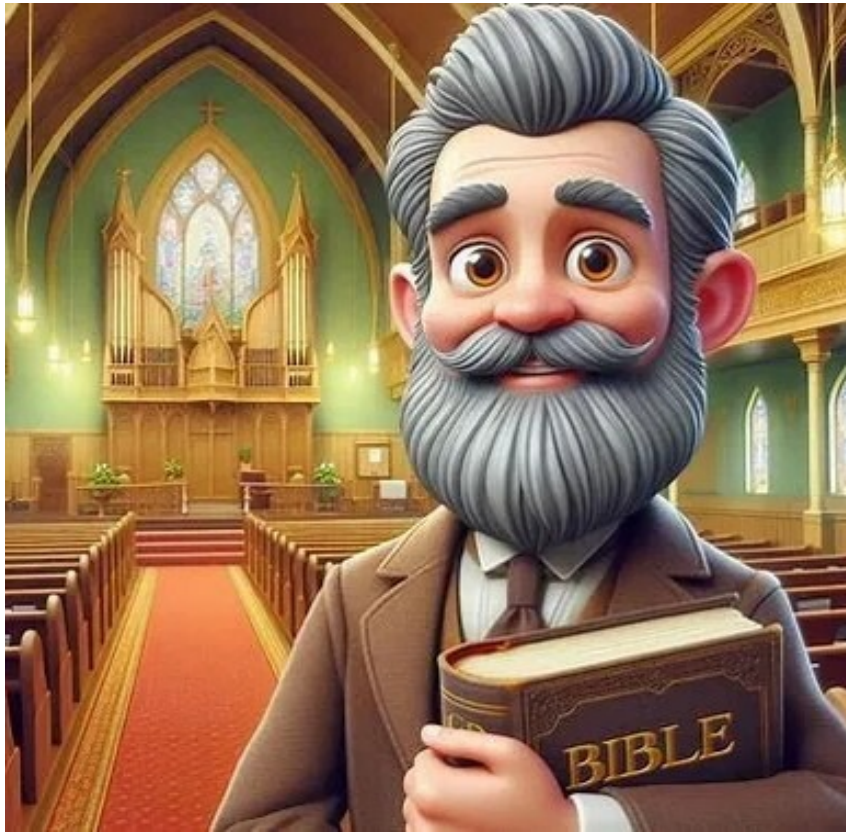


This publication serves as a rallying cry for action, a satirical jab at bureaucracy, and a **reminder that collective voices can lead to change**. The Miner's Inch is not just a whimsical piece of **satire**; it is a chronicle of resilience, humor, and the spirit of a community determined to shape its own destiny. *The Editor*





## *The Preacher*



## *The Snake Oil Salesman*





# *The Highwayman*



## *Madam Minn*





# *The Sheriff of Nottingham V 2.0*



# *Keeper of the Black Hole*





## *Will Hangtown Rise from the Ashes Like the Phoenix????*

Will "Hangtown" once again be the fun and interesting place to live, tourists to come see and be part of for a moment? This condition has been slowly creeping forward like the "Fog" in Carl Sandberg's poem. Placerville aka "Hangtown" has lost the appeal for tourists. Before all the rhetoric about "Hangtown" by outsiders that did not live here about this name, which is historic and part of this county's unique heritage, people came to see "Hangtown". We live in a "**gold mine**" of history like few other places in the world. Gold was found in Coloma in 1849, starting the one of the biggest mass migrations in world history. They came from everywhere seeking a new life, fortunes. Some failed and left some stayed and set roots here for generations.

This history attracted tourists for years to "Hangtown" and this county. Businesses prospered, people settled here and "Hangtown" had its own unique character and charm for tourists to explore. People were friendlier then and people again came and stayed. Today, "Hangtown" is struggling with its

identity. Take a clear hard look at "Hangtown". Do you see a happy friendly place or a worn out little historic town that has fallen into hard times? Even the City of Placerville has turned the other cheek. The "Historic District of Placerville" needs a face lift and not just re-striping of Main Street. Pride needs to be found again in this town by the businesses and the people that call this home. They must demand more and lend a helping hand. With imagination, care and creativity, "Hangtown" can rise like the "Phoenix" of the once was to the WILL BE again.

