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THE PROBE

National Animal Damage Control Association

JULY - AUGUST 1989 **NUMBER 94**

NADCA LOTTERY FLASH!

We mentioned another raffle in the last issue (#93) - another copy of that great Ontario Trapper's book (WILD FURBEARER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN NORTH AMERICA) provided through the generosity of J. BARTHELL JOSEPH, JR. of REED-JOSEPH COMPANY. In my haste to get that newsletter out of the way so I could enjoy a trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, last month I neglected another raffle item. "Pink" MADSEN (original NADCA RDII) has developed into a great whittler. He donated the beautiful howling coyote for our first raffle prize. Now he has whittled a good replica of a beaver on an aspen log. So if you haven't already done so, put in the raffle tickets sent you ($1.00 each; $5.00 for six). For the same price, the winner gets to choose between the beaver or the book and we'll draw another ticket for the second item. If you threw out your tickets, write and send me your money and I'll send you new tickets that will be entered in the raffle. Acceptance of entries closes September 18, 1989 so get to it. You don't have to be present to win as we'll notify the winners and deliver the prizes. Your chances to win something have just doubled! Incidentally, we have had an excellent response to the raffle so far, so keep 'em comin'.

Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.

WASHINGTON STATE APHIS CONF.

VP HOMER FORD gave this report:
The Washington State APHIS-ADC conference was held in Port Townsend (WA) June 27-30, 1989. This program is in transition from the Washington State Dept. of Wildlife back to a federal program in APHIS-USDA. State Director GARY OLDENBURG led an intensive training session covering everyday administrative responsibilities of field personnel, guard dog program, wildlife diseases/ transmission prevention, use of traps/ snares/calling, bird trapping/hazing/poisoning (DRC-1339), and rodent control. GUY CONNOLLY and John Cummings (DWRC) covered bird research, repellents, M-44s, and coyote behavior. DARREL GRETZ (APHIS-Denver RO) stressed safety and a safe working environment for all employees.

In FY88 an agreement with the Washington Dept. of Wildlife went into effect in which a major portion of eastern Washington State went back under APHIS-ADC. The rest of eastern Washington is soon to follow. It will probably take several more years before western Washington is integrated under the APHIS program. At present there are six personnel working in predator control, nine in bird control, plus the State office staff. One position in Alaska is now involved in oil spill work. Main thrust is on endangered species and airport safety. The need for bird work in Hawaii is growing in the areas of aquaculture, endangered species, airport safety, and agriculture. Feral pig control for public health and safety is also a

growing problem. Two interesting bird problems in the unit are protection of downriver salmon and steelhead smolts from gull predation and a health and safety program for hydroelectric employees working on walkways and ladders covered with fecal contamination from pigeons. A State Advisory Board with representation from cattlemen, woolgrowers, Farm Bureau, Horticulture Assn., and State Grange is assisting in the move from the State to Federal program by developing data as to program needs.

DARREL GRETZ walked away with top money from the horseshoe competition and Jeff Smith was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Congratulations are due GARY OLDENBURG and all the Washington ADC personnel. They conducted an excellent, informative conference under difficult and trying circumstances.

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

OL' MONEYBAGS SPEAKS

As of June 1st, NADCA has total assets of $5,749 coming from the following sources:

Donations -	$181
Dues (Active non-USA) -	135
Dues (Active USA) -	2595
Dues (Patron) -	100
Dues (Sponsor) -	330
Dues (Student) -	24
Interest (Checking) -	69
Interest (Savings) -	70
Raffle -	329
Reimbursement -	61
TOTAL	$3894

Expenses for 1989 so far have been:

Office supply -	21
Travel, auto/air -	362
Travel, miscellaneous -	80
Travel, per diem -	250
Raffle expenses -	61
Postage, general -	29
Postage, PROBE -	516
Printing, general -	41
Printing, PROBE -	504
Labor, PROBE -	600
Miscellaneous -	132
TOTAL	$2596

WES JONES, Treasurer, NADCA

An optimist is the kind of person who believes a housefly is looking for a way out.

MEETIN'S

FOURTH EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE, Sept. 24-27, 1989 at The Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. 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.

