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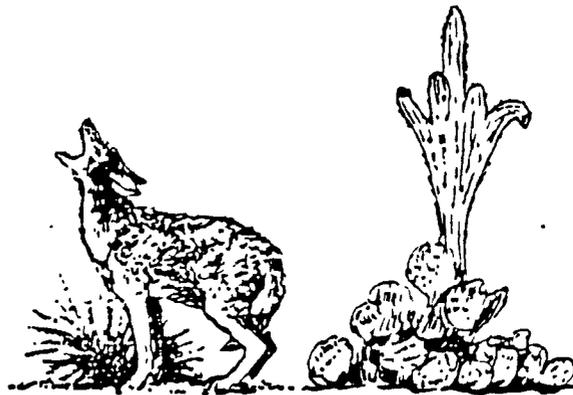


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

DECEMBER, 1987

NUMBER 78

TIMES . THEY ARE A-CHANGING

The following is abstracted from a column by Chr. Jay McAninch in the NE Section of The Wildlife Society Newsletter, Fall 87 (Thanx to DICK GRIFFITHS, DOD, Port Deposit, MD)

I have just returned from the 3rd Wildlife Damage Control Conf. and would like to share some thoughts. A recurring concern at the meeting was the lack of interest in, and recognition of, problem wildlife management as an important topic in the wildlife profession. This area spans urban, suburban, agricultural, and forested systems in which wildlife are in conflict with man's use of the land. While the scope of issues involves the largest potential constituency the wildlife profession could ever serve, a few professionals save those in APHIS, Extension, or the Coop Units were present at the meeting. Why?

Do we see conflict resolution in the wildlife field as a trivial pursuit, or one unworthy of our interest? Worse, do we relegate the wildlife concerns of a huge pool of voters to the best guess, common sense, telephone advice rendered by biologists, cornered for a fleeting moment between other, more important management problems? Many of us came away with feelings of alarm about how our profession has evolved to its present state of benign neglect for the majority of wildlife resources we have the privilege and professional obligation to manage in perpetuity.

In a few short years, 80% of us will be

living in areas classified as urban and, I suspect, a reasonable portion of the remainder of our society will be in suburbia. Surveys show a continuing decline in the numbers of hunters and trappers, the primary constituency served by wildlife agencies. By the year 2000, we'll be responsible to landowners with economic, cultural, and health concerns, many of whom will have little or no understanding of natural systems, and to a huge mass of urbanites. Oh, I think hunting and trapping will be in practice, but under much more controlled conditions. This scenario sounds crazy to most of you, but where do you think we're headed? - or have you considered your profession and its future?

I'm afraid we've become a very protectionist group, partly through the past concerns of our profession and partly through our individual roots. Many years of monumental efforts of protecting species and extending their distribution are hard to shake, but when will we balance our ability to increase and protect populations with an equally competent ability to decrease populations precisely to predetermined levels? Before you scream that we can already do that, I'm not talking about desired levels of buck take, pelts, etc. I'm concerned with reducing populations to desired/tolerable/acceptable levels of road-kills, plant damage, forest regeneration, incidence of infection, and predation losses.

Our roots have led many of us to desire more time in natural areas away from human activity, doing research or practicing

management. In this domain we commonly meet and serve the hunter and trapper. Today, the hunter and trapper must sneak about these areas or enter them en masse (opening day) because outdoor enthusiasts are behind every tree and many of them don't 'see' plants and animals the way we do. Landowners of both natural and managed areas abound and probably bear little resemblance to the folks with whom Aldo Leopold discussed soil erosion and loss of wildlife habitat. For sure, many want to reduce damage to economically important plants and animals, but many others are preserving or managing their land in some well-intentioned, but often ecologically naive, plan. I think our culture has made most feel as though their genuine concerns are morally and ethically right with a God who is an ecologist by nature. I wonder if these folks think our country was settled by heroes clothed in ripstop nylon and goose down, walking in Vibram soles and chewing on a Granola bar ?

