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February 1987

## The Probe, Issue 70 - February 1987

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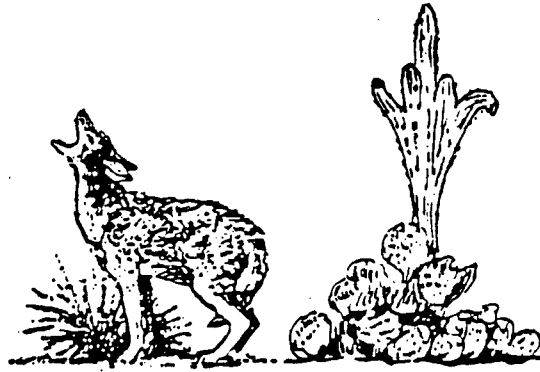
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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

FEBRUARY 1987

NUMBER 70

### REASON VS EMOTION

Dr. Walter E. Howard, the ADC guru from the University of California-Davis, has been a very articulate proponent of the ADC cause (see READIN' elsewhere in this issue). A while back he sent me a paper of his that I haven't had space to print, but I can give you his abstract of the paper (ECOLOGY OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN DISTURBED ENVIRONMENTS) as it presents the ADC picture in a logical frame:

"1. The subject of wildlife ecology and management is 'preached' instead of being taught, because everyone becomes so emotional about birds and mammals.

2. The balance of nature is not compassionate; it is a battlefield where the most bizarre types of cruelty exist.

3. In environments man has modified, nature seldom 'knows best,' hence wildlife usually must be managed or controlled.

4. There is no right or wrong solution to environmental matters; the correctness of any actions taken depends entirely upon how one defends them.

5. Every environmental solution has trade-offs. They should be identified and discussed openly, not intentionally concealed.

6. Naturally evolved plant-animal communities are NOT delicately balanced; they are quite stable and have much resilience to disturbances by man.

7. A new death ethic is needed. Death begets life. Most individual animals born must die prematurely if populations of the species are to be healthy. Instead of trying to save the lives of displaced animals, be humane and either shoot, poison, trap, or euthanize them.

*The real secret of patience is to find something to do in the meantime.*

### CONGRATS !!!

Guy Connolly (NADCA Reg. Dir. III) received the 1987 Camptender Award at the National Wool Growers Convention on January 23. This award is presented annually to an individual whose concern, cooperation, and support have benefitted the industry. It is deserved.

*There are now more than 5 billion people in the world. So much for indispens ability.*

### APHIS ACTIVITY REPORT

These items are gleaned from the weekly reports sent to APHIS personnel that I think might be of interest to others:

**BEAVER** - (ND) A beaver plugged a water discharge pipe at an oil refinery, reducing the normal flow from 1.2 million gallons/day to 250,000 gallons. ADC personnel stopped the problem by trapping one beaver.

(CA) ADC personnel are experimenting with a crossbow and an infrared aiming light. The quarrels will be attached to a spool of braided nylon line for retrieval. They should allow them to remove beaver safely and quietly from densely populated areas.

(TX) A woman had her TV watching interrupted one night after hearing a tree fall. A beaver living behind her house had cut down a cottonwood directly across her power line.

(OK) Beaver damage is widely distributed throughout the State. A recent survey indicated losses over \$33,645 involving damage to pond dams and dikes, flooding of crops, pastures, roads, and construction equipment, and cutting of both native and ornamental trees.

**BIRDS** - (OH) Field studies showed that naphthalene at 2.5 to 32.5 times the EPA registered amount had no effect on deterring pigeons and starlings from using nest boxes and building ledges.

(KY) Despite a technical problem that flushed some birds, a test with PA-14 application by water cannon resulted in killing 289,000 birds (55% grackles, 27% redwings, 15% starlings, & 3% cowbirds) on a 2.2 acre-roost.

(WA) Radio-controlled toy airboats have been used to disperse large migratory concentrations of waterfowl from urban lakes as well as mergansers and cormorants from fish-rearing ponds.

**BLACKBIRDS** - (NY) A test of Avitrol in a blackbird/corn problem showed a 66.3% increase in production on areas adjacent to baiting lanes compared to those away from the lanes.

