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2-1-1984

The Probe, Issue 40 - February 1984

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"The Probe, Issue 40 - February 1984" (1984). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association.* Paper 113.
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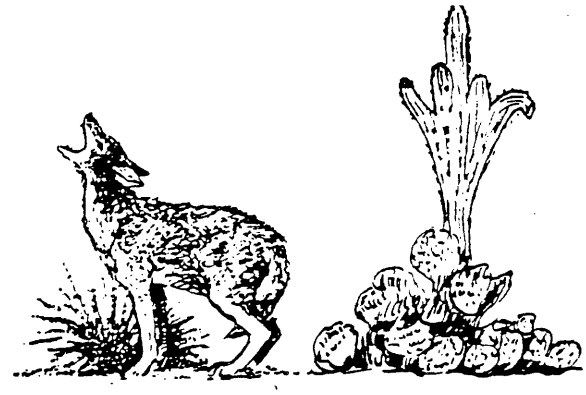
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 40 February, 1984

TO THE BARRICADES !!

We have just learned that the injunction against the EPA RPAR* for strychnine will have a prehearing in Kansas City on March 6th. We also learned that Wyoming is apparently the only foot soldier holding the bridge. USDA claims that they have enough windmills to battle and as the industry (sheepherders and cowboys, in particular) apparently doesn't give a damn they are going to save their energy for a more worthwhile cause. If we lose this one, strychnine is on the skids.

I have never been that fond of strychnine, but it is a versatile toxicant and as EPA keeps throwing out alternative chemicals, we had better hang on to what we've got. Furthermore, it is getting a fast shuffle from EPA. If they have their way strychnine will be cancelled for prairie dogs, deer mice, meadow mice, chipmunks, and marmots (woodchucks) for agricultural use and a number of other species (jackrabbits, rabbits, cotton and kangaroo rats, mountain beaver, and opossums) for non-agricultural uses. They will modify concentrations on many other species (including birds and porcupines) to levels that field work has indicated would not be effective. EPA is not one to let scientific facts stand in the way of emotional and political viewpoints.

What can we do ? Rally 'round the flag, boys. It is always a good bet to write your Congressmen. But in this particular case, direct pressure on industry spokesmen is needed to get USDA to stop sitting on their hands while Wyoming does all the work. Have them tell USDA that we can't afford to sit idlely by and lose another important tool. I once heard a sheepherder tell a trapper to stop a pair of coyotes in a pasture but not kill them. It is this unrealistic grasp of the situation plus the admirable (sometimes) individualistic self-supporting attitude of ranchers and farmers that has brought us to our sad plight today. We are going to keep losing tools and techniques needed in ADC and the only people that really seem interested are ADC professionals who have to do the job for somebody else. We are not going to get any help from the general public as their meat comes wrapped in plastic and when the price goes up they blame the avaricious farmers. The thought that the dog-like coyote or a cuddly little rodent like a prairie dog figures into the cost of their packaged products never enters their minds. So it is up to us to make ourselves heard by State Departments of Agriculture, livestock associations, farm groups, and individuals.

*Do I really have to keep explaining acronyms as "Environmental Protection Agency - Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration" ? That gobbleygook makes me sick.

In this world of change, one thing remains constant - - It is easier to pray for forgiveness than resist temptation.

THIS IS A BETTER MOUSETRAP ?
U.S. Patent #833,611 went to a "Humane Mousetrap". When a mouse sticks his head in the door, the trap shuts and clamps a bell collar around his neck. It then turns it loose unharmed to go back to its colony scaring all the other mice. Oh hummm ! - Thanx to **Homer Ford**

If all else fails, immortality can be assured by spectacular error.

JAMES WATT RUN OUT OF GOPHER PRAIRIE
Surely no one believes James Watt "resigned", he was run out of official Washington, the Gopher Prairie of modern America. Gopher Prairie, MN was the small town created by Sinclair Lewis in his 1920 novel, "Main Street". It stood for small-minded Midwestern provincialism, stifling initiative of non-conformers. This along with several other books in the same vein on Illinois & Ohio, fostered the notion that America's coastal cities were the model for U.S. culture. Ever since John Kennedy became president, Washington was regarded as the most important and magnetic city in American life.

