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The Probe, Issue 101 - May/June 1990

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THE PROBE

National Animal Damage Control Association

MAY-JUNE 1990 **NUMBER 101**

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

(The following are abstracted from APHIS-ADC activity reports and newsletters like IDAHO TRAPPIN AND GABBIN, TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPERS' 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. If you want to see your name in print, better join up.)

BADGERS: (ID) ADC at the request of Idaho F&G went to several islands on the Blackfoot Reservation to remove badgers. This was done to prevent goose nest mortality this spring.

COYOTES: (TX) If there is a coyote heaven it must be in Dimmit County (TX). ADC took 150 coyotes in two weeks from one ranch where they were killing calves. On another ranch also experiencing calf losses, ADC set out M-44's and returned two days later to find 62 coyotes. In all they took 300 coyotes between December and January.

(ID) ADC called in by a woman losing chickens to a coyote found the area too inhabited for control equipment. He made a tape with his own chicken in distress and added a pet coyote's barking. He no more than started it when a couple of coyotes came running in. He removed one "but let the other escape". *(The story is believable up to that last part.)*

FISH FARMING: (ID) A fish farmer reported trouble with ducks and blue herons at his farm. The ducks were stripping his on-demand feeders to the tune of $350 and the herons were having fish dinners worth $1,000.

STATE SENATORS: (ID) An ADC trapper was called on the carpet by his local State Senator for catching his coon hounds in snares and leghold traps. Investigation showed the traps were legally set and the land properly posted. It was the senator who was hunting without permission.

A man may be a fool and not know it, but not if he is married.

READIN'

ROGER WOODRUFF (APHIS-ADC, Livestock Guarding Dog Specialist, Bend, OR) sent me four papers on the current status of this program. The first two listed below should be available through ADC offices *(I've seen the first at least in the New Mexico office.)* The other two were xerox copies of papers - one from the 9th Great Plains WDC Workshop and the other will probably be published in the last California Vert. Pest Conf.

Green, J.S. & R.A.WOODRUFF (1990) GUARDING DOGS, USDA-APHIS-ADC Agric. Info. Bull. #588, Washington, D.C. 31pp.

Anon. (1989) APHIS FACTS - Livestock Guarding Dogs. USDA-APHIS-ADC, Washington, DC 2pp.

Green, J.S. (1989) APHIS ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM, 9th Gt. Plains Wildl. Animal Damage

Control Workshop (Ft.Collins, CO) 50-53.

Green, J.S. & R.A.WOODRUFF (1990) ADC GUARDING DOG PROGRAM UPDATE: FOCUS ON MANAGING DOGS, publ. ? 13th CA Vert. Pest Conf., UC-Davis.

Millions of Americans aren't working...but thank God, they've got jobs.

MEETIN'S

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.

FERTILITY CONTROL IN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE, Nov. 20-24, 1990 at the International House, Melbourne Univ., Melbourne, Australia. Contact: Conf. Secretariat, Atkinson Conf. Services Pty.Ltd., 43 Agnes St., East Melbourne, Vic 3002, AUSTRALIA. Abstracts due 06/01/90. Registration $A250.

Being single means you don't have to leave a party just when you are starting to have a good time.

LETTERS TO YE ED

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WANE COMBS, Zuni, VA:
Thanks for sending some back issues of THE PROBE. I find it very informative, especially when it involves cats. I developed a dislike when I was young playing in the dirt pile. I know some who say they aren't all bad - they make good fox bait. How did I get out of the NATIONAL TRAPPER'S ASSOC.? I was railroaded in when nobody wanted the job. After ten years of volunteer service, I chose to go trapping again and am having fun.

