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The Probe, Issue 91 - March 1989

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THE PROBE

National Animal Damage Control Association

MARCH 1989 **NUMBER 91**

NADCA MUSICAL CHAIRS

We regretfully accepted the resignation of NADCA RDIII GUY CONNOLLY last month. Guy, somewhat reluctantly, is leaving Twin Falls to become a big wheel in the Denver group. His talents have long been recognized and it was only a matter of how long he could resist the pressure. So while he is moving out of NADCA Region III and is thus ineligible to be a Director, we hope he will continue to support NADCA as he has in the past. We wish him the best of luck in this new assignment.

To replace him, NORTON MINER agreed to come out of retirement and take over the job again until the 1990 election. Norton was the first NADCA Region III Director until it started to interfere too much with his hunting and fishing and we persuaded Guy to take over. Welcome back, Norton. As of now NADCA affairs in Region III will be handled by:

Norton Miner
3055 Vista Lane
Laurel, MT 59044

- GEORGE S. ROST, Pres. NADCA

Nothing is quite so annoying as to have someone go right on talking when you're interrupting.

KITTY LITTER

Farm cats' feeding habits are being studied in Wisconsin to see the impact they have on rural wildlife. Earlier research suggests Wisconsin may have more than 1 million cats which kill as many as 400 million animals per year. Most of these are small rodents but at least 100 million of these are song birds. They are directly in competition with kestrels in that kestrel populations decline in proportion to cat populations. WISCONSIN TRAILS OCT. 88 p16

THURMAN BOOTH (APHIS (AR)) sent in a letter to the editor response to the previous letter concerning the destruction of 2,829 cats in Little Rock animal pond. "These precious little animals do not even have a sporting chance...A cat carries no guns, knives, or drugs to harm people...Give it a home wih loving care and reap the rewards of its affections...St. Louis had rats as large as cats in the garbage bins because there were no cats to control them...Cats also kill snakes and, of course, birds if they can catch one." *(Need I add that the above comments do not necessarily express the opinions of this Editor?)*

Ann: I need your help to get a cat out of a tree.
Bill: Why? You're as good a shot as I am.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

(The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPER'S JAW, etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.)

ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN: (TX) ADC has been asked to do some more predator work on a refuge for this endangered species. Leaflets provided the public at the refuge now have a section explaining the importance of predator control.

BEAVER: (LA) In response to a complaint of beaver around private ponds, traps were set and caught two nutria, one beaver, and one pet duck. No damage has since been reported and roast muscovy is hard to beat! *(I'm going to miss that LEBLANC when he becomes a flyboy!)*

COOTS: (NM) Duck and coot damage reported to be about $1000 at a golf course near Albuquerque is being slowed with the removal of 158 coots with a tranquilizer.

COYOTES: (TX) Four coyotes from Andrews County and one from Upton County have tested positive for plague, but no rodent die-offs have been noted in the area.

(TX) GLYNN RILEY provided one of his trappers with some good ole 'slide-in-bait' to take care of some problem coyotes from a non-cooper- ating ranch across Highway 377. The trapper supposedly put the bait on the yellow stripe in the road and so far two coyotes were killed on the highway and another hung up in the fence trying to get to the stripe. That's Texas!

FERAL HOGS: (TX) After 30 head of cattle died from pseudorabies, an aerial hunting team wiped out 67 feral hogs which are the principal reservoir of the virus in the wild. The rancher put up an electric fence around the feedlot and so far has lost no more cattle.

MOUNTAIN LION: (NM) An APHIS trapper reported that some kids ran over a mountain lion cub near his house. In checking, the trapper found tracks of a female and two cubs going right through his front yard towards the highway. He lives on the outskirts of a medium-sized New Mexico town some 80 miles south of Albuquerque. In another incident a lion that killed a lamb on DAVID KINCAID's ranch was taken by another trapper. As Mr. Kincaid has been a generous supporter of NADCA for several years, we're glad to note that he gets some return for his support.