We understand that Watt's resignation had something to do with his policies as Secretary of the Interior, but we're not too sure that anyone outside of Washington and Sierra Club headquarters are too terribly interested in a peroration on coal leasing, BLM, or offshore drilling. We suspect more people are fascinated by the regularity with which Washington has assaulted one Reagan official after another - from Richard Allen to Anne Buford. What's the problem ? The problem is that all these people just don't fit into the sort of small, company-town mentality that now pervades the capitol.

The prevailing view is that the company - Congress and their staffs, bureaucrats created by Congress, lobbyists, executive appointees, local reporting cliques - have got the management of the country's affairs pretty well organized. There may be some disagreement around the edges between Republicans and Democrats, but little disagreement over the rules of daily life in this company town. Jim Watt broke more of these rules than anyone who has come to Gopher Prairie in a long time. He publicly attacked the environmental movement (not the idea of conservation, but the quasi-religious 'movement'). He said, for example, that some federally-owned land in West ought to be opened for development. Local matrons of the environmental movement screamed. The local reporting pool recorded those screams on their front pages in typesize that should have been reserved for the second coming of Christ. The congressional city fathers cringed. Watt was being disagreeable, not like the other nice new people over on Pennsylvania Ave. He was incapable of understanding that in polite Washington society everyone compromises away one's ideas and principles eventually.

Nor did Mr. Watt understand the importance of proper public demeanor in Gopher Prairie. Private conversations may contain enough slander to fill Dante's Inferno, but the modern citizen of Washington (I'll always think of it as Gopher Prairie) must never speak in an unseemly fashion about any other citizen. And so backs were turned and shades were drawn and a delegation assembled to send Mr. Watt back to where he came from. Jim Watt didn't resign, he was in effect fired by Congress.

It is amazing how things have changed since Lewis wrote "Main Street". The country's most interesting ideas, new companies, new processes, and innovations are emerging from Main Streets and former Gopher Prairies all over the U.S. And as with Gopher

Prairie 60 years ago, "Washington" symbolizes thin-lipped social orthodoxy and intellectual aridity. - Thanx to **Bill Rightmire, Wall Street Journal, and Livingston (MT) Enterprise** (Ye Ed can really relate to this - when we were in Gopher Prairie the big news items that filled the Washington Post rated back page paragraphs in the hinterlands.)

Once I gave up smoking, drinking, and chasing women. It was the worst 20 minutes of my life.

TEXAS TALES

East Texans are tough. DFA Ronnie Dickens reports that a man trying to commit suicide, found that slitting both wrists, stabbing himself 19 times in the body, and shooting himself 4 times between the eyes with a pellet gun was not enough. He finally jumped off a bridge into an alligator-infested bayou and the 'gators wouldn't eat him.

DS Charlie Brown had a call about a mountain lion, 3 feet at the shoulders, tan with white feet, and a white-tipped tail that had been reported by deer hunters. When he checked it out, he found it as described except it was only 8 inches at the shoulders and a house cat. (One wonders if those same hunters shot jackrabbits for deer. After all, they both have white tails.)

Jim Winnat reports that coyotes are so thick there that Rusty, Con, and Fred in 8.4 hours flying over a 15 section area killed 90 coyotes. Which averages 6 per section. Oh ! those poor endangered beasties. - Thanx to **The (Texas) Trapline** Aug-Oct 83 (I got it late)

A bore is a guy ya might like at first - but he talks you out of it.