I believe that all professional trappers have a vested interest in NADCA and probably more would join if they knew you exist. I consider myself an organizer. I feel certain NADCA could increase its' membership by advertising in trapper publications (THE TRAPPER, FUR-FISH-GAME, AMERICAN TRAPPER, etc.). Someone would say you were competing with trappers' associations. I don't see it that way. A guest editorial would help in these publications. I have been a lifelong trapper, but am concentrating on beaver in this area. I think the beaver problems in the East rival the coyote problems in the West. With the low fur market, few trappers are trapping nowadays. It's hard to make a living on fur, in fact you are lucky to meet expenses. I'd like to form a corporation to deal with the problem and possibly get a federal grant. If you have any ideas along these lines, please let me know. Though beaver are number one, with the decreased amount of trapping, fox, 'coon, and skunk are exploding. Much to my surprise I have found red and gray fox love peanuts.

****

MILT CAROLINE, ex-NADCA RDIV, San Antonio, TX:
The Animal Rights Conference was called by the Texas Wildlife Assoc. This is a top quality group and counts among its' officers some of the top wildlifers in the educational field. Who was it criticized you for your stand on these animal rights bastards and caused you to devote a "private" section of THE PROBE to vent your ideas?

****

C.R. 'PINK' MADSEN, ex-NADCA RDII, Florence, AZ:
I just discovered it was Friday the 13th. No wonder I'm so frustrated. I'm not nearly ready for travel and it's pushing 100° already. The truck sounds like a can full of rocks. How can I head out with the trailer? It takes a lot of faith - or stupidity.

****

ROGER WOODRUFF, USDA-APHIS, Bend, OR:
Thought THE PROBE readers might be interested in hearing about this new group (see AR). Perhaps the antis have shaken our cage hard enough to finally wake a few people. Might be worth checking out. I thoroughly enjoy reading THE PROBE despite your less than

complimentary comments about livestock guarding dogs! I guess I can live with it, though, just so long as you continue your cat campaign. I'm glad you consented to remain as editor, at least until someone else "volunteers". I've enclosed a copy of the new ADC guarding dog bulletin, etc. (see READIN'). ADC also released a 14-minute dog guarding video, both of which available through ADC State Director's offices and Extension agencies.
****

JOHN BOHNING, Rtd., Prescott, AZ:
In regard to your question in the last PROBE, asking if the abstracted conference proceedings were worth while. I think so - I gleaned a lot of interesting and useful information from the abstracts. Glad, too, to read that PINK & ROSE MADSEN are still surviving as we don't get down to the desert very often. Thanks for your long and faithful service as the newsletter editor - in that game, kicks are more numerous than pats on the back. You can see what my hobby is now *(He sent me a brochure for the 31st Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth. This is a week-long camp in which specialists give natural resource conservation experiences to young people. Unfortunately, USDA-APHIS-ADC is not among the agencies involved? The AZ G&F is and if any of you saw that CBS segment put on by the ARs recently, you wonder what the representative of that Department is telling the young folk.).*
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LYN FIEDLER, DWRC, Denver, CO:
Here is yet another article from BARRONS *(See AR column. Lyn reads a better class of magazine than YE ED usually gets to, but they don't have as many pictures.)* Business is obviously aware of the ramifications of the AR movement. No other topic has commanded such attention in the Barron's Editorial Commentary page over this two-year period. May I add my own thanks to the long list of colleagues that have thanked you for your tremendous effort to keep the newsletter both informative and interesting.
****

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

(This is confined to Fitzwater's personal vendetta against the Animal Rights (AR) movement so any purists should skip it.)

The Dean of the Veterinary Medicine college at the University of Tennessee was executed with shots to the back of the head. The police report (02/26/90) named two AR groups as "possibly involved" because of a threat to kill "one dean a month for the next 12 months" to protest laboratory research on animals. The groups are the infamous Animal Liberation Front and a "splinter group" of PETA. The PETA spokesperson disclaimed responsibility and blamed the police for creating "mass hysteria." AMERICAN TRAPPER, 5-6/90.