The conclusion I have reached is that we will be dealing with more ecologically naive users and folks with uncommitted feelings on hunting and trapping. We will need to serve society not as advocates of hunting and trapping, but as professional ecologists able to use a variety of tools to protect and manage all wildlife populations and solve problems of conflict between wildlife and man. My greatest concern is we will stand by while wildlife rehabilitators, pest control operators, health departments, and private consultants assist landowners in dealing with 'nuisance' wildlife. This benign neglect leads to non-policies and non-programs created by our default in this, the greatest threat to wildlife.

Where are we headed ? Our group is diverse with a wide range of professional viewpoints. Maybe we should be spending more time understanding each other and assessing the future as well as taking stock of our present position. Certainly TWS is the forum for us to determine the wildlife challenges that need to be confronted and our role and responsibilities in resolving the inevitable conflicts yet to come. What do you think the year 2000 holds for wildlife and our profession ?

The buck stops here. Please start a few this way.

EPA ON A NEW TACK

Apparently EPA is developing distribution maps for endangered species with an eye towards curtailing use of pesticides/herbicides in counties where endangered species are known to exist. There is enough concern that the USFWS Director has written EPA asking them to put this on the back burner until it can be reviewed and Congressman Pat Roberts (KS) has introduced legislation asking them to desist until USDA and USFWS have been able to assess the impact. A preliminary assessment suggests that nearly every county in Florida, and perhaps half the counties in the USA have one or more rare or endangered species. Imagine the impact on agriculture of eliminating pesticides on such a scale ! FRED KNOWLTON, NADCA RD II, Logan, UT.

Nobody ever breaks a rule until somebody makes one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —AUDUBON MAGAZINE THAT IS

"I was appalled and disgusted by AUDUBON's insensitivity in the September issue - appalled by the full-color picture displaying dead tubers around a bowl of so-called 'milkweed edibles'. Disgusted that my once-favorite magazine, having glorified the slaughter of fur, fish, and game, should now sanction the destruction of tuberous vegetables. As you should know, there is a substantial body of scientific evidence that tubers, such as potatoes, onions, and carrots have highly developed nervous systems which may exceed even those of shrubs and trees...How would you, Mr. Editor, like to be pulled up by your roots ? (get this !) signed Sylvester Vesterpue, Poverty Hollow, CN."

"In the September 'Dialogue,' Sallie Andrews said she found the photograph of the leopard devouring the antelope to be repulsive and that she subscribed to AUDUBON to see the 'beauty in nature'. What I saw in the photo was an example of an extremely beautiful hunting animal which has indirectly helped the antelope as a species by weeding out an old and sick animal. To me, the most beautiful facet of nature is that it is entirely self-sufficient. The balance of hunter to

hunted is eternal--until an outside force such as human beings interferes." Thanks to DICK GRIFFITHS, DOD, Port Deposit, MD and AUDUBON 11/87.

**IN MEMORIAL
WILLIAM C. SPALSBURY**

We were shocked to learn that in the tragic Continental air crash on November 15th which claimed 28 lives, BILL SPALSBURY was one of them. Bill was not only one of the bright young stars of the ADC program for which we had great hopes, but also a great personal friend.

Bill was born in Kansas City (MO) 46 years ago and grew up in the Texas panhandle town of Borger. He got his B.S. in Wildlife Management from Texas A & M in 1964. He started in ADC (USFWS) in Woodward, Oklahoma in 1967. He moved up through the ranks to become Asst. Regional Director (II) here in Albuquerque. He became Asst. Western Regional Director in Denver when ADC moved from USFWS to APHIS. He received a Special Achievement Award from the USDI in 1978 as the principle team member in developing the EIS for the Western ADC program.