NEVER CRY WOLF

The public image makers are back at it again in Minnesota. USFWS has been trying to give the wolf back to the State, but the environmentalists objected as the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) wishes to manage the wolf population by harvesting about 50 animals a year. Environmentalists claim the "...wolf seldom preys on cattle or sheep and that, even when it does, the number of livestock killed is negligible (to who ?)". They also contend that harvesting surplus animals would not leave any to reintroduce in other states (I wonder if other states are aware of this ?). So as usual it rests on the scientific expertise of a federal judge. - Thanx to **Mark Worcester & Minneapolis Star & Tribune, 12 Dec. 83** Postscript - The federal judge, Miles Lord, issued a decision January 5th telling USDI it can't transfer the wolf to DNR. He also accused DNR of encouraging destruction of wolves by not prosecuting persons who illegally kill an estimated 250 per year, ignoring completely the claim by DNR that the wolf pack in the State has stabilized and could sustain a harvest of 50-160 per year. (I hadn't realized that law schools taught wildlife management.) - Thanx to **Johnny Jones and the Gopher Prairie Post.**

What scares me is that someday these will be the good ol' days.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Priscilla Feral (New England Director of Friends of Animals) says: "Starving to death is not necessarily stressful or painful to an animal."

So you've been fired from every job you've ever had ? At least you're no quitter.

WOT'S IN A NAME - ESPECIALLY IF ITS BRITISH
They now have a new division - Wildlife and Storage - in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food. This appears to be combination extension and research on ADC in the fields and grain storages. - Thanx to **Bob Schmidt & Mammal Society Youth News, Oct. 83**

We're beginning to worry about America's creative spirit. It's been months since someone came up with a new Howard Hughes will.

HOWDY'S LATEST
"Dear Congressman Fazio:

I am pleased to learn that you are sponsoring HR 2362 to make EPA an independent regulatory body. Many could support Administrator Ruckelshaus as 'Mr.Clean' if and when he demonstrates honest leadership and corrects his earlier 1080 conspiracy in EPA. All he needs to do is say new findings indicate claims made in the early '70s, which led to the banning of 1080, apparently were not correct and EPA now recognizes that, from an environmental standpoint, 1080 has an important role for safe control of coyotes and certain species of rodents, and that new EPA registrations of 1080 as a predacide are anticipated in the future. Otherwise, Bill Ruckelshaus will have to be identified as another government administrator who improperly and knowingly accepted false claims by environmentalists, thus joining the list of others who have discredited the Government of the United States.

We hope you are also supporting the transfer of animal control activities from FWS to APHIS to improve the government structuring of this responsibility. How is this move progressing ?

Walter E. Howard, Univ. Calif. - Davis, 18 Jan 84
(Howdy has a way with words. I'm glad he's on our side.)

Memorial

Harold W. Dobyns died in Walla Walla, WA on January 12, 1984 at the age of 87. He was among the first predatory animal trappers employed by the government in Oregon, working for 36.5 years in Oregon-Washington. He was among the first to use a plane in predatory animal control. On his retirement from USFWS he worked 9 years as a Pest Control Operator. - Thanx to **Ken Mitchell**

Russell H. Bice , NADCA member, died recently. "He was a true ADC trapper - - one who was only interested in results, and he got them." - Thanx to **Norton Miner**

PERSONNEL MOVES
Ken Kestner moved from California to Oakridge, Oregon.

If you understand it, it's obsolete.

HAVE GUN - BETTER NOT TRAVEL
NRA has some horror stories about unsuspecting hunters that are picked up under different state laws regarding the transport of guns across state borders. Here are some to be aware of:

New York: It is illegal for nonresidents to carry handguns through the state. If caught you might face a 7-year jail sentence. Residents must have a valid NYS license. Residents and nonresidents can carry rifles and shotguns if they are unloaded.

New York City: Nonresidents cannot carry handguns. A resident with a State license may take a gun through the city on an uninterrupted trip and in a locked container. Nonresidents and residents may carry rifles and shotguns if they are in the city for less than 48 hours. Guns must be unloaded and in a closed case. If you are going to be in the city for more than 48 hours you have to have a city license and registration.

Massachusetts: Nonresidents carrying handguns must produce a valid handgun permit from their own state and that state's requirements must be the same as Massachusetts. If you intend to use the gun for hunting, you must have a hunting license from the State where you are going hunting. Rifles and shotguns must be unloaded, cased, and locked in the trunk of the vehicle.

