SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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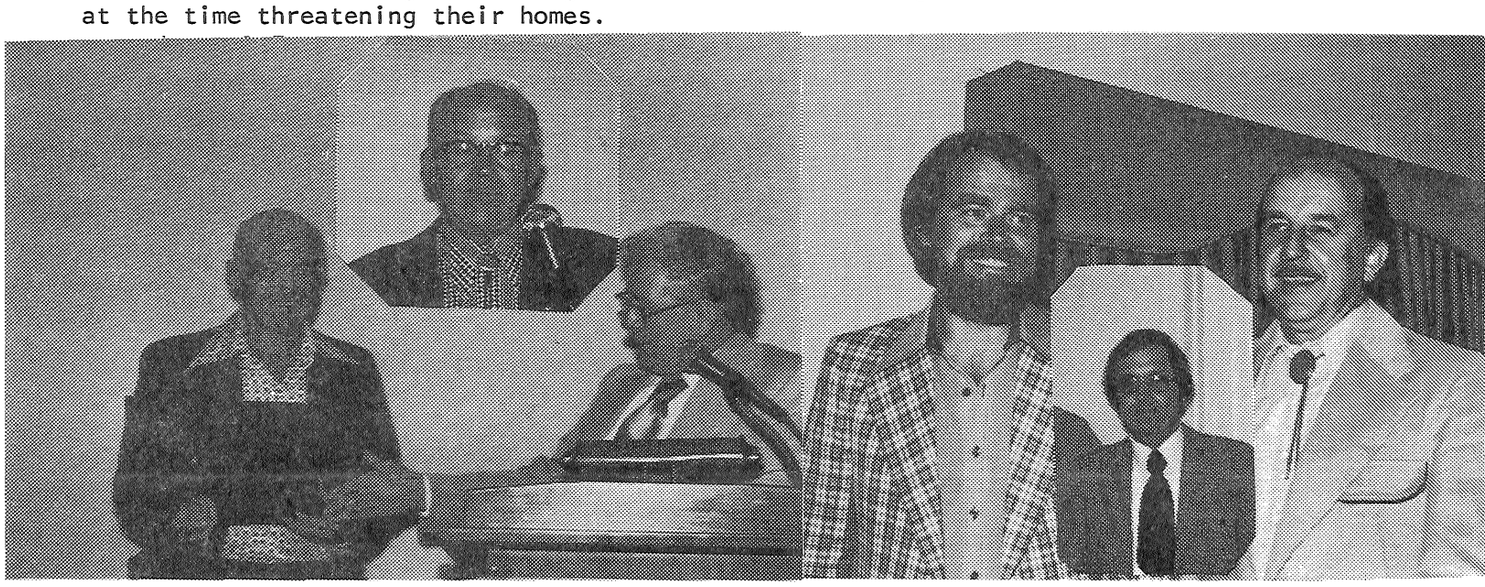
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING OF SOCIETY HELD IN BAKERSFIELD

The annual dinner meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep held the evening of March 11th was attended by 62 faithful 'sheepherders'. Members came from as far away as Sacramento and nearly to San Diego. Undoubtedly the very recent and severe storms across Southern California did keep many from attending who are usually present. We did miss the cheerful countenance of Bud Wiedeman. Bud was temporarily laid up from a bad fall that he had . It was not at all surprising to learn that Bud sustained his injury while he was helping a friend. Was there ever a time when Bud was not helping someone else? Reports are that he will soon be back in circulation, and as usual the hardest working man on the water storage projects.

Homer Harrison of Bakersfield and the President of the Sportsmen's Council of Central California presided over the meeting as the host and Master of Ceremony. He introduced the Officers of the Society and turned the meeting over to Society President Dr. Loren L. Lutz.

Dr. Lutz called upon John E.O. Larronde and presented him with an engraved plaque that reads,"The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep honors John E. O. Larronde for his dedication to the welfare of bighorn sheep and his enduring efforts in their behalf." John is one of the Founders of the Society and has been its Secretary ever since it was founded in 1964. Larronde had to leave early and get back home to Malibu in order that he might be able to assist his neighbors along the coast in combatting the heavy wave action that was at the time threatening their homes.



