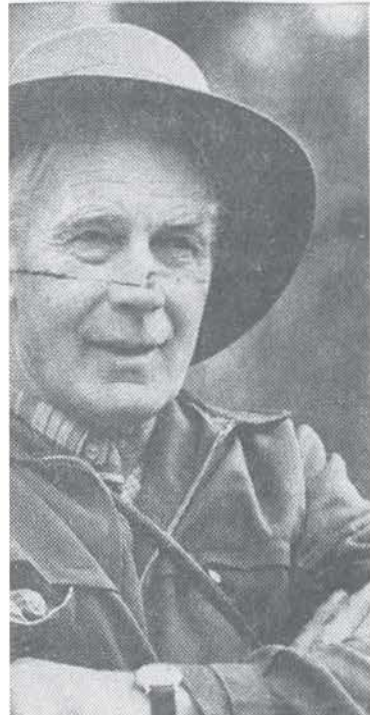


# KING JIM ATTACKS THE CRITICS...

## Lay off the mountains



One of the "Kings of the Mountains" came down to the valley this week and said:

"It's about time we answered these armchair conservationists."

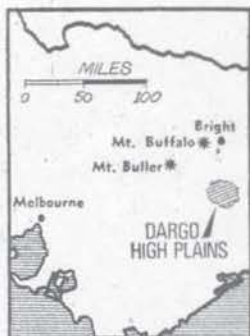
Jim Treasure, a

grandson of the original "king," who drove cattle on the 3500 ft. Dargo High Plains, led a group bringing 400 cattle down for the winter.

By STEWART MURRIHY

Mr Treasure, of Lindenow, gave the cattle and horses a rest, looked down from his saddle and said:

"Those jokers in Melbourne want to turn the



Dargo High Plains into a national park because they reckon the cattlemen are destroying it.

"They don't know what they are talking about.

"We're conservationists too — bush conservationists.

"The cattle are doing the same job as the native animals did before the white man came into this country."

Mr Treasure has made the trek up the mountains and down again since he was born — 64 years ago.

He said: "Even when I was a baby, my mother would carry me up as they drove the cattle."

### MONUMENT

On this trip were his son, Doug, 28, of Stratford, his daughter, Christa, 22 and a neighbor, Mr Laurie Trewin.

Mr Treasure, an open, friendly man, said: "These people in Melbourne wanting a national park only want a monument for themselves.

"So when after these people die, there is the national park up here and people will say what great people they must have been to establish this for the public."

### SCARING

Mr Treasure said the area was well looked after by the Forests Commission, the Soil Conservation Authority and the Lands Department.

"Look at the national parks they have now," he said.

"People go in there, shouting and throwing litter and scaring the animals away.

"They let the motorists drive through or put down roads and this destroys the area.

"Half the people are only young fellows looking for a place to take their girlfriends in the bushes and they can do that anywhere."



Cattle move down the trail as the round-up begins on the Dargo High Plains. Pictures by KEN RAINSBURY.