CHEW A STEAK, HARM A PLANET? A Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (Neal Bernard, Chief Kook) argues you've got to eat green food if you are going to be an environmentalist. Bernard claims it takes 39 times more energy to raise beef than soybeans; 4,200 gallons of water/day are need to produce food for a meat eater and only 300 gallons for a vegetarian; intensive cattle raising produces "mountains of manure" a source of methane for the greenhouse effect (Roger suggests piling it in his backyard). Other environmentalists don't quite agree. One, a Natural Resources Defense Council, says, "We serve mostly fruit and cheese at a reception, but that may be more a function of our not being able to afford shrimp." ROGER WOODRUFF & BULLETIN (Bend, OR) 05/90.

While the ARs are claiming fur sales have dropped out of sight in the USA, the US Dept. of Commerce reported domestic and imported fur sales were $789 million in 1985; $1,168 million in 1986; $1,453 million in 1987; $1,780 million in 1988; and indicators point to $1.8-2 billion in 1989. When you consider fur garments have gotten cheaper, it looks like more Americans are buying fur. AMERICAN TRAPPER, 5-6/90.

incurably ill FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH (iiFAR) is sponsoring a nationwide petition drive to show support for the use of animals in medical research. The petitions will be presented to Congress at a press conference in Washington this summer! *(Hope somebody is still in town then!)* Petitions can be obtained by writing iiFAR, POB 1873, Bridgeview, IL 60455. WLFA April Newsletter.

WELCOME ABOARD! The Iowa Senate voted $20,000 for a new coyote control program as those animals have dramatically increased as a threat to the livestock industry in that State. AMERICAN TRAPPER, 5-6/90.

THERE'S A SLEEPER IN CALIFORNIA in "Proposition 117" on the June 5th ballot. Ostensibly it would permanently ban all mountain lion hunting, but the fine print would divert or eliminate funds earmarked for other wildlife, could stop deer hunting in the state, and would close prime hunting on any land purchased for any reason if it were deemed necesary for the welfare of the mountain lion. This despite the fact the lion population is alive and growing well. WLFA News Release 04/11/90.

Hopefully, a bill will soon be approved by Ohio Legislature making it illegal to harass anyone wearing a fur garment and permit bringing suit against the individual or organization to recover full damages. The illegal activities include fighting, threatening harm, violent behavior, unreasonable noise, coarse display and language, hindering movement on public or private property, and even following another person in a manner intended to cause annoyance or harm. AMERICAN TRAPPER, 5-6/90.

The European Economic Community (EEC) has announced the intention to prohibit the importation of certain fur pelts (beaver, otter, coyote, wolf, lynx, sable, and raccoon) from countries that use the leghold trap for wild fur. These animals were targeted because some of ECC countries use leghold traps, but not for these species (notice fox is not listed). Trade in fur to EEC amounts to about $200 million annually to our benefit for a change. More importantly this country's con- servation policy, the ability to protect food and fiber production, and disease control is being affected by this elusive definition of "humaneness" by countries that do not produce wild fur. Alert your representatives to understand this issue when trade negotiations are set for the EEC. We need some rebuttal sanctions against ECC products, like cheese. OUTDOOR NEWS BULL. Mar. 16, 90.

EAT AN ANIMAL FOR LUNCH - I don't know about you, but I've had it up to here with these AR activists. When you get right down to it, they're traitors to their species. So I've formed the PEOPLE'S RIGHTS COALITION. Our basic message is that animals are our natural enemies. For millions of years, they've done their best to trample us, claw us, poison us, and eat us. But we licked them fair and square and now we're at the top of the heap. So it's our turn to ride them, shoot them, command them, wear them, and eat them. Make no mistake: They'd do it to us if they could.

Keep in mind we made it to the top because we're smarter. Their manners are appalling. They gulp their food, roar with their mouths full, belch at will, and not one in a million is toliet-trained. Sexual mores are disgusting - promiscuous, go around bare, and fornicate in public. Their record as parents is dismal. Talk about child abuse! They kick the kids out as soon as they are mobile, if they don't eat them first. They commit murder, callously tearing their victims apart before a decent interval has passed.

