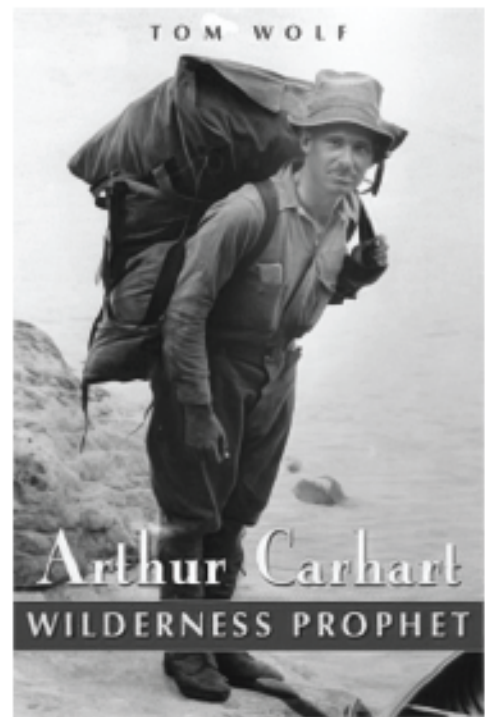


Arthur Carhart–Wilderness Prophet, by Tom Wolf. Louisville, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2008. 294 pages, photos, index. Hardcover \$41.95

With a narrow victory in 2020, Colorado voters approved the re-introduction of grey wolves by the year 2023. The co-author of the popular 1929 book about the end of the Colorado wolves *The Last Of The Pack* (with Stanley P. Young) would be surprised to read that sentence. A champion for wilderness, Arthur Carhart was not an extremist, but rather a life-long moderate Republican who hated government bureaucracy. He lived from 1892 to 1978 and today has the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Missoula, Montana named for him.

Wolf's book paints a portrait of a man in love with the wild and making it accessible to the common folk without destroying natural beauty. In 1917,



he earned the first Bachelor of Science degree in landscape gardening ever awarded by Iowa Agricultural College (now Iowa State University). He took a job with the Forest Service in 1919 as Recreational Engineer, moving to Denver with his wife Vee. When introduced to Trapper's Lake, this became his 'Walden's Pond' moment, setting off a quest for wilderness preservation. His dream came to pass in 1975 with the establishment of Flat Tops Wilderness Area which includes Trapper's Lake. Carhart only lasted with the Forest Service for four years, going into private practice and then eventually becoming a full-time author of magazine articles and books. "Free from the strictures of the bureaucracy he loathed, Carhart sharpened his pen and his tongue—and became the fighting conservationist he would remain for the rest of his life."

His landscape architecture company had a hand in the design of Civic Center Park, the YMCA camp in Estes Park, landscaping the Broadmoor, etc. He managed to make a good living writing articles for *Sunset*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Outdoor Life* to name a few. Among his twenty-four books are fiction and non-fiction under his own name plus the pen name of Hart Thorne and V.A. Van Sickle. Book titles range from *Saddlemen Of the C Bit Brand* to *The Outdoorsman's Cookbook*.

The author uses a great deal of Carhart's own correspondence (which is preserved at the Denver Public Library) and reprints large sections of those. The writing would have perhaps benefited from more details about Carhart the person. Maps would also have been nice, but still this is a valuable first time biography of a forward-thinking man. While this book doesn't mention it, Carhart was one of the men who in 1945 helped found the Denver Posse of Westerners.

— George W. Krieger