(TX) An ADC trapper called to take a "lion" killing goats found a Great Dane cross (light brown with a long tail) caught in his trap.

PIGEONS: (TX) Seven racing pigeons worth $2,000 were killed by a predator. An ADC trapper ended the problem when she caught a mink.

(I hate to take on more reading but it would sure be nice if the other APHIS offices would send me copies of their activity reports. Hell! The stamps don't come out of your pockets!)

You never get a second chance to make a good impression.

MEETIN'S

NINTH GREAT PLAINS WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL WORKSHOP. Apr. 18-20, 1989, in Colo. State Univ., Ft.Collins, CO. The theme is CHALLENGE OF THE 90'S - PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE (special sessions on Big Game & Urban Problems). Contact: WILLIAM ANDELT, Colo. Coop. Ext. Sv. (303) 491-7093.

FOURTH EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE, Sept. 24-27, 1989 at The Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. Call for papers. Contact: JIM WINNAT, APHIS-ADC, 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie WI 53590; TOM HAUGE, WI Dept. Nat. Resources, POB 7921, Madison,WI 53707; or Scott Craven, Ext. Wildl. Spec., 215 Russell Labs, Madison, WI 53706.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE IN VERTEBRATE PEST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Aug. 14-27, 1989 at Colo. State Univ. Contact: Julius Nagy, Dept. Fish & Wild Biol., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

FOURTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 6-8, 1990 in Sacramento, CA (Red Lion Inn). Contact: Dr. Terrell Salmon, Wildl. Ext., Univ. Calif.-Davis, CA 95616.

IN MEMORIAL

Jim Worthen (father of Mike Worthen APHIS Idaho) died earlier this year after a long bout with cancer. He had been a barber before becoming a trapper for PARC in southern Utah in the fifties. During his years of service he got his B.S. degree in wildlife management at Utah State University. He also worked for the USFWS in Nebraska but returned to Colorado until retirement. He and his wife, Wilma, then retired to New Harmony, Utah.

Fred Dasch, father of Gary Dasch (Denver WRC), died February 21st. Fred had been a mammal control agent for old PARC and was one last of old-time trappers in Colorado. Before coming to Colorado he had been an earthmover working on the Alcan Highway. On his retirement from USFWS, he and his wife, Katie, lived in Brighton, Colorado.

ULYSESSES SIMPSON WALLACE died February 24th in Prairie View, Texas. He had been hired by MILT CAROLINE in the sixties. "U.S." had a B.S. and M.S. from Prairie View A & M College and was a very effective ADC agent working as a Wildlife Biologist out of the College Station District. He was an avid supporter of basketball and football in the local conference. "U.S." worked for APHIS-ADC until the week before he died. A member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and the Masonic Lodge, he left his wife, Gladys, two daughters and five grandchildren.

(I would really appreciate backgrounds on our old comrades who pass on. After all I read the local obituaries each morning to make sure I'm still around.)

Cooperation is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway.

NOW HEAR THIS!

(Practical tips from ADC fieldmen.)

Billy J. Bass (APHIS-ADC Fort Worth (TX) District): In the sixties we had to contend with 'wolves' which were a mix between red wolves, coyotes, and had some dog blood mixed in. These were much prettier and larger animals than the coyotes we have today. They were more likely to kill calves, but were twice as easy to trap and three times easier to take with M-44s than today's coyote. If I had started out against these smart-asses with my limited experience, I might not have made it. They are smart and any one-type bait has not been the answer to my problems. I'll start out with baits, but if I have a hard old coyote that really has to go, I'll end up with urine on a pile of droppings. I make all my M-44 bait and will use anything that works - mine or anybody else's. The best commercial baits I've ever used are Herb Lennon (ALL CALL, Gulliver (MI)) and Russ Carman (TRAIL'S END, New Milford (PA)). A novice trapper can catch coyotes with these if he gets his trap clean and sets it correctly. The thing I can't ever do in steel trapping is get into a rut or pattern. I need always to come up with different techniques, bait scents, or anything these particular coyotes haven't been exposed to.