(AZ) Carl Adams has improved DRC-1339 bait application in feedlots by using a vegetable oil base rather than water and has settled on clean cracked corn as bait. Bait has been applied only in the alleys.

(ND) In 1986 a partial survey indicated that sunflower growers lost \$854,926 to blackbird depredation.

**CANADA GEESE** - (MD) A farmer suffering from geese grazing in his wheat

field on clear, moonlit nights was prevented by court order from using exploders between 9:30 PM and 6:30 AM. Flags and bird reflecting tapes have been placed in the field in hopes the movement and sound will discourage the geese.

(MA) Methiocarb/Mesuroil will be evaluated for a State 24-C registration. If successful, the chemical may be used in limited areas as for nuisance goose control on golf courses.

**COYOTES** - (ID) A complaint of the loss of prize lambs at the U.S. Experiment Station blamed on red fox turned out to be the guard dog "guarding" the flock.

(CO) A six-year study in the northeastern part of the state, showed predation by coyotes on mule deer has accounted for 46-64% of fawn mortality.

(TX) A San Saba Co. rancher decided to use guard dogs instead of ADC personnel. This year he discovered a family of coyotes had been raised in the pasture where the dog operated. He has gone back to ADC operations now.

(UT) Research pen studies showed that coyotes readily investigate new objects, odors, and situations in an unfamiliar environment, but react with suspicion if they encounter the same stimuli in a familiar situation. These responses occur among wild coyotes, helping to explain the difficulty of taking resident individuals whereas transients are captured more readily.

(OH) Passed a law putting the coyotes on the furbearing list for the State and provides payments for livestock injured by coyotes. (Things have really changed !)

**DUCKS** - (ID) A fish producer has requested ADC help as ducks have been robbing his fish feeders on commercial trout ponds. The feeders are activated when a fish touches a wire that dangles in the water from the feeder. Ducks learned the password and took approximately 875 pounds in 2 days. ADC suggested erecting cylindrical barriers around the feeders that would exclude the ducks without affecting the fish.

**GULLS** - (AK) A test with overhead lines of 100-pound test fishing line and pyrotechnics to exclude gulls from a landfill area has been completely successful.

**MOOSE** - (AK) The Homer airport has a serious problem with moose on the runways. It is so extreme they are building a \$600,000 'moose-proof' fence.

**MOUNTAIN BEAVER** - (WA) Diphacinone bait blocks cached in underground nests and fed on showed an increase in blood coagulation time but no mortality. With lettuce treated with zinc phosphide tracking powder only sublethal amounts were ingested by grooming.

**MUSKRATS** - (OH) Muskrats have been stirring up sediments in the stream and disrupting water quality readings at the NASA Plum Brook Station.

**PELICANS** - (OK) These birds have taken some \$300 worth of pond-raised catfish from one impoundment. Harassment and whistle bombs have been successful in encouraging the birds to look elsewhere.

**RAVENS** - (NV) Over \$1,000 loss of golf balls due to ravens carrying them off in their beaks and burying them was reported by a golf pro.

**SANDHILL CRANES** - (OR) The population of nesting sandhill cranes on the Malheur Natl. Wildlife Refuge dropped from 236 pairs in 1971 to 181 in 1986. In 1986 overall crane production was 50 chicks, the highest count since 1970. Recruitment of chicks on the predator-control unit was 14.9% compared to 3.45% on the non-control area.

(TX) (?) Cause serious problems in the Texas panhandle. One farmer estimated his loss in wheat production was over \$10,000 because he could not use his fields to graze his cattle.

**STARLINGS** - (WA) Increased populations of starlings have resulted in increased consumption and contamination of cattle feed. A total of 115,000 starlings have been taken with DRC-1339/french fries.

**TREE SQUIRRELS** - (GA) ADC received a complaint of squirrels eating a BMW.

They had gnawed portions of the auto several times. Coating the electrical wires with grease of WD-40 and trapping were recommended.

