

July 16, 1974

Frank Craighead

Moose, WY 83102

Mountain Gazette

1801 YORK STREET, DENVER, COLORADO, 80206

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Dear Frank:

We've had a fair (and fairly emotional) reaction to Galen Rowell's article on the Yosemite bear killings ("Bang, Bang Yogi -- You're Dead") which appeared in the May issue of Mountain Gazette. Most of our mail has been sympathetic with Galen's viewpoint, one notable exception being the enclosed letter from NPS Ranger Pete Thompson, which is scheduled to run in our August issue.

As you seem to have become part of the controversy, albeit inadvertently, I'm writing (again) to ask if you might care to comment on the situation -- or on Mr. Thompson's letter?

Best regards,

Nancy S. Babb

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Managing Editor

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encl.



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January 8, 1973

Answered

Frank Craighead
P. O. Box 156
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Dear Mr. Craighead:

I wish to thank you for your reply and offer of assistance in my writings about Yosemite black bear management. You've helped me more than you realize, since I've constantly referred to your and your brother's work in the development of my manuscript.

As I explained in another letter, I'm not educated in biology or wildlife management, but I became involved in the bear controversy by taking photos of carcasses dumped by the NPS in Yosemite. I'm a professional wilderness writer-photographer and I was not taken in by the silver-tongued complacency of NPS explanations.

Since the Sierra Club pushed me for an early deadline from two departments, I could not wait for your reply to my last letter and I spent the last 5 days writing. One short manuscript makes only cursory mention of your work, but the enclosed 3,500-word article for the February Sierra Club Bulletin mentions your work, your NPS problems and quotes the letter you sent me. In all probability the manuscript will be typeset next week. It has preliminary editorial approval and only a blackball from the Executive Director will stop it. If I have misstated anything of importance, or quoted you in a way you don't approve of, please call me collect and I'll do my best to change it. I've tried to reflect both sides as well as I knew how, blending the humorous, the sad, the bull-headed and the brilliant.

I have also completed shorter pieces on unrequested assignments given me by the Sierra Club Wildlife Calendar and the NY Times Op-Ed page. I would still appreciate any additional material you could send in case I get other bear-related assignments.

*Yours,
Galen Rowell*