Create fun attractions like the "Apple Hill Gang" used to do often at public events like "Wagon Train". Put signs up stating historical points of interest. Create an atmosphere of the 1850's. Paint the town and do not mix old and new ideas together. To be historic, it should already be here. Keep what is left of OUR history like the Clay Street Bridge. Save what is left of OUR Historic District from modernization. People do not come to see downtown Milpitas, they come to see "Hangtown", dream and imagine what this place could have been like in 1850. Westerns have always been an attraction for people. "Hangtown" was often



referred to in the TV series the "Ponderosa" with Lorne Green.

We lost what should have been a huge tourist attraction, when the county allowed the train to end. There are tourist trains all over that people can take for fun, to see and see different attractions. Here it could have been a weekend tourist train with a smaller train to "Apple Hill". Weekdays a commuter train to Folsom with stops for riders in the old towns. It would allow time for work to be done on the train and not at home. Or seniors making a connection to Sacramento from Folsom by light rail. Home is for family time and relaxation. We can do this together as Americans have always done. Whether the "Phoenix" rises or is lost to history depends on **US**.



### *A Stitch in Time Saves Nine*

If you read a recent front-page article of the Mountain Democrat "EDC Budget a go; more obstacles are anticipated." Read it, think about your future



and what lies ahead for this county. “**The Three Desperadoes and Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**” are trying for two years in a row of budget shortage.

Now, here are some major issues. This county has **NO** major income to support the new and bigger 1.2-BILLION-dollar budget. Mining left with Elvis, timber left with all the wildfires, and no significant new industry has been attracted to this county.

They are banking on property taxes and **GRANTS**. Last year 50.1 % of the budget came from grants and they came up short. They have not learned anything except spend baby spend. They gutted 2 million dollars from agencies supporting tourism. (???). This is another area for concern. They reduced staffing by 39.2 employees from staff of 2000 plus. Where is the 0.8 staff? All in the name of balancing the budget

They were searching for 12 million dollars (???), so they cut spending. Does that include all the rushed spending done in the last two months before the end of the fiscal year by departments???? They cut fixed

assets by 22%. Does that include purchasing another \$3 million plus in new vehicles??? Even the infamous “**Transient Occupancy Tax**” revenue is expected to decrease by 23%. Maybe because tourism is declining and this fund is essentially a “**slush fund**” not being used for what it was intended, road maintenance. Does this include their recent salary increase?

Real estate and large new developments that will severely impact an already failing infrastructure will be the bill of fare. All of us will have to contend with less water, deteriorating roads and a county government with their heads in the sand.

Even the “Snakeoil Salesman” is being optimistic said “spend a dollar and get three back or...something of that magnitude, because we have to capitalize on one of our county revenue sources...and that’s the county.” Also quoted “**not capitalizing on tourism ‘the biggest revenue generator will have repercussions.... is going to make it very difficult for us to work our way out of this mess.’**”

**The simplest way out would be to reduce or quit applying for grants and live within our means for a while to get back on track of what is important to ALL the people in this county.** Create employment for people and not a biomass mill which is a waste of time. Purchase and set up an asphalt plant to save trucking costs and cut delivery time, it can be done. At the rate the “**Black Hole**” aka the Department of Transportation is working on our deteriorating roads, we will be back to dirt roads, cow trails and wagons. Fixing our roads with the “**cheap fix**” according to the “**Keeper of the Black Hole**” is not the answer.

An asphalt plant will create needed jobs and possibly careers because it will take effort, money and people with commitment and **TIME** because our roads have not been maintained to handle the new traffic loads. Stop applying the “**cheap fix**” as said by the “**Keeper of the Black Hole**” at a recent meeting.

The recent overlay on Pleasant Valley is already failing as pavement peels away from the “**cheap fix**” applied and increased traffic trips. Or the resurfacing job completed on Mt Murphy Road recently that has

already failed in less than a year. **The safe conditions of our roads are the number one priority.** The increased daily traffic traveling on outdated roads is a hazard to drivers, can affect your home insurance with increasing first responder times according to one home insurance company. Our roads do not even meet the Official Design Standards for the Department of Transportation. Most are lacking in 3-foot shoulders and some have anti-tank trap ditches next to the white fog line. Once in, you will not get out, hopefully unhurt.

The people that risk their lives every day to fix our roads are not the problem. The problem goes higher up the food chain to upper management and supervision, or lack of. Contracting out to consultants and contractors is not cheaper. The contractor or consultant must make a profit to stay in business. Instead hire the necessary people to do the work and let the county be the contractor or consultant. Again, this **creates jobs** needed in this county.

