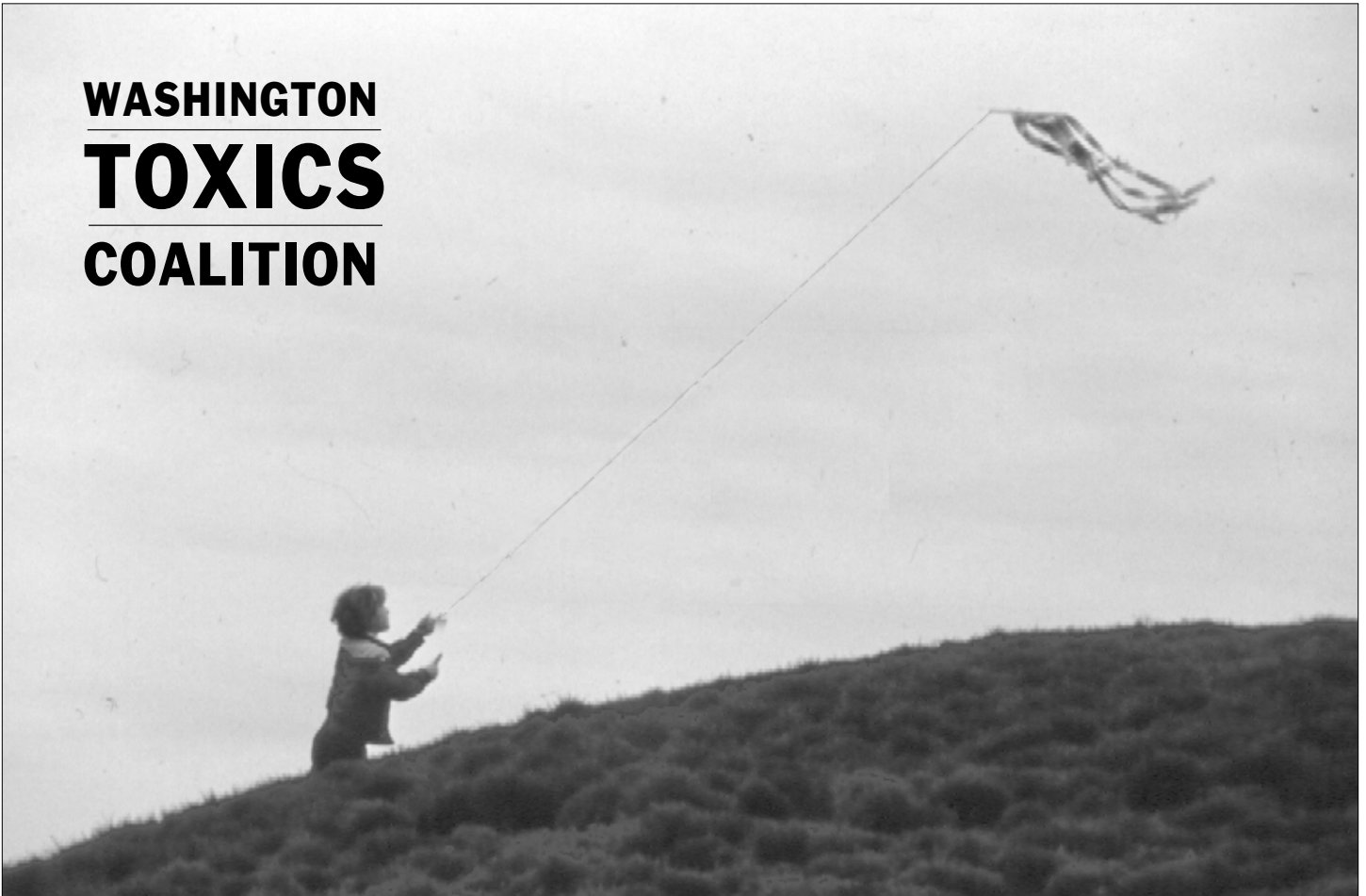


# *Annual Report*

# *2000*

## **WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION**



*2000 was a very exciting year in which we saw long-term efforts come to fruition. Our grassroots organizing, educational efforts, alliance building, and work with new constituencies have paid off with real movement on a number of fronts. The results are summarized inside.*



