SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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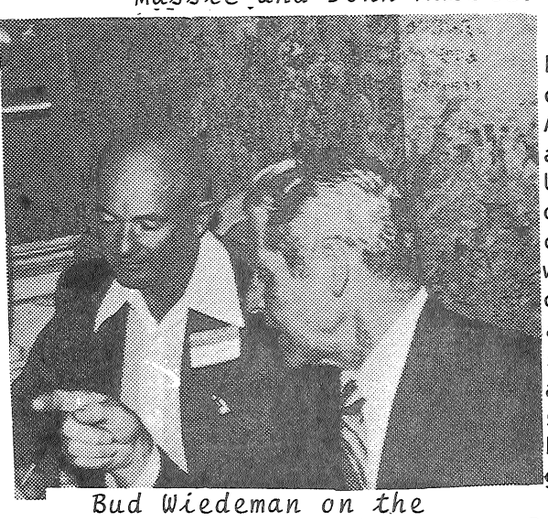
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1976

ANNUAL DINNER OF SOCIETY IN LOS ANGELES A SUCCESS

The Annual dinner meeting held at Michael's in Los Angeles was well attended, 120 people in all. Bud Wiedeman, as always, provided a good program and the dinner provided by the chefs of Michael's was excellent. As had been previously reported the special honorees were to be the young men of Explorer Post 621X and their advisers John and Mrs. Lowery. Bud Wiedeman had a series of slides that he screened that showed some of the Desert Water for Wildlife projects sponsored by the Society and the Department of Fish and Game, on which these people had labored so many times and so diligently. Bud also announced that there was to be a work project on Kingston Peak some 60 miles to the north of Baker and about 30 miles east of Shoshone the following weekend, the 9th of October. A good sized work crew would be needed for the project.

ABOVE: Lest to right: Dr. Jack C. Turner, Ph.D. Univ. of Wyoming; Margi Brayton, Biologist - Angeles National Forest; M.V."Dutch" Doornbos, Southern Council of Conservation Clubs; Dr. Loren L. Lutz, President S.C.B.H.S.; Mr. Dave Russon, Division Executive, B.S.A.; Mrs. Loren Lutz; Mrs. John Massie and John Massie, Wildlike Habitat Supervisor, California Dep't F. & G.



Bud Wiedeman on the right seems to be giving John Larronde Society Secretary a point to ponder.

Bud introduced Mr. Bob Reese of the Angeles National Forest. Bob had been presented a birthday cake following dinner in celebration of his '39th birthday'. Reese noted that the Angeles National Forest is about 25% in Los Angeles County, and like other national Forests is operating under the 'Multiple Use Concept'. The Forest encompasses about 1,000 square miles of area. The San Gabriel Mts. in which James DeForge is conducting his research are within this forest. Plans are underway for a prescription burn of between 300 and 350 acres of decadent brush during the spring of 1977. These brush fields are not only a biological desert but are also a large fuel source for wildfires that do plague the Southern California area. Reduction of these over-grown brush fields will then serve two main purposes, namely: the reduction of fire-hazards by reducing fuels and also the providing of newly sprouting grasses, forbs and browse plants for wildlife benefits.

Bud Wiedeman introduces Miss Kaia Pointer, a new member of the Society, a young lady who is a regular participant on work parties and an excellent artist. Bud showed one of Kaia's recent paintings of a bighorn for the appreciation of the diners.

IN ABOVE PHOTO: Left to right: Bud Wiedeman at the microphone; Post President, Mario Sanchez; Advisor John Lowery; John Christian and Ernie Sanchez. Not pictured due to poor quality of photo were: William Lowery, Scott Annand, Jeff Hain, Ernie Strand and Matt Lowery

Wiedeman on behalf of the Society presented engraved plaques to each of the members of Explorer Post 621 X and to their advisors Mr. and Mrs. John Lowery. Bud then introduced Mr. Dave Russon, Division Executive of the Boy S couts of America who also had awards to present to these dedicated young men and their advisers.

M.V. Doornbos of the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs. 'Dutch' also had compliments for the Explorers and for their advisoers concerningtheir work with the youth and for the wildlife of Southern California.

Dr. Loren Lutz, President of the Society spoke of the dedication of John Massie, Wildlife Habitat Supervisor for the Department of Fish adn Game, Region 5, Southern California, and under whom all of the Water fro Wildlife Projects are undertaken and then Dr. Lutz presented John with a suitable engraved plque in token of the Society's appreciation for his efforts. Massie stated that without the assistance of Les Coombes as his 'right-hand-man' these tasks could not possibly have been completed.

John Lowery with trophy awarded to him by the Society.

