

Gannett photo / Carol Doig

Ivan Doig

Author, resident of Seattle

Author Ivan Doig, born in Montana and now a resident of Seattle, is considered among the pre-eminent literary figures in the West. His first book, "This House of Sky," was a finalist for the National Book Award.

"Sometimes — this is unmistakably one — it is best to listen to what the ground under us suggests:

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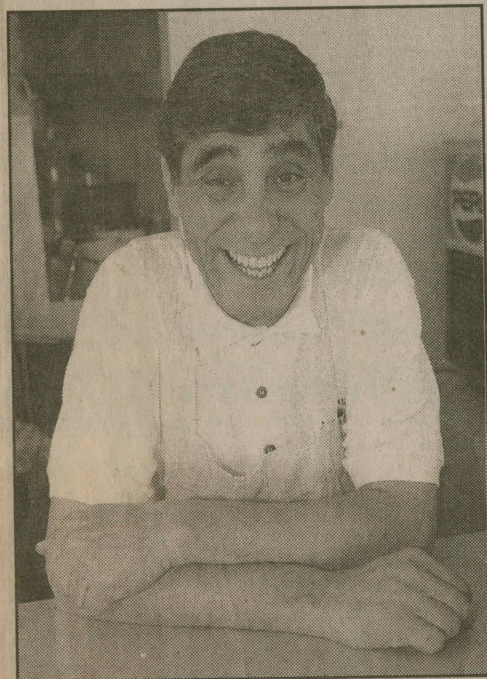
who-knows-where in the unfolding zigzag chronicle of global warming.

"That therefore we Westerners ought to know our aquifers from our elbows and rein in our habit of using the wet stuff to float every conceivable notion of subdivision and golf course; that furthermore, in an archipelago of ecologies ranging from the depth of Death Valley to the surge of the Tetons, we ought to be smart enough to know that one size — be it suburbanizing bulldozers, boxes to put rivers in or penchants to drill or dig for what is called en-

ergy but more truly is commodity — doesn't fit all.

"That when you come right down to it, the wisest evaluation of what we have managed to accomplish so far at this sunset end of the compass was enunciated by a 19th-century cowman, no less: 'Our good luck consists more in the natural advantages of our country than in the scale of our genius.'

"And, consequently, that those among us who periodically yelp for a Sagebrush Rebellion are never really on the side of the sagebrush."



The Denver Post / Glen Martin

Paul Sandoval

Former state senator

North Denver neighborhood activist Paul Sandoval, a Colorado native, is a former state senator and member of the Denver school board.



The Denver Post / Cindy Enright

What should every Westerner know? The Denver Post asked an assortment of people. Here's a sampling of their responses



The Denver Post / Lyn Alweis

Charles Chaput

by Ivan Doig
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one-page **fax** to Ron Franscell, Denver Post

27 Feb. '01

Ron--Here it is, I hope it'll serve. Have somebody send me a couple of tearsheets when your piece runs, would you? Again, big congrats on the spiffy job.

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What Every Westerner Should Know

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FOR IVAN

Thanks for agreeing to take part in this fun story, Ivan. As I told you, my new job sends me in search of extraordinary stories that illustrate the evolution of the West. I am working on a story about project you apparently already know something about. It's being done by the Center for the American West at the University of Colorado. The Center is compiling a book of commentary by common people, mostly via the Internet, on "What Every Westerner Should Know." Ultimately, all these comments will be compiled into book form sometime next year.

For MY story in the Denver Post, I am seeking short, pithy comments from Westerners of note. I am looking for up to 200 words on the subject "What Every Westerner Should Know." You can e-mail it to me at rfranscell@denverpost.com. My deadline isn't punishing, but I'd love to have your thoughts by March 8.

You're a natural for this for many reasons, as a Westerner, an observer and interpreter of our culture, and a fine writer, to boot. Your comments would appear in an upcoming edition, likely a Sunday, with your name, some of your titles and possibly a photo. Does this sound like something you'd like to do?

MY FAX NUMBER APPEARS BELOW.

Ron Franscell, The Denver Post
303-567-2633 (home)
720-560-2180 (cell)
801-838-0521 (fax)

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Company:

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Fax

Date: Monday, February 26, 2001

Total Pages: 2

Subject: What Every Westerner Should Know

Name: Ivan Doig

Company:

Voice Number:

Fax Number: (206) 542-6658

Note: Attachment has all the vitals. Thanks!!

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