The trapping here has changed from coyote to beaver so much that I would be foolish not to know that beaver are what is keeping my job here. Some times we have coyotes in the area that don't cause problems, but beaver always cause problems. The worse sources of beaver in Harrison County are the large public waters. Beaver move readily and trapping is much harder work physically than coyote trapping. Slogging through water with rubber chest waders that increase your body temperature in summer and lower it in winter, plus all the other delights like drowning, stinging bees and wasps, reliable "Old Scratch" the cottonmouth water moccasin, and the ever present mosquitoes make you really love dirt trapping the coyote. Back in 1964 BUCK ADAY met some wheels from the Parks and Wildlife Department about the beaver problems just starting. Buck wanted them to remove the beaver from the protected list and wipe them out before the problem got worse. He told them, "If we don't control beaver, within the next twenty years, they'll become a bigger problem than the coyote in East Texas." The game department people replied, "We will not remove

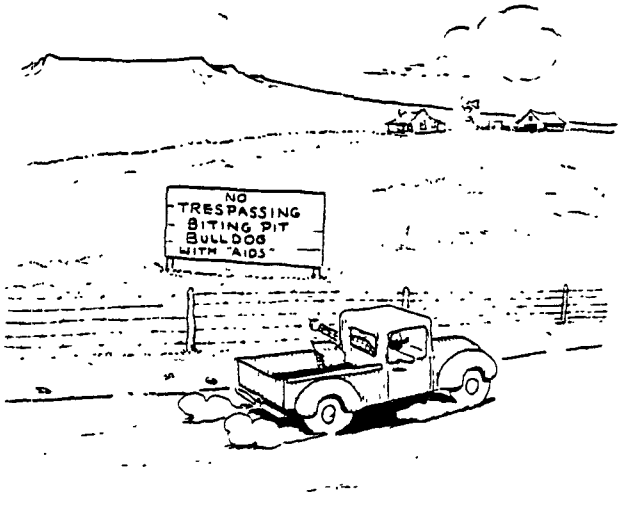
beaver from the protected lists. Should they ever become a problem our people will take care of them." Funny thing, in my working beaver I've never run into any of these people in the waters I work. Strange indeed!!

This article is my personal opinion only; and anything resembling common sense is probably purely coincidental. TEXAS TRAPLINE.

You know you're growing old when your problem isn't resisting temptation, but finding it.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Several years ago it was suggested that the human AIDS virus was related to a disease of monkeys in Africa. It was found that while half the population of green monkeys have the virus they do not become ill from it like humans. The virus varies between different species of monkeys so the key to finding a cure may lie in finding a good monkey model. Speaking of "monkey model" maybe the Animal Rightists will volunteer themselves to save their precious monkeys. Thanx to MILT CAROLINE NADCA RD1V & SAN ANTONIO (TX) EXPRESS-NEWS, 03/03/89.



Maybe this will git their attention!

An auction is a dangerous place where you can get something for nodding.

SO TAKE A CHANCE INSTEAD:

All you gamblin' types don't have to worry about getting "something for nodding" here. You've got to be fully awake to cash in on the opportunity of getting one hell of a fine book. Attached you'll find some tickets. For one buck per ticket or five bucks for six tickets you can enter your name in the pot for a copy of the outstanding definitive work on trapping in North America - - WILD FURBEARER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN NORTH AMERICA. This 10.5-pound, 1100+ pages beauty will be given away to the ticket winner at the NINTH GREAT PLAINS WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONFERENCE in Ft. Collins, CO April 18-21.

It will be pulled out in front of a big audience so I can't be accused of any shady deals. If you feel really lucky or have a lucky friend, buy some more tickets as I'll be glad to sell any number. Write your name and address in the proper place on the back of the ticket and send it back to me with the proper amount of money by April 15th. Keep the stub and if you aren't at the meeting, we'll send it to you, you lucky person.

