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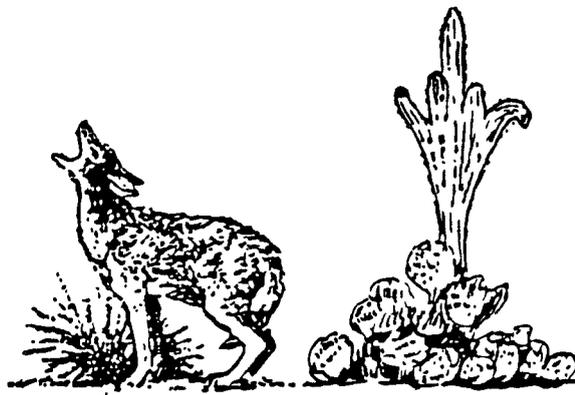


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

JANUARY 1987

NUMBER 69

ELECTION RETURNS

HOMER FORD despite the eye strain has reported on the NADCA election. The new NADCA officers are:

President George S. Rost (NM)
Vice Pres. Homer S. Ford (WA)
Secretary William D. Fitzwater (NM)
Treasurer Wesley R. Jones (WI)
Reg. 1 - Willard E. Nelson (OR)
Reg. 2 - Frederick F. Knowlton (UT)
Reg. 3 - Guy C. Connolly (ID)
Reg. 4 - Milton Caroline
Reg. 5 - Robert M. Timm
Reg. 6 - Kenneth M. Garner
Reg. 7 - Clarence E. Faulkner
Reg. 8 - John C. Jones

We'll get a directory out with the backgrounds on the above in the next issue of THE PROBE. If you want your names in this illustrious directory get your money in.

*REVENGE ! LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO BE A
PROBLEM TO YOUR CHILDREN.*

ELECTION POSTMORTEM

Well you certainly didn't stuff the ballot boxes on this election, but, unfortunately, low participation in an election seems to be the American way. HOMER sez, "For about a week after the ballots started coming in, I thought you had come up with an exceptional scheme for a good voter turnout - You see, I had just finished reading Gen. Chuck Yeager's autobiography and it mentioned Mrs. Yeager's work on birth control while they were on a tour of duty in Pakistan. Despite government propaganda, the program was a failure especially in educating the populace on

the use of condoms. One day a native male secretary told Mrs. Yeager, "The color makes it too embarrassing. To a Moslem white is the color of purity." So they ordered and distributed condoms in orange, blue, red, and yellow. These became popular throughout Pakistan with orange being the favorite color. I thought to myself, 'Damn, that Fitzwater was in India and probably got to Pakistan some years back and knew all about orange condoms.' When the orange ballot cards started rolling in 12-15 a day, I thought we would tally somewhere near 95% voter return, but it soon tapered off and we ended up with only a 44% voter registration which shot that theory. Oh, well, so much for trying to outguess the membership. Maybe another color next time." (In the interest of keeping our family audience, I won't touch that one at all.)

I am disappointed that we didn't get a better turnout as I had gone to considerable trouble and work to make a card that would be easy to fill out and yet would fit regional needs.

We had one objection to the "legality" of the election (no argument here, everything I do seems to be illegal, immoral, or flattening), on the grounds that we didn't offer a "so-called clean slate". I thought those blank spaces for "write-ins" (we had a few, thanks. We'll remember them for next time.) would permit opposition to those nominated by the nominating committee? There was just no space on the card to put instructions so these were put in the PROBE and you don't separate instructions from a form and expect good

results. Any suggestions for future ballots will be gratefully accepted.

WES JONES commented: "I feel that existing officers should always be encouraged (pressured !) to stay on to maintain continuity; the old fogeys will depart rapidly enough by the laws of nature ! New blood should be a transfusion to improve the health -- not a complete replacement. "

Anyway my thanks to you who took the interest in the organization to vote. I realize many of you were not familiar with some candidates, but would have liked to have your vote anyway. Hopefully next time we will be able to have at least two candidates for each office so you can really have a choice. The support NADCA has gotten from APHIS authorities is much better than from USDI so the banner for ADC can be left in the hands of those whose current interests are in an effective ADC program rather than a bunch of hasbeens who felt that banner had been dragged in the dust too long.