Insert Homer Harrison
John Larronde receives Congratulation from Dr. Loren Lutz

James DeForge

Insert Bill Phifer
Dr. Charles W. Jenner

James DeForge and Dr. Charles W. Jenner, DVM teamed together in reporting concerning studies of the bighorn sheep of the San Gabriel Mts. They illustrated their report with color slides and moving pictures that had been taken by Bill Phifer, a Director of the Society and a former Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER. Bill showed that he is not only an intrepid photographer but that he really has a lot of photographic 'smarts'. As reported by DeForge and Jenner the California Legislature had in the early 1870's been concerned with the apparant decline in the wild sheep of the state and had in 1873 declared the bighorn sheep of California along with the tule elk an completely protected species. That same status still is in effect today.

An Audubon Society representative a number of years ago had made a report of sighting sheep in the San Gabriel Mts. and Fritz Winter a Biologist of the San Bernardino National Forest undertook the task of mapping the areas of the forest that were inhabited by the sheep. As previously reported in THE SHEEPHERDER, the Society had inaugurated a state-wide study of the bighorns in the fall of 1968. Dick Weaver and Jerry Mensch had been assigned by the Department of Fish and Game to conduct this study requested by the Legislature.

DeForge in his PhD. studies chose to study the impact of people hiking in and through the bighorn habitat would have on the bighorns. This has been previously reported in these newsletters. Since the studies of California's sheep began in 1968 the only times that a pathologist could study the anatomy of a sheep was as a result of the death of an animal by either disease or by an accident. As Jack Turner has said," These specimens that we get are by the time we get them and get them to the laboratory they have become 'pretty ripe'. The majority of deaths are due to pneumonia. Laboratories of the Los Angeles County Zoo and some of the Veterinarian Hospitals of the area have been open and available to the pathologists for study of specimens obtained. By the time a sick sheep is found and can be captured and taken to the hospital for treatment it is nearly always too late to save its life. Through necropsies much is learned about the wild sheep....Captured sheep that have been penned in enclosures have added greatly to biological knowledge of the species. Jack Turner's studies at the Deep Canyon Research Center in the Santa Rosa Mts. with "Gumdrop" is a classic example, and has been reported on on several occassions.

Jenner spoke of his work with Jack Turner and Dick Weaver in the capturing of sheep used at the Deep Canyon Research Center. A tranquillizer-dart-gun is used with the drug M-99 for capture purposes. A different dosage of the drug is used on ewes than on rams. ...Prior to any efforts made to capture sheep it was necessary to have a cooperative agreement signed by the U.S.Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game. It took nearly two years to finalize this agreement

DeForge found that he needed a census of sheep numbers and evolved a plan whereby at least 120 people on a given day were to walk over prescribed courses and record the numbers of sheep that each observed. 170 people responded to the call in March of 1976 and did observe more than 200 sheep that day. Similar results on both people and sheep numbers were obtained in March 1977. The count of this March--set originally for the 5th had to be postponed because of the tropical storms occurring at that time.

DeForge wished to determine the home range of distinct bands; their migration routes, if any; and the vegetative species utilized . To do this required capture of sheep and the installation of radio collars on some of them. Efforts were made in each case to capture the dominant animal in each group---usually a ewe. Unfortunately one of these ewes was killed by a poacher during the open deer season in the area and in plain sight of a little used Forest road. This road has since then been closed to all vehicular usage. The Society offered a reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party. To date no information has surfaced.

Dr. Jenner and other veterinarians of the L.A. Zoo have been on hand during every capture Six sheep--ewes-- now wear radios..... A helicopter must be used in all capture efforts, for several reasons. The walls of Lytell Creek Canyon are about 2,000 feet high and extremely steep. Even if a person on foot were able to get close enough---30 to 40 yards--- to use the dart gun, then during the 6 to 8 minutes necessary for the drug to take effect, the sheep could and would move so far that a person on foot would not be able to find the downed animal and it would be lost and might not survive.....After capture the biologists and Veterinarians make many tests and take samples of blood, feces, an urine,; examine the animal for any parasites; take body temperature and monitor this temperture constantly while the animal is immobilized. The radio collar is installed, tags are pladed on the ears to further mark the individual animal. After these things are done an antibiotic is given the sheep and then an injection of a recovery drug. This latter works very quickly and within moments the sheep is ready for release---safely. Six ewes now wear radio collars. All six were captured a short time prior to lambing and all six were successful in their lambing and the lambs were all healthy.....The same helicopter pilot has been on all sues of helicopters in the San Gabriel Mt. projects. He really is an expert in this very demanding and difficult flying operation. He has to land often in rather precarious positions---sometime on only one of the skids and on rocky outcroppings in order to let the Veternarians and biologist of the capture team get to the downed sheep as quickly as possible.....Rental of helicopter time is at the rate of $250. per hour. As has been reported previously the Society is financially deeply involved in this project.....DeForge reported that the sheep of San Gabriel Mt. are thought to be of the specie *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*. This being an isolated mountain area there is no certainty that this is correct---they may be a different sub-specie of the desert bighorns.