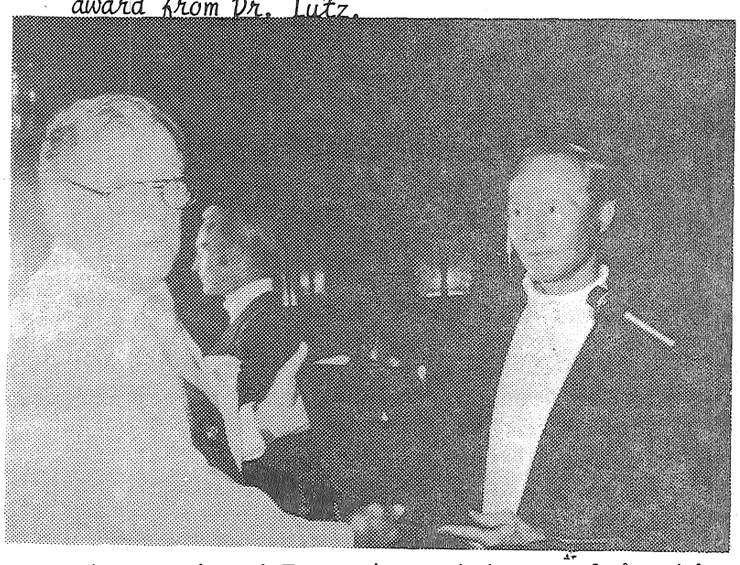
Since the meeting of October 2nd the Los Angeles Area Council of the B.S.A. in their publication EMPHASIS Have also given additional credits to Explorer Post 621 X as follow:

"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DIVISION

The North Division is proud to announce that Post 621, sponsored by the Larchmont Optomists Club - which is advised by John Lowery, has received both national and local recognition for conservation work the unit has done in helping to preserve the BigHorn Sheep. The unit is the recipient of the HORNADAY AWARD of the National Council, B.S.A. and also a special citation from the Society for the Conservation of the Bighorn Sheep, plus recognition from the State Fish and Game Department.

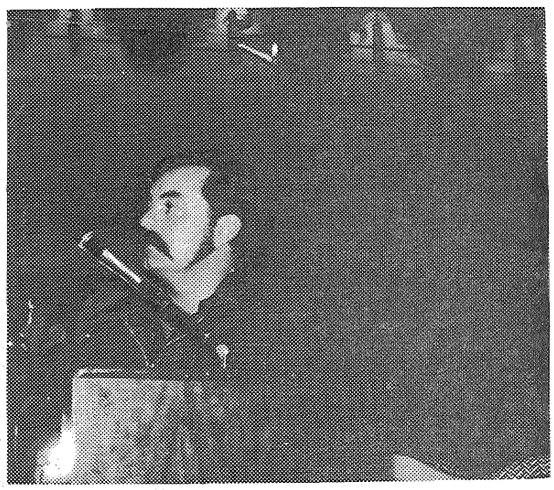
Congratulations to 621X for their deeds on behalf of all of us. Keep up the good work."

Below John Massie on right receéves his award from Dr. Lutz.



Dr. Lutz re-introduced Dr. Jack C. Turner, Ph.D. of the University of Wyoming. Dr. Turner did his Doctoral research study at the Desert Research Center in Deep Canyon southeast of Palm Desert. This past summer Dr. Turner did other research study at the same location and under the financial support of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. Jack accompanied his talk with numerous color slides of illustrations of his studies over the past eight years in the Santa Rosa Mountains with the bighorn sheep. The Carrizo Canyon is near Deep Canyon and is also a part of the study area. Turner stated that his study has been greatly helped by the advice and support of Dick Weaver, California Department of Fish and Game. Marvin Wood. a long-time Director of the Society has assisted Turner's work by supplying him with a 'Capshur-gun' which is used to fire the drug-carrying darts used to immobilize sheep for study purposes. Efforts prior to the use of darting had been confined to trapping at waterholes or on baited areas. Neither had been successful with the desert sheep of this area, although widely used elsewhere with success, as with the River Mountain herd of bighorns near Lake Mead. All projects have been carried out under the administration and observation of the California Department of Fish and Game. The DFG was charged by the California Legislature in 1873 to give full protection to the wild sheep of California, even though the management of the sheep was to remain under the administration of the Legislature, and has ever since the year of 1873.

The drug used in these capture projects has been that known as M-99. W ith its use there has been only one anumal lost during the past 6 years, and that was due to a 'bad-lot'of the drug. Information gathered by Dr. Turner is presently being analyzed by computer.



Dr. Jack C. Turner. Photo -ed.

Radio telemetry collars have been installed on sheep and their patterns of movement and migration, if any, have beenmonitored and charted. The results of this monitoring has resulted in better land-use planning by governmental agencies in efforts to protect the vital habitat of the bighorns. A good many areas have been declared 'off-limits' by these land-use planning agencies of the government. Studies on captive sheep at the Deep Canyon facility have included the minimal amounts of water needed by individual bighorns during the different times of year. This results in being better able to determine the amount of water essential to the bighorn use and where some of the artificial devices for watering need to be built or developed. The first research animal that Dr. Turner had was known as Gumdrop. She would permit Jack to perform any type of experiment with her in order to get her reward of a gumdrop. Later on Gumdrop did produce a lamb in the enclosure. The lamb was named Jellybean which seemed to be appropriate. However later examination revealed that the name Jellybean was not appropriate and so the lamb was renamed 'Knockers.'