THE KEY TO A GIRL'S HEART ALSO FITS A CADILLAC.

A FISHY STORY

On a dull news day in England, Mrs. Mary Mitchell of Earnsbrough was credited as the first person to have given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a Carassius auratus ("goldfish" to us nonLatins). According to the news item, Mrs. Mitchell found Freddy, the fish, lying on the floor cold as a corpse. She placed her lips to the fish's mouth and blew and blew and blew. Freddy opened one eye and then the other (don't blame me - - this is from the newspaper account) and today is swimming around as if nothing happened. Mrs. Mitchell's son is reported to have said: "The sight of Freddy lying there on the floor was very shocking. I've decided to sell my fishing tackle and give up the sport." The son is reputedly the local champion angler. And they claim this country has a creditability gap !

I'm next to the smartest person in the world. Someday you must meet my wife.

MONEYBAGS

WES JONES reports that we spent \$3,540.79

in 1986, took in \$6,672.12, and have left \$5,940.37 in the till. The breakdown on expenses was:

Postage, General	\$200.26
Postage, PROBE	405.73
Printing, General ...	56.49
Printing, PROBE	1,234.82
Telephone	173.94
Travel, Per diem	00
Travel, Auto & air ..	250.00
Office supply	102.50
Misc., PROBE	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	117.05

The right kind of research can support any conclusion.

GOOD NEWS

BAD NEWS

The good news is that:

1. Suffolk Co. (NY) ordinance to ban leghold traps was vetoed by County Executive Peter Cohalan.
2. New York Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's dismissal of the anti-hunters lawsuit that claimed animal cruelty codes prohibited trapping. If this lawsuit had been won it would have nation-wide implications.
3. U.S. Borax dropped their mule doll promotion that would have swelled C. Amory's pockets to the tune of \$1.00 for each \$10.95 doll sold (estimate \$20,000 to CA). According to the WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA (WLFA) Amory had approached U.S. Borax with the pitch his FUND FOR ANIMALS (FF) was primarily an 'animal rescue' operation rather than opposed to hunting. WLFA was able to provide documentation showing FF's true objectives.

So much for the good - and now the bad:

1. Those legal wins (1 & 2) are not written in concrete as the antis continue to focus their lawsuits on local levels to divide sportsmen's defense efforts.
2. New Jersey which already had banned leghold trapping and refused to allow even the padded trap is now going after the bow hunters with legislation to ban all bow-and-arrow hunting in that State.
3. "Snuggles the Seal" promotion by the Humane Society of the U.S. after being dropped by the Mattel toy company has now surfaced in J.C. Penney Co. Christmas catalog. The logo is now on children's comforters, throw pillows, curtains, and wall hangings with Penney's offer to make a donation to HSUS. Write to David F.

Miller, President, J.C.Penney Store & Catalog, 1301 Ave. of the Americas, NYC, NY 10019 pointing out the basic objectives of this organization to do away with ADC, hunting, trapping, agriculture, and meat consumption. WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA'S UPDATE Dec. '86.

Some folks think they're generous just because they give free advice.

PEST MGT. RESEARCH

The National Pest Control Assn. (NPCA) has just announced an annual competition designed to interest students and faculty of institutions of higher learning in the field of vertebrate and invertebrate structural pest management. The report of original research in this area must be done by a student enrolled in a degree program at an accredited college or university, describe research completed within the prior two years (July 1 of the CY of selection), and be available for publication in PEST MANAGEMENT magazine. The awards are good: \$1,000 first, \$500 second, and \$250 third places. For more detailed information contact GEORGE RAMBOW, NPCA, 8100 Oak St., Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Whatever it is that makes some people tick sure needs winding.

CAN'T SWALLOW THIS ?

Harvey Schultz (GOTCHA - Navy Newsletter, 12/86) quotes a recent report that says it all - "The ULTRALSON ET, manufactured and marketed by Bird-X, Inc., was completely ineffective as a means of reducing cliff swallow nesting on buildings at Ft. Wainright...The Ultralson ET Bird Repeller is just another example of a 'gimmick cure' for cliff swallow control that does not work."

Money may not make you happy but it sure keeps your creditors smiling.