## Mission Statement

Washington Toxics Coalition is a membership organization which advocates reduced reliance on toxic chemicals and the elimination of the production, use and release of those toxic chemicals which persist and bioaccumulate, threaten species survival, or cause severe injury. Through staff and volunteers, the Toxics Coalition seeks to achieve its goals through proactive education and advocacy, distributing model alternative policies and practices, challenging existing premises about pollution control, empowering activists by providing information and technical assistance in grassroots organizing, working with diverse coalitions in local and global forums, engaging in litigation, and acting as a credible and accurate information resource for policy makers and the general public.

*"The Washington Toxics Coalition is a gem for the Pacific Northwest among the non-profit environmental groups. Dealing with toxic materials and wastes is complicated on technical, biological, health, economic, political, and ethical grounds. For the most part, industry and specialized regulatory agencies are the only organizations with both the interest and the knowledge to comment on problems that surround toxics. It is vital that a group that is independent of both industry and government be capable of responding to these matters, and the Washington Toxics Coalition for many years has performed this vital task admirably. They are an asset to the state, the region, the nation, and the world."*

—John H. Perkins, Ph.D.  
Director, Graduate Program in  
Environmental Studies  
The Evergreen State College

## Staff



*From left to right: (front row) Jeff Cohn, Gregg Small, and Cheryl Holzmeyer; (back row) Bonnie Rice, Lori Mudge, Erika Schreder, Laurie Valeriano, and Ken Steffenson.  
Not pictured: Philip Dickey and Linda Gaulke.*

## Board of Directors

- Don Bollinger, Treasurer**, is an energy consultant at Braco Energy Services; Seattle, Washington.
- Dave Coffman, Co-Secretary**, is an instructor at Pierce College; Tacoma, Washington.
- Jean Day** is a grassroots leader with the Older Women's League and others; Seattle, Washington.
- Jennifer Dold, Co-Secretary**, is an environmental attorney at Bricklin and Gendler; Seattle, Washington.
- Sharon Howard** is a television writer and producer and owner of Howard Rosen Productions; Snohomish, Washington.
- Shirley Leckman** is former in-house legal counsel for the Lummi Indian Tribe; Shoreline, Washington.
- Chris Luboff** is strategic planning supervisor of the Seattle Solid Waste Utility; Seattle, Washington.
- Karen McDonell** is a grassroots leader for chemically sensitive citizens; Gig Harbor, Washington.
- Lin Nelson** is an instructor at The Evergreen State College; Olympia, Washington.
- Jon Stier** is an attorney at the National Environmental Law Center; Seattle, Washington.
- David Stitzhal, President**, is the owner of Full Circle Environmental Consulting Services; Seattle, Washington.

## Message From the President

2000 was a banner year for the Washington Toxics Coalition. Our combination of research and publication, organizing and advocacy, public education and coalition building paid off with a number of major victories. It also put WTC in a strong position to achieve more in 2001, our 20th anniversary.

In 2000, we made major progress in our efforts to reduce persistent pollution in our state. After two years of hard work to build and leverage support for a strong state plan for reducing persistent bioaccumulative toxics (PBTs), we were rewarded in August with the release of the Department of Ecology's proposed plan of action. While far from perfect, the plan sets the state on a path toward phasing out and cleaning up some of the most toxic chemicals in the state, and has set an example for the rest of the nation.

We also saw great progress in pesticide reduction. In large part due to WTC's advocacy and technical assistance, the two most populous jurisdictions in the state — King County and Seattle — both passed and began implementing tough new policies to phase out the use of highly hazardous pesticides. Our Green Gardening Program and Information Services Hotline helped to educate thousands of Washington state residents about pesticide alternatives. And we issued a notice of intent to sue EPA for failure to take adequate steps to protect endangered salmon from the impacts of pesticides. All of these efforts have resulted in tangible improvements toward protecting the health of our people and environment.