Jenner and DeForge have found many skulls of sheep in the area. Very seldom have they found a skull of a sheep that had lived past 10 years. The greater majority of the skulls show that the age of the animal at the time of death to have survived only 6 to 8 years.

Dr. Lutz spoke of the fact that habitat is the key to success in wildlife survival. The Society together with the California Society for Protection and Care of Wildlife have a lease on the 34,000 acre Hansen Ranch property with an option for purchase. The plan being to make this purchase and then return the higher elevation portion approximately 10,000 acres tobighorn sheep---it being a part of their historic range. The first priority is to get tule elk established in the preserve. The specie of sheep historically occupying the area and the probabillity of a relict band still there is that they are *Ovis canadensis californiana* the same specie as presently occupy the Mt. Baxter-Mt. Williamson and Sawmill Canyon areas, and where at present a trapping-transplant project is being readied....Ernie Albitre reported that he had seen 84 sheep in a band in the Sawmill Canyon and Marvin Wood reported that he had seen 78 sheep in the same area. The actual trapping procedure was being held up as the sheep had not yet become addicted to the fermented apple pulp used for bait---there being a considerable supply of natural feed still available.

During the Board of Directors meeting following the dinner with Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield District Manager Louis A. Boll, also a member of the Society, it was brought out that the Hansen Ranch property is at present, and through 1978, under lease for grazing use of domestic livestock---cattle and sheep. Furthermore the three who lease these lands do receive a preferential priviledge for grazing their livestock upon the adjacent National Resource Lands. If the two Societies are successful in purchase of the Hansen Ranch property then the permittees must seek another private land base from which to operate, else they

would lose the preferential priviledge of grazing upon the NR Lands.....Another problem has now surfaced--- An unnamed preservationist organization has made a demand that the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and Game complete an Environmental Impact study concerning whether or not any tule elk at all should be in the preserve that is being purchased for their benefits. It would seem that some of these type of people would prefer that these fine animals die from disease and/or malnutrition on ranges overgrazed than to have an opportunity for survival in augmented numbers.

Also the route of the Pacific Crest Trail has not yet been finalized as it will, someday, traverse the Southern Sierra Nevada mountains enroute from the Mexican Border to that of the Canadian Boundary on the north. This trail may be routed near the area planned for the bighorn sheep.