Observations have shown that overcrowding within an enclosure does create stress among the animals and shows that there is minimum area requirements. Jack has determined that in an enclosure of five acres that the maximum population of sheep should not exceed three ewes and two lambs.

The dissemination of information that is gathered by research is of course a vital part of the research. Such information is now being put on tapes where it can be readily retrieved for use by other researchers. The public must also be informed of what is going on in the research, its purposes and the learned results. Otherwise the interested public can create, unintentionally, other problems for the research teams.

Turner has found that while the presently used three-day waterhole count of sheep is of a great deal of help to the wildlife managers, that it is not entirely valid. They have found that a better method can be used, but is of course, much more expensive. That is the marking of all sheep which come in to water by the use of colored dyes. For this method the dart gun is used. Instead of carrying drug-darts they use small vials of dye which break on contact and cover a relatively large part of the animal with the particular colored dye that is being used at that particular watersource. A different color is being used at each of the different waterholes being studied. Results of this method over a ten-day period have shown that there are more sheep in the area than had been accounted for by the observer-monitored three-day counts.

Scientists are presently studying the developement of a telemetry instrument which can be implanted within the animal, causes no stress and wiould have a long period of trouble free use. By use of such instruments the scientists can monitor and determine the amount of stress created within the sheep by different types and durations of noises such as an airplane or helicopter flying overhead or of the firing of a gun at close range or at a distance such as a mile, and how long the stress that is caused continues. In general stress caused by sudden noises raises heart beat significantly but soon returns to normal of about 30 per minute. Alarm by a nearby rattlesnake is significant and especially so if the sheep then kills the snake. Turner believes that the duration of the stress may be of greater significance that the sudden increase in heart beat. Rams in the rut are not so aware of external factors which cause stress than they are during other times of the year. Stress created on a lambing-ground is of great importance to the ewes during that time of year and will lead to the ewes abandoning that traditional lambing ground and seek some other place of solitude, if they can find one.

The smog conditions of the greater part of Southern California are now becoming significant in the mountains around the city of Palm Springs. This may well effect the health of the bighorns as well as people and of the vegetation needed by the sheep for their well-being. Desert Bighorn Sheep habitat is in general more free of ticks and other ectoparasites thatn in many other parts of California.

Dr. Jack Turner clsoed with the statement, :"I HOPE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE TO SEE OUR BIGHORNS ONLY AS PICTURES AND PETROGLYPHS". To this your editor says amen.

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SAFARI CLUB DELIVERS VEHICLES TO MEXICO

The Safari Club International Conservation Fund President Jack Beal together with Andy Oldfield, President of the S.C.I. and C.J. McElroy, Chairman of the Board of S.C.I, delivered two radio equipped Toyoto four wheel drive vehicles to Senor Mario Cossio at the Mexican border in Nogales on August 6, 1976.

The were met at the border by a delegation from the Mexican Fish and Game Department.

The Mexican Fish and Game Department have assured the S.C.I. that these vehicles will be used in patrol work for the protection of the desert big horn sheep and that the Department will be sending reports to the S.C.I. from time to time.

The S.C.I. delegation was also invited to drop in on the department and check the use of the vehicles personally. Both Andy Oldfield and McElroy plan to make such aninvestigative trip before the year's end.

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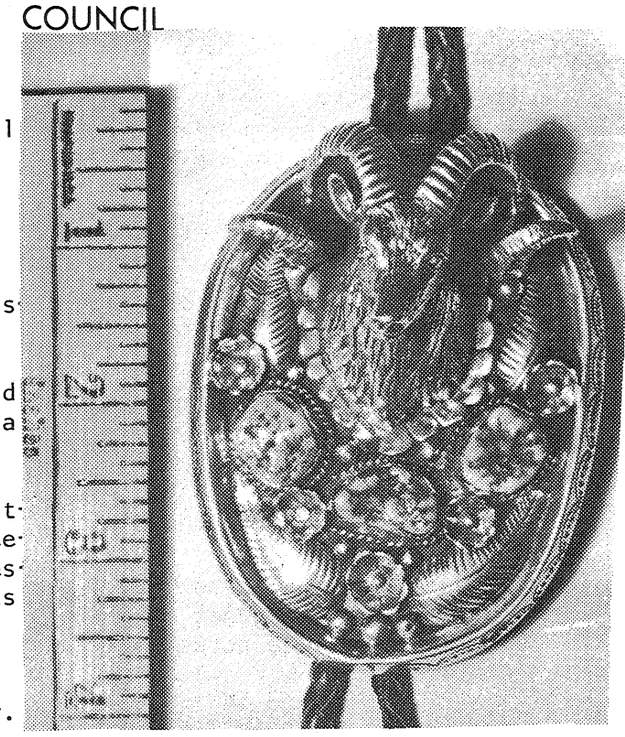
DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

Desert Bighorn Council Chairman Walter A. Snyder has announced that the Annual meeting of the Council has been set for April 6 through April 8, 1977. The City of Las Cruces in New Mexico has been chosen for the site of this meeting for several reasons: its close proximity to the desert bighorn range in the San andres Mountains, and also Juarez, Mexico, for those who would like to take a short trip South of the Border.