Create a Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC Camp) for **willing homeless people** that need help and are willing to work in exchange for this opportunity by

doing public service like brush clearing. After all the wildfires, this could help people that cannot afford to clear their land according to the new amended fire ordinance, a subject for another time.

Now comes the most important part, **YOU!!! This is your home, your county and despite what you are told, YOU as a majority tell these high-priced leaders what YOU collectively need done, not them. They are only at their desk because you elected them to pass the paperwork. Even the "Outriders from Dry Gulch" answer to YOU. In the chain of leadership and decisions, YOU ARE THEIR BOSS collectively as a majority. Remember, any appointed employee is only ONE VOTE away from being out of work.**



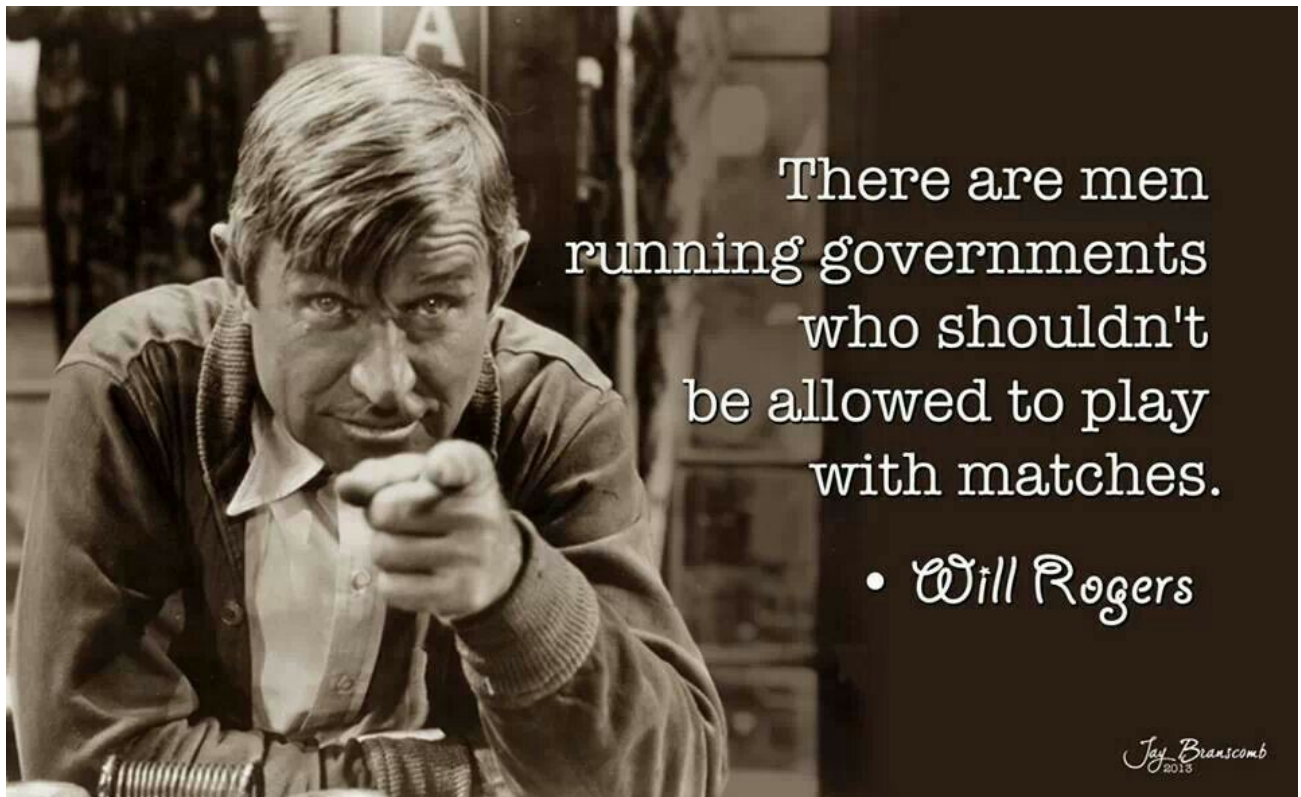






**FULL LINE**  
**60-425 TPH**







*The Infamous Missouri Flat Road & Forni Road  
Eternal Pothole*



*Dropped Inlet, Last Cleaned the Summer of 1888*