MEETIN'S

20-15 Mar. 87 - 52nd North American Wildlife & Nat. Res. Conf., Quebec City, Canada. Contact: JAMES E. MILLER, USDA, Ext. Serv. Washington, DC 20250

25-27 Mar. 87 - Animal Damage Management in Pacific Northwest Forests at Ridpath Hotel, Spokane, WA. One-page abstract on

subjects under above title should be sent to Ron Mahoney, Forestry, Wildlife & Range Sci., University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843 (prior to Dec. 5, 86 - sorry I got this notice too late but if interested call him at 208-885-6536 to see if it is still open. They apparently have a lot of invited papers but may still be open.) Write to Conf. & Instu., Washington State Univ., 208 Van Doren Hall, Pullman, WA 99164-5220 for program and registration information.

28-30 Apr. 87 - 8th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Howard Johnson, Rapid City (SD). Any aspects of wildlife damage, with special sessions on prairie dog management/control and predator management/control to enhance waterfowl production. Titles and abstracts due February 2nd and draft of paper to the Editor by April 1st. Daniel Uresk, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mt. Expl. Sta., SD School of Mines, Rapid City, SD 57701.

19-22 Aug. 87 - ECOLOGY & MANAGEMENT OF BREEDING WATERFOWL symposium at Winnipeg Convention Ctr., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Contact: Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Sta., RR #1, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada RIN 3A1.

18-21 Oct. 87 - 3rd EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONF. at Gulf State Park Resort, Gulf Shores, AL. Abstracts of papers due in March. Will give more details as I get them.

A reckless driver is one who passes you on the road no matter how much you speed up when you see him coming.

FAIRY TALES

RICK GRIFFITHS (APHIS, Port Deposit, MD) has been a faithful contributor to THE PROBE by sending me copies of Federal Regulations and other news items about pesticide regulations. I hate reading regulations on the theory if I don't know about them, I don't have to follow them which has gotten me into trouble several times. Consequently, I put them on the bottom of the pile hoping when I finally get to them it will be too late to use them. It really works, but I'm going to turn over a new leaf this year and try to keep current.

M-44 : Judge Greene (who I believe is an

old "friend" of ADC) has ruled that the restrictions are to be modified without a hearing which is bad news as was reported in THE PROBE #66.

COMPOUND 1080 : An EPA laboratory audit of USDI studies on short-term eye and dermal irritation studies on this chemical claims the report is seriously flawed because of poor documentation. As these were conducted at the Denver Center which is now under USDA it is hoped that this matter can be resolved.

Montana's program on applicator certification for the 1080-collar has been approved (comment deadline was Dec. 26) so it now joins Wyoming.

STRYCHNINE : Both Montana and Wyoming have received tentative approval from EPA to use strychnine alkaloid in egg baits in their rabid skunk control programs. Field hearings for the above-ground use of strychnine has been set for March 31st and April 2nd (if necessary) in Billings (MT). The field judge's issuance of the initial decision is scheduled for July 10, 1987.

(There that wasn't so bad after all. Thanks Rick !)

To keep from being a bore just praise the person you're talking to.

ECOLOGICAL ILLITERACY IS NOW BEING TAUGHT !

This is taken from page 303 of a 10th grade English text (ENGLISH WRITING AND SKILL by Winterowd & Murray [Coronado Press] in Alpine (TX) High School on an exercise to identify nouns:

1. Many farmers and ranchers consider the coyote a pest and a danger.
2. There are several mistaken beliefs about this animal, which native Americans called "the smartest creature on earth".
3. The most widespread misconception about coyotes is that they prey on cattle and sheep.
4. The truth is that scientists have never documented a single case of coyotes killing either sheep or cattle.
5. Coyotes may feed on an animal that has died from other causes.
6. Experiments show that the coyote prefers meat that has not been freshly killed and would rather feast on an old

carcass.

7." Despite these facts many people believe that coyotes are responsible for the killing of many lambs each year.

8. The lamb is one of the most helpless animals in existence and catches many diseases and ailments.

9. Sheep and lambs have a high mortality rate, and most coyotes apparently feed on animals killed by nature.

10. Nevertheless, traps and poisoned baits are set, killing thousands of coyotes each year (as well as destroying other wild animals -- including many members of endangered species).