(VT) Maple sugar makers in this state alone lose about \$500,000 annually to red squirrels and to some extent - gray squirrels, chipmunks, and other rodents that gnaw the rubber tubing carrying maple sap to central collection points.

**VULTURES** - (SC) Black vultures cost a rancher 10 calves last year. They have returned again this year and are following pregnant cows around for 3-4 days before birthing and then killing the newborn calves. Another problem occurred when 200 black vultures chose a private residence and pool for a loafing area.

*TV is a communications medium - what you see is neither rare nor well done.*

#### **MEETIN'S**

20-25 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 - The program and speakers are listed below. Write to Conf. & Instu., Washington State Univ., 208 Van Doren Hall, Pullman, WA 99164-5220 for 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. 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.

**PROGRAM** - PACIFIC NW FORESTS CONF.

## PROGRAM - PACIFIC NW FORESTS CONF.

G. CROUCH - History of Forest Service ADC research in Pacific Northwest.  
 L. LEPPANEN - Economic significance of ADC in reforestation.  
 M. GREENUP - ADC needs analysis.  
 D. DECALESTA - Cost-effectiveness of controlling animal damage to seedlings.  
 T.SULLIVAN - Small mammal pest mgmt. in young forests in western Canada.  
 R. SCHEARER - Rodent and bird impacts on direct seeding & natural regeneration.  
 L. ASKHAM - Vole control in forest plantations and nurseries.  
 R. MARSH - Anticoagulant rodenticides in pocket gopher control.  
 J. EVANS- Efficacy and hazards of strychnine baiting for pocket gophers.  
 P. HEGDAHL - Hazards associated with rodent control.  
 R. NELSON - US Forest Service role in ADC.  
 J. EVANS- Identification of forest animal damage.  
 R. ANDERSON - Predicting animal damage in reforestation.  
 A. HORTON - Animal damage prediction models in conifer plantations.  
 D. CAMPBELL- Big game browse problems and control.  
 G. CONNOLLY- Volatile components of Douglas-fir in relation to deer browse problems.  
 P. GREEN - Successional plant communities - Pocket gophers.  
 R. BOYD - Vegetation management and animal damage.  
 M. GOURLEY - Mitigating deer browse damage - protection or competition control ?  
 D. CAMPBELL- Habitat improvement to reduce deer damage to Douglas-fir.  
 T.SULLIVAN - Rodent pest management in forest plantations in China.  
 D. CAMPBELL- Aversive conditioning in forest ADC.  
 J. EVANS- Mountain beaver damage and management.  
 P. HEGDAHL - Range mgmt. and problems with pocket gophers, ground squirrels, and prairie dogs.  
 J. KINGERY - Cattle grazing and forest animal damage interaction.  
 D. KREFT - Cattle exclusion in forest plantations.  
 D. OTIS- Birds and forest-related problems.  
 J. HALLETT - Secondary poisoning in ADC.  
 J. EVANS- Porcupine in Pacific Northwest.

J. BORRECCO - Pocket gopher control and contracting considerations.  
 L. BIRCH - Monitoring pocket gopher control contracts.  
 B. DREISBACH - Experience in pocket gopher control contracting.  
 A. MASON - Black bear damage to managed Montana timber stands.  
 R. SCHEARER - Black bear damage to thinned Montana timber stands.  
 R. FLOWERS - Supplemental feeding of bears in areas of damage.  
 M. GOURLEY - Politics in bear damage program on private land.  
 W. HOWARD- Forestry animal damage vs. nature and animal rights.  
 R. REIDINGER - Research programs in forest ADC.  
 J. MILLER- Plans for training in ADC.