He leaves a wife, Jo, and three sons behind in Evergreen (CO). The family has requested that contributions be made in his memory to:

Texas A&M University
W. C. Spalsbury memorial Fund
Assoc. of Former Students
POB 7368
College Station, TX 77844

(I appreciate all the calls I received from around the country to alert me to this tragedy. We had left for a week in Guadalajara the day after the crash and were unaware that Bill had been involved.)

JOHN W. DE GRAZIO

This is another dear friend of mine who died suddenly but I was unable to get the necessary background until just now. John was born in Salida (CO) in 1929 graduating from Colorado State University in 1957. He worked a couple of years for the Colorado Game & Fish before joining the Denver Wildlife Research Center in 1959. He was assigned to the bird

section, but his ability to work with scientists in foreign countries led to the position of Chief, Section of International Programs in 1974. His energy and expertise made life-long friendships for himself and DWRC throughout the world. He retired from active duty in October, 1986 and died of cancer on May 17, 1987. His was a brilliant life cut short.

He is survived by his wife, Bettee Lou, and son, George. They have requested that any contributions be made to Francis Kitonyo, Nairobi, Kenya (c/o International Programs Section, DWRC Flower Fund) to continue John's dedication to combatting world hunger.

WALT NELSON

Another old timer died in a nursing home in Twin Falls (ID) November 15, 1987. Walt was born in Mt. Vernon (WA) September 16, 1900 but moved to Idaho as a boy of 12. He was a bounty trapper for a while until he went to work for USFWS in Duchesne (UT). He was a trapper and district supervisor in Price and Vernal areas (UT) and very well-liked by his cooperators. He retired to Twin Falls (ID) in 1965. He was survived by his wife, Nellie, and daughter, Lena Thomas, and 9 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

BEAR WITH ME

While some folks in Arizona may think that black bears do not eat sheep (see THE PROBE #77, p4), the woolgrowers (and trappers) in eastern Idaho know better. In fact they would be happy to give those misinformed Arizona city folks (they couldn't possibly be anything else) a tour of their summer range so they could learn the truth firsthand. Several Idaho woolgrowers have told me that bears were more of a problem on the National Forests in the late 1970's than were coyotes. A few years back a friend was losing sheep on an allotment south of Swan Valley. The herder blamed coyotes as he didn't think there were any bears in the area. However, we found a sow black bear and 2 yearlings on his range. We know they were killing lambs because we caught one in the act and recovered fresh lamb from the stomach of his brother. Unfortunately, before the bear problem was solved, coyotes had take over management of the flock.

GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, Boise, ID.

They call it takehome pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the activity reports of APHIS, TRAPLINE (TX), TRAPPER'S JAW (NM), etc. 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.

ARMADILLO: (LA) Large numbers of armadillos were plowing up a one acre clover research plot at the LSU Idlewild Research Station. Shooting has not been too effective. They are investigating insect control.

EGRET: (LA) At a country club one or more great egrets are defecating on a putting green. The green cost \$60,000 to build and \$52 per repair as the fresh droppings killed the grass at each location. The greenskeeper was provided bird-scare devices.

IBIS: (LA) Recently, Ibis have begun to appear in large numbers and are causing considerable problems to crawfish producers.

OWL: (LA) A raiser of fighting cocks lost nine roosters valued at \$300 to owls. As the birds were free-roaming, it was suggested they be kept in completely enclosed pens of poultry mesh.

SKUNK: (LA) More than 30 striped skunks have been seen on the Lafayette Regional Airport in the past month. They have also been undermining the storm sewer system with their burrows. Night shooting, trapping, and gas cartridges have been recommended.

I wonder what kind of sex it takes to produce so much paper work ?

MEETIN'S

53RD NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONF., Mar. 1-3 in Louisville (KY). Contact: Wildl. Mgt. Inst., 1101 4th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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.

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.

INTERNATIONAL UNGULATE BEHAVIOR & MANAGEMENT CONF., May 1-22, 1988 at Texas A & M University. Any aspect of ungulate behavior and management. Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Mungall, 342 Double Tree Dr., Lewisville, TX 75067.