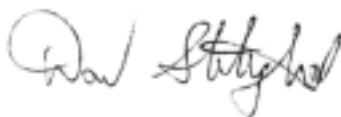
In addition to these concrete victories, we also made considerable headway in building our own organization as well as our ties with communities and other organizations. WTC provided critical and effective support to communities fighting pulp mill pollution in Bellingham, medical waste incinerators in South Seattle, and pesticide use in schools in Lake Washington and other districts. We also built and strengthened our ties with important organizations across the state, including religious, public health, medical, and environmental groups. We recognize that pollution prevention will not be possible without strong roots in communities and powerful relations with organizations.

We head into 2001 proud of our accomplishments but humbled by the challenges that confront us. We have substantial work to do to ensure that

Ecology's plan for PBT elimination moves forward rapidly and results in real change. Too often, government bureaucracies move at a snail's pace to confront even serious problems like persistent pollution. And, we expect polluting industries to continue to use their political muscle to fight even the most common-sense public health and environmental safeguards, as they did in 2000 in defeating a bill supported by WTC to increase the public's right-to-know about pesticide use in schools.

None of WTC's achievements would be possible without the financial support of individuals and foundations, the wonderful assistance of volunteers, and the skilled and enthusiastic work of our amazing staff. On behalf of the board and staff of WTC, I want to thank each and every one of you and look forward to continued success next year.

For a toxic-free world,



David Stitzhal  
Board President



*Our successes in reducing pesticide use and industrial pollution will lead to cleaner water for salmon and other species both in urban areas and wilderness areas.*

*“The Toxics Coalition has worked hard to push past the usual alliances with other environmental and public health interests and has established a good working relationship with many religious and faith-based organizations.”*

–Danielle Welliever  
Director  
Lutheran Public  
Policy Office of  
Washington

## Strong Policies to Prevent Pollution

### Persistent Pollution

During 2000, we and our allies carried out a series of high-profile campaign events which increased our ongoing pressure on the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), trying to get them to take serious action on reducing releases of persistent, bioaccumulative toxic chemicals (PBTs). We are pleased to report that we were successful in convincing the administration to not back down from earlier commitments, and they issued their plan in August.

The primary components of our successful campaign included:

- Releasing a groundbreaking report on persistent pollution called *Visualizing Zero: Eliminating Persistent Pollution in Washington State*. The report examines four focus chemicals, presents “The People’s Plan” for eliminating persistent pollution, and details recommended actions. It has been a tremendously useful tool for informing policymakers, members of the media, our allies, and the public.

- Publishing a full-page advertisement in major newspapers calling for an end to persistent pollution. We were extremely successful in gaining the governor’s attention with this action, greatly raising the profile of the issue.

- Holding a “People’s Hearing on Dioxin and Persistent Pollution.” This event called on policymakers to take action on this issue. Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons, legislators, and other policymakers attended.

- Reacting to the Department of Ecology draft plan by alerting the media, writing an analysis for policymakers and the media, and carrying out a series of meetings with editorial board members of key newspapers, legislators, and local government officials. We also submitted detailed comments on the plan.

- Mobilizing the public to attend Department of Ecology public meetings. We mobilized hundreds of people to speak in favor of an end to persistent pollution, and with our allies generated thousands of comments to Ecology on their draft plan.

We are thrilled that we succeeded in pressuring the governor to issue this first-in-the-nation plan to end persistent pollution despite tremendous opposition from the industry. And we are very pleased that we were able to make this issue a priority for a diverse array of groups, showing the administration that the issue is important to many, many people. ■

### Key State Pollution Sources

**Pulp Mills** ✧ In our work to move the pulp and paper industry toward chlorine-free closed-loop technology, we proved that community action and watchdogging do have an impact. Working with the Bellingham community, we stopped the Georgia Pacific mill from using a loophole in federal law to avoid clean-water standards. The state was poised to issue a weak water-pollution permit, but we used the media, the EPA, letter-writing campaigns, and direct communication with the state to reverse the course of action.

**Fertilizer** ✧ We achieved two major victories as a result of organizing, direct advocacy, and legal action. One, Ecology made a decision to end special treatment for highly contaminated steel-mill waste. Two, an administrative appeal we brought resulted in EPA’s proposed rules severely limiting the heavy metals and dioxin content of waste-derived fertilizer. They are also seeking comment on establishment of a groundbreaking national tracking system for toxic waste going into fertilizer.