*The first insurance agent was David - he gave Goliath a piece of the rock.*

#### PICK ON NEW MEXICO WEEK

First Ron Johnson (Univ. Nebraska) sends me a WALL STREET JOURNAL article on the problems New Mexico has of being recognized as one of the fifty states such as a flyer from the sheriff's office in Grand Island (NE), "Aircraft may be involved in transportation of drugs from New Mexico into the United States." A couple moving from Florida to New Mexico request for credit card transfer was turned down as MasterCard does not issue cards "out of the continental U.S.A." A New York man applying for Social Security numbers for his daughters was told they were not eligible as they were born in New Mexico. A former governor of ours coming back into the State was told by IRS he had to pay tax on foreign investments. When he asked a big wheel in the IRS in D.C. if he had ever heard of Senator Dominenci, he was told, "Yes, he's one of those Senators from a western state." (I'm going to pay my income tax in pesos) If that wasn't bad enough Wes Jones, Treas. NADCA sends me an invitation suggesting Wisconsin as a winter meeting site to avoid all the snow and cold down here. (Ha ! He suffered for that remark last week.)

*Magellan was the first strait man.*

**READIN'**  
Got some real goodies -

**CITY CRITTERS** (1986) by David M. Bird (Eden Press 4626 St. Cathrine St. W., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3Z 1S3) Paperback 116pp. \$8.95.

ADC in the city is a fairly grim business so it is a welcome relief to read something entertaining about this growing problem. The book is illustrated with a number of clever cartoons by Sandra Letendre as per the example printed below (I am belatedly asking Eden Press for permission to use the example.) It deals with some biological background, urban problems, control measures, and conversely, means of attracting some of the more esthetic species. There are chapters on squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, skunk, cottontails, opossums, woodchucks, pocket gophers, moles, house mice, rats, bats, birds, and "herptiles". Dr. Bird is a Canadian biologist and some statements are at variance with U.S.A. situations. However, while it will never replace Bob Timm's encyclopedic treatise (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE), it is a refreshing change from normal dialogue on ADC.

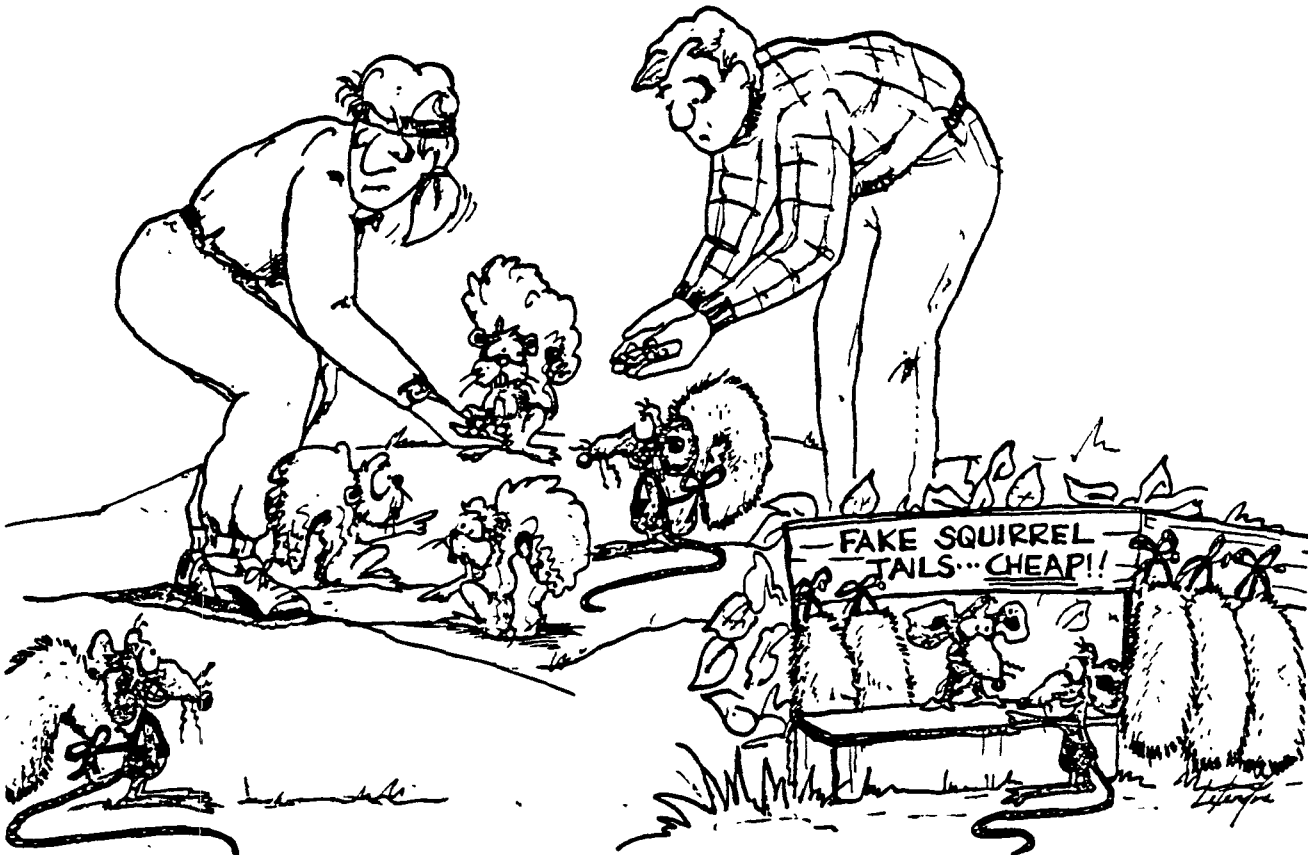
**CONTROL OF MAMMAL PESTS** (1986) edited by C.G.J. Richards & T.Y.Ku (Taylor

