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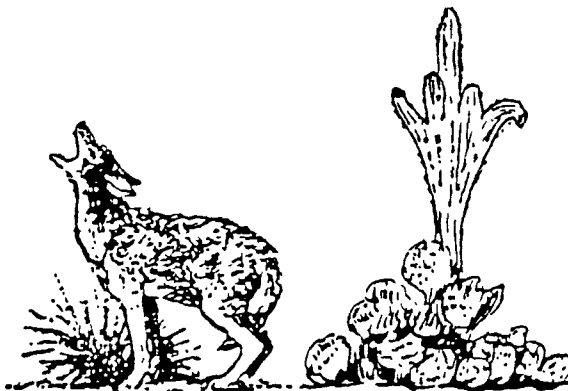


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

NUMBER 74

AUGUST, 1987

THE POISON PATROL

Nope ! Not another branch of ADC but a new ploy by the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE to eek out a better living for their front office staff. For a MINIMUM \$20 and 20 box tops (the type that come off a boxed Cadillac) you can send in for your secret code ring, an embossed membership card, lapel pin, a year's subscription to their "beautiful, bimonthly DEFENDERS magazine", a year's supply of reporting forms, and, oh goody!, become a full, voting member of DW.

GARY LARSON (Utah APHIS State Director) sent me a copy of their "Task Force on Wildlife Poisoning" leaflet. It tells how DW uses government lobbying, litigation (these are the important ones), public education, scientific research (?), expert testimony (?), and grassroots action to achieve their many goals. Becoming a member of the TPP (sounds like the plural of an Indian shelter) alerts you to keep a lookout outdoors for wildlife poisoned by pesticides. "Be especially alert during the spring and summer, and look near agricultural fields, on the edge of woods and fencerows, near streams, on golf courses, parks or other large expanses of open grass." They do admit that in most cases the animal or bird may not have been poisoned, but you should suspect poisoning if the animal died for no apparent reason, there are several animals scattered around an area that may have been treated with pesticides, and if predatory or scavenging wildlife are found dead in the area. "But don't touch the animal - it may be harmful to you AND your pets" (How do you determine it died

from "no apparent reason" if you can't examine it closer ?). It gives 5 random case histories with exotic numbers like: "Case No. 9752Y: In New York, a bluebird is killed by chlordane, an insecticide used for termite control."

Such a deal ! And the Director of TPP is none other than one of their "experts", Susan Hagood.

Not to be outdone the ASPCA has published THE TEN MOST UNWANTED LIST.

1. LD50 test (To determine the 'lethal dose' of household products and chemicals, animals are force-fed massive quantities of such substances until 50% die in agony.)
2. Pound seizure (In some localities, laws require animal shelters to turn over stray dogs and cats to laboratories and medical schools.)
3. The Draize test (To determine the effect of household products and chemicals on human eyes, substances are poured into rabbits' eyes and the researcher notes how long it takes the eye to deteriorate.)
4. Cosmetic surgery (As an attraction at circuses, animals are surgically disfigured to resemble mythological creatures.) (However, they never did ask the goat that Barnum changed into a unicorn, how he made out with the ladies.)
5. Dogfighting (Dogs and other animals are deliberately bred to kill each other for 'human entertainment'.)

6. Wound lab tests (Pigs and goats are deliberately shot by U.S. military personnel to study the effect of gunshot wounds.)

7. Steel jaw leg-hold trap (Used to capture fur-bearing animals alive and hold them for several days until the trapper returns, it is one of the most cruel and painful devices fashioned by man. To escape the pain, an animal will often chew off its own leg. Over 18 million wild animals are tortured per year.) (Gee, we only made seventh place with this !)

8. Hot-iron face brand (The Dept. of Agriculture recently received a federal restraining order prohibiting them from forcing dairy farmers to brand cattle on the face with a hot iron.)

9. Factory farming (To reduce overhead and increase profit margins, farm animals - especially chickens - are crammed together in tiny cages. It is necessary to remove chickens' beaks to prevent them from killing each other.)

10. City horse carriage rides (Considered 'charming' by some, city horse carriage rides are responsible for the death or injury of many horses every year.) Thank to NADCA RD III GUY CONNALLY, Twin Falls (ID).