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.

MANAGING PREDATION TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF WETLAND BIRDS, Aug. 15-17, 1990 at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Ctr., Jamestown, ND. Contact Alan B. Sargeant, NPWRC, POB 2096, Jamestown, ND 58402 (701) 252-5363. A call for papers/posters will be sent out this fall. Only single page abstracts will be published.

IN MEMORIAL

On June 10, David N. Hirata disappeared while fishing on the southeast coast of Hawaii and is presumed to have been washed to sea. David was a wildlife technician at the Hilo Field Station (DWRC) for more than 22 years, and his extensive experience, professional competence, and enthusiastic demeanor will be sorely missed. His loss is a personal tragedy to all who knew him. David is survived by his wife, Eileen, his mother and father, 3 brothers, and 2 sisters. Mark E.Tobin

LETTERS TO YE ED

DR. RON JOHNSON, NADCA RDV Wildlife Ext. Spec., Univ. NE, Lincoln, NE:

Sad to hear the unfortunate news of Greg's plane crash. My plans for the Eastern Conf. aren't certain, but I'm going to try to make it. We have another youngster due in late August (CONGRATULATIONS!), which will complicate other work commitments, so I want

to remain flexible for a while.
****

NADCA VP HOMER FORD, rtd. USFWS, Ridgefield, WA:
Sorry to hear about JOHNNY JONES (see PERSONNEL). I suppose he has no one to look in on him. Sure hope he is doing o.k. *(Johnny has a very nice lady friend, Jody, who keeps us posted on his progress.)*
****

GENE LEBOEUF, FAA, Washington, DC:
When I lived on a rice farm near Crowley, LA I experienced a chronic problem with a cross between an armadillo and D-9 bulldozer. For over a year this critter would terrorize my wife's flower bed and she would in turn terrorize my ego by discussing my abilities as an ADC biologist. I tried everything but I swear it was like a beast from hell or something. In February I left Crowley and my family to fend for themselves and headed for parts unknown to me, aka Washington, DC. One evening while visiting over the phone, I heard my son say, "Mom, Dad said to tell him whenever the armadillo is in the yard." The next thing I hear is my wife say, "I'll call you back." and then a dial tone. I thought, DAMN she didn't give me time to tell her how to dispatch the thing! The phone rang ten minutes later and my wife asked me where to dump the body. She reported she got it with the first shot but gave him two more, adding nonchalantly, "I had to unload the gun anyway." When I asked if she damaged the yard with three shots from a 20 ga., she replied indignantly, "Of course not, the only thing I hit was the armadillo." Well I guess after living with an ADC type all those years, some of the finer points wear off! But there is going to have to be some reprograming when she comes to Washington.

If at first you do succeed, try to hide your astonishment.
****

MONTE DODSON, rtd. USFWS, Cookson, OK:
These hot days pass slowly for me. My mind gets to drifting sometimes and that's not a good thing, because I might not get it back. The other day I was thinking of Noah and his ark. Noah called his first meeting after they were all aboard and said to the herbivores and fowls, "I've got some good news and some bad news. I managed to save a pair of wolves, coyotes, bobcats, and lions. The bad news is that I've got to feed them." *(Write again, Monte, when your mind comes back.)*
****

DOUG PARR, APHIS, Ithaca, MI:
Although this is my first year as a member of NADCA, I wanted to say thanks for the changes in the PROBE. Several years back, when I first came into ADC work, I read the PROBE with misgivings. I think it's on the right track, and it's a pleasure to receive. Don't mistake me for a "new breed" of ADC'er, slow on the trigger, but the realities are that we must walk the middle of the road.
****

BERNICE U. CONSTANTIN, APHIS, Louisville, KY:
I'm going to try to pass on some of the "goodies" that come through this office to dispel the myth that Texas has them all. A real estate lady called to ask for our assistance as she found a 4-foot snake sunning itself in the driveway of a house she was showing to prospective clients. Not wanting to alarm them, she hopped out of the car and liberally doused the snake with hair spray. The snake (probably a rat snake) made for the nearest cover and wrapped itself around a pipe under her car. She took a coat hangar but in attempting to dislodge it, the snake disappeared out of sight and reach under her car. She was afraid that it might reappear when her husband was driving the car as he recently had heart surgery and was deathly afraid of snakes. I told her to sell the car (not really).

Progress is being made in Kentucky with the publication of a handout COYOTE: MANAGING COYOTE PROBLEMS IN KENTUCKY. *(This is an attractive 12-page booklet for which he credits the assistance of GUY CONNOLLY, RICK OWENS, KEN GARNER, and Sam Linhart. Copy can be obtained*

by writing the ADC office in Louisville in case other eastern states are interested in public instruction for control of their emerging coyote problems.)
****

MICHAEL GOLDEN, ME COYOTE CONTROL ASSN., Skowhegan, ME:
The MAINE COYOTE CONTROL ASSN. (MCCA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, dedicated to the control of coyote populations in Maine by promoting sport hunting, predator calling, and trapping. We pay members a $20 bounty for coyotes they kill. MCCA was founded in 1985 to address the problem of coyote predation on our deer herd. We lose 20-25 thousand deer out of an estimated state-wide 200 thousand annually to coyote predation, not to mention domestic livestock. Our northeastern coyote is substantially larger than their western counterparts, averaging 32-40 pounds with many adult males reaching above 60 pounds. Since founding, our membership has grown to nearly 600 members and we've paid out over $20,000 in bounties representing the removal of some 800 coyotes. Although this is a small percentage of the coyote population it has aroused member awareness of coyote calling, hunting with hounds, hunting over baits, and trapping. All these sports are growing rapidly.
****

Some people treat their gardens like dirt.

PERSONNEL

I hate to report on poor health of our old members, but at least it's better than 'IN MEMORIAL'. NADCA RDX JOHNNY JONES suffered a stroke last month that put him in the hospital for a few weeks. As of this writing he is still in a rehab hospital, but the reports are encouraging. He is recovering his speech and use of his left side. Hopefully he will be able to make it to the Wisconsin meeting.

MARK WORCESTER who was one of the real ol' timers in charge of PARC in the Dakotas, moved back to Bismarck from Minnesota. He was operated on for prostate cancer recently and while he is suffering, it looks like he'll pull through all right. Some of us, like, W.O.NELSON and W.D.FITZWATER, can really sympathize with him. Drop these two a line to let them know we are hoping for quick recoveries:
J.C.JONES, 5810 Namakagan Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816
M.D.WORCESTER, 415 Century Ave. #111,Bismarck, ND 58501

NADCA RDVIII GARY SAN JULIAN is on "study leave" at the Natl. Wildl. Fed., 1400 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036-2266 until December in case you wish to contact him.

DON GNEGY, ADC State Supervisor in Virginia, retired to his farm in Elkins, WV the last of June. Don served 22 years in ADC Plus 4 more each in the Army and Forest Service so a lot of good things left with him.

The employee who butters up the boss is usually the one who can't cut the mustard.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

(This is confined to Fitzwater's personal vendetta against the Animal Rights (AR) movement so any purists should skip it.)
BAMBI IN THE CITY
A deer problem in Philadelphia town? According to Dave Boldt in a column in THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (02/07/89) they are quite a problem. The Morris Arboretum has lost a staggering number of rare plant species. Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education estimates some 300 deer on its 500 acres that would normally support 16 deer. Car/deer accidents in city limits were 151 in 1988 compared to the 50 average before 1985. In addition to spreading lyme disease, private ornamental shrubs and gardens are being devastated. However, the suggestion of "controlled hunting" brings out the "bunny-huggers" who proclaim family planning should be attempted. One woman offered to come out and help hold a deer down, but had no inkling of how to catch a deer and what they would do with it when they got it down. It has been suggested they place condoms near salt licks but the

difficulty has been in getting the deer to put quarters in the machines. Also the usual suggestion of rounding them up and transplanting, but there are no areas where the deer can be transplanted as many are starving in wild habitats. The editor concludes, "Around the world there is an increasing recognition that a spirit of alliance should replace the antipathy that has characterized relations between hunters and unarmed environmentalists." *(Don't you wish?!)* HARVEY SHULTZ, DOD, NJ.

HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK
A new attack on individual rights is spreading around the world - not from dictators but from extreme animal rights advocates. The premise behind them is that it is all right for people to suffer and die as long as animals are protected. They maintain it is immoral for people to intervene in the lives of animals - opposing everything from commercial fishing to owning pets. Their most dangerous goals are to close down all medical research ignoring that "Virtually every major medical advance of the 20th century has depended upon animal research." From the treatment of rabies to experimental AIDS vaccines, animals have played and must play an important role in this advance. The author points out, "I believe that animals have no rights at all. Rights are not based on the capacity to feel pain, but on the capacity to think. Rights are a form of ethical principle and apply only...to guide man's actions in order to further his life and well-being." Further, "It's a question of saving or not saving us...in our understanding of what it means to be human. The thesis that there is no moral difference between man and a rat amount to the ethical and moral debasement of man." Thanx to MIKE FALL, DWRC and LAB ANIMAL (07-08/89).

WOODSTREAM IN A BIND
Founders of the Animal Trap Company (Lititz, PA) would be shocked at the state they would find themselves in today. Woodstream who took them over and was in turn taken over by Ekco Group had to fire some 25 employees. The trapping division has been hurt by the decrease in demand for steel leghold traps. The steel department where leg-hold traps are made has seen a reduction from two shifts to one. LANCASTER COUNTY (PA) 05/11/89

RABIES VACCINE
Wistar Institute has been blocked by the South Carolina Health Dept. from testing a genetically engineered vaccine on a wild raccoon population on offshore islands. If this is effective, it could have world-wide applications on halting the spread of rabies. However, the experiments have been put on hold because the SCHD has taken a negative science-fiction view of the whole affair. The project hasn't been given up completely but imagine the negative publicity if the ARs get into the act? Thanx to MIKE FALL (DWRC) and SCIENCE 244:1535 30/06/89.

PETA
RICK GRIFFITHS (DOD, MD) sent me a copy of a new "critical national referendum" fund raiser put out by the "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals", one of the more rabid AR groups *(wish the vaccine mentioned above would work on this form of rabies)*.

FAKE FURS
The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (06/11/89 DOD, NJ) had a 2-page spread on fake furs tied in with the AR campaign against fur coats. One 'fashionable' Bucks County (PA) female is quoted as no longer wearing her six year old mink coat because of her conversion. The mink is now used as a bed for her cats *(That and the fact she is also a vegetarian and shuns leather puts her in one of my least desirable human categories.)* Another worthwhile quote comes from a PETA kook - "Just like the slave traders were forced to find new livelihoods, so will the furriers, fur farmers, and trappers." *(tell that to the Innuit)* The fur industry has finally aroused and is fighting back. Indications are that while the fur industry in Europe has dropped, the demand is stable in the USA. The AR action abroad has been more effective, but it has also been more violent. The same PETA spokesman quoted above says, "We don't condone or encourage violence, but we accept it as a byproduct of human

compassion as long as no one is harmed physically."

ALL TERRORISTS AREN'T IRANIAN
The Animal Liberation Front (AFL) vandalized several laboratories at the University of Arizona-Tucson this April. The fires caused half a million in damage to facilities on campus plus the destruction of records. They took research animals including some mice used for Cryptosporidium sp. and an irreplaceable colony of inbred albino guinea pigs being developed by a microbiologist over an 18-year period for the study of tuberculin skin tests. Possibly some good will come of this as Sen. Howell Heflin (D-AL) has introduced a bill (S. 727 - Animal Research Facility Protection Act of 1989) to make it a federal crime to steal, destroy, or make unauthorized use of research animals or data. But these merely make it a misdemeanor subject to $5,000 or one year imprisonment. However, the bill has a restitution clause that could make ARs pay a "reasonable cost" in replacing materials, equipment, and animals damaged by the action. Thanx to MIKE FALL (DWRC) and AMER. SOC. NEWS, 06/89.

ANIMAL WORSHIP
Robert Bleiberg in an editorial in BARRON'S (02/13/89 - Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY as the only ADCer erudite enough to read such high class stuff) points out the USA is headed down the path of ANIMAL WORSHIP which might have serious consequences for the health and welfare of this country. The ARs now number their membership in the millions and are no longer content in harassing wearers of fun coats, protesting rattlesnake hunts, and liberating lobsters, but have turned on animal husbandry. They initiated a ballot in Massachusetts for humane agriculture that would have put most of that State's farmers out of business. While they suffered a crushing defeat they have been more successful on the federal level with new regulations under the Animal Welfare Act of 1985 which will cost the private sector more than a billion dollars.

Owing to medical progress based mainly on animal research the ARs "...will be able to protest 20.8 years longer..." because of increased life expectancy in post WWII years. The goals of these _ _ _ _ *(family newsletter, Fitzwater)* are: (1) total elimination of commercial and sport hunting and trapping, (2) total dissolution of commercial 'animal agriculture', and (3) total abolition of the use of animals in science.

In Canada and the USA there are an estimated 219 animal rights groups some of which pursue less radical objectives than others that are actually classed as "international terrorists" by law enforcement (dealing with AR terrorists as common criminals instead of social protestors would go a long way towards putting the lid on violence). One frightening trend has been for the radicals to infiltrate established groups who have a reputation for humane treatment of household pets. "The movement - to be as kind as possible - is deeply irrational." Hunting is taboo but one spokesman has publicly made an exception for primitive tribes who have no other way of keeping body and soul together. And despite personal repugnance, hunting seasons do keep animal numbers under control. Further even the animals themselves - pets and food animals - benefit from medical science. They ignore that animals used in medical research have put an end to polio, smallpox, rubella, and diphtheria and would stop this research. Obviously *(at least they don't know it, yet)* they don't have cancer, heart disease, and AIDS. Finally the American Medical Association has mobilized a "first line of defense" with victims of AIDS, Alzheimer's, cancer, etc. (INCURABLY ILL FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH). "Let's stamp out Animal Worship before it's too late."

Jumping to conclusions is not half as good an exercise as digging for the facts.

KITTY LITTER

(If you can't say anything good about cats - this column is for you.)

(PHIL EGGBORN sent in a column from the RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH 07/27/89

reporting on a TIME article assuming I had been undulated with copies of this. YOU are not keeping me adequately informed!). TIME reported the results of a year-long study on cats by the British. Based on 173 village households, the scientists concluded that Britain's 5 million house cats kill some 70 million animals and birds annually. Half of all sparrow deaths (no real loss there) can be attributed to cats or a total bird kill of 20 million. These figures are based only on what the cats brought home and could be counted. The authors quote an American study that the cats bring home only half of what they kill and conclude, "We are supposed to be a nation of bird lovers, yet many (who) keep cats...still castigate bird hunters and trappers on the continent." Now people will kick out those murdering cats!? No way! Many cat owners wrote bragging about their cat's killing abilities, including one cat in Dorset that dragged in more than 400 little creatures in one year. "These proud owners seem quite unperturbed by the slaughter."

Pioneers had one advantage over airline travelers. At least when they rode in covered wagons, they knew where their baggage was.

LYME DISEASE

As this is now the fashionable disease to get I thought the following from the ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE might be interesting:

RECOGNIZING LYME DISEASE:

- First symptom in 2/3 of cases is a red rash appearing days or weeks after a tick bite. Often bull's-eye shape - a red ring around a lighter center.
- Those who don't get the rash get vague aches and pains and a low grade fever followed by arthritis-like pain in joints or nerve damage causing pain or numbness.

PREVENTING LYME DISEASE

- Look for ticks after being outdoors. Lyme disease ticks are about the size of a "," in the newspaper.
- If you find one, remove as much of it as possible with tweezers. Cover the wound with antiseptic. Promptness of removal greatly lowers the risk.
- Use insect repellent containing diethyltoluamide (DEET).
- When outdoors stay away from brush and wear long pants with bottoms tucked into your boots.

There is no cure for birth and death, save to enjoy the interval.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

(Interesting, not necessarily informative, ADC-related news from around the world.)

BIRD CONTROL POTENTIAL?

According to EPA, 7 bald eagles, 82 Canada geese, 7 ducks, 1 snow goose, and 1 grouse were killed in a wheat field treated with phorate last fall. The snow melt caused puddles in which the chemical apparently concentrated. Thanx to RICK GRIFFITHS, DOD, MD and PESTICIDE & TOXIC CHEMICAL NEWS, 28/06/89.

BATS NO SHOW AT CARLSBAD

For thousands of years the bats at Carlsbad Caverns (NM) have put on a reliable show of aerobatics as they return to the caverns after a night of chasing insects. But on August 10, 1989, 550 bleary-eyed batters along with a TV camera crew arriving for the 5:00 AM annual bat flight breakfast were shocked when no bats homed in on the cave. ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE 08/11/89 p3 *(All right! Whose the wise guy ADCer who put DDT in the bats' evening coffee?)*

HOLE IN ONE -

alligator. A maintenance golf course worker was charged with one count of animal cruelty and one count of unlawful possession of an alligator when 'gator blood was found on a golf cart and garden hoe in West Palm Beach (FL) Thanx to Calif. ADC

YOU CAN LEAD A HOG TO WATER

but San Francisans object to drinking the water after the hogs have bathed, etc. in it. Feral pigs are giving water authorities trouble around the Calaveras and San Antonio reservoirs. Because these are listed as game animals by Calif. F&G, they cannot be killed and

buried or sold as dog food. The pork will have to be packaged and sold for human consumption which means they also have to be USDA inspected. Thanx to Calif. ADC.

PRETTY (EXPENSIVE) CATS
The number of livestock killed by mountain lions in Wyoming has increased dramatically in the past few years. In 1982 claims filed with the Wyoming F&G totaled $2,015 and they jumped to $106,836 in 1987. Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY (DWRC) & THE DENVER POST (04/09/89).

HARDHATS FOR COWBOYS
Now they are talking about requiring protective headgear for horseback riders be it cowboy or fox hunter. Leave it to OSHA regulators and you'll be gluing sombreros and black felt 'riding to the hounds' caps over a football helmet. Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY (DWRC) & LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 03/23/89.

EPA STINKS
EPA recently held a conference on METHANE EMISSIONS IN RUMINANTS as part of an investigation on the "greenhouse effect". It seems that every 24 hours a cow produces some 200 liters of methane compared to the average man who produces one liter *(I wish this wasn't a family newsletter as I could describe all this in simple four-letter words)*. The writer came up with several suggested solutions such as attaching a bovine pilot light (possible side effects, chapped lips and grass fires), piping the gas to run the boiler in a feed mill, or putting a couple of steers under the hood of a Honda (a two-cowpower motor). And as the man said, "This conference is supposed to be serious. That's what worries me the most." Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY (DWRC) & LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 03/23/89.

If it weren't for the government, we would have nothing to laugh about.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

(The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPERS' JAW, IDAHO TRAPPIN AND GRABBIN, 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.)

BEAVER: (ND) The U.S. Geological Survey was having trouble with beaver plugging up one of their transfer stations affecting water level readings. ADC went in and removed one beaver. The Agency called back to express their appreciation at how quick the response had been.

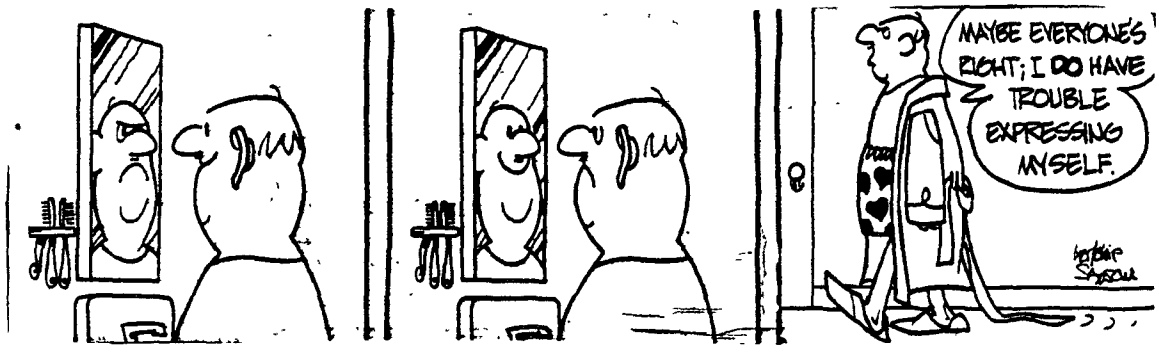
COYOTE: (ND) ODON CORR was called to eliminate some coyotes fighting with a farmer's dogs. One dog had already been killed.

SNAKES: (Guam) The imported brown tree snake is causing considerable ecological disturbances on Pacific islands by predating on birds and small reptiles. A mark-and-release study showed an increase from 50 per hectare to 63 since 1985. These snakes have now been seen on Saipan and the Cocos. Hawaii is on the alert because 26 snakes were intercepted in FY88, though none were brown tree snakes. Apparently one common transportation method is in the landing gear of military aircraft. It has also been demonstrated bites from these snakes result in important medical reactions in some people, particularly small children. One method being tried is clearing the vegetation around a bird nest tree and painting the bark with a synthetic adhesive.

STRYCHNINE: (DWRC) KATHY FAGERSTONE updates the status of this chemical. The porcupine salt block label has been canceled because of minor use. The pigeon label has been amended from a concentration of 0.6% to 0.4% because efficacy data is available for the lower concentration. Voles (Microtus spp.) have been removed from the 0.5% steam-rolled oats label retaining pocket gophers, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, and cotton rats. The 0.35% milo label will remove ground squirrels because it has not been used much against this species. Jackrabbits, kangaroo rats, and cotton rats are still on the label. There are some State registrations: 1.6% strychnine paste (AZ, ID, & NM) for controlling rabbits;

4.9% paste (ID) for marmots, and strychnine egg registration (ND) for Franklin ground squirrels in waterfowl nesting areas. The EPA injunction against canceling aboveground uses is still in effect and DWRC tests cannot be carried out until this injunction is lifted.

Humility is the sense you experience when you check yourself in a clothing store's three-way mirror.



EDITORIAL

There has to be a change in NADCA. The organizers of NADCA are getting old and losing their active involvement in ADC. When GEORGE ROST started NADCA, he was all gung ho about a lobby that could speak out in the best interests of the profession. He envisioned eager participation on the part of the field force and monetary support from ranchers who had much to gain from an effective ADC program. This has not materialized to the extent we hoped, but despite this our efforts did influence the shift from USDI to a more supportive administration in APHIS.

Now all the original officers who started NADCA ELEVEN YEARS ago want to quit. This includes me. My duties as Secretary and Editor average one and a half weeks of my time a month. I'd like to forget deadlines and branch out into other types of writing. I am most appreciative of the comments RDs MILT CAROLINE and RON JOHNSON made when I wrote the Board about my intention to quit editing THE PROBE with the December 1989 issue because of the repetitive, time-consuming mechanics involved in printing and mailing each issue. However, I'm also having doubts as to my ability to be effective and authoritative with the intrusion of more restrictive regulations, philosophical shifts, and technological advances in a field I once knew well.

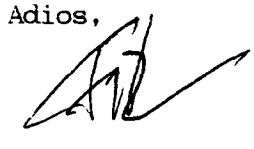
We are going to hold a very important Board meeting at the start of the 3rd Eastern WDC Conference. So I would appreciate your sending me by September 15th your thoughts, comments, and suggestions on the direction NADCA should take. In particular, we need volunteers for every office, including editing and assembling THE PROBE.

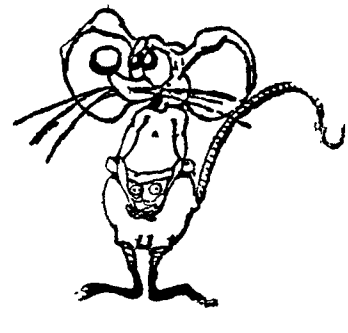
Nothing assaults the conscience like an unused exercise bike.

EDITOR:
WILLIAM D. FITZWATER

If you want a friend in Washington - buy a dog.

Adios,





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