Talk about subliminal advertising !

Thanks to GUY CONNOLLY & LIVESTOCK WEEKLY, Nov. 6, 1986.

Don't put off until tomorrow what a subordinate can do today.

IN THE CAT HOUSE

- - AGAIN ?!

"Dear Mr. Fitzwater:"

"We read your article...in PEST CONTROL.

To say the least we are stunned by your suggestions about how to control cats.

Your recommendations are not only promoting the suffering and death of innocent creatures but are so archaic that we pity the fact that you could be so insensitive and ignorant.

The idea of trapping a cat should be made with the intention of helping relocate the animal to an area where he or she would be safe. Cats are only considered a "nuisance" because people have encroached upon their territory or allowed them to overpopulate. This is their world, too !

To suggest baiting a trap with a live sparrow is sick. You would not only have the misery of one animal but two ! How could you ever consider this a viable means of trapping an animal we will never know. If a cat is to be trapped, he or she should be immediately taken to a local SPCA where he or she can be adopted or placed in an area where he or she is not in danger. Suggesting that a pest control employee use carbon monoxide, carbon disulfide, or other fumigants is neither appropriate nor humane.

It is unfortunate that people like you only see harming and killing as solutions to a situation where a human might be

inconvenienced. Do you really think that in light of your suggestions for a 'quick fix' to a situation that a pest control employee is really going to take the time to find out to whom a cat might belong ?

Many of us like to live in a world where humans and animals can coexist in peace. We hope you will think about this and attempt to develop an attitude that reflects kindness and caring for others instead of conveniently and brutally exterminating anything that gets in your way.

Sincerely,
Teri Barnato
Coordinator, PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS"

Dear Ms Barnato:

I too am "stunned" to be rebuked by a representative of an organization that allegedly has connections with an allegedly covert criminal gang like the ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT. The acts of vandalism (Laboratory break-ins at a number of installations around the country including the University of California-Riverside, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, etc. in which valuable research data was destroyed along with considerable property damage) and attempts on human lives (letter bombs and threatened random poisoning of candy bars in England) which your organization condones is blatant interference with the freedom and safety of other persons who think differently than you do and is as reprehensible as PLO terrorist attacks on innocent bystanders.

The fact that your organization takes credit for the violation of secular laws (such as sit-ins in fur stores, restaurants, construction sites, and NIH offices) indicates that it is only a matter of degree of your involvement in illegal activities to force people into a life of vegetarianism because you think that is the moral thing to do. Do you ever feel a tinge of remorse when you sink your teeth into a celery stalk ? It too is a living thing. Do you hesitate before slapping a mosquito into the Great Beyond as she sinks her needle into your arm ? "Ethical" (that word you use so prominently in your organizational title) is a human word.

It is certainly ethical for that mosquito to want to drink your blood. Wake up to the real world, non-human animals are governed by might, not right. Animals know no other creed than to dominate others weaker than themselves. If they would observe our "rights" and laws, maybe we would be willing to observe theirs.

I make no apologies for my article on controlling cats. It was written for the information of people who have a problem with these animals. I certainly didn't expect it to change your philosophy anymore than your tirade has changed mine. Biologically you are unbelievably naive. "Cats are only considered a 'nuisance' because people have encroached upon their territory or allowed them to overpopulate." I agree with the last statement but just what 'territory' does a house cat have ? Without human intervention it would still be chasing field rodents (killing and eating them ! Horrors !) back in Egypt where its forebears originated. I have no dishonorable intentions on cats that stay in their own territory - - the house of the humans responsible for them.

As to taking trapped cats to the local SPCA, where are they going to find enough adopters or space "where he or she is not in danger" ? Be realistic. These organizations are already overburdened with unwanted animals. And fumigants are one of the most humane (we use them on human criminals) lethal agents.

I am sorry you were upset by my article. It was not intended for persons like yourself, but for people who believe in human rights. I too get upset when I



*"I attribute my longevity to the extinction of the
saber-toothed tiger."*

read the trash you "animal rightists" put out but realizing your "head is made up" I don't bother to educate you.