**Wood Treating Facilities** ✧ Washington state is home to four active wood treating facilities that use pentachlorophenol, which is highly toxic and heavily contaminated with dioxin. Using the permitting process, we highlighted the devastating problems posed by these facilities, focusing on a facility for which the Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposed to *increase* permit limits allowing discharges of pentachlorophenol at levels lethal to salmon. In conjunction with local community groups, we are pressuring the agency to schedule a public hearing in early 2001 on the renewal of this permit.

**Agriculture** ✧ We worked in coalition with the Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network to achieve several victories. These included convincing Washington State University to establish an Organic Program and put increased resources toward its Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources; pressuring the Department of Health to include organic milk in a key program for low-income women and children; and convincing the Department of Agriculture to seek funding for a program to give marketing assistance to small and organic farms.

**Water Pollution** ✧ The listing of salmon as endangered species creates enormous opportunities for forcing changes in water pollution. During 2000, we challenged EPA to make changes to protect salmon from pesticides by issuing a notice of intent to sue for failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act. ■

## Healthy Homes and Communities

# Campaigns

### Government and School Pesticide Use

During 2000 the two most populous jurisdictions in our state — Seattle and King County — implemented policies that ended their use of the most hazardous pesticides, including those linked to health problems and water pollution. We worked with grassroots activists to ensure good implementation and to press for stronger actions. We succeeded in convincing Seattle to establish full posting of pesticide applications, and to move forward in making several parks pesticide free. Both agencies are partnering with us on state and national policy issues. These excellent policies have made a huge difference in promoting a precautionary approach to pesticide use, and are leading to reduced pesticide use by other public agencies in the region.

We ran grassroots campaigns in several school districts to establish strong model policies prohibiting use of high-hazard pesticides, notifying all parents before pesticides are used, and reducing overall pesticide use. We worked closely with parents in the Seattle, Lake Washington, and several other districts. While we did not convince the Seattle District to adopt a strong policy, the district did substantially reduce pesticide use.

We supported strong legislation to give parents warning before pesticides are used in schools. The Children's Pesticide Right-to-Know Bill, sponsored by Rep. Mike Cooper and Sen. Tracy Eide, passed the Senate but was not brought to the House floor for a vote.

**Green Gardening Program** We produced eight new fact sheets in the *ProIPM* series for landscaping professionals, bringing the total number to 19. New topics include cutworms, moss, deer, slugs, woody weeds, lawn diseases, moles, and scale insects. We also performed many presentations, as mentioned above.

**Cleaning Products** Staff Scientist Dr. Philip Dickey served on the stakeholder committee developing a new Green Seal standard for commercial cleaning products. The national environmental labeling program is seeking to identify environmentally preferable cleaning products for use in industrial settings. Based on Dickey's work, Green Seal issued a standard that prohibits environmentally damaging ingredients called APEs. This is an important, precedent-setting victory. Dickey's work also encouraged King County and Seattle to write purchasing standards that prohibit APEs in cleaning products used by the city. In addition, the state of Washington wrote new standards that prohibit APEs in "environmentally preferable" cleaning products purchased by state agencies.

**Pesticide Labeling** Working with colleagues

from government agencies around the country, we convinced EPA that current consumer pesticide labels directing disposal in the trash are outdated and at odds with many state and local regulations. Despite massive opposition from the pesticide industry, EPA issued revised draft label language during the summer. In the comment period that followed, we generated the largest number of comments they have ever received for a pesticide registration notice — with 95 percent in favor of label changes. EPA has not yet issued their final decision, but has recently published disposal information on their Web site that mirrors the language we are seeking on the product labels. We take this as a positive sign.

**Presentations** Toxics Coalition staff made 73 presentations to a wide variety of groups during the year, directly reaching a total audience of more than 2,500. These presentations included: Green Gardening presentations to garden clubs, community organizations, businesses, churches, and students; Home Safe Home presentations on toxic chemicals in the home; trainings for volunteers in the Master Gardener, Master Home Environmentalist, Land/Water Stewards, and Master Recycler/Composter programs; workshops on fertilizers, pesticides and water quality, and other topics for staff at garden stores; classes for students at area college horticulture programs; and an all-day Green Gardening workshop on integrated pest management for professional landscapers.

