University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

12-1-1986

# The Probe, Issue 68 - December 1986

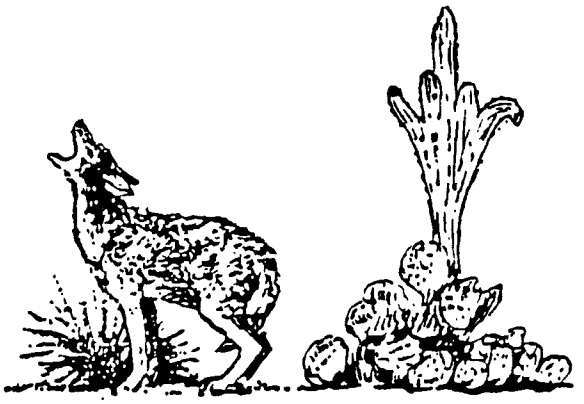
Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe

Part of the Environmental Sciences Commons

"The Probe, Issue 68 - December 1986" (1986). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association.* Paper 259.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe/259

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# THE PROBE




## National Animal Damage Control Association

**DECEMBER, 1986** **NUMBER 68**


### AND YOU THOUGHT ELECTIONS WERE OVER

Well at least these candidates aren't blowing several million like the incompetents running for national offices and there will be no negative TV commercials. We finally got some more candidates to run to give some of us tired ol' folks a rest. The next election maybe we can run a clean slate and let you young'uns take over.

You don't have much choice for officers and Regional Director VIII (that covers the District of Columbia and is an "at-large" constituency) so far except for write-ins.

President: George S. Rost (NM)
Vice President: Homer S. Ford (WA)
Secretary: William D. Fitzwater (NM)
Treasurer: Wesley R. Jones (WI)
Reg. VIII: John C. Jones (MD)

We're doing better for the Regional Directors as the new Administration in Agriculture is completely sympathetic with our objectives for improved federal ADC activities and is encouraging current employees to take an active part in NADCA. Please vote for one candidate in your Region. If you've moved without letting us know, vote for the candidates listed on your ballot. Send YE ED your new address along with your 1987 dues :

Reg. I: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, & Washington.

Tom Hoffman - Born and raised in Warren (OH) . Spent 3 years in the Army including 1 in Vietnam. Got his B.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State College (CA) in 1968 and started his professional career with the Calif. Game & Fish Dept. Was a District Field Asst. in Washington (1972-4), District Supervisor (1974-7), State Supervisor (1977-9), Asst. State Supervisor in New Mexico (1979-80), NM State Supervisor (1980-86), and Oregon State Director under APHIS (1986-todate).

Willard Nelson - Born in a logging camp near Bend (OR) spent his precollege days trapping, fur farming, pocket gopher control, and other odd jobs. Training was interrupted by Navy service during WWII but returned to Oregon State University to get his degree in 1947. Went to work for the USFWS as a commensal and farm rodent control supervisor. Worked his way up through the ranks to become Oregon State Supervisor. Retired after 32.5 years of government service to live just outside Portland (OR). Has remained active in ADC by serving on the Oregon committee that successfully fought off anti-trapping legislation recently.

Reg. II: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, & Utah.

Dr. Fred Knowlton - Didn't get his bio in time to put into this edition but Fred is a personable character who probably knows more about coyotes than anybody else in the country. He has headed up the research unit out of Logan (UT) for many years.

Tom Nicholls - Born in Manti (UT), the son of a sheepherder and coyote hater, he graduated from Utah State Univ. in 1966 with a B.S. in Wildlife Resources. He went to work the same year for Ollie Morris in the Utah-PARC program. In 1968 he transferred to Modesto, CA as a District Supervisor. What a change of life for a country boy that had never seen a "red light" (traffic light that is) ! In 1971 he was promoted to Asst. State Supervisor in Sacramento. He spent two years there before sentencing to Washington, D.C. to become Asst. Program Coordinator for the ADC program. He stayed there through October 1975 and then happily snapped up the State Supervisor's job in Oregon. It was a great life and a great job, which he left reluctantly in August of this year to become Asst. Regional Director for the Western Region working out of Denver.