Where there's a will there's a way - of breaking it.

SQUIRRELLY SWEETS

A British research project into why gray squirrels strip bark off trees which is not particularly beneficial to their health came up with the conclusion that the trees most severely damaged were those with the thickest sap-transporting tissue. Hunger, often cited as motivation, did not seem to fit the bill, since none of the squirrels examined showed signs of malnutrition. The vandalism was also more widespread in wooded areas with a high population of young squirrels which are apt to mimic the actions of their peers. Squirrels that acquire a taste for tree sap will persist in vandalizing trees to obtain it. Thanx to LYN FIEDLER (DWRC, Denver (CO)) and INSIGHT, 2/87.

You have to give Americans a lot of credit. How else could they buy all that stuff ?

READIN'

MANAGING SERVICE FOR SUCCESS (1987) John R. Beck, etal., IPMC, 3631 W. Pasadena, Phoenix (AZ) 85019 \$28 (postpaid).

This is a 120-page paperback relating to the business aspects of pest control.

Beck takes a nuts and bolts approach to the management of a pest control business in easily understood terms. The point is made that the industry faces challenges that change continuously so that managers must remain flexible while following certain principles of good business administration. The authors predict that many of the regulations forced on the industry by the environmental lobbies that restrict pest control activities today will be lost in a long-term economic recession when the public awakes to the actual expense of these "fads".

NATURE AND ANIMAL WELFARE: BOTH ARE MISUNDERSTOOD, (1987) Walter E. Howard, 24 College Park, Davis, CA 95616, \$10 (postpaid). See attached flyer.

Politics is a very promising career.

WE PAUSE FOR STATION BREAK

Attached is a flyer for CRITTER CONTROL. These people joined NADCA at the Eastern Conference. They had a most attractive exhibit covering their urban wildlife management services.

Youth is stranger than fiction.

WE WON ONE !

Judge E.J. Shea (MA) ruled that Massachusetts ban on using steel-jaw traps on land (they can be used only under water) did not apply to the Soft Catch trap. The Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Dept. which brought the suit is appealing the case. If they lose their appeal, it is felt that Shea's decision will have great impact on trapping laws not only in Massachusetts but around the country. (WILDL. LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMER., UPDATE, Sept. 87).

If you get your teenager to tell you everything, you'll soon be a nervous wreck.

LETTERS TO YE ED

MONTE DODSON, rtd. USFWS, Cookston, OK:

I heard a radio broadcast relating to the elimination of 30,000 animals by the Humane Society over the past year in Tarrant County (TX). In the words of the Society the only crime committed by these animals were being homeless. I'm not knocking the Society's mission as we all

recognize the necessity of this form of animal control. I just wish they could equally recognize our mission. These folks are some of the strongest opponents of trapping and wildlife control.

When you consider the magnitude of what they kill nationwide, it must be an impressive figure. Let's add up the number of animals they have killed over the last ten years and set it alongside the numbers we've killed. They kill animals because no one wants to feed them. Well, we kill coyotes because we don't want to feed them either. Nuff sed !

JOHN C. MEYERS, rtd. USFWS, Oklahoma City, OK:

Not much news from this pad, at least the kids are working. Vel just submitted material for inclusion in a forthcoming book, OKLAHOMA ARTISTS, probably a year away. Bill, I most sincerely appreciate all that you and all the officers are doing, especially the time you obviously have to spend on the newsletter. For those of us out of the "main stream" it is our prime source of what is happening with (to and by) the outfit.

JUPE MEANS, rancher, Buckhorn (NM):

Enclosed find check for \$120.00 - patron membership for myself and two gift subscriptions for two of my neighbors. I like your PROBE very much and I sure like the sense of humor between the subjects. We are proud of you.