A well planned and well-rounded program is promised which will kepp the attendees interested, and some festivities that will not soon be forgotten. This announcement is being made early in order that you, who may desire to attend will have ample time to make arrangements for travel, et cetera. Fun here in the "Land of Enchantment" is promised. To cover some of the expenses of this meeting, we will raffle a beautiful $450.00 bighorn sheep bolo tie adorned with turquis and silver. Tickets will be on sale at the meeting. ALSO YOUR EDITOR HAS A SUPPLY OF THESE RAFFLE TICKETS. Donation for a raffle ticket is $1.00. So--let me know how many tickets you wish--send a check and I will send you a ticket right away. The Desert Bighorn Council was "Established to promote the advancement of knowledge concerning the Desert Bighorn Sheep and the long-range welfare of these animals."-----Send your $5.00 dues to Peter G. Sanchez, Secretary-Tresurer, P.O. Box 276, Death Valley, California 92328.

One part of the Council is composed of the ladies attending and is known as "The Ewes Club". They have a marvelous time together at these meetings.



THE ABOVE PICTURED Indian made bolo was donated to the Council by Edward Munoz of the N.M. Game Commission.

Plans call for a field trip into the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge on the 8th.

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ANNUAL BIGHORN SHEEP COUNT - SUMMER 1976

Glenn Sudmeier
Chairman - Water Projects
1728 Hillside Ave.,
Norco, Ca. 91760 phone - (714) 735 - 4387

Volunteers listed as reporting to the Society Chairman were 30 in number; they contributed 162 man days of effort and travelled a total of 9,372 reported miles. Twenty different water sources were observed for the three-day period of time. During the days of effort a total of 225 sheep were observed and classified.

As is the usual case, there were a number of the volunteers who saw no sheep at their waterhole. In fact, sheep were observed at only 10 of these locations.

All volunteers who participated in these waterhole-counts are to be commended for their dedication, tenacity and willingness to stay at their location even though they may not have seen any of the bighorns. Information gained by the observations of these dedicated people is vital knowledge for use in management of the habitat and its denisens.

Sudmeier also furnished the editor with a list of area captains and did observe that in order for him and his committee of the Society to do an adequate job that it is IMPERATIVE THAT HE HAVE MORE PEOPLE volunteer to assume the responsibilites of looking after a number of these small mountains in the California Deserts. It is necessary that these Team Captains send in written reports to him of their activities in these mountains; what they have found; whatthey have found that needs to be accomplished to benefit the bighorns.

Sudmeier is requesting that EVERY AREA CAPTAIN go into his assigned area by December first, if possible, and inspect the various water sources in order to determine whether or not work needs to be done in order that that installation, spring, or other water source be made ready to accept rainwater from the expected storms of this coming winter. ALL findings are then to be reported back to Glenn, IMMEDIATELY. The desert mountains are very prone to flash flooding and much damage may be created by a storm. Glenn will then coordinate needed repair work with John Massie, Habitat Supervisor for the Department of Fish and Game. These prompt reports are needed in order to buy the time needed to get these jobs done, and done in time.

As an example of a report is one sent in by R. Campbell of Huntington Beach. He went to check the Big Game Guzzler known as Surveyor Spring on the eastern side of the Old Woman Mountain and reported that the float valve in the drinker was locked shut. He corrected this. He found the tanks full of water. However, on that day of October second he also found that the first section of pipe emerging from the diversion dam was intact with water running out of it; the second and third sections of the pipe had been torn out;

they were, he thought, reusable, with repairs to the joints. He concluded that the damage had been done by a very hard and heavy rainstorm occurring shortly prior to his visit.

Sudmeier also announced that he has had two young men David Crosely and Brian Tidrick will be acting as co-captains and had been obtained through the efforts of Dr. Charles Jenner, D.V.M. with who they are working at Jenners 'ElDorado Animal Hospital'and also are full-time college students. They have been devoting all of their weekend time-offs to going into the various mountains searching for water sources and have been making reports to him (Sudmeier). They had gone into the Old Dad Mountains looking for a B.G.Guzzlers without success. Sudmeier had then gone back with them found the guzzler and had made the needed repairs. These are the type of people that are making our volunteer water for wild-life program work. The periodic surveilance and maintenance performed by our area Captains is the most vital work that they do.

Glenn says further: " I hope that you have some space in The Sheepherder to mention this. Perhaps it will stimulate some field work by our other Captains. Currently the D.F.G. as well as the Society is in need of status reports on all 24 (yes 24) B.G.G.'s. Because of the wide spread flash flooding that has occurred in the last 60 days, (as of Nov. 7th). If we know early enough about any damage to the B.G.G. systems we would be able to work with DFG and schedule volunteer work parties to repair any broken systems, and hopefully, in time to take advantage of this coming winter's rains.