This book is an uptodate, authorative treatise on all aspects of North American furbearers, published by the Ontario (Canada) trappers association. It discusses biology, management, and conservation of every carnivore species from mink to polar bear, even the cats of Central America, plus some rodents and the opossum. There are in-depth papers on management techniques of the various species, excellently illustrated sections on pelt handling and grading, traps and trap research, management plans, tranquilizing, and many more little goodies. The book sells for $75.00 plus $8.00 shipping.

We wish to thank the REED-JOSEPH COMPANY who in addition to their generous support for NADCA in the past made a special gift of this volume for our raffle. Get your bird bang-bangs from them!

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.

NEW PRODUCTS

BIRDER'S WORLD, 7800 E. 8th St., Holland, MI 49423. Subscription price $25/year/6 issues.
While this is in its second year of publication, it was just brought to my attention. Though the articles are of little interest to a basic ADC type, the reproduction of bird photographs on this slick paper magazine are some of the best I've ever seen.

BATSKAT, POB 2221, Williamsport, PA 17703 $49.50 postpaid.
This consists of four artificial flies on fish hooks suspended on a slowly rotating "fan". According to instructions, you can tie the flies with a slip knot so the bats can pull off and fly away to eventually die or tie the fly securely. In the latter case the bat goes around until exhausted then drop him into a bag and cut the leader. *(I wonder when the humane society will catch up on this one? As the only success story lies in a couple of shaky testimonials, I question the efficacy as bats generally tune in their radar on insect wingbeat sounds.)*

NEW MOUSETRAP that leaves them breathless. Hudson Devices, Inc., Carol Stream, IL is peddling a mouse trap that baits a mouse into a chamber. Once in, the mouse trips a sensor that causes the chamber to lift up and dumps him into a plastic bag. A pump replaces the oxygen with carbon dioxide, suffocating the rodent in three minutes. (ALBUQUERQUE (NM) TRIBUNE 02/20/89)

BIRD BARRIER - 18811 Crenshaw Place Room #101, Torrance, CA 90504.
This is a new ledge repellent for birds resembling a kid's "slinky" toy. It is a stainless steel, flexible coil that can be attached to bird perch sites with a metal strip.

An optimist is someone who tells you to cheer up when things are going his way.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

THAT'S REALLY A CROCK
Bujang Senang claimed his 13th victim in ten years in Malayisa according to newspaper accounts. A native fisherman was standing up in a small boat when the "King of the Crocodiles" attacked the boat, knocking him in the water, and with the help of two smaller crocs demolished him. B.S. is about 23 feet long and over three feet wide. He is reputedly more than 140 years old. While the police scoured the area with sharpshooters they never saw him. On a previous killing in 1982 they called on local witch doctors without success to charm him into being captured. Any of you 'Crocodile Dundee' types interested in getting the raw material for fancy boots? ALBUQUERQUE (NM) TRIBUNE 02/23/89.

*****

MERGER
The NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSN. and the AMERICAN SHEEP PRODUCERS COUNCIL have finally completed their merger and will now be known as the AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSN. (ASI). Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY NADCA RDIII & LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 01/26/89.

*****

WE WON ANOTHER!!!
The Massachusetts Supreme Court has opened up the way for trapping to resume in that State. By unanimous vote the judges upheld a lower Court ruling that the padded, or Soft Catch, trap differs significantly from the conventional steel-jaw trap. The Mass. Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement *(With a name like that what could you expect?)* arrested a trapper using a padded trap on the grounds it violated a 1974 law banning the steel-jaw trap. Thanx to the WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA (WLFA) (UPDATE Winter 1989).

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BULL OR NO BULL
A Zapata County rancher was missing a bull and assumed it died in the pasture. The bull was dead alright but it wandered into a neighbor's pasture and got eaten. The bull got its revenge, however, as before it became demised, it spread fever ticks on the neighbor's place resulting in a quarantine on that part of the county. Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY NADCA RDIII & LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 01/26/89.