RAY MATHENY, EPA, Washington, DC:

Another year's gone by. You undoubtedly are aware of the Endangered Species Labeling Project. It has stirred much discussion. At least it has Agency/users/industry/environmental groups interacting. Full implementation is miles away because of inherent problems. Some States have opted to prepare their own state plan to protect listed species from pesticidal impacts. There are some thorny problems, i.e., mapping plant species, with an effort of this magnitude. Of course, politics enters the picture to further complicate issues. I'm reminded of the saying:

"For every problem under the sun
There is an answer or there is none.

If there be one, find it !

If there be none, never mind it !"

(There may not be answers to some of our problems.)

*Out of the mouths of babes come words,
we shouldn't have uttered in their
hearing.*

VETS VS. TRAPS

The American Veterinary Medical Assoc. Executive Board revised its position statement on traps to the following: "The AVMA is aware that many veterinarians have seen the results of children and domestic pets being inadvertently caught and/or injured in steel-jaw leghold traps...AVMA encourages continuing efforts to develop acceptable alternatives so that the use of steel-jaw leghold traps can be discontinued." The Board statement was made without prior assignment to the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee and without expert involvement, indicating that the Board has been influenced by animal right extremist groups, particularly with the reference to children. "We have met the enemy and they is us." NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOC. 12/87 NTA Newsletter.

*Love makes the world go 'round. So
does a swaller of tobbafer.*

TRY AGAIN, FITZ !

Your "rebuttal" to comments I made in the last PROBE about guard dogs seems to miss the mark a bit ! (1) Using your ire regarding "Animal Rightists" as a reason to kick guard dogs simply doesn't convey a professional ADC attitude. Guard dogs can either be effective in deterring coyote predation or they can not. Animal Rightists don't have anything to do about it. The evidence says that in many instances they are effective. (2) The ADC Program is getting into the guard dog program on its' own. Why else would they be trying to put Jeff Green on the payroll to coordinate dog placement activities in Idaho and Wyoming? And what about the guard dog program in Oregon (careful, Fitz, it's bait!). (3) Your comments about somebody being scared by a guard dog sounds like a paraphrase out of some protectionist article. All you have to do is substitute 'coyote getter', 'bear trap', 'toxic collar', or some other ADC tool in place of 'guard dog' and the ring is very familiar. There are liability risks associated with any ADC tool (particularly if not used properly) and ignorance about the tools frequently translates into fear. If you want something to be 'frosted' about,

think about the fact that we had the information about the dogs and the Program chose to ignore or ridicule them, which gave the ARs an issue in which they were right ! Now they feel justified in rubbing our noses in it ! FRED KNOWLTON, NADCA RDII, Logan, UT.

*Dogs are dumb animals, but look who
works so hard to feed them !*

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

WANT ANOTHER OPINION, FRED?

On a farm in western Massachusetts, Ray Coppinger raises sheep dogs trained to control coyote depredations. As he is working on a government grant, he is somewhat nervous about getting Senator Proxmire's GOLDEN FLEECE AWARD (given to prize examples of government waste). "More and more, politicians rather than scientists are deciding who gets federal research money...Lobbyists have entered the scene. Political contributions are greasing the skids. Presidents of major universities...are worried about future funding...They ask how the nation's best interests can be served if science funding becomes a spoils system." Work like Coppinger's only costs \$180,000 so far and it is welcomed by environmentalists, but Coppinger admits the funding would not have happened without the intercession of Rep. Sylvio O. Conte (R-MA) and other members of Congress. Thanx to DWIGHT LEBLANC, APHIS LA State Director, and SUNDAY ADVOCATE (Baton Rouge, LA - 11/87) (You didn't think I'd give up easily on this did you, Fred?)