In addition to the Old Dad B.G.G. reports which says it is full and working , Please note the other five results by our volunteers from the SIERRA CLUB, and one, Bob Campbell, is also a quail hunter. He reports that south of I-40 in the Marble Mts. the B.G.G. is full and operating; North of I - 40 in the Bristol Mts. BGG full and operating; Sheep Camp Spring B.G.G. in the Old Woman Mts. full and operating---FOR THE FIRST TIME; Old Woman Statue Spring B.G.G. full and operating and Weavernoy Spring in the Granite Mts., of Riverside County is only half full and is not working there is a leak at a 2" union---the drinker pipe is clogged and no float on the drinker valve." Glenn Sudmeier

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NOTE: The editor of THE SHEEPHERDER attempts to give something of the varied interests of the Society's membership. The majority of the Officers and Directors of the Society are and have been of the sportsmen-conservationists. As has been the case over the past many years these Sportsmen-Conservationists have formed the backbone of that group of people who support both financially and by their diligent efforts the improvements to the habitat of our fish and wildlife and safeguard its welfare and attempt to assure its' future well-being. Some time ago the editor did receive from Bob Housholder, Executive Director of the Norht American Sheep Hunters Association---The Grand Slam Club, a copy of his paper titled Twenty years Guiding for Desert Bighorn. Bob is a charter member of this Society for the Conservation of Bgihron Sheep and of five other organizations whose main thrust is the well-being of the bighorns. His paper will be excerpted:

BOX 6428, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005

NORTH AMERICAN SHEEP HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

(many Society members are members of this, the Grand Slam Club).

" I had been guiding for javelina and trophy mule deer since 1950, but now (1953) I wanted to guide for desert sheep.... In the fall of 1955, the late Bernard Briggs of Nebraska was drawn and contracted me to guide him. The game department then issued me the guide license for the first professionally guided sheep hunt in Arizona. He collected a fine ram on the seventh day to complete his grand slam.

On those early hunts there wasn't much interest in either hunting or guiding. In 1956 and 1957 for example less than three dozen persons applied for the 20 permits...During the Mojave Area Hunt of 1958, north of the Bill Williams River, we took four big rams from our camp in 10 days... on what Outdoor Life magazine called "the greatest sheep hunting and guiding story to come out of the southwest in modern times." We took a record book ram the first day, a near record book ram the second day, a nine year old ram on the 6th day and a 14 year old grand slam ram at 5 p.m. on the final day of the hunt.....The desire to acquire as much knowledge as possible on a certain animal is stronger in some men than in others. One does not learn very much about an animal while he is hunting it. He has to get out there in the off season and find the animals and stay with them to learn their habits and behaviour." *Speaking of waterhole sheep counts Bob says:* During the (three day) "Sit up" we would camouflage ourselves in and under a group of mesquite or palo verde trees. I usually sat on a folding canvas chair with arms and wore a long sleeved shirt, wide brimmed hat, binoculars around my neck and a gallon jug of water wrapped in wet towels between my feet. We sat there(sometimes standing to stretch but ever careful of quick movements) 12 to 14 hours a day for three days. But we counted and classified sheep and we learned.....Only twice in 20 years of sheep guiding have we put up a tent and that was because the hunter wanted privacy....Rain has hit my sheep camps only three times in those two decades, but one was a night time gully washer.....had two inches of snow in Eldorado Canyon in western Mojave County ..... and have been burned tomato red after 10 days of sun in the Coppers and Tinajas Altas in southern Yuma County one year.....Camping facilities have improved 100% since the early days of sheep hunting in Arizona. Today we drag a large camp trailer as far a a big 4-wheeler can takeit and set up camp.....In those early days we slept on canvas cots under the stars and stood around the fire slowly revolving like a big piece of meat on a spit-- alternately freezing and frying.

Sheep guides are a different breed of man as their job is the toughest of all in big game hunting. Their quarry is not easily found and its home is most inhosptable. Guides must have persistant high morale each day and a tenacious desire totake on the mountain each dawning."

Bob Housholder.

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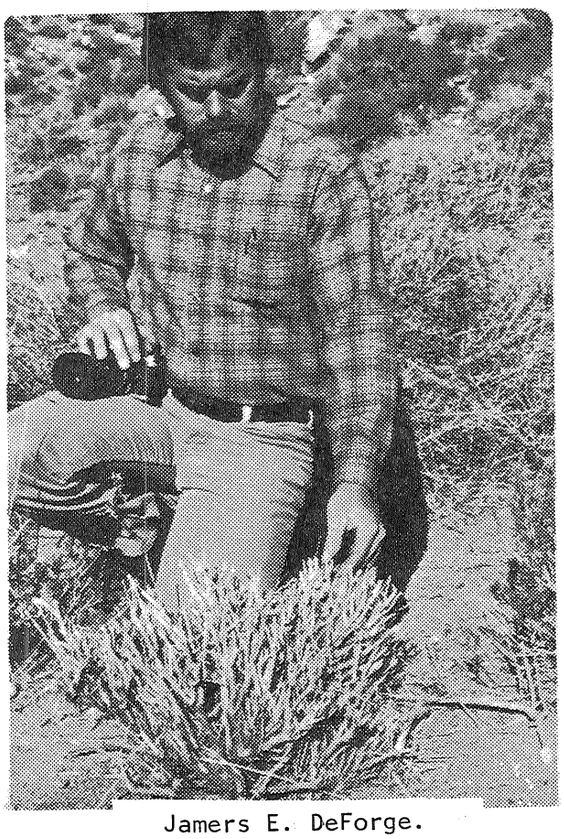
$1,000 REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION IN DEATH OF RARE BIGHORN SHEEP--$1,000

Three conservation organization---the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs and the Los Angeles Chapter of the Safari Club International are together posting the $1,000 for information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who caused the apparant shooting death of a bighorn sheep ewe near Lytle Creek.