Reg. III: Idaho, Montana, & Wyoming.

Guy Connolly - Born in St. Paul (MN) but moved to Montana when 8 so considers himself a Montanan. Got his B.S. (Forestry) from Univ. of Montana (1961) and went to work for the USFWS on range survey crew in Reg. I. He got his M.S. (Biology) from Calif. State College (Sonoma) (1970). Joined Univ. of Calif.- Hopland Field Station in 1962 working on deer and coyote management. During the 12.5 years there he joined the Santa Rosa (CA) symphony as a French horn player appearing as a solist several times. The University job was abolished in 1975 and he went to work for the USFWS in the DWRC's predator studies program at Twin Falls (ID). In 1981 he became project leader for "chemical & lethal methods" in predator research. His work and his excellent presentations on the toxic collar, 1080 baits, and M-44s have made him well-known to ADC field personnel. He transferred to USFWS Division of Wildlife Research in D.C. in 1985. With the transfer to APHIS he became part of the National Technical Support Staff at Hyattsville (MD). But he was finally able to wiggle back out West in June of 1986. In Twin Falls, he resumed his coyote studies and became a member of the Magic Valley Symphony Orchestra. Guy has authored about 60 technical publications and has a well-known film on coyotes attacking sheep. He has received many publication awards and belongs to THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSN., and SOCIETY FOR RANGE MGT.

Don Donahoo - Graduated from Idaho State University in 1951 after serving his time in the U.S. Navy during WWII where he saw combat duty in the south Pacific. He began in the Branch of Predator & Rodent Control in 1951 as a district field asst. in Grace (ID). He served as an assistant district agent in Oregon from 1955-59. Became principal asst. district agent in Mitchell SD in 1959-63. He was State Supervisor in Arizona (1963-7) and State Supervisor in Utah (1967-73). He went to D.C. as Branch Chief (Pesticides) for 1973-1976 until he became Chief, Permits Branch, Wildlife Permit Office (1976-1980). He retired in 1980 and moved back to Rexburg (ID) where he keeps busy with his wood carving. (He was in Albuquerque last week, exhibiting his wood carvings - beautiful - you have to touch the feathers on his wood duck to be sure they're made of wood.)

Jim Harris - Jim was born in Lastine (OR). He followed in his father's footsteps as Jesse Harris was a government trapper in the USFWS in Oregon for 30 years. From 1952 until 1959 he was a district field asst. out of John Day (OR). He served as a Rodent Control Supervisor out of Elko (NV) for a year before being appointed District Supervisor, Reno. After a year he transferred to District Supervisor, Ely (1961-6) and then 1966-7 as District Supervisor out of Roseburg (OR). In 1967 he went to Boise (ID) as District Supervisor and in 1976 became Asst. State Supervisor until his retirement in 1985 after 33 years of service.

Reg. IV: Arkansas, Louisana, Oklahoma, & Texas.

Milt Caroline - Was raised in Connecticut and got his degree from the University of Missouri in 1942. He worked as a Wildlife Refuge Caretaker,

Technician, Litchfield-Morris Wildlife Refuge. After serving in the U.S. Navy in WWII, he went to work as Asst. District Agent in PARC in Lafayette (IN) which administered 8 midwestern states. From there he transferred to Texas in 1950 as assistant to C. R. Landon, becoming State Supervisor in 1958. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1979. Since then he has been a Public Relations Consultant for the Texas Animal Damage Control Association. He has an enviable record as a strong leader, trainer, and biologist. He initiated programs such as, research into the nutria problem, predator-prey relationships, alternatives for the "coyote-getter", expanding the use of "new" toxicants and snares in control work, urban wildlife extension specialists in metropolitan areas, red wolf research and protection, etc.

Reg. V: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, N. Dakota, Ohio, S. Dakota, & Wisconsin.