I come highly recommended. My last employer said anyone who could get me to work for them would be lucky.

HELP ! HELP ! HELP !

I'm giving a talk at the forthcoming California Vertebrate Pest Control Conference in Monterey (CA) in March 1988. The title will be, SOLUTIONS TO URBAN PEST BIRD PROBLEMS. As part of the paper, I'm making a mail survey of cities that have problems with birds whether they are doing anything about it or not. The catch is that postage for this has to come out of my pocket (no Uncle Sam franking privileges) so I'm really anxious to hit the right person the first time.

Therefore, would YOU please write me giving names and addresses of individuals that would be knowledgeable in this area in Health Departments, Animal Control

Departments, Environmental Units, Police/Firemen, Pest Control Operators, Mayor's office, or whatever of any cities you are aware having bird problems ??? I want a scattering of cities, large and petite, east and west and anything in between and for bird species from hummers to buzzards so send me in as many possible contacts of which you are aware. Please do it now !!! THANK YOU - BILL FITZWATER, YE ED.

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they are not out to get you.

EXTENSION VS APHIS-ADC

We mentioned the Extension Service had made a grab for ADC funds in Maine (THE PROBE, - #73). (Incidentally we were in error about the guard dog program in Montana, the +\$41,000 was snatched from the Eastern Region for that project in Minnesota). The DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE have been active in other actions as well. Besides the \$166,000 earmarked for Maine, they also want \$90,000 to expand the Kansas Cooperative Extension program, another \$100,000 to continue conditioned taste aversion studies (Arizona, California, and Nevada), and \$100,000 for a guard dog/livestock program in Oregon and Washington. Needless to say these monies they are so nice to provide for us come out of OUR operating funds EARMARKED for their fancy purposes. Thank to GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III (ID).

About the only thing you can do on a shoestring now is trip.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

This was a popular item for non-APHIS members so I haven't been intentionally ignoring them. The loss of JIM LEE cut me off the mailing list and the scope of this letter has scaled down considerably. So here is the best I've been able to do up to June 5th:

ANTELOPE: (AZ) Aerial hunting to protect antelope fawns from coyote predation took 154 coyotes in 38.1 hours of fixed-wing and 50.3 hours of helicopter flying.

BEAR: (CA) Two black bear causing \$1,200 and \$500 damage respectively to apiaries were snared within 24 hours of the complain by MIKE POTTS.

(NH) Beekeeper complaintants have been given temporary polyurethane electric mesh fences for bear damage.



"'Looks like a trap,' I said. 'Nonsense,' you said. 'No one would set a trap way out here in the woods,' you said."

BEAVER: (OK) Beavers caused \$6,000 to fruit trees and \$900, \$3,720, and \$2,050 to 3 flooded soybeanfields. In Caddo County alone, \$500 damage to ponds and trees, \$500 to culverts, and \$3,500 to trees have been done by beaver.

BIRDS/AIRCRAFT: (AK) Collisions with aircraft caused \$35,000 worth of damage to military planes at Eielson AFB last year. To help avert future strikes they were advised to close the garbage dump near the runway, discourage swallows nesting in hangars, obtain a kill permit for gulls, and spray for grasshoppers that congregate on the runway.

COOTS: (CA) A kill permit for 1,500 coots was issued by USFWS after LOUIS LEE found the birds had destroyed \$58,400 worth of young wild rice plants.

COYOTES: (NM) A ranch manager reported the loss of 6 calves to coyotes by a Socorro rancher. Investigation showed that the cowboys called the cows to feed by honking the horns. The adult cattle would temporarily leave their calves to eat. While they were eating

the coyotes helped themselves to the abandoned calves. These coyote attacks occurred during daylight hours in close proximity to human activity and the coyotes demonstrated abnormally aggressive behavior when confronted. (Never get between a New Mexican, coyote or otherwise, and his feed.)

EAGLES: (UT) A rancher who had 7 confirmed eagle kills was issued a scare permit. Cracker shells have been successful so far in stopping depredation.