Sincerely,
WDF, Secretary, NADCA

*Some people give us a pain in the neck;
of others we have a much lower opinion.*

APHIS ACTIVITY REPORT

APHIS-ADC is doing a much better job than the FWS ever did in keeping the field informed as to the activities of the organization. They publish a mimeographed report weekly on the activities of the ADC work force that is actually sent out to the field compared to the monthly inconsequential activities of the brass in Interior that rarely got beyond the Regional Offices. For the benefit of non-APHIS people and what some APHIS employees may have overlooked, I'll pirate items from these reports I think are of interest:

(AZ) ADC personnel using a fixed-wing to take coyotes from an antelope release site located 2 large packages containing 123 pounds of processed marijuana with a street value of \$110,000-120,000. The ground crew alerted the Customs Office and led them to the find.

Starling and blackbirds are causing serious problems in feedlots. One lot in Yuma is experiencing \$10,000 loss per month in feed consumption/contamination and \$18,000 from bird-transmitted diseases.

(CO) A 70-pound ewe lamb was killed by a golden eagle in early November. This is the latest in the year that a confirmed golden eagle/ewe kill has occurred in that State.

(ID) The use of falcon silhouettes on a spring wire mounted to structures was effective in discouraging woodpeckers from damaging residential woodsiding.

Starlings loafing and feeding on a sewage treatment plant were creating a health problem in a nearby school yard. The problem was resolved with helium balloons and pyrotechnics.

Jackrabbits are scarce. The next peak in the 10-year cycle is expected between 1989 and 1991.

(IL) ADC personnel had to remove skunks from an enclosure. What was unusual is that a female skunk littered in an enclosure on the Marion U.S. Penitentiary grounds. The guards seemed more afraid of the skunks than the residents of the facility.

(MD) Cormorants feeding on fish in nets in Chesapeake Bay were temporarily deterred by a styrofoam bald eagle during the spring runs, but are now ignoring it. The fisherman has used rope firecrackers, flags, streamers, and spikes on tops of the net supports but still harvests more cormorants than fish.

(MS) At a seminar on urban wildlife it was pointed out that 2 geese in a backyard pond are cute; 25 are a problem.

(MI) A sandhill crane problem was solved with 11mm reflective mylar tape.

(NE) Losses to apparently one coyote on a exotic game farm included geese, turkeys, and one newborn llama - - the latter valued at \$10,000.

A cattle breeder had problems in a calf lot when raccoons were attracted to a ration of corn silage and molasses. The 'coons fighting in the feed bunks spooked the calves so they went over the feed yard fence. One was hit by a pickup on the highway and 14 others killed by a train at an estimated loss of \$8,000. ADC personnel removed 7 raccoons from the area.

(OK) Beaver flooding/burrowing cost the county \$16,000 in road repairs over a 3-year period because a land owner refused to permit control work on his property. On learning of the commissioners' decision to close the road, the landowner immediately decided he really didn't need the beaver after all.

(TX) Grackles while not eating citrus are penetrating the outer layer of rind allowing insects, fungi, and other pathogens to enter the fruit. The reason for the behavior is unknown but it may be the volatile peel oils are being used in "anting".

(DWRC) Lab studies indicate the 0.20% strychnine concentration in oat baits was 100% effective against the Franklin's ground squirrel, but less effective against golden-mantled, rock, Townsend, and Unita ground squirrels.

Rats prefer a novel food after mouth-to-mouth contact with another rat that has eaten the bait. This transfer of diet preference is strong enough to reverse learned food aversions (bait shyness). This suggests the presence of cues in the breath or saliva of rats that may signal food safety to other rats. Behavioral experiments indicated that addition of carbon disulfide (1 part per million) significantly enhanced caching and consumption of novel and familiar diets by rats and mice. It is suggested that addition of carbon disulfide or carbonyl sulfide may enhance the efficacy of rodenticides and possibly other mammalian species.

(This takes us up to the middle of November. Let me know if this resume is of interest to you or not. "DWRC" stands for the Denver Wildlife Research Center in Colorado.)

All things come to him whose name is on a mailing list.