The ewe's carcass was found on Cucamonga Peak in the San Bernardino National Forest by Glenn Sudmeier, the Society's Chairman of the Water Projects Committee. At the time that Sudmeier found the carcass he was fillin-in for James E. DeForge---pictured at the left. Jim had been out of state at the time. DeForge a Graduate student at the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona has for the past three years been conducting studies of the bighorn sheep of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains. His study primarily has been the behavioural relationships between the sheep and the people who use the area for hiking, back-packing and other recreational purposes. In order to trace the movements of this particular band of bighorns he had captured the ewe in question, which was the dominant ewe and was the leader of that family group. Jim had fitted the ewe with a radio transmitter collar in order to monitor her movements and thus determine the patterns of movement of her band of sheep. Previous research has shown that the dominant ewe is always the leader of the herd. Studies being conducted by DeForge are sponsored by the Department of Fish and Game, the San Bernardino National Forest and funded by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. This ewe did have a lamb of the year. Its whereabouts and that of the other members of the herd is presently unknown, as they have scattered. The probabillity is that the lamb has gone withother members of the herd. It probably is no longer dependent on its mother for sustenance. The ewe was first missed on September 19th when radio contact ceased. When Sudmeier found the carcass of the ewe his inspection lead him to believe that the ewe had been shot, perhaps by a deer hunter in that area. Deer season was open at that time and the Sevaine Road was open to travel. The radio transmitter found near the carcass in a battered condition and inoperable.



Jamers E. DeForge.
photo---editor

The Department of Fish and GAme is requesting anyone with any information concerning the death of this bighorn ewe to contact Inspector Jack Traub at 350 Golden Shore, Long Beach, Calif. 90802 or to telephone him at (213) 590-5124 or to contact Lt. Bruce Cochran at the same address and phone.

Inspector Traub says that the DFG is conducting this investigation as though they were searching for a murderer.

Certainly somewhere 'out-there' there is (are) a person(s) who do have some knowledge about this incident.

LAW ABIDING CITIZENS MUST ASSIST THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL ACTS.

SUCCESFUL PROSECUTION OF PEOPLE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF THE TWO RAMS AT THE LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND AT THE ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER CITIZENS WHO ABHORED THE ACTS

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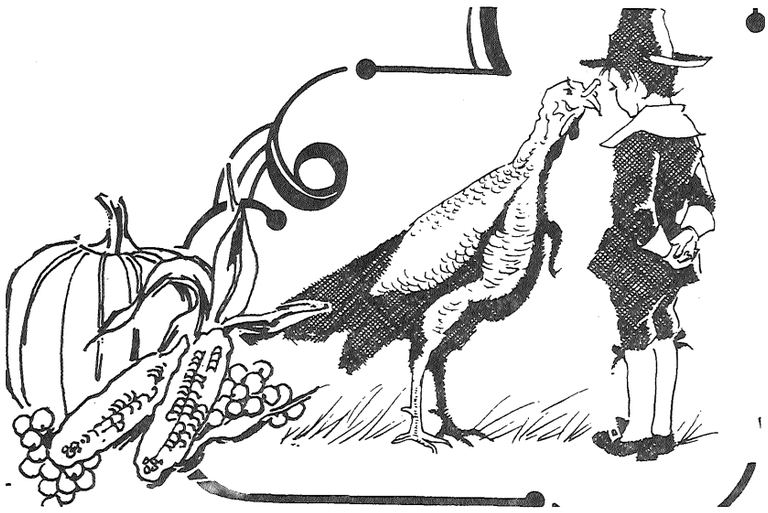
ANOTHER POACHING CASE

In the Western Outdoor News (Nov., 19,1976) Bill Beebe reports that a suspect, Carlos Cota Rivera, is alleged to have arranged illegal hunts (for Desert Bighorn sheep) in Baja (California) for at least 28 hunters from all over the U.Sfor the past three years. Rivera and a taxidermist from Montana were arrested and jailed in Mexico this past spring. After three weeks in jail and after not having been tried they were released. An indictment was isssued against Rivera in San Diego court on October 20, 1976 and a warrrant for his arrest. To date Rivera has not been apprehended. Court issued search warrrants were obtained and Rivera's home was searched. Allegedly, forged governmental documents, export permits and hunting licenses were found during the search.

U.S. Attorney David Curnow, (who broke the Gary Swanson Case) would not state whether or not charges were to be brought against the 28 hunters from the U.S.