& Francis, 242 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19106) Hardback, 406pp. DALE KAUKAINEN (ICI-AMERICAS, Box 208M, Biol.Res.Ctr., Goldsboro, NC 27530) has generously offered to send any active member of N-ADCA a copy as long as his supply lasts.

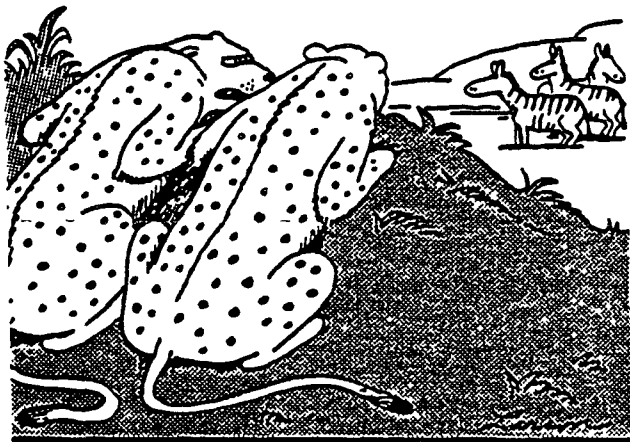
This is a collection of papers given at the 1986 meeting of International Theriological ("beast-like" I had to look it up and am continually amazed at the etymological lengths some mammalogists will go to be different) Congress. There are 40 papers in the following categories: damage assessment, forest damage, control techniques, pest control strategies, integrated management of rodents, and national rodent pest management programmes. Three/fourths of these papers are of situations in other countries though some of these would have application to North America.

**NATURE AND ANIMAL WELFARE: BOTH ARE MISUNDERSTOOD** (1986) by Dr. Walter E. Howard (Exposition Press of Florida, Inc., 1701 Blount Rd., Pompano Beach, FL 33069) Paperback 67pp \$10.00.

In my opinion, Howdy has done more to make us "gopher-chokers" respectable in



the eyes of zoologists than any other academician. In this hard-hitting book he puts out arguments that we should use in combatting the "animal rightists". From the fictitious dogmas on the sacred balance-of-nature concept, the 'cheap shot/half truth' ploys used by avaricious 'environmental' organizations, the biological role of hunters and trappers in managing wildlife populations, to the underlying cause of all Nature's problems - human procreation, Howdy has covered all bases. As I have repeatedly tried to point out, the animal rights movement attempts to change human nature on the same order as Prohibition and the 18th Amendment, but on a broader spectrum. We must be active against these zealots who would make vegetarians out of the red meat eaters among us.



"Listen ... I'm fed up with this 'weeding out the sick and the old' business ... I want something in its prime."