LETTERS TO YE ED
Wes Jones, rtd. FWS, Treas.NADCA, Shell Lake, WI

"I have been thinking about our lack of a meeting this year. I believe this was a mistake. I have expressed my feelings before about the necessity for personal contact and interchange with fellow officers. We had some new people that might have welcomed a chance to become more active, plus a western site would have provided more opportunity for officers residing in that half of the country. Also some rank and file might look at a treasury balance in excess of \$3,000 (just prior to annual dues influx) as too much of a nest egg."

Clarence Faulkner, rtd. FWS, NADCA, RD VII, Falls Church, VA

"I, like a fool, have committed myself after retirement. I don't miss the office even a little as I'm getting in some fishing and traveling. I'm delighted to hear all is going well with ADC now in Agriculture. We should be in

"fine shape with Jim Lee and Dale Wade at the helm."

Harry V. Thompson, ADC Research, United Kingdom

"I have been intending to write to you for the past year to thank you for the interesting and amusing THE PROBE which you have been sending me since JOHN JONES introduced me to it. He agreed to stake me to it and I would pick up his WILDLIFE CONSERVATION dues. I hope you are in correspondence with my old friend, Bunny Fenness y, with whom I spent some time in Canberra last fall."

Robert Reynolds, APHIS State Director, Casper, WY

"Here in Wyoming the reward for daily living comes in many ways. The air is brisk and clean, the water cold, and those lucky enough to earn a living here are grateful and full of good cheer. The program is beginning to feel the benefits of membership in a supportive agency. Morale is high with the new leadership and cooperation with the State is better than ever ! Individual livestock producers are at last looking to the future with optimism and anticipation that 'things' will get better instead of worse as time goes on. Thanks to you for helping to bring this to pass."

David Nelson, SD Dept. Game, Fish & Parks, Pierre, SD

"Am sending copies of the announcement for the 8th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop (see MEETING'S). Posters and papers will require a title as soon as possible and an abstract of 50 words or less by Feb. 2.

In response to MONTE DODSON on the use of sucostrin on skunks - to get more mileage out of 10cc of 20 mg strength, I dilute it 1:9 with water in a 100 ml bottle and deliver 3 cc per dose. It may be better to dilute with either carbon tet or acetone as these are both lethal on their own, but I haven't tried this yet. With sucostrin, a skunk will sometimes leak a little juice before the end. A solution that I have had much better luck with is a 100 ml of Beuthanasia-D Special (a euthanasia solution) with 2cc of 20 mg sucostrin added to it. They compliment each other in that the sucostrin shuts the switch off on the electrical system and the beuthanasia shuts off everything

into a peaceful sleep. With the injection of 2.5 cc of this solution using a 1-1/2" 18 ga needle into the neck, the skunk will sometimes tip over before getting the needle out. This solution costs me about 60 cents per skunk but is worth it when Jean lets me eat with the rest of the family when I get home. another important benefit is that this solution is safer to work with. In the 20 mg strength, sucostrin is very dangerous and doesn't have much margin for accidental jabbing with a wet needle.

If inexpensive is the most important consideration, our AD trapper Jerry Riedel at Watertown has an almost fail-proof method that costs him nothing. With a 5" lance that is 1/2" at the base, tapered all the way to a fine point and sharpened on both sides, he lances the heart and lung area to put the skunk to a peaceful and scent-free sleep. The lance is attached to the appropriate length branch with a 15-20° upward bend at the end. When facing the skunk head on, the lance is slid into the heart/lung area below the breast bone. With the upward curvature of the lance at the end of the jab stick, the lance comes upward into the chest area. Jerry informs me that the lance must be sharp so the skunk isn't pushed around too much."

(Dave also sent me an field cap with an ADC insignia on it that I haven't thanked him for yet)

Maurice Guerry, Sheep/cattle operator,
Buhl, ID

"just a note to express my gratitude and appreciation for your newsletter and the productive efforts provided by your "retired experts" and your commendable "common sense" needed for a health USA. I hope you and Ann have a nice trip to Spain. The food has a way of "enlarging" the waistline. I would hope you can get to northern Spain, Basque Country. It is beautiful and the people are tremendous hosts and hostesses." (I'm sorry we didn't make it up there too.)

It's always dullest before the yawn.

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 CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

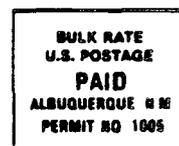
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William D. Fitzwater

**National
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