Dr. Robert M. Timm - Is actively engaged in ADC as a University of Nebraska Extension Vertebrate Pest Control Specialist. Born in Pomona (CA), he attended Linfield College (OR) and graduated from the University of Redlands (CA) with a major in biology. He got his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis. His doctorial studies conducted at the University's Hopland Field Station were concerned with coyote behavior toward urine odors. Since 1978, he has been Extension Vertebrate Pest Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has led an IPM project to assist pork producers and others to deal with commensal rodents in livestock confinement facilities. He is an Assoc. Professor and teaches a class in ADC. besides editing the bible on ADC - PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE.

Reg. VI: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Tennesse, Virginia, & W. Virginia.

Kenneth Garner - Didn't get a bio from him in time to include in this edition but he is currently active in ADC work as the new State Director for APHIS out of Nashville (TN).

Donald C. Gnegy - Born in the hills of West Virginia, he served his stint in the army from 1952 until 1955. At that time he entered West Virginia University getting his B.S. in Wildlife Management in 1960 and his M.S. in 1962 from Penn State. He began his federal career as a District Forester on the Jefferson National Forest (Blacksburg, VA). In 1965 he moved to Harrisonburg (VA) to a Lands Staff position on the George Washington National Forest. The next year he transferred into the USFWS, as a District Supervisor in the Division of Wildlife Services in Laurel (MD). In 1967 he went to work with the newly formed blackbird control project in Lima (OH). He returned to Blacksburg in 1969 as the State Supervisor for Wildlife Assistance. Then in 1986 when ADC activities were transferred back to Agriculture, he became the Virginia State Director, APHIS-ADC.

Reg. VII: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, & Virgin Islands.

Clarence "Ki" Faulkner - Didn't get his bio either, but I've known him a long time as we started together in the New England region (V). It is evident that he is a Maineac as soon as he opens his mouth, even though he spent some time as Regional Director in Minneapolis and a number of years in high level jobs in D.C. He retired earlier this year but chose to remain in Virginia rather than getting his snowshoes out. (When he reads this bio I can expect a fast letter from him straightening me out.)

James Forbes - Again no bio. Jim is the current State Director (APHIS) out of Albany (NY).

**********

I hope the attached ballots are easy to figure out. Put a check in the box in front of your candidate's name or write in your suggestion which we'll take into

consideration next time. After you make your mark, just drop it in the mail box - rat now !!!. Polls will close 31 December 1986 and Homer will count them between halves of the football games that weekend.

As I hate to spend money (despite what the Board of Directors thinks), we are not disenfranchising wives of NADCA male members. I'm only sending one ballot per PROBE. As there is apt to be some disagreement (speaking from personal experience), you girls can make your wishes known by marking the card up too. These double ballot cards will have a big red "2" in a corner to alert our counter that it represents 2 votes. In all events - GET 'EM IN !!! anything after December thirty-first will not be counted.

*You smile when everything goes wrong - you're either a nitwit or a repairman.*

## MORE INNOVATIVE WAYS TO SPEND MONEY

I am not completely against efforts to save endangered species like the attractive California condor (beauty is in the eye of the beholder), but new projects under consideration bring to mind the amounts of money spent on "saving" the whooping crane. It has been proposed that when the last 3 living condors are trapped, they are to be placed in LA and San Diego zoos along with the other 24 individuals that have been caught. Then as many as 15 juvenile Andean condors of the same sex, will be radio-tagged and released in the condor areas in Los Padres National Forest. After 2 years these will be retrapped. On the basis of the data collected, zoo-reared California condors will be released in the area. While this is not mentioned, the project will undoubtedly cost millions of dollars like the whooping crane project with very intangible end results, thus taking away scarce monies that could be better utilized in improving the survival of other species better adapted to modern environments.