HOW FAST SHOULD A DEAD WHALE COOL ?  
Canadian J. Zool.64:2064-5 (1986)

We owe a vote of thanks to Guy Connolly for calling our attention to this little biological tidbit I'm sure you have been waiting for. The conclusion after a thorough statistical run around is that the slow rate of cooling is due to the thermal inertia of a large body mass. (That's enough to give a biologist a bad name)

*If you eat slowly you eat less, particularly at a holiday dinner with a big family.*

## FAIRY TALES

### STRYCHNINE

EPA is about (14 Jan. 87) to issue notice of continued registration of strychnine for control of prairie dogs, ground squirrels and meadow mice with label changes including buffer zones around some endangered species and pre-control black-footed ferret surveys.

EPA has granted a public health exemption to Montana for the use of strychnine in eggs to control rabid skunks.

### 1080 PROTECTIVE COLLAR

The use of the 1080 collar in Texas is still hung up on EPA registration demands. Texas Agriculture Department wants the inventor, Roy McBride of Alpine, to be the registrant. But most of the cattle industry points out the environmental activists threaten a lawsuit if the collar ever becomes operational. Such a suit would be more tempting against a small operator than a State agency. Right now it looks like a "Mexican standoff."

### M-44

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has presented "new evidence" that predation by wild canids on endangered species is increasing and that the M-44 is "safe, selective, and effective in protecting, and reducing predation on, endangered and threatened species such as whooping crane, Mississippi Sandhill crane, and the Aleutian Canada goose."

### ULTRASONICS

A hearing is being sought by EPA against an ultrasonic manufacturer, SONARAY (Amherst, NH). The Company claims they were told to change their advertising mentioning "EPA testing". They did and received an EPA number so they continued on not realizing that "controlled laboratory tests were the final evaluation of their units....All Sonaray units have been sold on buy-back guarantee and they have taken back only 4%. There have been more users praising the device than condemning it. Complaints were the lack of control of mice rather than rats."

Thanx to Rick Griffith and Guy Connolly for this information from the Federal Register and Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News.

*Simplest diet of all. If it tastes good - spit it out.*

#### MOUSE ATTACKS DRIVER

A mouse apparently asleep in the heat vent of a car, got too hot so it jumped from the car dashboard to the driver's shirt and scrambled into his coat. The man let loose of the wheel and grabbed for the mouse as the car skidded off the road. He wasn't hurt but it caused some \$500 worth of damage to the car and 4 highway reflectors. The highway patrol investigating the accident wrote no citation as the man produced a fresh dead mouse. (Might be a handy alibi to keep around) ALBUQUERQUE (NM) JOURNAL, 16 Nov. 86.

*Many things which seem simple at 20 are impossible at 60, and vice versa*

#### SPEAKING OF ALIBIS -

a woman from Truth or Consequences (where else - New Mexico) wrote into the game department protesting a citation for fishing without a license. "...I was accompanying my husband on a fishing trip for the first time. He showed me how to put a worm on the hook and then said, 'Drop the worm into the water to keep it alive, so I can put worms on other fishing poles.' I did what he said." NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE, Sept/Oct, 1986.

*If you're willing to work hard, most everybody will be willing to let you.*

#### LETTERS TO YE ED

Rew Van Hanson, APHIS (SD)

"Don't feel I should be a nominee for the NADCA executive board while a State Director for APHIS. I have visions of retiring one of these times after which I would be glad to accommodate NADCA as a nominee."

\*\*\*\*\*

Don Althoff (McKinzie Mfg. (OH)

"Enclosed sponsor dues for me. MARK WOODROW left the firm in May. Keep up the good work with the newsletter. Always read it 'cover-to-cover' before any other mail."

\*\*\*\*\*

Willard E. Nelson, NADCA RD I (OR)

"Hope I lose the election to Tom Hoffman. In any event if I should be elected 1987 will be my last year. Time for new blood especially with closer contact to the USDA organization."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Pink" Madsen, rtd.USFWS (AZ)

"Just finished reading "WILD HORSES AND SACRED COWS" by Richard Symanski (Northland Press, Flagstaff, AZ). This is about the mustang problem and the cattle industry with all sides mad at the BLM. Used USDA statistics that say Georgia and Florida produce more beef cattle than the 11 western states so why not dispense with cattle altogether on public lands in favor of mustangs. Can see this same argument coming up on coyote management. Comparing the number of sheep on western ranges today with farm sheep would be a blow to coyote management programs. They would conveniently overlook coyote damage to poultry, truck and fruit farming, rabies, rural communities with pet dogs and cats (maybe even little kids), range cattle and calves, all forms of wildlife from deer on down. I think NADCA ought to stress the adaptability of coyotes and the prospect of them being a pest in a number of situations if sheep were removed."