**Toxics Hotline** We responded to nearly 2,000 requests for information during the year. In addition to assisting many individuals with least-toxic choices when confronted with pest control, cleaning, and other situations, we advised businesses, schools, government agencies, and churches. The Internet has also increased our presence in the "world" community, and we responded to e-mail requests from as far away as Nigeria, Bolivia, South Africa, France, Japan, and Aruba.

**Web Site** We greatly increased the content on our Internet Web site, including the launching of a new section on children's health. Our Web site is being visited by an increasing number of people — both the numbers of monthly visits to the site and individual pages viewed more than doubled during the year.

**Outreach Materials** We issued the third edition of our popular *Grow Smart, Grow Safe*, which provides health and environmental ratings of lawn and garden products; updated all of our Home Safe Home fact sheets; and added new fact sheets on lice control and carpets. ■

*"WTC is a strong, smart, and strategic organization that engages grassroots leaders in every phase of their work."*

—Lois Marie Gibbs  
Executive Director  
Center for Health,  
Environment and  
Justice

## Individuals

Washington Toxics Coalition is very grateful for the support of all of our donors in 2000. We thank all of you for your generosity — it truly makes our work possible. We regret that we do not have the space to list all of our members and donors here, but we wish to recognize the following individuals who donated \$100 or more to WTC during 2000:

Anonymous  
Winifred Adams and Bob Gamble  
Daniel Adams and Cynthia Toops  
Judy and Ken Austin  
Susan Ballinger  
Margaret Bartley  
Ann Beede  
Cathy and Michael Benson  
Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth  
William and Beatrice Booth  
William Broadhead  
Liz Brown  
Liz Bryant  
Helen T. Buckland  
Barbara Cahill  
Steve Campbell  
Phoebe Caner  
Zimmie Caner  
Dave Coffman and Peggy Morgan  
Joey Corcoran  
Cynthia Creasey  
Lisa Crosby and Paul Becker  
Jane and Paul Crowder  
Therese and Jim Cushing  
Carol Dahl  
Carol Dansereau and Mike Anderson  
Elizabeth Davis  
Jean Day  
Julian and Alice Dewell  
Jennifer Dold and David Graves  
Cornelia Duryée Moore and Terry Moore  
Barbara and Jacob Engelstein  
Mary and Paul Ferrari  
Michael Ferro  
Cindy and Jon Franklin  
Steven Gilbert  
Sally Goodwin MD, and Kurt Hoelting  
Harold Goree  
Bonnie Gregson  
Lois Hall  
Irene Haynie  
Elizabeth Hebert  
Lynn Henderson  
Bob and Phyllis Henigson

Bruce and Nancy Herbert  
Candice Hoffman  
Diane Horn  
Marcia Hunt  
Lisa Johnson  
Christine Keyt  
Carolynn Kim-Prelutsky  
Pamela Kliment  
Robert Koon  
Kelly Krieger  
Larry Larrick  
Shirley Leckman  
Ann Lennartz  
Mark Levensky  
Craig Lorch  
Chris Luboff  
Linda and Scott Lunda  
Ruth MacGinitie  
Gail McCormick  
Karen McDonnell  
Suellen Mele  
Frances and Denis Murphy  
Lin Nelson  
Bob Newman  
Cathy Nolan  
Patricia Novotny  
John O'Donnell and Drorah Setel  
John Perkins  
Kay Planting and Ken Pfluger  
Bill Pope  
Toni Potter  
Robert Pregulman  
Darby Ringer  
Linda Risler  
Carol Rossmann  
Sandra and Jim Satterlee  
Eva and Ron Sher  
Marcella Smith Gilson  
Jon Stier and Susan Elderkin  
David and Laurel Stitzhal  
Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner  
Marla Vandewater  
William Verick

*"We cannot thank Washington Toxics Coalition enough for all they have done and the work they continue to champion. Their work on state committees, often seated with industry representatives, is crucial to school-children's health."*

—Káren Ahern  
Executive Director  
Coalition for  
Environmentally  
Safe Schools