DATES TO REMEMBER



THANKSGIVING DAY---Did you give thanks to your God for your many blessings this past year?

CHRISTMAS - 1976--would be a good time to give a friend a membership in the SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

NEW YEARS - 1977 - a good time to resolve that you will become an active participant in the Water For Wildlife Program--that you will take the responsibility of searching for water improvement sites; that you will actively participate in the Desert Waterhole Counts this coming year; that you will mark our calendar for the following dates and then"YOU'ALL COME."

March 12 - 13, 1977:Water Project in the NOPAH RANGE--- North of the Kingston Mts. near the Nevada State Line-----SPECIFICS later---January -February issue of THE SHEEPHERDER

March 19, 1977 ----700 truxton Avenue Bakersfield, Cal.-----Maitia's Basque Restaurant ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SOCIETY --DETAILS IN JANUARY.

April 2 - 3, 1977 --KELSO PEAK PROJECT---due east of the Old Dad Mts. and about 10 miles northwest of the town of Kelso, which is on the Kelbaker Road.....more later.

May 7 - 8, 1976 ----Water development project in the Clark Mountains near the Nevada border. There have been reports of sightings of white desert sheep in these mountains.

NOTE: THE ABOVE THREE WATER PROJECTS ARE TO BE FUNDED BY THE NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. This program is also know as the "DECAL PROGRAM" of the Department of Fish and Game. When yo u donate funds , your money goes into the Native Species Conservation and Enhancement Fund. No money can be appropriated from that fund until specific proposals are submitted and reviewed through the regular state budget process which includes proposing the projects in the Governor's budget and ultimate approval by the Legislature. Proposals are made from within the DFG and reviewed by the Citizen's Nongame Advisory Committee, consisting of concerned citizens. This does take time but insures input and proper administration of the money. ENCOURAGE A FRIEND TO GIVE TO THE NONGAME CONSERVATION PROGRAM. SEND A CHECK FOR A DOLLAR OR MORE TO "WILDLIFE", Box DFG, Sacramenot, Ca. 95801. You will be sent a decal to show that you do care about nongame wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
from the

SPORTSMEN'S COUNCIL
OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

COUNTIES OF
FRESNO, KERN, KINGS, MADERA, MARIPOSA, MERCED, MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, STANISLAUS, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ AND TULARE

The Sportsmen's Council of Central California is pleased to report that the 94th Congress did endorse an ORGANIC ACT for the Bureau of Land Management on September 29, 1976. President Gerald Ford did sign this FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT of 1976 on October 21, 1976.

The Sportsmen's Council of Central California did secure the introduction into this Public Law 94-579 of:(1) Section 303, ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY for the BLM over these lands; (2) Section 312. Authorization for the BLM to conduct SEARCH AND RESCUE on these public lands and to pay for the same; (3) Section 404, MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN HORSES AND BURROS. The Council also supported Section 601 , THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA and its management.

Section 404 of this Act states: "Sections 9 and 10 of the Act of December 15, 1971 (85 Stat. 649, 651; 16 U.S.C. 1331, 1339-1340) are renumbered as sections 10 and 11 respectively, and the following new section is inserted after section 8:

"Sec. 9 Inadministering this Act, the Secretary may use or contract for the use of helicopters or, for the purpose of transporting captured animals, motor vehicles. Such use shall be undertaken only after a public hearing and under the direct supervision of the Secretary or of a duly authorized official or employee of the Department. The provisions of subsection (a) of the Act of September 8, 1959 (73 Stat. 470; 18 U.S.C. 47 (a) shall n ot be applicable to such use. Such use shall be in accordance with humane procedures prescribed by the Secretary." end quote.

The House-Senate Conference Committee's CONFERENCE REPORT to the President states on page 64, Sec. 32 :"The Senate bill did not contain any provisions relating to wild horses and burros." NOTE:(the S.C.of C.C. was informed of this by several different BLM officials, and advised to contact Senator Henry Jackson and seek inclusion into the Committees report. This was done.) "The House amendments amended the Wild Horse and Burro Act (PL 92-195) with respect to the disposal of excess animals and the use of motorized vehicles by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture."

"The conferees did not accept the provisons relating to disposition of excess animals. It approved the grant of authority for the use of helicopters and, for the purpose of transporting captured animals, motor vehicles. This grant does not deprive the Secretaries of their current authority to use aircraft and motor vehicles in wild horse and burro management where harassment of animals cannot result. Examples are use of any aircraft for surveillance or use of motor vehicles for transportation of personnel and equipment." end quote.

Congressman G. William Whitehurst's assistance was vital to passage of this legislation.

The next step will be to attempt to get the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to get to work on this badly needed managemnt. No funding was included in this measure. Therefore budget request must be made and approved and then funded by the Congress. Time is very important---for some species of native flora and fauna time is running out. LETTERS TO your CONGRESSMEN and SENATORS are needed stressing the urgency of implementation.