COYOTE CONTROL BY AIR

Coyotes are becoming more conspicuous in Nebraska since the State cut ADC funding. One ran its last race that ended in a tie with a Boeing 737 on the Lincoln airstrip. They had to abort the flight to check the plane's front landing gear, but it proved stronger than the coyote. I know we use Pipers' and choppers in coyote control, but a 737?! Bit of overkill wouldn't you say? In another incident coyotes backed a thoroughbred horse worth \$30,000 into a fence and mauled it so severely the horse had to be destroyed. Thanx to MIKE FALL (DWRC, Denver (CO)) and THE DENVER POST Dec. 87.

GOOSEBUSTERS

Ft. Collins (CO) is looking for

"goosebusters". The resident flock of 3-7,000 geese are swelled to more than ten times that number with the annual migration. Besides being traffic hazards, they make golf greens slippery obstacle courses. As the Colorado Div. of Wildlife can't be everywhere, they have been giving shell crackers, etc. to golf course maintenance personnel. These arouse objections from nearby residents to be awakened at dawn when every morning is the Fourth of July (Bob's course is mentioned as one place which is why he sent me the article - a case of whose ox is being gored.) Thank to BOB ISAAC (rtd. USFWS, Ft. Collins, CO) and FORT COLLINS COLORADAN 11/87

P.A.W.S.

Cuteness is in if you want to get the suckers to contribute. Performing Animal Welfare Society is another California snakeoil operation. JOHN MAESTRELLI (APHIS, Fair Oaks, CA) sent me their Christmas wish list to support their animals. These range from \$350/month to support "Seymour the Grizzly Bear", \$140 for "Spike the Cougar", \$90 for "Rick-O-Shay the bobcat", but what got John was the \$125/month for "Spook the coyote". He figures what's about one and a quarter lambs.

After all is said and done - some still say a lot.

PERSONNEL

RON JOHNSON, NADCA RD V, Lincoln, NE reports a new addition, Ian Faulkner (6 lbs. 13 Oz.). He hasn't said much yet but has kept his eye on the house sparrows in the backyard.

HOWARD TIETJEN retired this November from the DWRC and is moving to Grand Junction (607 Glacier Dr., 81503). Howard was born in NYC but after working for Winchester Repeating Arms Physics Dept., a tour in the U.S. Army in Germany, and summer jobs with the USFWS in Utah and Colorado, he got his degree in wildlife management from Colorado State Univ. in 1960. He came to DWRC in 1961 working on range and agricultural rodent control. He became Project Leader for this when the Mammal Section was organized in 1968. Since 1981 he has been in the Predator Studies Branch concentrating on pesticide registration for predator control. His most recent project was the successful

development of baiting techniques for the eradication of introduced arctic foxes on Kiska Island in the Aleutians. His skills and knowledge about firearms, range plant identification, and editing will be sorely missed by the Center. Good luck, Howard.

Impossible problems don't disrupt my routine - they are my routine.

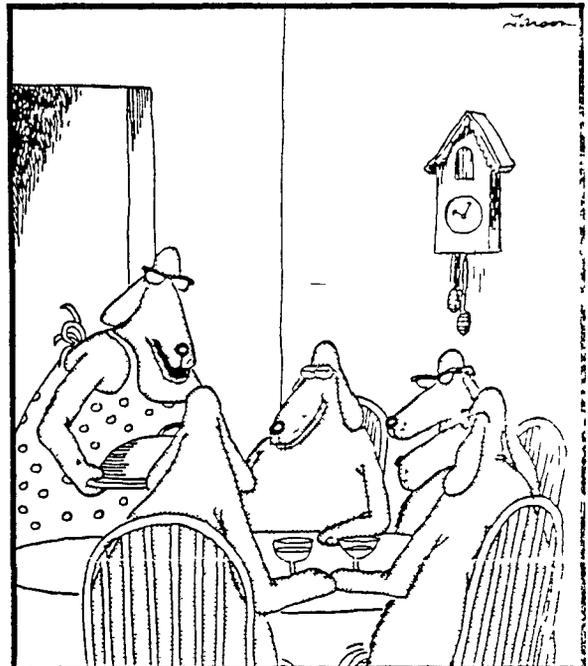
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YE ED -

William D. Fitzwater

A REMINDER -
DUES GO UP TO \$15
FOR ALL ACTIVES
AS OF JANUARY 1, 1988
GET IN UNDER THE WIRE
FOR A REAL BARGAIN !