\*\*\*\*\*

Grover Moffatt, APHIS (TX)

"Sorry to be late on dues. Just forgetful. Am not furtrapping this year as I'm getting ready for surgery. Hope to resume as soon as I get back on my feet."

\*\*\*\*\*

Jim Forbes, APHIS State Director (NY)

"Just noticed - on the 1985 Directory Forbes is between Fitzwater and Ford !! What a distinction !" (Flattery will get you anywhere, Jim)

\*\*\*\*\*

"Bunny" Fennessy, CSIRO, Australia

"I had a brief conversation in Canberra recently with Grant Birmingham of APHIS. He and Dr. Svetlik (Animal Health) have been attending, as observers, a field exercise run by Queensland Dept. of Primary Industries (= Agriculture) in a demonstration of controlling feral pigs in a simulated outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (Bunny, we call it hoof-and-mouth disease - foot-in-mouth is what I suffer from). During May 4-8, 1987, we will be holding the 8th Australian VPC conference in Coolangatta, Queensland. The senior ADC person in Western Australia was in the U.S. this year. He met John Beck and was impressed by his attitude to the changeover of ADC from USDI to USDA. The



result is that the organizers of the conference sent an invitation to Bert Hawkins for someone from APHIS to attend and give a talk about the changing face of ADC in the USA. I am trying to ensure the US speaker does not traverse the same ground as was covered by you and Dale Wade at our earlier conferences.

Australia is going through a period of considerable constraint on public spending and CSIRO is having to do a lot of propogandising to ensure its budget allowance does not fall too far below its needs." (We know what you mean, Bunny !)

\*\*\*\*\*

Jeff Beemer, Trapper, N.Mankato, MN  
 "Thanks for sending me the information on NADCA. I like the awareness the association has on the animal rights movement. I feel some associations don't put enough emphasis on this problem. I am active with my state trappers' association being on the education committee currently working on a public awareness program. I would like a career in ADC as I have been a freelance trapper for over ten years. Thank you so much for your time and I hope to become active in NADCA and help in any way I can."

\*\*\*\*\*

Monte Dodson, rtd. FWS, Trapper, Cookston, OK  
 "TO : Asst.Chief, Boatrocker Div.  
 FROM : Chief, Boatrocker Div.  
 SUBJECT: Advanced Technology, Urban Rodent Control

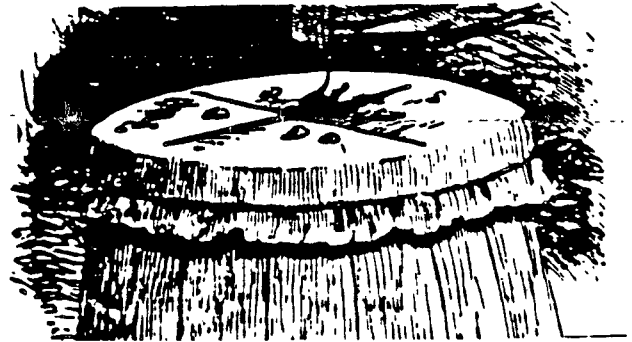
I know you like to keep up on the latest advancements in rodent control so this memo should help. Judge Zook Thomas, who resides here in Collingsworth County (TX) showed me his highly secret rat trap that he says will be "patented soon". The Judge has a severe infestation in some storage areas where he keeps cotton seed. After trying modern control agents and the use of dogs, he devised a fool-proof trap. Now this is very technical so listen up good.