Only after years of subjugation have they become tractable. Even then their usefullness is limited. Take 'man's best friend'. Who needs a best friend who is basically selfish, irresponsible, never picks up after himself, who has to fed, groomed, and watered daily, who can't discuss politics, the stock market, or the latest Trump scandal, and never contribues a nickel to the welfare of teh household? My brother-in-law is a better friend than that. Animals aren't our friends. So I say treat animals like animals. Better them than

us. SUNDAY PUNCH/AMERICAN TRAPPER, 5-6/90.

A David Keene is attempting to organize a AMERICAN HUNTING RIGHTS ACTION COMMITTEE (AHRAC). According to Mr. Keene, about 12% of Americans hunt and 10% are strongly opposed to hunting. This leaves 78% of the public in the middle and the ARs are vigorously going after this base. Hunters prefer to remain invisible, but this had better change as we can expect referendums challenging the legality of the sport on ballots in Floria and/or California before the century ends. Keene is a lobbyist with political experience *(not all successful, however.)* He would like to go to the public with arguments against such outfits as PETA, HSUS, FFA, etc. and is attempting to raise members at $15 a throw (AHRAC, 919 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314). *(While we need all the help we can get, I hesitate to push a parallel organization to the work the WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND of AMERICA is already doing. You pay so much for "administrative expenses" except in NADCA!)* ROGER WOODRUFF & THE BULLETIN (Bend, OR) 04/29/90.

There appears to be a bizarre wave of violent insanity working its way through the counterculture at the moment. If one lives in California, it's hard not to notice the number of aging radicals left over from the 'Sixties who appear to be losing it (particularly those who have done a little too much pharmacological research on their own). With the arms race cooling down and everybody in the Third World moving to L.A. to become entrepreneurs, most of the bumper stickers are becoming tattered and worn. There are a lot of strange folks out there who have devoted their lives to opposing nuclear war, American imperialism, and capitalism, who now find their lives meaningless and empty. The repudiation of a Marxist regime in Nicaragua and collapse of apartheid has left the left nothing to be hysterically self-righteous about. Environmental extremism is filling this void. The animal rights fringe is grandstanding for an urban intelligentsia who suffer from the Bambi syndrome. Their delicate city-bred souls are outraged by traps and poisons, but they fight no battles on wintry hillsides to save lambs from coyotes. They bleed for hunted deer unaware they breed like rabbits and die in agony from starvation. They romanticize the family farm, but have never kept a rifle by the backdoor to shoot raccoons or skunks in the chicken coop. They mentally support wetland preservation ignoring that much of the money that actually supports the effort comes from hunting organizations like Ducks Unlimited. They take for granted the advanced medical technology that has wrapped them in their safe cocoon, but want no more animals killed in laboratories. In the grip of abstract principles and simple-minded emotions, they profess admiration for the violent play-acting of what is in fact a lunatic fringe - until they come down with AIDS. Then they'll join the real world, hopefully, not too late. (Michael Brody) LYN FIEDLER & BARRON'S 03/05/90.

It is impossible to support both the government and a family on one salary.

The good thing about being young is that you are not experienced enough to know you cannot possibly do the things you are doing.

PERSONNEL

There appears to be a little known benefit available only to workers still covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System. You can make voluntary contributions to your pension plan. One reason this has been ignored is that it was paying only 3% interest, but Congress last year tied the interest rate into the Treasury rate so it is now paying 9.1%. As the interest is tax deferred until you withdraw it, it may help the pain of retirement. You make payment with a check for $25 or more directly to OPM and it is kept in a separate account. The forms are hard to come by, but your personnel office can get them from OPM (SF 2802 or 2804 - I think the last number is an updated form). The rate is pretty good if you can spare the change now for your "golden years". GUY CONNOLLY & THE WASHINGTON POST 03/09/89.