New Jersey: Nonresidents carrying guns must get a Firearms Identification Card from the Superintendent of State Police prior to entering the State. Guns must be unloaded, cased, and in the trunk or other inaccessible part of the vehicle.

Washington, D.C.: You must be able to produce lawful proof that you are going to or coming from recreational firearm related activities in the District or other jurisdiction. Further, the gun is lawfully owned and licensed in your home State. The gun must be unloaded, securely wrapped, and the wrapped container carried in open view.

Connecticut: Nonresidents transporting handguns through Connecticut for competition or exhibition must be residents of the United States and have a valid state permit. As there are no provisions for hunting with a handgun you must obtain a Connecticut permit before arriving in the State. If you are changing residences and traveling through the State, you don't need a permit, but the gun must be unloaded and securely cased. Long guns must be unloaded while being transported but no permit is required.

Hawaii: Nonresidents must register all ammunition and firearms within 48 hours of arriving in Hawaii. Unloaded, securely wrapped guns may be carried only between recreational facilities and your accomodations. - NRA Reports, 10:19:4-5, 1983

Government corruption is always reported in the past tense.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal welfare groups are making their presence known through a variety of lobbying efforts and publicity and legislators seem to be paying more attention. One bill on Capitol Hill by Robert Dole (R-KS) states USDA "...shall promulgate standards for research facilities, including proper requirements for animal care, treatment, and methodology in experimental procedures to ensure that animal pain and distress are minimized." Biomedical groups object to "methodology" as being interpeted that USDA could regulate protocols of federally funded research.

They have also been active in State legislatures as well. California medical schools are fighting a bill that would ban the use of pound animals in state-funded research and transporting pound animals over state lines. It is given a fair chance of success because, according to Dr. Norman Shumway, "...pleas of Hollywood persons who know nothing about research."

The government is not immune, as Defense Secretary Weinberger told the military's medical school to put a stop on plans to shoot anesthetized animals suspended in slings and shot. The animals were to be studied and then put to death in an effort to improve our knowledge of treatment of gunshot wounds. - Thanx to Mike Fall & SCIENCE, Aug. 12, 1983

A Fruitarian Network has been formed of various animal rights groups to apply animal rights to plants and trees. Our old friend, Alice Herrington, says that while she doesn't really believe grass has feelings, toads, crickets, and other creatures do and mowing your lawn upsets their lives.

A Pennsylvania organization, Trans-Species Unlimited (sounds like they get their names from the same place as the punk rock groups), was asked to leave Penn State University. They disrupted a meeting by hopping around in bunny suits protesting the use of rabbits in medical research. Unfortunately, it is publicity acts like this that is swelling their ranks and increasing their nuisance value.

Their main beef is on vivisection (overlooking the benefits to human health that have been obtained), animal farming (overlooking the economics involved in putting food on their tables), and sport hunting (a favorite whipping boy). Animal rightists overlook that "rights" is a human concept. The only right Nature knows is the right of the large and strong to feed on the small and weak. A right can only be given to a non-human, at the expense of being taken away from a human.

Animal rights is a sexy media subject. The baby harp seal has had far more publicity than the Ethiopians who starved by the thousands during the same period. Joyce Tischler (Attorneys For Animal Rights) has said: "Lawyers may not give a damn about animals, but they care about money, and if we make animal lives more valuable in lawsuits like this, we're going to protect animals." So you know where those people are coming from. While the AR lawyers are suffering many setbacks, they are tenacious and greedy and we must present a united front - medical profession, agribusiness, sportsmen, and ADC - against these phoney bleeding hearts. - **Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, Update, September 1983.**

A committee is twelve men doing the work of one.