*Tuscaloosa - the last thing an elephant wants to hear from an Italian dentist.*

## MEETIN'S

7-10 Dec. 86 - 48th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conf., Red Lion Inn, Omaha, NE. Theme is AGRICULTURE TODAY AND TOMORROW: IMPACTS ON FISH & WILDLIFE. Contact: Harold K. Edwards, PO Box 4558, Lincoln, NE 68503

20-25 Mar. 87 - 52nd North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference, Quebec City, Canada. Contact: James E. Miller USDA Extension Serv., Washington, DC 20250

28-30 Apr. 87 - 8th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Howard Johnsons, Rapid City, SD. Any aspects of wildlife damage with special sessions on prairie dog management/control and predator management/control to enhance waterfowl production. Papers due February 2nd. Contact: Daniel W. Uresk, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mt. Expl. Station, SD School of Mines, Rapid City, SD 57701

19-22 Aug. 87 - ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF BREEDING WATERFOWL symposium will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Contact: Breeding Waterfowl Symposium, Delta Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Station, RR #1, Portage la Prairie, Maniitoba, Canada R1N 3A1.

*You think only a woman's work is never done ? You know very little about highway construction.*

## LYING, LION

That headline doesn't mean a thing. I just like the sound. There has been considerable media attention paid to the recent mountain lion attacks on two children in California. Gary Bogue, who has raised several lion cubs, says, "They see a kid as a big, fat rabbit. They see them as a prey species. If you go to the zoo with your kids, watch the eyes of the leopards. They're staring at the kids." Lee Fitzhugh, UC-Davis Wildlife Ext. Specialist, expresses concern about the increased interaction of cougars and humans. He states that a

study of 66 mountain lion attacks on humans in the Western Hemisphere since 1750 have resulted in 23 fatalities. The earlier attacks were almost always on full grown men as women and children were not apt to be in the wilderness, but since 1950, attacks have been almost equally divided between adults and children. The latter still have less potential contact with cougars.

Vancouver Island (British Columbia) has reported 12 lion attacks since 1900. Their ADC specialist says the government has reacted by taking specific lions that have attacked humans and livestock and by educating the public how to behave with wildlife. Children should not be allowed to run around by themselves in cougar-areas, but must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Lee adds that cats are attracted to the high-pitched chatter of children at play which suggests prey to the big cats. Animals that run away or at right angles to them will also trigger the predatory response. Cats are more wary of something that approaches them from above such as the case with adults. Furthermore, they don't like prey that won't follow the rules. An adult who moves towards him raising his arms and shouting is not in his game-takers' handbook. Furthermore, both lion and human populations have increased in the same areas so that their previous separate domains have now overlapped making encounters less rare - and "familiarity breeds contempt". Thanx to Ron Thompson APHIS, Sacramento (CA) and the LOS ANGELES TIMES (29 Oct 86, pp 1, 31)

While on the subject of human/predator encounters, Guy Connolly (APHIS, Twin Falls (ID) and the TF TIMES-NEWS 23 Oct.) sent information about a female grizzly bear that was shot in Yellowstone while standing over the partially consumed body of a Great Falls photographer. Which reminds me of another incident. A Czechoslovakan photographer was invited by an American to take pictures of grizzlies in Alaska. They got too close and the grizzlies got mad and rushed them. The American ran faster and escaped but the bears killed the Czechoslovakan. When the American returned with a ranger, the ranger asked which one had done it. The photographer hesitated and then pointed to the bigger male. The ranger shot him, cut him open, but could not find any human remains. Thus never believe a photographer when he says the "Czech is in the male".

On the same subject of humans/predators, Guy (TF TIMES-NEWS 30 Oct. 86) sent a news clipping indicating Montana State Game Dept. is opposed to the USFWS wolf recovery plan. They object as there is no provision for killing or trapping problem wolves threatening livestock and game populations, no assurance of funding, and no method of removing wolves from the endangered species list so that problem animals can be taken. Thus the USFWS will have to take full responsibility for managing the wolf population (and the only effective trapper force USFWS had is now in APHIS).

Guy was full of news of this sort. He sent another article (TF TIMES-NEWS, 13 Oct. 86) of a 'gator attack on an 8-year old boy who was squatting among some ducks at a Disney World campground. The 7-foot alligator (another "endangered" species) came out of the water and bit him on the left leg. The cuts were superficial and no surgery was required, but they shot the alligator which is a fate suffered by most inefficient predators.