DICK WINTERS went into Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore, MD) in March for cancer surgery. I have not had a later report on his condition, but our hopes certainly are with him. Due to his condition, he retired April 2. GUY CONNOLLY.

Prexy TERRY SALMON's old job as Extension Wildlife Specialist at UC-Davis is open as he went on to a higher office. This is an excellent job, in a top notch University, and offers the opportunity to work with some of the best ADC professionals in the world. Unfortunately I didn't have much time on this note so you'll have to contact Dr. Ronald O. Skoog at UC-Davis (916-752-6191/6586) directly as applications close 06/15/90. Thanx to REX MARSH.

Now that I'm retired, I'm still kicking...but I'm not raising much dust.

THERE'S A LESSON HERE - - SOMEWHERES

Thanx to HARLAN SHUYLER & KANSAS CITY TIMES 01/19/90 for giving me a nostalgic trip back to my old rat catching days: "The Missouri Assembly has its work cut out for it these days to balance all the needs - makes one yearn for the days when things were simpler and the legislators could pass a bill that began: 'It is hereby lawful for any county to offer a reward not exceeding 5 cents per scalp for the destruction of rats...provided no reward shall be paid for any number less than 50.' This was passed in 1877 and stayed on the books for 11 years. Rats were a problem in the State at that time and when Saline County elected Sam Davis to the legislature, he figured the way to get rid of them would be by paying a bounty. An opponent tried to sink his bill by adding an amendment to get scalps of cockroaches, mosquitoes, etc., but the bill passed. The press wouldn't leave it alone. Eugene Field, poet and newspaper man wrote:

'Sam Davis, member from Saline,
A-plodding home one night was seen
By two old rats - forlorn & gray,
Too shrewd to venture out by day.
But with the moonlight's doleful hour
They sought what they might best devour.

'Sam Davis paused, as well he might,
And viewed the touching mournful sight:
Two rats, two aged rats forlorn,
A-browsing in the early morn!
Said he, "My friends, how comes it so,
That through the streets you rambling go?

'"Have you not heard the mandate hurled
Down from the house into the world?
That sets a price upon your head?
That pays a bonus on rats dead?
How comes it, then, that up and down
You saunter through this hostile town?"
'One old rat the solon eyed
And in a squeaking voice replied:
"Why question us? The law applies
To rats of every age and size.
Now tell me, is there - answer true -
An older, bigger rat than you?"'

'At a nickel a scalp people quit farming to go after rats. It got so bad in Bates and Andrew county courthouses where the evidence was stored that people across the street had to keep

their doors and windows shut. There were abuses as Kansans, being Kansans, brought their rat scalps to Missouri and even Iowans headed south with their smelly cargo.'

'The law said the county could pay the fine, but it wasn't mandatory so no county went broke. Anyway, the rat "plague" soon ended, but the memory lingered on. The story is told of an old farmer taken on the tour of the sights of the Capitol was disappointed. When asked why, he said he had hoped to see "that feller Davis what put through the rat bill." For legislators, there's a lesson in that demand.'

I don't mind telling you exactly what I think. I'm undecided.

NOW HEAR THIS!!!

(This is practical tips from the field. If this column is missing it's YOUR fault.)

MORAL: DON'T SPIT OR BE SPITTED ON - In November 1989, a first case of rabies was reported from a llama. The animal had been pastured in Texas and Oklahoma before the disease was diagnosed and the serotype found to belong to the distinct group of rabies viruses found in skunks in the south-central USA. The concern here is the llama's defensive habit of spitting and the fact rabies virus is infective in saliva. You are warned not to spit back (you'd lose anyway in a spitting match) and NOT to rub your face. Wash with soap and warm water as soon as possible and insist the animal be watched for any sign of illness for at least two weeks after the incident. AMERICAN TRAPPER, 5-6/90.