*****

MAN'S BEST FRIEND?
Tom Estampa (96) stood in shocked disbelief at what had happened in his pet peafowl pen - 21 dead birds torn apart by two dogs that jumped the fence and found a hole in the top to get at the birds. The dogs couldn't get out so they - a pit bull and a large mixed breed - were shot. Feral dog packs are a serious problem in Sacramento County (CA). Estampa is no stranger to ADC. Egrets once ate up all his Koi. CALIF. APHIS & SACRAMENTO (CA) BEE 02/23/89.

Juvenile delinquency is the result of parents trying to raise children without starting at the bottom.

PERSONNEL

I goofed. After mentioning that FRED KNOWLTON had a job opening available, I forgot to give the details:
BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN (ADC RESEARCH). Starting salary $15,738 in Logan (UT). The assignment is to study coyote biology and behavior to develop more effective depredation control techniques and procedures. Contact FRED KNOWLTON, USDA/APHIS/ADC, Utah State Univ., Logan (UT) 84322-5295. Tel: (801) 750-2505.

While NADCA is playing musical chairs, top honors goes to USDA-APHIS-ADC. BILL CLAY moved from Texas to North Dakota (hope they issued him some thermal underwear) to replace LARRY HANDEGARD who moved to Montana. ALTON DUNAWAY came from Tennessee to be Asst. State Director in Texas and is expected to get a big bang out of the shift (he is an explosives expert). PHIL MASTRANGELO moved from being an Italian squash picker in Texas to a mountain man in West Virginia. BOB BEACH is leaving the Land of Enchantment to disenchantment in Hyattsville (MD) where he'll be of wider value to us on the ADC Operational Support Staff. It's official, C. Joe Packham is USDA Deputy Administrator-ADC and Bobby R. Acord is Assoc. Deputy Administrator-ADC. Jack Parnell has been nominated as USDA Deputy Secretary. He is Chief of California Dept. of Food & Agriculture with a background as a rancher and State Director of Fish & Wildlife so he should be sympathetic to ADC. I hope you all enjoy your moves. Remember to send me your new addresses.

An egotist isn't all bad - at least he doesn't go around talking about other people.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???.

(This is Fitzwater's personal vendetta against the Animal Rights (AR) creeps so you purists can skip it.)
A representative of PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA) got the U.S. Coast Guard to take six lobsters she had "rescued" from a Washington, D.C. restaurant and turn them loose 15 miles off the coast of Maine. This was well-covered by the media, of course. *(Knowing the 'expertise' of these people, I wonder if she realizes red lobsters don't swim very well.)* WLFA (UPDATE Winter '89).

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California is finally challenging local authorities taking over management regulations from the State Fish & Game Department. They are asking Santa Cruz County officials to repeal an ordinance outlawing traps in the county. The State law clearly gives this authority to the Fish & Game, but at least five other counties have attempted to regulate this within their political bondaries.

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All terrorists don't bow to Mecca as evidenced by a recent book, "Ecodefense". This describes itself as a "field guide to monkey wrenching" and is designed for use by environmental extremists who want to sabotage Western ranch operations. It recommends cutting fences, vandalizing watering facilities, moving salt blocks, and spiking roads. It warns saboteurs not to get caught as "local law enforcement agencies are usually sympathetic to the ranchers" and stockmen might administer a little justice on their own. Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY NADCA RDIII, Twin Falls (ID) & LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 01/26/89 p16.

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SAVE THE BUNNIES
McClellan Air Force Base has raised the ire of the Humane Society of the U.S. and Animal Allies (a new one) by staging a jackrabbit drive with 60 hunters. The AFB spokesman says the jacks hide in the shade alongside the runway and bolt across it when disturbed. While the potential of getting tangled up in the

landing gear of high performance jets is possible, they have never caused an accident. So the ARs prefer to have this happen before combing out the hares. I wish they'd send me a followup on this event, but the media gets most of its jollies starting trouble and pays no attention to a follow up after they sell their papers. The military claims they are going to take 400-500 jacks but will probably end up with about a dozen.