*Superstition is foolish, childish, primitive and irrational - but how much does it cost you to knock on wood ?*

## THEY MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER

I didn't think this was going to be a humorous piece, but columnist Steve Kelton (LIVESTOCK WEEKLY, 9 Oct. 86) wrote a funny on the Texas section of the Society of Range Management annual meeting in San Angelo (TX) in early October (again thanks to Guy Connolly who has supplied most of the material for this issue).

Ned Fritz, Dallas environmentalist and

lobbyist, told the group that environmentalists and ranchers had much in common, "We both love the open spaces." What he didn't say was the difference in "love". Ranchers love the land and environmentalists love to tell them how to take care of it. Fritz pointed out there were some basic differences that were due "basically" to the way some people look at the relationship between humans and "other beings". "All ecosystems must be preserved, from the lowest microbes and worms to game, raptors, and every kind of tree." He didn't indicate how the different opinions could be worked out but it was clear that he was on the side of the "microbes and worms."

Fritz chastized stockmen for wanting to kill coyotes "by any means, even if it kills harmless species." He didn't wait for someone to point out the misconception that ranchers favor indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife is precisely what makes predator control an "inflammatory issue" among environmentalists who don't know any better. He recommended guard dogs and burros as the cure-all for predator control. Fritz asked if anyone had tried burros. A Meridian rancher, Charles Howard, said he had "donated" countless Angora goats to coyotes over the years in the spirit of giving an honest test to the environmentalists' non-lethal panacea-of-the-month. "No, they don't work." Another participant allowed he had used burros and they worked. Fritz checked out the specifics and decided Howard had given his burros a few more head to take care of, above Union scale, than the other man and went on to the next problem of Stacy Dam.

This is objected to by environmentalists as it might jeopardize a minor subspecies of water snake. Realizing this might not carry any weight with this audience, Fritz made the bold move of declaring the dam an unnecessary expenditure of tax money. When it was pointed out that it was being built by private money, he wanted to see "the facts on that". This was a departure from his prepared speech as environmentalists rarely ask for or believe in "facts". As for the need for the water storage plan, he claimed a study "we" did proves that existing water supplies will serve the area through the "year 2030". Besides, as water becomes more scarce, development and irrigation will diminish creating less demand for water. The logic in this suffers a bit when extended to the real world. By similar reckoning, Ethiopia's communist government should be given humanitarian praise for deliberately starving millions of its peasants. It makes sense - the peasant who starves to death today won't wake up hungry tomorrow.

It was downhill from there, when Fritz opened and then soon closed the door to questions from the floor. His first questioner recalling his support for the lowest microbes and worms asked if he favored reintroducing the screwworm fly.

"Well....no."

His next questioner asked how guard dogs and burros would protect restocking of antelope. Fritz admitted he didn't understand how antelope survived before predator control. When told it was probably because the wolves kept the coyotes in check, Fritz suggested hopefully, "Maybe you should reintroduce wolves."

*He who hesitates is bossed.*

## LETTERS TO YE ED

As I indicated my frugal ways by using a single card for family balloting, I am very perturbed by the wastefullness of most NADCA members. It costs you 22 cents to mail in your registration card and dues for 1987. For the same price you could also send me a note on what you are doing, what you'd like to see more or less of in the PROBE, news clippings, research articles, new ADC techniques, or whatever. Part of the 'pleasure' of this job is hearing from old friends and making new ones that have come aboard since I parted company with "Wildlife Services". Come on, make my day !!!

**Thurman Booth**,APHIS, Little Rock, AR:
You guys are doing a great job of

holding forth on our behalf. We appreciate it ! The transfer to APHIS has brought with it some growing pains which I think we'll overcome but NO QUESTION support for the program by the leadship is a real relief for a change!