## Workplace Giving Campaigns

We also wish to thank those who made contributions through workplace giving campaigns with these organizations:

Earth Share of Washington  
United Way of King County

## Foundations

Grants and in-kind gifts from foundations and agencies are important in enabling us to continue our efforts for pollution prevention. We wish to thank and recognize the following for their support in 2000:

- Beldon Fund
- The Bullitt Foundation
- The Burning Foundation
- Carolyn Foundation
- The Dudley Foundation
- Melinda G. Gladstone Foundation
- Horizons Foundation
- Mitchell Kapur Foundation
- Northwest Fund for the Environment
- Patagonia
- Public Welfare Foundation
- PCC Natural Markets
- Rockefeller Family Fund
- The Russell Family Foundation
- The Seattle Foundation
- The Tides Center
- Wallace Genetic Foundation, Inc.
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Winky Foundation
- Wyman Youth Trust

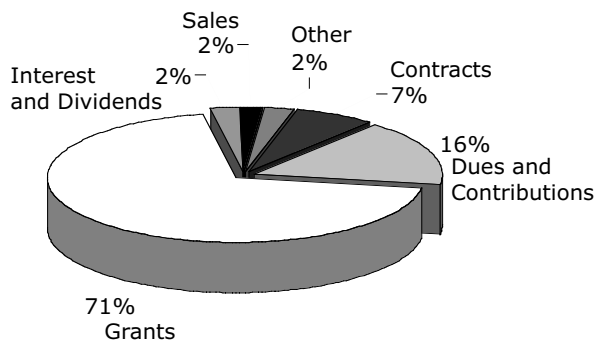
*“The Washington Toxics Coalition has been a godsend to me and to hundreds of parents and children at the Madrona Middle School in the Edmonds School District. Today, there is a moratorium on the use of high-hazard pesticides at the school in large part because of the good science and support offered by the coalition to parents and grassroots consumer advocates like myself. It’s a right-to-know issue and the Washington Toxics Coalition has given me the research I needed and the guidance required to help make a difference.”*

–Trudy Bialic  
WTC member

## Financial Statement

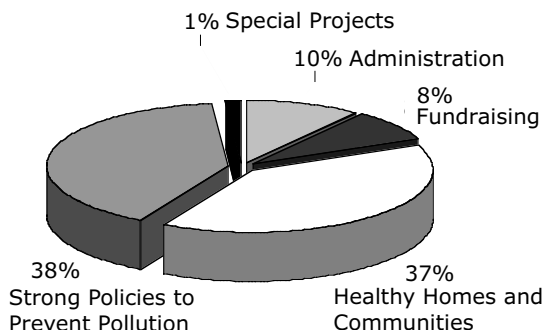
### Income

Grants .....	350,403
Dues and Contributions .....	82,762
Contracts .....	34,429
Sales .....	12,288
Other .....	12,167
Interest and Dividends .....	10,666
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>502,715</b>



### Expenses

Strong Policies to Prevent Pollution .....	188,461
Healthy Homes and Communities .....	185,645
Administration .....	47,774
Fundraising .....	36,994
Special Projects .....	6,050
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>464,924</b>



## Washington Toxics Coalition Staff

Jeff Cohn, *Administrative Director, joined the staff in 1993*

Philip Dickey, *Staff Scientist, joined the staff in 1989*

Linda Gaulke, *Information Specialist, joined the staff in 2000*

Cheryl Holzmeyer, *Toxics Campaigner, joined the staff in 1999*

Lori Mudge, *Development Director, joined the staff in 2000*

Bonnie Rice, *Persistent-Pollution Campaigner, joined the staff in 1999*

Erika Schreder, *Staff Scientist, joined the staff in 1997*

Gregg Small, *Executive Director, joined the staff in 2001*

Ken Steffenson, *Communications Director, joined the staff in 1996*

Laurie Valeriano, *Policy Director, joined the staff in 1995*



Carol Dansereau, *Executive Director, on staff 1990–2000*

Rob Gala, *Fundraising Director, on staff 1998–2000*

Shamra Harrison, *Information Specialist, on staff 1999–2000*



Photos: Cover, Philip Dickey; page 2, Lydia Koerber; page 3, Ken Steffenson.

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