++++++++++++++

SAVE THE PRAIRIE DOGS

"In a Northeast Heights vacant lot, 12 families of prairie dogs sleep peacefully for the winter while 20 elementary students fight for the rodents' lives." That tear-jerker introduction on the front page of the ALBUQUERQUE (NM) TRIBUNE 03/07/89 starts another emotional appeal by a kookie teacher indoctinating young minds with Greenpeace literature. A couple of fast-food chains want to build on the lot so the dogs have to go *(not that I'm that sympathetic to fast food emporiums).* The kids get a lot of practice, as they have written the Long John Silver chain about purchasing fish from whaling nations (only to find out the fish come from Canada which is not a whaling nation) and to McDonald's cattle-raising activities in South America which they believe may contribute to destruction of rain forests. We really need a counter-action propaganda program to offset this propaganda.

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British Columbia has proposed new legislation that will permit the continuation of the wolf control program in the northern part of the province that was halted by court action last winter brought on by the ARs. Thanx to PINK MADSEN rtd. NADCA RDII, Florence, AZ. & THE TRAPPER & PREDATOR CALLER 11/88.

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It's hard to believe but I do try to bring out all the information I get on both sides of a story. L. Hirsch, President of United States Surgical Corp, Norwalk (CN), the Norwalk police, and a private security concern may have entrapped Fran S. Trutt who is resting in jail after the aborted bomb scare at USSC. That's what the ARs are claiming anyway. Hirsch admits hiring informers to infiltrate animal welfare groups that have a terroristic history. A Westport window washer, Marc Mead (30) helped Trutt (33) transport the bomb to the USSC parking lot and was with her when she was arrested, but he has not been charged in the case. The FBI found two more bombs in Trutt's Queens apartment and are looking for any accomplices who helped her build the radio-controlled bomb filled with roofing nails. NEW YORK TIMES 01/26/89 p. C-18.

++++++++++++++

Guests at a People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) benefit in Sacramento abandoned their furs at least for the evening. A "Barry Sky" wore multicolored high-top tennis shoes with his tux as a protest. But the star of the evening was Michael Jackson's chimp, Bubbles, who did his thing on a hairdresser named Robin Weir *(That's a chimp with good taste!).* Bubbles had to go upstairs and change out of his red corduroy jumpsuit; Robin didn't have another tux. Dr. Jane Goodall was paid $15,000 to be there, but she refused to attend the all-veggie meal and accept an award because she believes that chimps belong in the wild - so there PETA!

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The trouble with people who talk too fast is they often say something they haven't thought of yet.

EDITORIAL

Some of you are receiving THE PROBE for the first time. Your names were submitted by NADCA members as being interested in ADC work and thus potential members. This is just a one shot deal and no high pressure salesmen will call on you. I try to put out an interesting and informative newsletter (10/year) for professional ADCers and others who have a direct or indirect association with the field. We think it is a good organization dedicated to the advancement of the profession. For its small size it has accomplished much in its ten years of life, but it is sadly in need of more support from the rank and file. The $15.00 it costs a year is about the price of three fancy hamburgers today and has much less cholesterol.....sooooo?!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NATIONAL
ANIMAL
DAMAGE
CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

YES, I'D LIKE TO JOIN.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

INTEREST/OCCUPATION:

STUDENT $7.50 SPONSOR $30
ACTIVE 15.00 PATRON 100
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NADCA
NADCA, 3919 Altamonte NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Most of the oneliners in this issue are from BITS AND PIECES furnished by IRENE FAULKNER who felt I needed a little uplifting.

If you tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe, he'll believe you. But if you tell him a bench has just been painted, he has to touch it to be sure.

National
Animal
Damage
Control
Association
3919 Alta Monte, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

FORWARD & ADDRESS CORRECTION

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WILLIAM D. FITZWATER

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