Experience is what enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

The extent of woodpecker damage to power poles is not fully appreciated. In 1988 the Idaho Power had to replace a $10,000 transmisson line structure riddled with woodpecker holes. In the same year, Alabama *(Where the flicker is the State bird.)* Power Co. spent more than $1 million replacing over-pecked holes. South Central Power (OH) had to replace one pole three times at a cost of $35,000. Now chopper crews check the pole every month. Nothing seems to work including wire mesh. The only action appears filling the holes with dowels and cement or epoxy. GUY CONNOLLY & TWIN FALLS (ID) 03/19/89.

KILL THE NATIONAL TOTEM? Horrors! Not the bald eagle this time. The Canadian National Rail paid a trapper to get five beaver who had dammed a ditch in a rail yard near Vancouver (BC). The trapper had the audicity to roast the hindquarters of one. He said, "it tasted like mutton, but you've got to use mint to take the edge off." It raised such a furor the mayor said the public was not prepared to stomach such actions. This was almost as bad as fricsseeing the legs of a bald eagle in this country. ROGER WOODRUFF & THE BULLETIN (Bend, OR) 05/90.

Mute swans, the symbol of wealth and European royalty, were imported here by nouveau riche Americans around the turn of the century (only the trumpeter and whistling swans are native). From Long Island (NY) estates, the population of feral swans along the Eastern seaboard is roughly 6,000 but they are growing at a rate of 30-40% annually. While graceful looking creatures, they have bad habits similar to previous imports - house sparrows and starlings. They defend large territories, driving smaller native waterfowl from nesting sites. They also have fastidious tastes, consuming only the choicest roots in a pond, but in the process uprooting the vegetation indiscriminately. Control now seems to be shaking the hell out of the eggs in a nest of mutes until the yolk is scrambled, returning these to the nest, and letting the parents sit waiting for them to hatch until too late to try again. Needless to say this has not gone over well with the general public. A Rhode Island biologist got hate mail from a third-grade class for "killing baby animals". Another was told her children were in danger, because she was willing to "kill another mother's children." So we have another educational job. NATIONAL WILDL. FED. NEWSFEATURE 02/13/89

NUTHIN' BUT A HOUND DOG - The days of the hound men may be going the way of the hoop skirts. Long nights of chasing hounds and listening to their soulful sounds echo through the blackjacks seem to have given way to chasing girls and listening to sound systems worth the price of half a dozen good dogs. So Haskell Morgan built his own nostalgic playground. He fenced in 160 acres of blackjacks and postoak in a corner of Oklahoma near the Texas border, called it The Fox Pen, and turned a dozen or so coyotes *(These hound dog people are not strong on taxonomy)* loose. He charges hunters $5 per dog to let them run while the "hunters" sit around a campfire, drink booze, and swap lies about the best dogs they ever had. Morgan doesn't have to replace many coyotes either. PINK MADSEN & TRI-VALLEY DISPATCH (Casa Grande, AZ) 04/19/90

SNAKES ARE TRICKY - A hunter near Tehran tried to catch a snake by holding its head on the ground with the butt of his shotgun. But the snake coiled around the gun and accidentally pulled the trigger with his tail blowing the head off the hunter. Snake must have been a CIA employee. ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE 05/04/90.

GUARD DOGS DO WHAT? - Big stink near Cloudcroft (NM) when the game department went on a private ranch and killed ten elk. The owner asked help as the elk moved from National Forest land onto his pastures competing with his cattle. The rancher claimed the elk have caused $150,000 damage to his fences and pastures during the past five years. Bob Young (AR activist) says the herd depletion is an atrocity and "the Game & Fish Department is nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers." He also suggested the ranch could use guard dogs in the pastures *(Rodger, can your dogs really separate cows from the elk?)*. ANN FITZWATER & ALBQUERQUE TRIBUNE 05/07/90.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE? - The USA is contradicting itself (so what else is new?) on the African elephant problem. It has strongly supported the ban on ivory in international markets but at the same time has gone on record as backing the stalking of elephants as sport for wealthy Americans who can plunk down $10,000/week. A $18 million grant to Zimbabwe for wildlife management to control elephant hunting for land conservation and revenue has been negated when a quota for importing trophy tusks into the USA was disallowed in Switzerland. SHERM BLOM & DENVER POST 11/213/89

WELL DONE! - George Kelly whose Dad was a trapper in the Washington State ADC program rescued a bear from a 40-foot well. The 2.5-year-old bear fell through some rotted boards over the well and was heard by an apple picker. Kelly made a big loop in a rope and dropped it over the bear's shoulders. Then pulled the bear out with his vehicle. The bear quickly climbed a nearby tree and Kelly had to retrieve his rope by taping a knife on a pole. HOMER FORD & THE COLUMBIAN 11/30/90.

DEER REFLECTORS??? - A 3-year experiment with SWAREFLEX reflectors in Utah was discontinued when there appeared no significant difference between the number of deer road kills during the test period and before it. SHERM BLOM & SALT LAKE TRIBUNE 11/19/89.

CANNED POSSUM - Greg Harkins gets a big laugh out of selling Yankees 'canned possum'. He says, "Those poor things don't have a sense of humor. Give them a can and they say, 'Thanks, I'll go home and try it.'" The labels say the tins contain "sun-baked possum... meticulously prepared by one of our many mobile canneries operating at dusk until dawn along Possum Bend Road, Vaughan, MS and other blacktop roads in and throughout Yazoo County...contains no more than 1% asphalt and tire rubber...and best served on saltine crackers...with rat cheese, root beer, and a honey bun." Greg won't say what's in the cans. ANN FITZWATER & ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE 03/15/89.

MOOSE AND DRIVERS CAN'T READ ENGLISH - There is a big problem along a main highway from Quebec to Old Orchard Beach (ME) - moose. These big beasts wander in the way of cars driven by Canadians

going 80 plus mph. Signs in English warning "Moose crossing Areas Next 50 Miles" are ignored by French Canadians who think they are advertising the charms of the area. They are now trying sprays of putrescent egg solids along the highways to deter the moose. HOWARD MERRILL & MAINE TELEGRAM 09/03/89.

If at first you do succeed, don't take any more stupid chances.

EDITORIAL

There are some things I wish you all would take the time to do - rat now!

1. Write your Congressional reps warning them about the EEC trade bill to ban import of furs from countries using leghold traps.