1080 TO BE TURNED LOOSE OVER THE COUNTRY

In recent actions, EPA has turned loose that deadly toxicant to ravage the country side. They approved the use of 0.01 pound to UC-Davis for use in coyote bait delivery units over 400 acres of grazing land, 0.0009 pounds in grain bait for 75 acres of rangeland in Buffalo Gap National Grasslands in SD for prairie dogs, 0.05 pounds in single lethal dose baits for coyotes on 256,000 acres, and renewal of permit to use 299 grams in toxic collars in Idaho, Montana, Texas, and Utah. To prevent the environmentalists from claiming they have been betrayed, EPA did turn down a Texas A & M request for 10 grams to be used in single lethal dose baits over 10,000 acres of Texas rangeland. This unrestrained, wholesale use of this toxicant promises disaster for the future. - Thanx to **Rick Griffiths & Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, 23 Nov. 1983**

Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on.

NEW PRODUCTS

Bear Repellent: In the Federal Register, Bear Country Products (144 Commercial St., Sunnyvale,CA 94086) has just registered a "Bear Skunker". The active ingredients of this bear repellent are: diethylsulfide 7.17%, 1-butanediol 42.83%, and methyl alcohol 50%. Would be interested in any comments on experiences with this chemical.

Quintox: Bell Laboratories has announced the release of a new rodenticide. This is cholecalciferol, a multidose rodenticide developed by the British. It is a totally different concept that releases stored calcium into the bloodstream causing the rodents to die of hypercalcemia. Would also like to hear any of your experiences

with this product.

A drug is a substance which, when injected into a rat, will produce a scientific report.

THE CANADIAN EPA IS SURE DIFFERENT THAN OURS
The British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board turned down a request by such lily-white organizations as Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, Protection of Fur Bearing Animals, etc., to ban the use of 1080 to control coyotes and wolves. The Board stated that the predator control program (1) has proven effective in reducing livestock losses, (2) is well managed and controlled by Ministry of Environment officials, (3) does resolve wildlife problems in a highly selective, site-specific manner, (4) is more economically feasible and problem animal-specific than other methods of predator control, (5) introduces only miniscule quantities of Compound 1080 into the environment, and (6) was not found to have caused any unreasonable adverse effect to man and/or the environment. That is just what we've been trying to tell our EPA all along. - Thanx to **Guy Connolly & Idaho Wool Growers Assn., Oct. 1983.**

A conclusion is the place where you get tired of thinking.

SHADES OF THE PAST
Forty years ago the Idaho Wool Growers Assoc. (Dec. 1983) had this choice news item:
A new trick failed in Italy when a western sheepherder could tell the bell tinkling supposedly caused by sheep did not sound right. German spies tried to infiltrate American lines wearing sheep bells around their necks, but the alert sheepherder grew suspicious of the tone of the tinkle and shot the leader. - Thanx to **Guy Connolly**

Before ordering a test decide what you will do if it is (1) positive or (2) negative. If both answers are the same, don't do the test.

DON'T THEY KNOW THEY'RE ON THE SAME LIST ?
Four radio-tagged whooper crane chicks were killed by wolves at the Wood Buffalo Park, Canada, before they could fly down to Aransas Refuge. - Thanx to **Charlie Brown, Uvalde, TX**

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

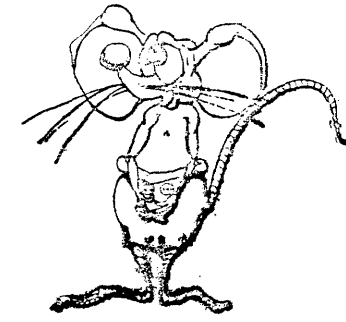
THIS OFFICE REQUIRES NO PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM. EVERYONE GETS THEIR EXERCISE BY:

Jumping to conclusions
Flying off the handle
Running down the boss
Climbing the walls
Dodging responsibilities
Pushing their luck
Running off at the mouth
Skipping meetings
Stamping out fires
Marching to their own tune
- Thanx to **Bill Spalsbury**

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONCENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

I put the Directory off another issue as members are still straggling in. I also have to get out a Sec/Treas report so you'll know our current status. This was rushed a little as I wanted to warn you of the situation on strychnine which I became aware of just 2 days before. As it was we missed a golden opportunity as George and Pink were both at the National Woolgrower's meeting in Phoenix last week and could have done some missionary work there.



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