PRAIRIE DOGS: (CO) There have been more calls for prairie dog control than in the past years due to a decrease in Colorado Dept. of Agriculture budget and cancellation of its 1080 grain bait registration.

RABIES: (AZ) A rabies epizootic appeared near Sierra Vista earlier this year. By May, at the request of the Health Services, ADC personnel began removing skunks, coyotes, and other carnivores from the quarantine areas in Cochise County.

(NE) Requests for skunk control have increased because of the spread of rabies across the state.

WOLVES: (MT) Three wolves killed an adult cow and calf on private land on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation in front of the owner's wife and daughter. Under guidelines of the Endangered Species office it is permissible to use traps not to exceed 21 days. This is becoming prohibitive as the program has cost the Montana ADC nearly \$7000 so far.

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

JOB OPENINGS

APHIS W-765 Closing date (08/17/87) Assoc. Deputy Admin., GM-401-14/15 As is typical with green sheets this is all ready assigned to Bobby Acord when they removed the wildlife background requirement.

APHIS W-765A Closing date (08/17/87), Director, Western Region, GM-401/340-14/15. This is replacing NORM JOHNSON's job in Denver when he retires.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN, Asst. Professor in Vertebrate Pest Management. This at least appears to be a legitimate offering. Qualifications: Ph.D. in ecology, wildlife, or vertebrate zoology preferably with background in Agriculture. Strong communication skills and willingness to collaborate with other scientists. Closing date October 1, 1987. Contact: Dr. G. L. Hergenrader (Head) Dept. Forestry, Fisheries, & Wildlife, 101 Plant Industry Bldg., UNL, Lincoln, NE 88583-0814.

Don't worry about losing your job here. Worry about keeping it.

WE PAUSE FOR STATION ANNOUNCEMENTS
In this issue you'll find flyers on the SAFE-N-SOUND live trap line available from the Meyer Manufacturing Company. Steve Meyer has been a good supporter of NADCA for some time.

In Australia I saw an interesting snare trap that looks like a banjo. It was adapted from the Aldrich bear snare. You can get more information on this trap by writing to Peter Stevens, Keith Turnbull Research Inst., 151 Heatherhill Rd., Frankston, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3199 (This is JIM BACKHOLER's address but he'll get it to Stevens.)

There is nothing wrong with the younger generation that the older generation hasn't managed to outgrow.

LETTERS TO YE ED
B.V. "BUNNY" FENNESSY, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia:

Thought you might like the attached reference on New Zealand cat control operations. On Little Barrier Island, biological control was attempted through use of feline panleucopaenia but was not successful. The same virus had been used by the South Africans on Marion Island in the sub-Artic where feral cats introduced in 1949 were killing about 450,000 petrels each year by 1975. As the cat population was naive to the disease, it hit the population very hard initially but did not completely eradicate them. Recent yearly declines because of the disease are less than in the first five years after its introduction in 1977, and suggesting the efficacy of this control

factor is declining.

You might remember that Brian Coman at our recent AUSTRALIAN VERTEBRATE CONTROL CONFERENCE gave an account of his group's poor results in an exercise to control feral cats to contain a simulated sylvatic rabies outbreak in an area of only 2,000 acres. There were 7 radio-collared cats in the area, but only 4 of these were among the 21 killed in the control operation. One of the radio-collared cats skulked up a tree and escaped capture. It was not detected by a pack of hounds. So it's no wonder some of us are keeping our fingers crossed that rabies is not introduced into Australia - trying to control cats and foxes would be an impossible task. Glad to hear you made it home. An American Tourist, aged about 70, disappeared in the wilds of Kakadu recently. He had been prospecting for gold at an abandoned settlement. (Thanks, Bunny, we only saw 3 crows. I think Crocodile Dundee is a crock.)

CHARLES "CHUCK" CADIEUX, rtd. USFWS, Albuquerque, NM

Thought you might alert the troops to a recent entry in TRAILER LIFE (Aug. 87): A couple enroute through New Mexico stopped near Hope at a "park" to walk their dog and he was killed within an hour. Claim the only warning about pet poisoning was on the post office wall. So they are "...making people aware that in sheep country the government provides poison for coyote control. It is readily available to almost everyone and virtually impossible to trace."

C.R. "PINK" MADSEN, rtd. USFWS/NADCA Reg. Dir. II:

Found the typewriter, but I'm not sure it can spell better than my handwriting. They had a Natural Resources Week at Utah State University so I wrote a letter to the Dean bitching about some of the anti-management who quote University attendance and studies to support their claims. I suggested the schools of Natural Resources were failing badly when college graduates lobby for total elimination of hunting, trapping, fishing, timber harvest, grazing of private livestock on public lands, etc. I got a letter back that it had been referred to the Head of the Fisheries & Wildlife Dept., but doubt if it will go

any further.

I also sent FRED (KNOWLTON, NADCA RD II) a copy of wild horses on the highways within commuting distance of Phoenix (AZ). I suggested to Fred that natural resource management interest ought to widely publicize all the examples of UN-MANAGEMENT of wild species.

(Pink also enclosed a copy of a letter he had sent to Paul Harvey and ALL of his sponsors after his broadcast lambasting hunters (THE PROBE #71, p.8):

"In a recent broadcast you characterized all hunters as ..."psychological weaklings who hunt only to fulfil a need for dominance, and a desire to obtain and affirm superiority." I accept that every individual is entitled to their own opinions, but you should be aware that such frivolous and inaccurate statements immediately place the speaker in a position to also be judged. It is glaringly obvious to any rational person that your classification of hunters could not have been gained from personal experience or even the most meagre research. You are only parroting the slogans of groups whose major interest is in the creation of emotional disturbance and to campaign for memberships to support their expenses. A questionnaire to State Game & Fish Departments would have verified that only 20% or so of the licensed hunters are successful each year, but that thousands of them return year after year just for the chance to enjoy themselves in the woods and maybe, just maybe, get to see a deer. If a license fee of comparable amount was charged to each photographer and bird watcher, how many of them do you estimate would return year after year without seeing the animals they sought ?

Too many times the anti-hunting element tries to capitalize on the individual hunter and his efforts to outwit a wild animal in the wild. Is killing a deer in a fair chase less humane than killing thousands of birds for the Kentucky Fried Chicken shops or beef for McDonald's ? Or do you wish to convert the country to vegetarianism ? Eliminate all the taxes and businesses that support and depend on livestock (meat, leather), poultry (meat, eggs, feather comforters), trapping (meat, leather, furs, disease control),

fishing (meat and byproducts as well as Presidential recreation) - I don't suppose you would consider President Eisenhower and similar notorious persons as some sort of degenerates because they like to spend their recreation time trying to catch a few fish ? These efforts to outwit fish, spend time in the woods chasing deer, or luring a wild animal to a hidden trap are no more degenerate than are the efforts to outscore a friend at tennis, bowling, basketball or trying to beat the brains out of your opponents in football.

I am sure that by now you have concluded that I am pretty unhappy over your classification of hunting, fishing, and trapping. In addition to having been a life-long participant in these activities, I am also a University-trained biologist with over 30 years of work experience in these fields. This training and experience compels me to voice the opinion that the survival of "wildlife" and the lands where they live is strongly dependent on the support of sport hunting, fishing, and trapping. These are the only groups which currently recognize and demand management of these resources in competition with irresponsible and expanding humanity. To insure you understand the depth of my convictions, I am sending a copy of this letter to your sponsors. They - and you - surely know that dissatisfaction is as contagious as is satisfaction."

JIM FORBES, APHIS NYS DIRECTOR:

We caught our first coyote (35 lbs. at that) under the New York State Cooperative Coyote and Black Bear Damage Control Program this June after a total of 14 lambs had been killed. Did you ever think when you worked here you would ever see a coyote program in NYS ? (Frankly, no, but I was in on a demonstration given NY Conservation Dept. trappers by Noel Partney, an imported Colorado PARC trapper, on how to take the coyote-dog hybrids that they were worried about that time (1946-7 ?). Apparently they are going for the real thing now.)

Money still talks but you have to turn up the volume.

MEETIN'S

NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION,
Aug. 20-23, 1987 in Mansfield (OH).

Demonstrations on trapping techniques will be given by expert trappers. Contact: Tim Albright, 9936 Cutts Road, Chardon, OH 44024, n (216) 285/3786.

THIRD EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE, Oct. 18-21, 1987 in Gulf State Park Resort, Gulf Shores, AL. Early registration is \$55 (postmarked Oct. 11). Student registration is \$25; at the door \$30 (without Proceedings). Detailed schedule follows below. Contact Dr. H. Lee Stribling, Dept. of Zoology/Wildlife Science, 331 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Oct. 28-31, 1987 in Boise (ID). Meeting features a symposium on raptor migration in western North America. Contact: Rich Howard, USFWS, Rm. 576, 4696 Overland Road, Boise (ID) 83705.

THIRTEENTH CALIFORNIA VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 1-3, 1988. Papers on the largest and oldest conference on vertebrate pest control. Contact: Rex Marsh, Dept. Wildlife, Fisheries, & Biology, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616.

SIXTH ASTM SYMPOSIUM, Mar. 4, 1988 in Monterey (CA). Methods, tests, techniques, etc. in vertebrate pest control measures. Contact: DR. WILLIAM B. JACKSON, Dept. of Biological Sciences, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

I give much better advice than I take.

THIRD EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONFERENCE

Panel - State/Federal/Private Cooperative relationships in wildlife damage control. FRANK BOYD - Use of DRC-1339 to control crows in winter roosts.

H. Blokpoel - Wires & monofilament lines to control gulls.

JAMES HEINRICH/S.Craven - Distribution and impact of Canada goose damage in Wisconsin.

Ward/Defusco - The U.S.A.F. bird aircraft strike hazard (BASH).

K.Roblee - Use of T-culvert guard to protect culverts from beaver plugging.

Wigley/Garner - Landowner perceptions of beaver damage and control in Arkansas.

W.Conner/J.Toliver - Planting Louisiana

swamplands when nutria are present.

T.Salmon - Rodenticide use in agricultural crops.

ROBERT TIMM/RON JOHNSON - Wildlife damage to agriculture in Nebraska.

M. Phillips - An economic assessment of wildlife damage control in NY's Hudson valley.

H.Dutton, et al - Categorization and seasonality of vertebrate pest control inquiries in Virginia.

D.May - A state-administered user-pay program for nuisance wildlife control.

Panel - Coyotes in eastern U.S.: Status and implications.

Panel - Research needs in wildlife damage control.

M.Conover/G.Kania - Effectiveness of BGR and hair in reducing deer damage to young apple trees.

K.Gaul/D.Dodds - Factors influencing impacts of deer and hare browsing in Nova Scotian plantations.

T.Angradi/W.Tzilkoski - Testing of selenium-based systemic deer repellent.

L.Lyon/P.Scanlon - Use of soybean fields in Virginia by deer.

J.Hobbs/F.Leon - Grackle predation on South Texas citrus.

M.Tobin/RICHARD DOLBEER - State of mesurol as bird repellent on fruit.

NICHOLAS HOLLER/PAUL LEFEBVRE/RICHARD DOLBEER - Methiocarb-treated rice to repel blackbirds from sprouting rice.

R.Wright, et al - Method for measuring blackbird damage to ripening rice.

A.Stickley, et al - Decontamination of blackbird roost with formalin.

J.Heisterburg, et al (KEN GARNER) - Controlling blackbird/starling roosts with PA-14.

PAUL LEFEBVRE, et al - DRC-6749 avian wetting agent of low toxicity.

J.Glahn, et al - Temporal use patterns of wintering starlings at SE livestock farm.

N.Connelly, et al - Public tolerance of deer in suburban environments.

J.Hadidian, et al - Urban gray squirrel damage & control: A case history.

J.Hamilton, et al (RON JOHNSON) - Fox squirrels cause power outages.

G.San Julian - Future of wildlife damage control in urban areas.

M.Hoy/ALBERT BIVINGS - Evaluation of controlling hunting for feral pigeons.

K.Purdy, et al - Deer damage control by NY orchardists.

S.Hygnstrom/S.Craven - Spatial response of deer to fences.

L.Lyon/P.Scanlon - Perception and

management preferences by game wardens & extension agents to deer damage to soybeans.

R.Frame/D.Smith - Assessment of agricultural deer damage in West Virginia.

R.Coppinger, etal - Livestock guarding dogs.

J.McAninch/M.Fargione - Predation and losses in New York sheep industry.

E.Hill - Catch effectiveness and selectivity of several traps.

B.O'Gara - Wolf, golden eagle, & coyote problems in Montana.

M.Tobin/M.Richmond - Use of PVC stations to control voles in New York orchards.

M.Richmond, etal - Analysis of effect of pine voles on fruit production.

Panel - Controversies in wildlife damage control.

JAMES MILLER - A need for professionalism in wildlife damage control.

(In case you didn't realize, the capitalized speakers above are the BEST - they belong to NADCA)

Middle age is when all people our age seem older than we are.

BOOKWORMS ARISE !

Editors Daniel J. Decker & Gary R. Goff, VALUING WILDLIFE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES, Westview Press, 500 Central Ave., Boulder, CO 80301 \$35.00.

This hardcover book is a collection of papers from the SYMPOSIUM ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE, bringing together much information on this complex socioeconomic aspect of wildlife of which modern wildlife managers must be aware. Unfortunately, the problem of quantifying these values are emphasized by a predominance of academic and philosophical values rather than statistical judgments. Only Dale Wade's chapter on ADC attempted to offer direct monetary values attributable to wildlife damage control.

Chandler Robbins, Danny Bystrak, & Paul Geissler, BREEDING BIRD SURVEY: ITS FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS, 1965-1979. This is available from the Publications Unit, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240.

One that shouldn't cost you anything. As the title suggests the subject is bird population trends in the USA over this period. Some highlights: heron populations are stable except for the

cattle egret which is expanding and increasing. I can't see anything but future trouble with this species. There has been an increase in pigeons, but a decrease in English sparrows surprisingly because of spread and competition from the introduced house finch. This latter species has increased 21% per year since its introduction in Long Island in 1966 and now covers all the states east of the Mississippi. Concentrated in urban areas its effect on most local residents, with exception of the American goldfinches has been minimal. Starling competition is blamed on the decrease in flicker populations.

Dale Wade & Charles Ramsey (1986), IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING AQUATIC RODENTS IN TEXAS: BEAVER, NUTRIA AND MUSKRATS. Texas Agricultural Extension bulletin (B-1556), TX A&M AES, College Station, TX.

Like the predator book Texas put out this is lavishly illustrated with color photos on the life history and control of these rodents reproduced from a slide series that can companion the text as well as being a definitive treatise. Those not in APHIS or owners of the handbook (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE) can probably get a copy from an APHIS contact or write to the TEXAS AES, Room 111, Nagle Hall, Texas A&M, College Station, TX 77843. The pictures are copies of slides used in teaching sets on this subject.

Michael S. Ricketts (1987) BOBCAT TRAPPER'S GUIDE. Elk River Press, POB 488, Independence, KS 67301. \$7.95

This is a recently published soft-cover book on all you ever wanted to know about bobcat trapping. Gives considerable information on bobcat environment, activity, behavior patterns, and habits that he certainly didn't get out of a book. The second half is devoted to trapping techniques that just about covers the whole gamut of trapping. It is a good book for both beginner and the tobacco-spitting old timer.

Countess Ursula Dohna, PRIVATE GARDENS OF GERMANY, Harmony Books, 225 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10003. \$60.00.

This is a "coffee-table" book - beautiful photos, sharply printed (65 color, 160 black-and-white). It is a tour of 30 of Germany's most beautiful formal gardens.

Among them are the magnificent alpine garden of Bogensberglehnen, a medieval herb garden in Rommersdorf Abbey, and the windswept water castle of Schloss Lutenburg.

If at first you don't succeed - plug in the cord.

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.

This follows fast on the heels of #73 in my struggle to catch up. And September and October will be here right away as I get ready to go to the 3rd Eastern Wildlife Damage Conf. where NADCA is having a Board meeting to which all members are welcome.

YE ED -
William D. Fitzwater

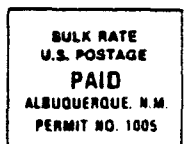
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