The cotton seed was stored in bulk in railroad box cars. He placed several 30-gal. drums of cottonseed up against the seed making it easy for the rats to reach the seed. He left one drum in the center of filled ones empty which he filled 2/3 full of water. Then he placed enough seed to cover the surface of the water, I would say about 3/4 inch deep. Cottonseed floats so you can't see the water and does not seem to absorb it.

The day I witnessed the trap he told me he had caught 44 rats over a period of 3 weeks. The day we ran it, he dumped out 47 rats. Since then the catch has fallen off considerably and his total is 128. All the rats are Alex black rats. Well that's it, Dad. I hope you can put this to good use.

I sold off all my longspring 3's and 4's and went to the new Montgomery #4 step-in. I like the lower pan and no dog to worry about. But if a cow steps on one dead center, the frame is bent and must be repaired. Thanks also to you and the gentleman who replied to my request on Sucostrin."

(I'm afraid Judge Thomas might have difficulty covering that with a patent as the following drawings showing the same principle were printed in 1881 and 1917. Topsell (1607) recommended sprinkling oats on top of water in a vessel to make it look like solid meal. Better luck next time, son.)



W.H. Gibson (1881) CAMP LIFE IN THE WOODS AND THE TRICKS OF TRAPPING. Harper Bros. Publ.



D.E.Lantz (1917) HOUSE RATS AND MICE. Farmer's Bull. #896, USDA

Admittedly these usually recommended the use of ramps rather than a feed piled up around the barrel, but the principle is still that of a dug pit which has been used from time immemorial.

(As you can see some of the above were from last year. I apologize to the writers for losing their material in my "wonderful filing system". However, this issue brings me uptodate on the APHIS newsletters, Federal Register (FAIRY TALES), and to the first of 1987 for "Letters to Ye Ed." Keep the faith, baby. I'm trying to keep current.)

Now they have a toy to adjust a child to becoming a government employee. Anyway he puts it together, it's wrong.

### YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYBODY

I've been in the business long enough to recognize that fact but it still hurts when you don't bat a thousand as indicated by the following:

"In regards to my renewal fees to NADCA a few personal observations seem necessary. You state in your renewal notice the importance of education concerning the public with the ADC program and to upgrade the professionalism of the ADC personnel, both worthy endeavors. As a former DFA (budget cuts) I put a priority on working with schools describing the importance of an Animal Damage program, using the history of trapping, tools and methods used, plus equipment demonstrations. These classes were well received by the students and, of more importance, by usually misinformed instructors. I believe every DFA should take the time and promote ADC policy with these school children and community organizations.

Concerning the upgrading of PROFESSIONALISM of ADC field personnel - GOOD LUCK! As a member of a committee, we DFAs drew up a list of items that, in our opinion, would strengthen the State and National ADC programs. Some of these recommendations were:

1. Uniforms for the ADC field men.

2. Elimination of County funding for a Federal program to exist.
3. A GS instead of an AD rating (regardless of what the Brass says, an AD-rated person does not have the same rights as a GS-rated one has).
4. Better salary.

Our recommendations were heard and appreciated. I imagine they are still being appreciated, but there were no changes.

I have had the opportunity to meet some excellent predator men during my stint with the department. I don't regret that for a moment. But you men, Directors of NADCA, were former District, State, and Regional Supervisors of our ADC program and in my opinion, you never gave the DFAs a fair shake. In fact, from my own personal observation and listening to other men that were on the job before me down thru history, all the DFA ever was and still is will be nothing but a blue-collar laborer that is to be manipulated at will by the so-called FAT (that was supposed to be trimmed when we left USFWS) when he sees fit.

Sorry guys but I'll put my money in our own State trapping and National trapping Associations."

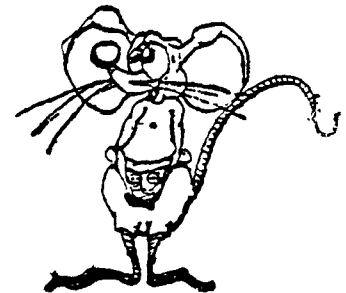
*A man who can smile when everything goes wrong has found someone he can blame it on.*

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.

YE ED - -

William D. Fitzwater

*Fit*



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