MERRY CHRISTMAS



"Now, I want you all to know this cat's not from the market—Rusty caught it himself."



'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE XMAS
AND ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE,
THERE WERE BOTTLES 'N BUTTS
LEFT AROUND BY SOME LOUSE.

AND THE BEST FIFTH I'D HIDDEN
BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE
HAD BEEN SNATCHED BY SOME BUM,
WHO'D FOUND IT RIGHT THERE.

MY PALS, GUYS 'N GALS, HAD
BEEN POURED IN THEIR BEDS,
TO WAKE IN THE MORNING
WITH HUNG OVER HEADS.

MY MOUTH, FULL OF COTTON,
DROPPED DOWN WITH A SNAP
BECAUSE I WAS DYING
FOR ONE WEE NITECAP.



WHEN THRU THE SOUTH WINDOW
THERE CAME SUCH A YELL,
I SPRANG TO MY FEET TO SEE
WHAT THE HELL...

AND WHAT TO MY BLOODSHOT
EYES SHOULD I SEE,
BUT EIGHT DRUNKEN REINDEER
CAUGHT IN A TREE.



WAY 'MONGST THE BRANCHES,
WAS A MAN WITH A SLEIGH
I SAW IT WAS SANTA,
QUITE OILED AND GAY.

STAGGERING NEARER THOSE
EIGHT REINDEER CAME,
WHILE HE HICCUPED AND BELCHED
AND CALLED THEM BY NAME:

"ON WHISKEY! ON VODKA!
WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!
YOU TOO, GIN AND BRANDY
NOW ALL DO IT RIGHT!

CLAMBER UP ON THE ROOF
GET THE HELL OFF THIS WALL,
GET GOING YOU RUMMIES!"
WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG HAUL!"



SO UP ON THE ROOF WENT
THE REINDEER AND SLEIGH
BUT A TREE BRANCH HIT SANTA
BEFORE HE COULD SWAY.

AND THEN TO MY EARS LIKE
THE ROLL OF A BARREL,
A HELL OF A NOISE THAT WAS
NO CHRISTMAS CAROL.

SO I PULLED IN MY HEAD
AND COCKED A SHARP EAR,
DOWN THE CHIMNEY HE PLUNGED
LANDING SMACK ON HIS REAR.

HE WAS DRESSED ALL IN RED
AND WHITE FUR FOR A TRIM,
THE WAY SANTA SWAYED
HE WAS TANKED TO THE BRIM.



THE SACK ON HIS BACK HELD
NOTHING BUT BOOZE
AND THE BREATH THAT HE BLEW
ALMOST PUT ME TO SNOOZE.

HE WAS BOTH PLUMP AND CHUBBY
AND TRIED TO STAND RIGHT,
BUT HE DIDN'T FOOL ME
HE WAS HIGH AS A KITE!

HE SPOKE NOT A WORD
BUT WENT STRAIGHT TO WORK
AND MISSED HALF THE STOCKING;
THE PLASTERED OLD JERK

THEN PUTTING HIS THUMB
TO THE END OF HIS NOSE,
HE FLUTTERED HIS FINGERS
AS HE QUOTED PROSE.

A SPRING FOR HIS SLEIGH
AT SO HASTY A PACE,
TRIPPED HIM UP ON A SHINGLE
AND HE FELL ON HIS FACE.

BUT I HEARD HIM BURP BACK
AS HE PASSED OUT OF SIGHT
MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU LUSHES,
NOW REALLY GET TIGHT!"



**National
Animal
Damage
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Association**



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