2. Write iiFAR, POB 1873, Bridgeview, IL 60455 for a petition to send to Congress.

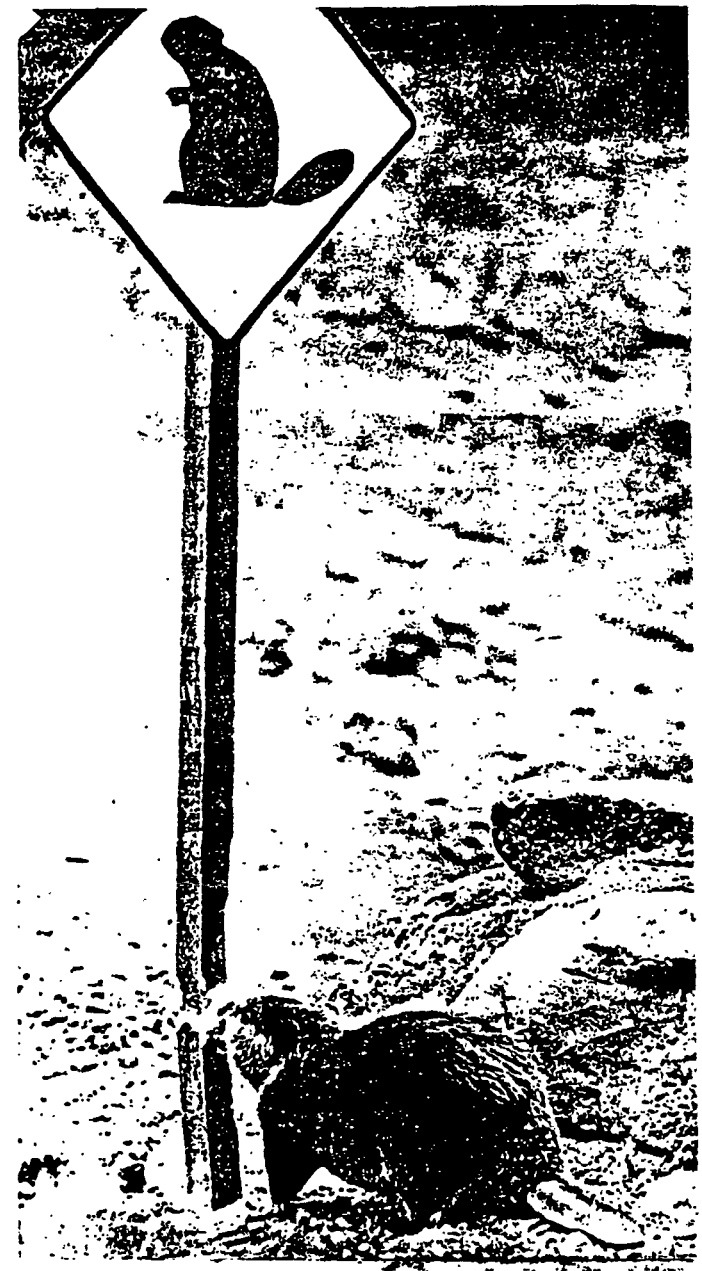
3. California residents talk up the negative aspects of "proposition 117".

While I indicated I wanted out as Editor, I also volunteered to keep going until a new Editor(s) was found. Until then I hope you will keep sending me grist for the mill. You'll note I dug up a couple of old submissions to get enough for this issue. Keep 'em coming!

I'm not against capital punishment. There are a lot of people in the capitol who should be punished.

EDITOR
WILLIAM D. FITZWATER

Adios,



Leave It To Beaver

The person who put up this beaver crossing sign near Red Wing, Minn., had the right idea, but the wrong post — this critter gnawed on the wood until the sign toppled!

WILLIAM D FITZWATER
7104 BELLROSE NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110

* * * * *

NEW ACADEMIC ENDEAVOR

Utah State University, in collaboration with the federal Animal Damage Control Program, is initiating an attempt to integrate Animal Damage Management into the Fisheries and Wildlife Management curriculum . . . from the roots up! Applicants are currently being sought for two new positions; one primarily a teaching/research position and the other related to initiating an ADM extension program on the national level. Interested persons should contact:

Chairman, ADM Search Committee
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322-5210

Closing dates for applications is tentatively set for 30 June 1990.

* * * * *

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS IN ADM

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Utah State University is seeking 2 teaching and 2 research assistantships in animal damage management (broadly defined). Stipends will range from $8,000 to 10,000 annually with a waiver of non-resident tuition. Applicants must have a B. S. in wildlife, ecology, or biology, and be accepted into the graduate program of the Department (requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 and combined verbal and quantitative GRE scores of 1100). Interested persons should send a resume, letter of interest, and names of three references to:

Dr. John Kadlec
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-5210

Persons interested in these assistantships should contact Dr. Kadlec as soon as possible.

* * * * *

Terrell P. Salmon
DANR-North Region
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

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Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to : Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

Name:.....

Address:.....

City:..... State:..... ZIP.....

Dues $:..... Donation $:..... Total $:..... Date:.....
(Underline: Student $7.50, Active $15, Sponsor $30, Patron $100)
Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

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_ Federal - other than APHIS
_ Foreign
_ ADC Equipment Supplier
_ Other (describe).....
_ Pest Control Operator
_ Retired
_ State Agency
_ Trapper
_ University