**C.R. 'Pink' Madsen,** rtd.USFWS, Florence, AZ:
Waiting the "Death Valley-49ers Encampment", there were 1700 other trailers, campers, motor homes, etc. in a commpact area of some 60-70 acres. About 1/3 of these have pet dogs of various sizes. One day an elderly couple were walking their dog (about 18" long and 10" high) when a coyote grabbed him in its mouth and took off into the mesquite. The old couple yelled and ran, but they never saw their dog again. To them it was like seeing their child snatched before their eyes. The next day they packed their trailer and left - their vacation ruined. This has happened on two other years we have been coming to Death Valley. The coyotes howl around camp every night. As they have 40-50 acres of date palms, they are not starving - - their scats prove that. It's a case of coyotes adapting to the protection of the Park Service and repeated contacts with people. It has been implied the P.S. will take no action until a dog is taken from a leash with a human on the other end. And this from an agency who claims they have taken 3,000 burros over the last two years as they were competing with the big horn sheep and general range destruction.

**Harvey Schultz,** Editor of GOTCHA (see #65) U.S.Navy, Cherry Hill, NJ:
You quoted our article on vacuuming as a way to clean up bird droppings. We have since heard from the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene agency stating it might not be a good idea unless the vacuum is equipped with a HEPA (?) filter otherwise it might aerosolize the 2-3 micron spores of pathogenic organisms. (Then he passes on that oldie about the hunter taking two foxes to the taxidermist. The taxidermist asks if he wants them mounted. The hunter replies, "Just holding hands will be good enough." which I won't bother to repeat.)

**Gerald Walkup,** Past President, Natl. Trappers Assn., Iowa City (IA):
Cats, in the last issue, present a real problem. As per our studies several years back, cats are very real in carrying toxoplasmosis and may cause more problems than is really known. They also destroy more birds and small game than people believe. I know, I worked as a lab technician at the University on toxoplasmosis and leptospirosis in animals and man.

**Rich Griffiths,** APHIS, Port Deposit, MD:
I saw your article on liquid baits for rodents in PEST CONTROL TECHNOLOGY and found it full of good information with one exception. I agree that alternate sources of water should be eliminated, but suggesting the use of crankcase oil was a mistake. If you use fresh motor oil, you are wasting money and leaving a residue that is hard to clean up; if you use used motor oil, you are mishandling a hazardous waste in violation of regulations. I also agree with you in regards to domestic cats and their management. In regard to quiet disposal, I know several woolgrowers who shoot and bury trespassing dogs without a word to anyone. It was only a few years ago a researcher in Idaho got in hot water when a neighboring rancher found his dog had been shot while attacking sheep. Even though the dog died with wool in his mouth, the neighbor couldn't believe his dog would attack sheep. It all goes back to, "You can say what you want about my wife and kin, but don't badmouth my dog !"

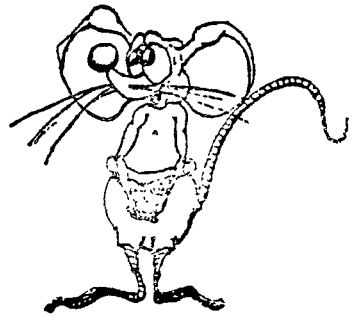
**John Thorson,** Exec. Dir., Natl. Trappers Assn., Bloomington, IL:
NADCA's help with the situation in New York is very much appreciated. Your expertise is a vital resource in helping to stem the outrageous misinformation being flaunted by anti hunting and trapping groups today. Please continue in your good work.

*The new 3 R's - readin', ritein', and replacing batteries on the calculator.*

*THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND*

*SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONCENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.*

*YE ED - William D. Fitzwater*



*The dues are coming in very nicely, but will those of you who intend to continue your membership next year PLEASE get them in as soon as possible ? It makes the monotonous task cf typing lists that much easier for me.*

*MERRY CHRISTMAS*
*AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Fitz

**National**
**Animal**
**Damage**
**Control**
**Association**

**3919 Alta Monte, NE**
**Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110**

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, N M
PERMIT NO. 1005

**FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED**