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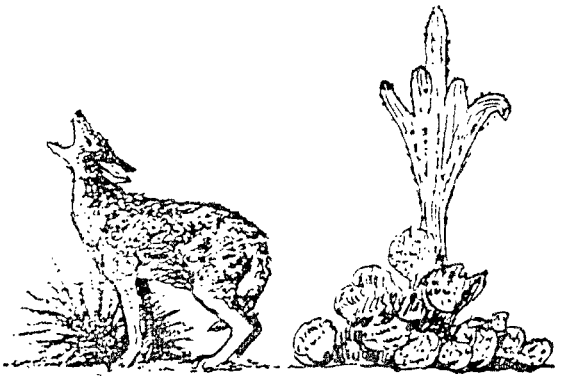
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 1 September 1979

GENESIS

There has long been a need for a professional society in the field of vertebrate pest management ("nuisance animals", "animal damage control", whatever). Wildlife managers and educators tend to belittle this aspect of wildlife management. It has become a "black hat" agency in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service where it once was the "Fish & Wildlife Service". With the exeeption of commensal rodent control, it is a minor concern of the pest control industry as most of their efforts are devoted to doing in small invertebrate animals. It is easy to arouse uninformed public sentiment against killing vertebrate animals. Not too many people own ant farms but just about everybody can associate with dogs, cats, or budgies. Thus the promoters of crusades like Friends of the Animals are able to cash in on the resemblance of these pets to the coyote, bobcat, and pigeon.

The objectives of NADCA as stated in the attached prospectus are to work for the conservation of natural resources and economic survival in the best interests of the United States of America. One way of obtaining these objectives is to educate public opinion on the need for vertebrate pest management in an organized, factual manner divorced from emotional prejudice. The other way is to strive for professionalism in supervisory and field personnel working in the field of animal damage control.

This first issue is going out to many persons we hope will be interested in helping the cause of animal damage control. If you are not already a member, this is your opportunity to become a charter member in this new professional society. By paying your dues now you will be a paid up member for the rest of the year and all of 1980.

Active members are those who are or have been engaged in vertebrate pest management. Supporting members are those stock-raisers, foresters, orchardists, farmers, etc. whose livelihood depends in part on effective animal damage control. The dues for active members are $10. Supporting members are asked to contribute as much more than that as is possible. They have a big stake in counteracting animal damage control's bad public image. Unrealistic legislation is continually taking away or restricting the very few measures we have for vertebrate pest control making it more expensive and less effective. Rodenticides, predacides, etc. rarely create serious environmental impacts despite their high toxicity because they are not applied in large quantities. But the way laws are being written, vertebrate pesticides must abide by rules and regulations designed to limit the

widespread application of insecticides and herbicides.

The only time a politician would be silent is if he said what he thought.

HELP !!!!!

This is the first issue of the NADCA Newsletter. We need a name. The Board turned down the Editor's suggestion of GOPHER CHOKER as not being professional enough. THE PROBE does relate to gopher control and does indicate our hope to probe into policies, personnel, etc., that hamper ADC operations. But we could use a better name.

The Newsletter will not appear on a regular basis, but only as often as the membership provides sufficient grist for the Editor's mill. We want to keep posted on legislation that affects vertebrate pest control and trapping as the latter remains one of the most important options in animal damage control. We would also like to have suggestions on the improvement of skills in this field; the availability of new tools, chemicals, and techniques; meetings; personnel changes, and job openings. Thus any material you feel might be of interest to the membership will be gratefully accepted by the Secretary/Treasurer who is also blessed with being the Editor.

Best way to hold a conversation is to let go once in a while.

USDA TAKES A "STAND"

These are excerpts from the Secretary's answer to an inquiry on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's stand on predator control:

"Economic losses to sheep and livestock producers due to predators, more particularly coyotes, have been documented recently...financial losses to the sheep industry approximate $30 million per annum of the $360 million per annum industry total. Losses to consumers due to sheep/lamb predation approximate $10 million; consumer losses due to calf predation are probably greater. Our research indicates that the economic benefits to be achieved by increases in coyote control in hard-hit sheep, lamb, and calf producing areas would exceed the additional costs, and that environmental impacts, although such would ensue, would not be severe. We thus believe that control would be increased in heavy predation areas."

"Need exists for more extensive, integrated, and coordinated analyses on predator control. Relationships among control, coyote population, predation losses, and other wildlife need further definition and assessment. Research should continue on new control methods, as well as the more efficacious and safe use of present methods, including well-managed use of toxicants in heavy predation areas where other methods are not sufficient".

With this inflation, prices now begin where they used to end.

WHAT IS AN NADCA ?

The by-laws will be sent out in another issue but in the meantime, the following enclosure briefly explains what NADCA is all about.

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

THE NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION, INC. (NADCA)

WHAT IS IT ?

The National Animal Damage Control Association, Inc. (NADCA) is a non-profit association approved and incorporated by the New Mexico Corporation Commission on April 6, 1979.

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF NADCA ?

The purposes of this organization are to develop leadership for the advancement of the best interests of the United States of America and its natural resources by the Animal Damage Control profession by:

increasing public awareness and understanding of the purposes, principles, and parameters of animal damage control;

conducting education and information programs designed to develop knowledge and stimulate public and private decision making;

protecting the integrity of the Animal Damage Control profession, as it relates to the agri-business community, wildlife resource management, and various governmental and private entities; and

supporting and maintaining the credibility of using vertebrate pest control programs as a wildlife management tool.

WHAT CONTROLS NADCA ACTIONS ?

Business of the NADCA is conducted in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws approved by the State on record in the Office of the Secretary. NADCA does not condone and will not support any attempt by members to strike against their employers.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE NADCA ?

Any person or organization who supports the above purposes is welcome to become a member.

WHO ARE THE OFFICERS ?

The NADCA is national in scope by having a director for each of the six regions. Other officers include a President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Officers are unsalaried. To avoid conflict of interests only persons not employed by a government agency may hold office. Present officers are:

PRESIDENT - George S. Rost, P.O.Box 108, Cedar Crest, NM 87008
VICE-PRESIDENT - Homer S. Ford, 1501 NW 189 St., Ridgefield, WA 98642
SECRETARY/TREASURER - William D. Fitzwater, 3919 Alta Monte NE Albuquerque, NM 87110

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

No. 1 - Willard E. Nelson, 13900 SW 102nd St., Tigard, OR 97223
No. 2 - Clyde R. Madsen, P.O.Box GG, Florence, AZ 85232
No. 3 - Wesley R. Jones, Route 3, Hudson, WI 54016
No. 4 - John C. Jones, 5810 Namakagan Road, Washington, D.C. 20016
No. 5 - Howard A. Merrill, Route 1, Box 369, Williamstown, VT 05679
No. 6 -

WHAT TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE ?

An ACTIVE MEMBER is a person who is or has been engaged professionally in animal damage control. Annual dues are $10. A SUPPORTING MEMBER is an individual or organization whose livelihood and/or interests lie in creating a more favorable legal and philsophical attitude towards animal damage control. Annual contributions by supporting individuals and organizations are essential to achieving the objectives of NADCA. Those who pay their dues before December 31, 1979 will be CHARTER MEMBERS and their dues paid up through 1979-80.

HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER ?

Fill out an application blank available from any officer of NADCA or the USFWS State Supervisor of Animal Damage Control. Enclose check to cover dues. Mail to the address on the back of the application.

VACOR DOWN THE TUBE

On March 1, 1979, the California Department of Food & Agriculture suspended the registration of VACOR (DLP-787) for sale in California recommending it be sold only in "child-proof containers". Rohm & Haas, the manufacturers, feeling this type of packaging would severely reduce the effectiveness of the chemical objected. However, as the CDFA had petitioned EPA to review the Federal registration, Rohm & Haas could read the handwriting on the wall so they have asked their distributors to cancel all unfilled orders for VACOR and return unused stocks to the company.

And so it goes. Another of our pitifully small arsenal of rodenticides is no longer available.

It's easy to spot a well-informed man today. He's totally confused.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

To quote the COMMITTEE FOR HUMANE LEGISLATION, INC., the 96th Congress in session will act favorably on bills introduced by Williams (NJ) in the Senate (S-425) and Long (MD) in the House (HR-1297). These bills would ban the manufacture, sale, and use of "steel-jaw, leghold traps".

The bills would require the Secretary of State to compile a list of other countries using traps. The law would set a fine for anyone shipping or receiving fur, leather, or other byproducts of animals caught in these traps as well as the shipment and importation of traps.

An interesting note is that of the 59 sponsors of the House bill, 37 are from the eastern part of the country (most from big city districts like Brooklyn), 14 from the midwest (Michigan and Illinois have 9 of these), 7 from the west (all from California, of course), and a lone Puerto Rican.

They may be right. This Congress hasn't done much so far this session and they could slip some unworkable bill like this through in their haste to appear productive. Be sure your Congressman knows how you stand on these bills. The CFHL suggests the anti-trap people write John C. Culver, Chairman, Sub-Committee on Resource Protection, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 and Harley Staggers, Chairman, Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 21515. These are the chairmen who have the bills in committee. Why don't you write them and suggest these bills would serve a better purpose on the roll in the Congressional latrine ?

Nothin' makes ya an average guy more than thinkin' you're not.

YU'LL COME

Oct. 10-11 - NPCA Rodent & Bird Control Seminar, Los Angeles, CA
Oct. 15-16 - NPCA Rodent & Bird Control Seminar, Chicago, IL
Oct. 23-24 - NPCA Rodent & Bird Control Seminar, New Orleans, LA
Oct. 30-Nov. 1 - Bowling Green Bird Seminar, Bowling Green SU, OH
Jan. 29-30 - Pest Control Technology Seminar, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Jul. 11-12 - First Annual NADCA Conference, Flagstaff, AZ

MEMORIAL

Robert Evans of Lubbock, TX and Gary L. Lambert of Roswell, NM were killed in a plane crash while on an aerial hunting project near Dunken, NM at about 7:00 AM on 15 August 1979.

Evans and Lambert, employed by the Service's ADC division were on a routine aerial mission in response to a rancher's complaint about coyote depredation to his livestock. Two aircraft, a spotter and a gunner, left Roswell, at daylight to find and destroy the problem animals. While over the ranch, and in conjunction with a ground crew, the spotter aircraft located several coyotes and notified the gunner aircraft of their location. The gunner aircraft, piloted by Evans with Lambert as gunner crashed while making a turn to pass over the coyotes.

Evans, 35, is survived by his wife and a child. Lambert, 39, is survived by his wife and 3 children. Evans was a pilot with the Service in Lubbock for almost 2 years, and prior to that was under contract to the Service. Lambert was with the Service for 6.5 years as a District Field Assistant. and aerial gunner in Texas and Nebraska before transferring to Roswell.

The USDI Office of Aircraft Services and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the incident. The cause of the accident has not been determined.

THESE ARE OFFICERS ???!!!

President George S. Rost

George was born in Summerdale, Alabama in 1924 and spent his early years in Florida and Ohio. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. At the close of the war he attended Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio getting his B.S. degree in 1949. He then got his M.S. from the University of Utah in 1951. His thesis was on the ecology of the pine marten in the Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah. The study was a Federal Aid project funded by the Utah Fish & Game Commission, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. It required live trapping marten, ear-tagging (a thankless job), and release.

Upon graduation, George was employed by the Branch of Predator and Rodent Control in Utah as a Mammal Control Agent. The assignment consisted of trapping an area west of Great Salt Lake in the winter and in the Watsatch Mountains east of Salt Lake City in the summer.

He then moved on up through the Service in his 28-year career with the organization. He was made an Assistant District Agent in Denver before moving to a staff job in Washington, D.C. He escaped from there to the Regional Supervisor's job in Region IV, Atlanta, GA office. He became Region II's supervisor in Albuquerque, NM in 1968. This position he held until his retirement early this year.

George currently lives in Cedar Crest (just outside Albuquerque) in a great big house which he is building himself on his infrequent visits to town. Jean and the youngest of his six children live with him. His only son, Greg, works for the Service in the Idaho district.

Retirement's when ya stop lyin' about your age and start lyin' around the house.

Secretary/Treasurer William D. Fitzwater

It's a hell of a stigma to be born in Brooklyn, NY in 1917 but he managed to escape and get educated elsewheres. The New York State College of Forestry (Syracuse, NY) finally gave him an M.S. in wildlife management to get rid of him in 1941. Served 4 years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during WWII at such garden spots as New Guinea and the Philippines. In 1946 he found a home in ol' PARC starting as Mammal Control Agent in the New York-Ohio district. Graduated to Principal Assistant District Agent for 8 midwestern states out of Lafayette, IN office. Made a reputation when he tried to blow up a bridge in Peoria, IL as the answer to a starling problem. In 1960 became Regional Biologist for ADC in Albuquerque, NM where he gained some more fame when the Secretary himself took him off an eagle investigation team because of his big mouth. He told ranchers the best way to get help was to write their Congressman.

In 1966 spent 9 months in Jodhpur, India as a UNESCO consultant controlling desert gerbils. In 1968 became Wildlife Extension Specialist at University of California-Davis. Also had a 3-month assignment in Dominican Republic-Haiti to study a weaver finch problem for FAO. A budget cut forced him to become an unwilling member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. in 1971. However, he did get a 6-month assignment to theU.S. Virgin Islands to set up a pesticide applicator certification program in 1975. Was brought back kicking and screaming to Washington for a couple of months until EPA promised to let him work on New Mexico's pesticide applicator certification if he would only retire. So in 1976 he returned to Albuquerque as the place Ann and he liked best. There he hung out his shingle as a "consultant" (doesn't everybody ?). Not much money but plenty of work.

To a wife a retired husband is twice the husband and half the income.

As soon as we get clearance from the FBI will print the sordid details on the remaining "guiding lights" in the next issue.

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