The Sportsmen's Council is also pleased to report the signing of PL 94-429 by President Ford. This Act is To Provide for the regulation of mining activity within, and to repeal the application of mining laws to, areas of the National Park System, and for other purposes. The S.C. of C.C. did actively support this measure. This Act will be a great help in the preservation of bighorn sheep habitat in the Death Valley National Monument.

Lew Carpenter, Legislative Secretary.

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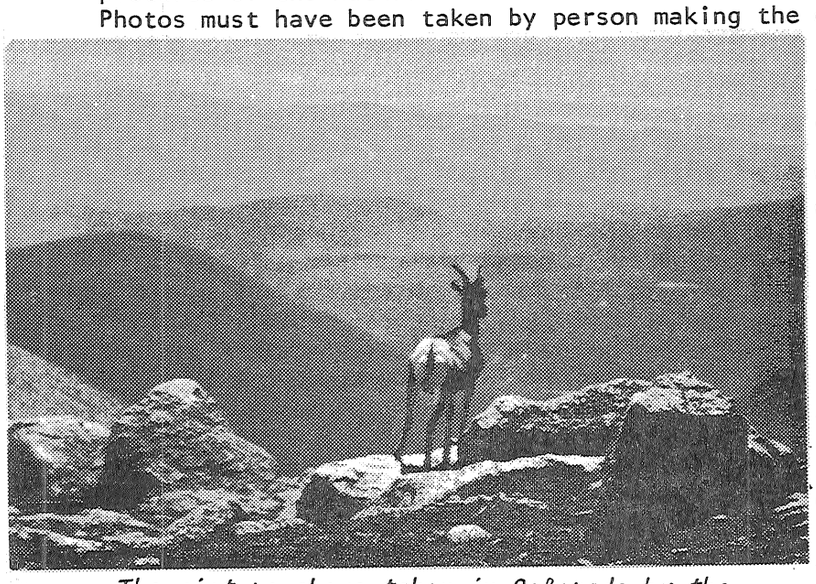
CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD PROGRAM

The California Fish and GAme Commission, in an effort to foster a greater appreciation for California's varied fish, wildlife and habitat resources, has established its Photography Award Program.

Only photographs of live fish and wildlife species intheir native habitat, or pictures of the natural environment within the State of California will be considered. Photos must have been taken by person making the entry. Participants will be limited to a total of two photograph entries per class-category per year. Prints entered become the property of the Fish and Game Commission. When pictures are used, the photographer will receive credit. Negatives remain the property of the photographer. Judging will be done by *Trustees and Members of FRIENDS OF PHOTOGRAPHY, a non profit organization headquartered in Carmel, California and headed by the noted photographer Ansel Adams. Each picture shall be not less than 5 X 7 and shall be mounted with outside dimensions of 11X14, 14X18, or 16X30. Entries shall be submitted to the Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, Calif. 95814, prior to September 30 of the year entered.*

Special categories for 1977 are: 1. Marine Animals and 2. Bighorn Sheep.

Above information courtesy--Dick Weaver, DFG



The picture above taken in Colorado by the editor does not qualify.

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REPORT FROM JOHN MASSIE, WILDLIFE HABITAT SUPERVISOR - Dep't F & G, R.5

A telephone report from Massie tells me, the editor, that there is critical need that all Team Captains do go into their respective areas and check out all installations, springs and water sources for present conditions and then to REPORT ANY NEEDED REPAIRS and/or work that needs to be done. Report to Sudmeier---See related article.

John reports: The Chuckawalla Mt. installation badly damaged by flooding---tanks were floated off their bases and damaged as was the drinker---the pick-up screen at the spring was torn loose and found down the canyon, but was repairable. This project has been repaired and is now back in working condition. John reports that 51 students of the CRISIS CLUB of the Huntington Beach High School were the major work force on these repairs and that they built a divergence dam above the installation---this should minimize any likelihood of a repeated damage They also installed a new pick-up screen.

Water projects on the Last Chance mountain and Dry Mountain are in working condition.

WEAVERNOV SPRING---installation has been repaired and the pick-up screen found down canyon repaired and replaced----now in working condition.

Water supply to the drinker at the Cockscomb Mt. project had been disrupted. The water from the storage tanks was running out of the plastic pipe from these tanks to the drinker. The loss of water was due TO COYOTES BITING HOLES THROUGH THE PLASTIC PIPE AND CHEWING HOLES IN IT. This drinker supply pipe will now be replaced with steel pipe.

Again-- In the Old Woman Mountains---Statue Spring, Sheep Camp Spring and Surveyor Spring installations are all full and working.

The Bureau of Land Management is holding-off on further water projects until an assessment can be made showing whether or not these present water storage and developement projects are being effective in doing that for which they have been devised. Your Editor does not know just what type of proof is required by the Bureau, but will attempt to find out. In the meantime---IF EVERYONE WHO ASSISTS on surveillance of waterholes, spring developements, water storage projects, etc., would kindly send in reports of your finding to our Coordinator Glenn Sudmeier, then perhaps we may be able to furnish this needed proof to the Bureau.

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Has anyone any information concerning sheep in the Chocolate Mts. of Imperial-Riverside Co's