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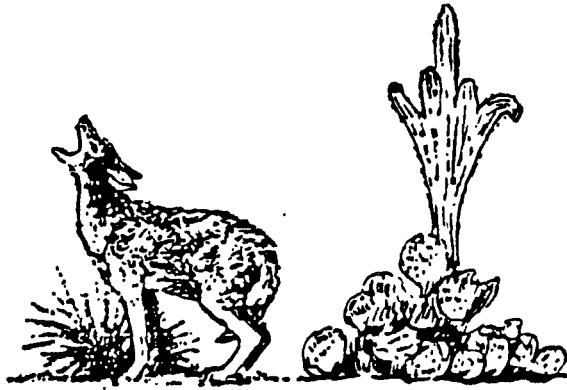


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

OCTOBER, 1987

NUMBER 76

BORED MEETING

We know the members are all jealous of the nine NADCA officers who made the trek to Gulf Shores Resort (AL) for the 3rd EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE to loll around in the sunshine and bathe in the Gulf of Mexico. Well, YE ED on arrival Sunday walked out into the Gulf as far as his unmentionables, turned back in for a hot shower, and that was the last he saw of the Gulf except from the motel window. The rest of it was pretty much technical talks, bored meetings, and impromptu swapping of lies about past koyote-klobbering exploits. Now having those troop morale-boosting lies out of the way, we did have a good time meeting old friends from all over the country.

The bulk of the talks was on blackbirds, eastern coyotes, waterfowl, deer, voles, and beaver control. There was considerable input on the need for ADC to become more knowledgeable in biopolitics and economics for the well-being of the profession. Along the line of needed economic ammunition for support of ADC, RON JOHNSON gave a conservative estimate of annual losses to crops (\$27 million) and livestock (\$10 million) caused by wildlife in Nebraska alone. Research needs in ADC were dealt with at great length. AL STICKLEY, PAUL LEFEBVRE, and FRANK BOYD talked on decontamination of roosts for histoplasma, use of DRC-6749 as a wetting spray in blackbird/starling roosts, and DRC 1339 in crow control, respectively. JIM MILLER summed up the conference with the admonition we should stop thinking of ourselves as "black hats" and present a more positive image

to the public.

During the NADCA Board meetings the item of most interest to the membership was the raising of dues. We have had the same dues structure since we organized in 1979. FITZWATER said it would cost at least \$6.50 per subscription to mail out THE PROBE in 1988. Thus it was voted to raise the rates for Student (from \$5 to \$7.50), Active (\$10 to \$15), discontinue Active, non-USA (as this rate is now the same as active), and leave Sponsor and Patron at \$30 and \$100 respectively. HOWEVER, these rates do not go into effect until 1 January 1988. Therefore, get your money down and take advantage of this loophole. (YE ED is very pleased with this as he has begged and begged previously to get renewals in before the first of the year as it makes it much easier to maintain the mailing list. This is a selling point to new members too. Not only will they save five bucks but they'll get the remaining issues in the current year free. Go to it! Sell NADCA!)

KEN GARNER wants his region broken up as being too big to handle effectively. All the regions are too big but we've had difficulty finding suck--- applicants to head them. However, recommendations were made to investigate the possibility of splitting both Region V and VI into two more Regions. Comments from the membership are solicited as to both boundaries of Regions and candidate RDs.

RON JOHNSON suggested there should be more emphasis on "How-to" in the PROBE. YE ED

agreed but as this requires more time than he has available to abstract articles, he needs more help from the members. At least send xerox copies of important research papers here. The APHIS news briefs are not as complete as before as KEN GARNER reports now all "urban" references are eliminated.

We discussed the upcoming "scoping" (semantics is everything to the bureaucrat) meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement. These are to be held in Washington (DC), Kansas City, and Sacramento. When we find out we'll let you know the dates. We and our concerned cooperators should be represented, but this can be by letter. A letter is being drafted and when approved will be sent around for you to use as best you can to see ADC gets a fair shake in the final EIS.

WES JONES read the treasurer's report from January 1 to September 30, 1987. The income for this period was \$2,501.86; expenditures were \$2,897.80; and total left in the treasury was \$5,544.42. While there was a negative balance for the year it was pointed out that our big income is in December when dues notices go out. It was voted to limit travel disbursement to the officers for the meeting to a total of \$4,000.

GEORGE ROST's nomination of RON JOHNSON as Regional Director for V was confirmed by the Board for the rest of the term vacated by BOB TIMM. This puts us in legal accord with the by-laws. The next general election is slated for 1 January 1990.

FRED KNOWLTON brought up the issue of writing position papers such as one on a wolf recovery program. Though everyone agreed on the value of such a project, no one volunteered to take charge. We will, through THE PROBE, pass around copies of general policy statements on ADC by NADCA, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY (TWS), INTERNATIONAL ASSN. OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES, and USDA. Any input on these position papers would be welcomed by the Secretary/YE ED. KEN GARNER (CHR.), THURMAN BOOTH, BERT BIVINGS, FRANK BOYD, and PHIL MASTRANGELO were appointed as a committee to investigate the possibility

of initiating an ADC committee in TWS.

GUY CONNOLLY stated some problems he encounters with the membership is the attitude - "What has NADCA done for me today?" There were no good answers to this query. It is stated clearly in our bylaws NADCA would not seek salary increases, but our basic objective is to serve as a forum for those who would otherwise not be heard. NADCA seeks to provide professional support to ADC personnel and educate the public on the need for ADC. CONNOLLY pointed out we must, particularly through THE PROBE, give a more positive image of ADC than just "gopher-choking". FRED KNOWLTON said we should listen to the opposition for a better exchange of ideas. YE ED admitted he has a closed mind as far as Animal Rightists were concerned (and he isn't too receptive to general anti-ADC proponents either), but did promise to make some shift in editorial slant. He reiterated the fact the pages were open to anybody to voice their views.

Between meetings several of us managed an impromptu talk with Dr. G. J. Fichtner for a half hour before he had to leave to catch his plane. We found him very affable, intelligent, and surprisingly (to us die-hard PARC old-timers) sympathetic to ADC. He expressed his admiration for the dedication of ADC personnel but pointed out the political and budgetary limitations under which he has to work. He indicated, that like his predecessor, he had no objections to APHIS personnel taking an active part in NADCA activities.

A Communist is one who has read the works of Lenin and Marx. A non-Communist is one who understands them.

ORDER OF YELLOW DOGS



We had an initiation into the YELLOW DOGS of the following NADCA members: Bert Bivings, Eugene LeBoeuf, Dwight Le Blanc, Jeff Jackson, Doug Hall, Mike Hoy, and Frank Boyd.

Senator Biden may never be president but he is a sureshot as official spokesman for Xerox.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS and the TEXAS TRAPLINE for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not to be considered a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.

BEAVER: (TX) Property owners on a lake are having trouble with beaver burrowing into the styrofoam fill on floating docks and retaining walls to build lodges. One owner estimates the damage to a flotation structure at \$500.

COYOTES: (TX) The contents of a coyote stomach, particularly the parent coyote, makes a good M-44 lure for coyote pups when a few drops are placed on the units in the area the pups are using.

FOX: (TX) One trapper recommends THE ORIGINAL MOUSE SPECIAL BAIT (R&M Animal Lure Co.) for red fox. This is made from ground-up mice and other rodents and appears very effective where foxes have been avoiding other baits.

JAVELINAS: (TX) A trapper witnessed javelinas attacking a goat. So far, 16 goats have been killed on the ranch by these wild pigs. Cabrito is for the hogs.

RACCOONS: (TX) Raccoons are raiding crawfish traps to the tune of \$150 a night in the ponds of a Texas crawfish producer.

RATTLESNAKES: (TX) Rattlesnakes are on the move. Prospective home buyers are told not to worry about mice because "the rattlesnakes in the bedroom will have them licked in no time." One rancher in the area was struck on the leg by a large rattlesnake. Fortunately, he wasn't hurt as he was only hit by the end of a kitten

the snake was swallowing at the time. They killed the snake and saved the kitten which is being hand raised as the mother cat hasn't been seen since before the snake incident. In another place a trapper shot a 4.5 foot rattler and cut off the head. He saw rattles coming out the severed end and cut the snake open to find a dead 3.5 foot snake. Ah! Texas!

There are so many malpractice suits that if you want an opinion from your doctor, you have to talk to his lawyer.

FERRETS

Got a letter that I don't know exactly how to handle. It was from Jim Clayton (POB 8066, Vallejo, CA 94590) of the NATIONAL DOMESTIC FERRET ASSOC. They claim to be harassed by the Calif. Fish & Game Dept. in confiscating pet ferrets and destroying them because they are "dangerous" animals. Clayton claims that they cannot become feral, can be immunized against rabies, and are not vicious pets. His argument on the last item is a report of 12,856 bites in NYC in 1985:

9,809 dog bites

879 cat bites

311 rat bites

12 gerbil bites

9 lab mice bites

5 ferrets (claims they are safer pets than the above, but he overlooks percentages here)

1,591 people bites (brings back fond memories when I cooperated with the Cleveland (OH) Health Dept. on their rat control program. Back in those days we pushed rabies as an important disease of rats. Thus investigating reported rat bites we found one definitely human. When the bitee was questioned, she said it was "Mah boy friend - da big rat!")

I'm afraid I am not too neutral after all, as I have too vivid picture of mongooses running amuck in the Virgin Islands, imported starlings, and feral white rat colonies. There is enough trouble with native species without chancing more foreign invaders.

Then there was the man who received a kidney transplant only to learn it came from a bed-wetter.

PERSONNEL

After getting a couple of newsletters returned - no forwarding address - I was sure J.R. "Ray" Alcorn had gone to that great trapper's rendezvous in the sky, but checking around with Nevada personnel am happy to report that it ain't so. Ray is alive and well, has gotten married again, and moved to another part of town which was beyond the ability of the great U.S. Postal Service to find in that great metropolis, Fallon (NV). Furthermore, Ray is working on a coyote book in case you want to help him out. This gives me another opportunity to remind you to save both of us money (especially NADCA) if you will keep me aware of any moves. I have to pay double on them when they bounce back because "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift (?) completion of their appointed rounds..." but a minor difference in the address really throws 'em.

PAUL VOHS has left the Denver Wildlife Research Center to become the new Leader of the Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Service Unit in Ames, IA. Best of luck in your new job, Paul.

JOHN PRITKO resigned from APHIS in Texas this last August. He's been an NADCA member for a few years.

Freeway signs in LA read, "Next exit, food, gas, ammo."

WHOSE DOG IS IN THE MANGER?

Over the last several years, numerous references to guard dogs have appeared in THE PROBE. Invariably, the accounts reflect negatively on such dogs, with virtually no acknowledgement of their possible merits. One case in point: last December a Utah sheepman stood before his State organization and expressed general support for their use. He even acknowledged recently purchasing a second dog. This was not reported in THE PROBE, but a couple of months later when he encountered a problem his dogs didn't stop, THE PROBE was pleased to report that the ADC Program was called in because the dogs weren't effective.

When such things happen repeatedly, it

suggests bias. It doesn't take too much reflection to recall situations where traps did not solve a depredation problem, or M-44s, or airplanes, or even ADC Specialists (why did the guy buy a guard dog to begin with?). In truth, no ADC tool works all the time. Why should we expect guard dogs to be any different? The American experience with guard dogs is relatively new, and we have not developed the skills of recognizing good guard dogs nor learned the most effective means of training them. Despite this, the most authoritative information indicates that over 50% of the people using guard dogs consider them very beneficial and another 20-30% think they are helpful in reducing depredations. (How many of us can do that well in picking bird dogs?)

It's not all roses, however. Some guard dogs simply don't guard. If a neighbor's sheep aren't used to such dogs, there are problems when the dogs come visiting. There occasionally is the "Tularosa" dog that turns sheep-killer. And, in addition, presence of guard dogs restricts some of the techniques ADC Specialists can employ. None-the-less, the ADC Program and NADCA should acknowledge current information regarding guard dogs can be helpful in preventing depredations, and perhaps we should be a little more even-handed in treatment of the guard dog issue. After all the ADC Program itself is apparently embarking on an "extension-type" demonstration program involving placing guard dogs with cooperators. FREDERICK KNOWLTON, Director NADCA Region II.

Now comes the editor's prerogative of having the "last" word. I have fallen into the trap of most news gatherers. Bad news is what gets the headlines. Good news is a space filler when needed. I have repeatedly admitted that after years of having my writing censored by higher authorities, this freedom of being the "boss" went to my head. The pendulum swung the other way and I could see no good in anything that was anti- "tried and true" ADC practices. Well, maybe it is time to stop venting my pent-up frustrations and seek a more even keel. The 3rd WDC Conference stressed this attitude too, so I will try to mend my ways - but don't expect a miracle. As I

have also repeated in these pages, I feel bound to accept opposing views, but outside of FRED I don't get many.

FRED's points are good. There is no perfect ADC solution under all circumstances, even I have been known to admit that. I just happen to have a bias against guard dogs because the Animal Rightists are pushing them as THE answer. With regard to ADC entering into an extension-type demonstration with guard dogs, it was mandated by Congress that certain sums be spent in this fashion rather than coming from a professional source. I feel that ADC money could be better spent on types of research of more general application. Another factor with guard dogs that I don't think is getting enough attention is liability. NORM JOHNSON told me of hunting on a National Forest and encountering a band of sheep under the protection of a very large guard dog. Norm wasn't too sure he wasn't going to have to blast that dog as he worked his way around the herd under its menacing glare.

If you want a collector's item buy a car that is made entirely in the USA.

READING

My reputation as a cat "lover" has spread in many strange directions. CROWN PUBLISHERS (225 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003) sent me a review copy of FREEBIES FOR CAT LOVERS. This is a paperback by Bruce Nash and Allan Zullo that sells for \$4.95. It lists over 200 free and up-to-a-dollar items available through the mail on things a cat (surely you know somebody who likes cats) can't do without. "From playthings to grooming, cat safety to cat rights and welfare, FREEBIES FOR CAT LOVERS opens up a new range of ideas and novelties for the 56.2 million cats in the United States today." From pet-designed 14-K jewelry, bumper stickers (from sexist "The more I know men, the more I like my cat" to sickening "Cats are purr-fect"), "pleasantly plump? (weight-loss plan for your cat), herbal flea collar, feline urological syndrome information, cosmic catnip garden, gooney bird & Sid the Squid (cat toys), etc. illustrated with clever cartoons of cats. What am I going to write for? Of course, "Cat

Trapping - The Humane Way" from Feline & Canine Friends, Inc. and for "The Animal Welfare Act: How It Protects Your Dog and Cat" from none other than APHIS Publications Distribution, G186 Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, MD 20782.

CHUCK CADIEUX sent me a copy of a recent article he wrote for OUTDOOR AMERICA (Izaak Walton League, Fall 1987 p.22-3+). This is a report on the steel shot controversy with a detailed map of USA counties in the program. Most interesting for you waterfowl hunters. Anybody interested and can't get a copy will send them a xerox on request if you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Life is one darn thing after another.
Love is two darn things after another.

MEETINGS

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. (See below for the tentative program)

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.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE RANCHING SYMPOSIUM, May 16-21, 1988 in Las Cruces (NM). This is on operations and marketing strategies for wildlife ranching. Contact: Raul Valdez, POB 4901, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

Colonel North's favorite cereal is shredded wheat.

LETTERS TO YE ED

I had one complaint from an old friend who objected to the four letter words in the APHIS fight song in #75. "My grandchildren are always looking for something to read which has humor and I have saved THE PROBE for them to enjoy. I think it was an oversight on your part...please don't think I am criticizing you. You are the only source of what is

really going on and you are doing a great job." If this is going to be a family newsletter, I'd better clean up my act. Anyway to show there were no hard feelings, he sent me a list of one-liners which I've used for this issue. O.K., Walter ?

STEVE EBBERT, 8613 Manderly Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46240:

My M.S. project which involved field testing the CLOD on south Texas coyotes has been completed. I have moved back to Indiana until I find employment so would like entry-level announcements for ADC positions. You do an excellent job with THE PROBE. (Anybody got anything ? I don't get green sheets anymore.)

KIRK GUSTAD, APHIS, Bismarck, ND:

I have been transferred from Abilene (TX) to Bismarck (ND) under the ADC Supervisor Training Program. After recovering from "climatic shock" (I'll bet !), I realized I have not received a copy of THE PROBE since #72. This is not a good thing as I look forward to reading your enlightening articles. Incidentally, Dad (GUS GUSTAD) filled out this year elk hunting with a 5-point bull on a black powder rifle. Mark, the youngest, also got a 5-pointer.

C.R. "PINK" MADSEN, Rtd. NADCA RD, Florence, AZ:

(Pink sent me a newspaper article [YAVAPAI COUNTY COURIER (AZ) 26 July 87] quoting a State Fish & Game research biologist blasting an APHIS request for \$30,000 to expand the ADC program as a waste of taxpayer's money by subsidizing the sheep industry. This is an abstract of Pink's letter to the Game Commissioner.):

It has become standard practice for groups such as Earth First, Defenders of Wildlife, Animal Rights -- and even semi-respectable groups like Sierra Club, Audubon, Humane Society, etc. to have representatives attend public meetings and make completely false and stupid assertions relative to the management and use of our natural resources. But it is particularly distressing and degrading when employees of participating and responsible agencies join with the bigoted and imbecilic opposition and speak against intelligent natural resource management.

Harley⁴ Shaw, research biologist for Arizona Game & Fish, claimed eight years experience at tracking bears and lions from the air and admitted livestock owners do have loss problems with predators. While he didn't suggest ways to correct this, he stated the present program (management of all predators) should be viewed with suspicion and watched closely. He implied that predator management programs and especially livestock production were already being subsidized and should not be given additional funding. In the old Arizona Game & Fish that I know for 40 years, Harley Shaw would now be out of a job. Year after year, Game & Fish contributed funds to predator management. Anderson Mesa is a good example. There are a hundred more positive arguments. So...who runs the Department ? A few chimerical crackpots -- or the Director and his staff ? Don't judge me too biased and narrow in my reactions. I am retired from federal ADC, but am a life-long hunter and fisherman. My current participation is mostly with camera and memories, but even this will be destroyed if the recommendations of DEFENDERS, Animal Rights, and one-track minded biologists are not corrected." (FRED, Pink is where I'm from too.)

A later letter from Pink relates to a clipping from the TIMES-ADVOCATE, Escondido (CA) 23 Oct. 87. The article says Queensland (Australia) farmers impatient with government waffling have taken matters in their hands and applied in numbers for private permits to kill kangaroos. The conservationists are trying to cut the limits down further for commercial harvesting while the farmers claim after three wet winters, kangaroos are in plague proportions. The wildlife managers have estimated there are 20 million of the beasts, but conservationists claim they don't know how to count and there can't be more than 12 million. So who counted for them ?

On this one, Pink says: I've preached for years that some day "land users" will band together to take matters in their own hands and this situation in Australia seems to be one. I remember smaller situations in the USA where ranchers came to the same frame of mind taking actions

against situations they didn't like. Example, the independent use of thallium by WY-CO sheepmen when the USFWS began restricting the use of 1080. The Arizona State Game Dept. transplanted antelope into a valley without agreement from the ranchers. In the next several months antelopes belly-shot with small calibre rifles were found. No culprits were apprehended, but the action covered several large ranches and the transplant failed. The tragedy of all this is that Game Managers as well as Protectionists seem not to believe that this is the result of "poor ADC". I feel similar action can be expected from failure to manage (including ADC) the "natural environment" as it competes with other human interests.

.*****

Gary Hart should have taken driving lessons from Ted Kennedy.

ODD JOBS

The job of Asst. Prof. (Vertebrate Pest Mgt.) is still open at the Univ. of Nebraska. You need a PhD but this is really a good job for anyone qualified and interested in extension work plus some teaching. Write for details to:

Dr. Gary L. Herenrader
Dept. Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife
101 Plant Industry Bldg.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0814

The Surgeon General when asked why there was more publicity about tobacco abuse than sex abuse said, "We couldn't decide where to put the label."

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

Wedtech Corp, scandal-ridden defense contractor, has more to cover up. They've owned a partially completed barge in Ontonagon (MI) that was home to several hundred pigeons for five years. After several attempts to scare them off, they finally terminated the flock, but it left them 3.5 tons of droppings to be removed in 55-gallon drums. Thanx to LYN FIEDLER, APHIS, Denver, CO.

Takoma Park (DC), "a city with compassion", has stopped giving out rat bait to control rats and will now furnish Havahart traps free to residents to catch

them alive. This leaves them with the sticky problem of what to do with the trapped rats. The Animal Rights people, who are behind this move by the City Council, suggest the rats "...be liberated in a less-hostile environment - say, the pastures of Frederick County." Needless to say this has roused the ire of surrounding political entities who are telling Takoma Park residents where to shove their rats. Thanks to none other than Dr. G.J.Fichtner (FREE LANCE-STAR [Fredericksburg (VA)]) and JEFF HORWORTH (WASHINGTON POST). *FRED do you really expect me to listen to the morons who push this ---- ?*

"Adopt a farm animal" is the name of a program developed by FARM SANCTUARY as reported in THE ANIMALS' AGENDA (Animal Rights publication). The group is looking for people with loving homes to adopt "former factory-farmed animals ...where they may live out their natural lives and be properly sheltered and cared for." GUY CONNOLLY, APHIS, Twin Falls (ID) & FARM JOURNAL 09/87. *I can feel my resolve slipping when confronted with stuff like that.*

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE has a new ploy - DF Wildlife Classic VISA credit card. Now for every purchase you make on the card, DF gets 0.5%.

Sound familiar ? PITY NOT CRUELTY is another AR group that has just surfaced. They are fighting a Pennsylvania Game Commission decision to let hunters harvest deer in a park in Delaware County (PA). As many as 116 deer were killed by cars last year on the roads surrounding the park and a census indicates 472 in the park which is about 400 more than the park's ecosystem can support. Among the complaints offered by PNC is that the Commission wouldn't wait for a conference next month on birth control for wildlife (see below) and the fear that this would bring the poachers out. Thanx to TOM WALKER, DOD, ASHTON (PA) & THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER 9 Aug 87.

CONTRACEPTION IN WILDLIFE conference being run by an Animal Rights group (PITY NOT CRUELTY) is scheduled for November 13-14, 1987 in Villanova (PA). Has a variety of

titles on new aspects of fertility control that should be interesting. Thanx to TOM WALKER, DOD, Ashton (PA).

Under the new tax laws, every time one's ship comes in the government unloads it.

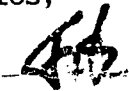
THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

We don't realize how indebted we are to the medical profession until we get the bill from the hospital.

YE ED -
William D. Fitzwater

As mentioned above, we are starting to collect dues for NADCA for 1988. This time you've got a real incentive to get your dues in early as the price is going up to \$15 for Active as of January 1st. A registration card is enclosed for your convenience, but just a note with name, rank, and serial number AND check will be readily accepted. We know THE PROBE gets a much wider distribution than the numbers indicate. Shame your cheap friends into coughing up if they have any pride in their profession. When you send in your check please include names and addresses of any persons you think should belong to NADCA and I'll send them the next issue of THE PROBE with an invitation to join.

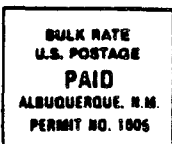
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