

Elko Dist File

9/15/72

Elko

NOTES ON HORSE GATHERING OPERATION IN
EASTERN NEVADA

On Thursday, July 27, 1972, there was reported to me by telephone from Wendover, Utah, by an individual unknown to me at the time, an operation involving the gathering of horses in Eastern Elko County about 20 miles Southwest of the town of Wendover. My informant said that the man rounding up the horses had been doing it for a number of years and was "one of those characters that turns his horses out each year then harvests everything in the area". She found one of the corrals and took pictures of the horses in it . . . two branded and five unbranded. She then contacted a BLM man in the Elko District, and he reported to her that he was satisfied that the horses belonged to the claimant, Gilbert McCauley, as brand or livestock inspection certificates had been issued on them showing McCauley as the owner. Understandably frustrated because McCauley was not stopped, she contacted me.

On Friday, July 28th, I was again contacted by telephone, this time by a man whom I also did not know. His story was substantially the same as what I had been told the previous day, but he went on to say that many watering sources had been destroyed by McCauley who was using the water-trapping method of capturing the horses . . . that is, constructing corrals around the remaining watering sources, waiting for the animals to come in to drink, then closing their escape route. It was estimated by the second informant that five hundred horses have been removed by McCauley in recent years. One of the buyers is Archie Anderson in Ogden, Utah. I am told he also sells to a California buyer. On July 27th, according to the individual on the telephone, two trucks went into the harvesting area (the Dolly Varden Mountain.)

7-27-72

Whirley Bolton from Wendover called re a wild horse gathering on BLM lands. Photographed 7 horses in trap - two branded, five unbranded. Operator said they had been brand inspected. Big trucks. Location: In the Wendover area in Elko County. About 20 miles out of Wendover. She called Las Vegas. Then contacted Elko. Contacted Elko again today. Talked to the BLM man. They have branded ~~horses~~ the unbranded horses in the corral. The brand inspector is satisfied. ~~horses~~ It was alleged that Macaulay had been told he would have a certain length of time to get his horses. From what she has been able to find out, he has three buyers: 1 out of Ogden; 1 out of California and 1 out of Utah.

BLM man had talked to him. Asked him to stop his operation completely until BLM regulations have come out. Was quite sure he didn't stop the operation. Saw horses in the corral.

Mrs. Bolton's address: Box 54, Wendover, Utah. BUT USE PLAIN WHITE ENVELOPE SHOULD YOU HAVE CORRESPONDENCE WITH HER, AND ONLY A RETURN ADDRESS WITH NO RETURN NAME.

A man who said he was the father of Shirley Bolton called me today and said two trucks went into the Dolly Varden Mountain where the horses are. White Horse Pass is from Wendover on the route to Ely. One goes over White Horse, one over Silver Zone.

One of the buyers is Archie Anderson in Ogden. In the last few years this operator has taken out at least 500 horses on that range. Was a sheep foreman for about five years. Would choke them up (the horses). Turn water tanks off the area. Build corrals. No deer. Antelope are beginning to come in now. Water holes in corral. Water trapping. Put them into holding corrals. There are 75 head of horses on that mountain now. Don't want them killed off.

Mrs. Bolton goes to work at 7:00 P. M. at State Line Casino in Wendover. Said they both got riled up and got hold of me. She took pictures of some horses in the corrals. ~~Said~~ Mrs. Bolton's father said he was an old stock man. Broke a lot of horses. Raised sheep and cattle.

McCauley has lived there 20 years. The SOB stole 400 sheep once. 1/2 in Steptoe Valley. Trappers came in snowmobiles. Another SOB who runs Patio Motel is in on the deal. Told Shirley. Lewis Motel man is a silent partner.

At the time I received the foregoing information, I called the Nevada State Office of BLM and was referred to Ed Spang. He said he would call me back.

Spang reported that the BLM has had dealings with this guy. Have had the special investigator from the State Agriculture Department looking at the stuff. What the investigator has done is certify this guy owning the horses. Have sent McCauley a certified letter from BLM notifying him to stop even rounding up his ~~own~~ own horses. (Letter sent that same day.)

I asked how many horses McCauley was licensed to run on the range, and how many were in trespass. Spang said McCauley was completely in trespass if he claims any of the horses. Have struck him with trespass before and those he declared at this time are the ones the brand inspector says are his.

I told him the trucks went in again yesterday.

Spang said that might be in view of the events that took place. BLM contacted the guy and said he couldn't move his horses. On Monday of this week the brand inspector certified 33 were owned by McCauley. BLM had no choice but to let him take them out, as he was the "probable" owner under the very weak claiming law in Nevada.

I asked why a grazing fee was not levied. Spang replied that it was one question they have posed. Is Working through solicitor as to how far BLM can go. (The animals were in trespass, they had grazed on public lands, and in my opinion (VBJ) there should have been no question about collecting grazing fees.)

Spang said that there are those who say the act (PL 92-195) wasn't set up to provide this kind of solution (collection of grazing fees . . . I say why not, since they are owed on horses McCauley is claiming). I replied that act or no act, it was the duty of BLM to collect grazing fees on all livestock, which includes horses, using the public lands.

Spang said they had had battles with McCauley in the 1950's. McCauley hasn't been a licensee for a while and has been in trespass.

P. 5 8-23-72 Shirley Bolton to WBJ by telephone.

Hasn't forgotten. Been very busy. Went out and got some pictures of the destroyed water holes. One afternoon she went out it was a little bit cloudy. If the pictures don't turn out, let her know.

A man came in and he was terribly upset and mad and informed her that they were his horses. She and her dad both know water holes. Pictures where he was fencing off water holes was on BLM land. She fed the horses some hay.

When the BLM man first came in, he thought McCauley was working in the hills by himself. The other guy left when BLM told him to quit running horses. He was standing with another man that looked exactly like him.

Shirley Bolton reported that horses were being rucked out. Truckload went out. Bypassed checking station. Went along railroad tracks and back onto the highway on 9-6-72. 1½ Ton or bigger truck. Lights out on the back end. Full of horses. From conversation in the cafe today they were talking about Morgan basin and taking horses. Nephew works in cafe. Heard them talking. 3 ways they can get out. Go along railroad tracks or through Ely or through Montello. Thinks they are catching them in the same area. She can be reached by telephone at the Stateline Casino after 7:00 P. M. 668-2221.