A SIDELIGHT ON THIS WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA PROJECT OF THE SOCIETY

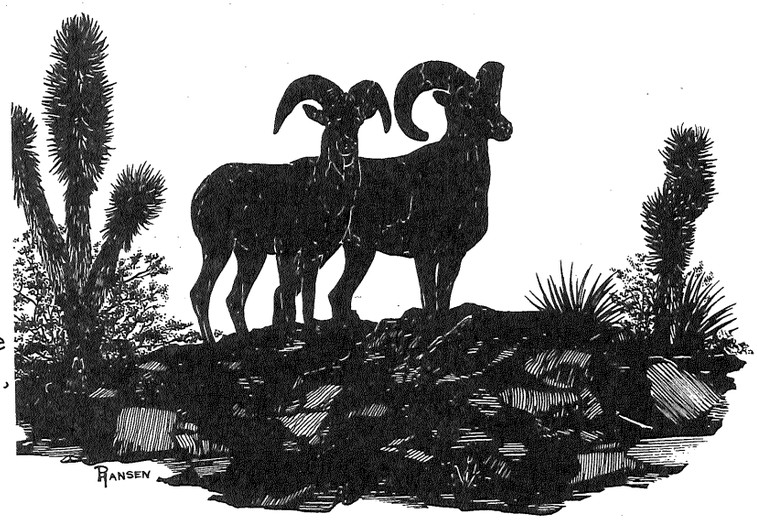
A question has been asked of the Editor, "Why was the area northwest of Mojave chosen as a site for the relocation of the tule elk and for bighorn sheep? The following excerpts from a letter that was received from Dr. Loren L. Lutz, DDS, President of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep; President of the California Wildlife Federation, etc. In this letter Doctor Lutz stated," A fellow called me up about an area where he claimed to have seen a bighorn ram and two ewes. Since this area isn't supposed to have sheep I was more than mildly interested, and made arrangements to go there with him. After a fairly rough 4-wheel drive we came to the spot, elevation of perhaps a thousand feet above the valley- nice talus slope. boulders, and cliffs, good sheep habitat. Five of us started climbing, looking for sheep or sign. I immediately noticedsmall tracks plus larger ones of hoofed critters. Following them down canyon I saw bear sign, bobcat, coyote, etc.

Climbing the mountain more pellets and tracks were observed. Getting to the talus slope I found a bed just as sheep make. By now I was interested in the rim, cliffs, and top so up I went with Bill following me.

On top in the ledges I've never seen so many pellets. We then dropped--literally--off the cliffs and started down. Bill was a little ahead, but lower down and he exclaimed about how active that bear had been. I looked over and it surely had left some droppings so I angled up the ledge, turned a corner, and discovered a crack in the cliff with a nice hole in the lower portion. I also noticed a lot of gathered pine needles at the base of the cliff. Getting down on my hands and knees,, I stuck my head in the entrance. "Hey, Bill, my bifocals are all fogged up, but is that a bear in there? Will you get down and look?" So Bill got on his hands and kneees and stuck his head in there. "Holy cow, it's a bear!" Well, I took my glasses off and stuck my head in there and found myself nose to nose with a roused black bear mother. Well, even an old guy can run pretty fast. Bill said that he was still puckered up when we got back to the car."

The Society for the Care and Protection of Wildlife has adopted the best aspects of some familiar organizations: Like Nature Conservancy, the Society raises private capital to secure habitat, but unlike that organization will not transfer the land to governmental entities to operate them; like the Sierra Club, the Society seeks as wide a base of support as possible to further conservation, but will not compete in the political arena; like the California Wildlife Federation, the Society will provide organizational benefits on an outdoor nature, but will not compete in the area of recreational wilderness usage; and, finally, like many other foundations, the Society will provide whatever support is possible for education and research.

Members of the Society believe there is no greater guarantee of preserving our wilderness heritage than that as many people as possible come to feel that they have a personal stake in it. If those who associate themselves with the Society feel that they are, even in a small way, the actual operators of a safe refuge for endangered species, their commitment is not likely to fade." ---From the California Society For the Care and Protection of Wildlife.



Sketch courtesy of Pat Hansen Wood

LICENSE PLATES HELP ESTABLISH THE CARRIZO CANYON ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Monterey, California--March 3, 1978. The California State Fish and Game Commission today voted today to establish the Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve on 1,078 acres in the Santa Rosa Mountains five miles south of Palm Desert and adopt regulation for its use.

To help protect bighorn sheep which feed and water on the Riverside County site during the summer, the Department of Fish and Game will close the reserve to the public for the period June 15 through September 30.

The site on the desert slope of the mountains between Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert also serves as a lambing area for bighorns during winter and spring. Other wildlife species using the area are deer, coyote, bobcat and gray fox. Commonly observed birds there include the golden eagle, Gambel's quail, mourning dove and black-throated sparrow.

Funds from the Environmental Protection Program (personalized license plates) and the 1974 Recreational Bond Act administered by the State Wildlife Conservation Board were used to purchase the property.

TWENTYNINE BIGHORN SHEEP PLANTED IN IDAHO MOUNTAINS

Bighorn sheep from Wyoming and Idaho were recently transplanted into two different areas in eastern Idaho.

The Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, trapped and transplanted a total of 29 bighorn sheep.

Twelve sheep were trapped in Panther Creek, a tributary to the Salmon River, and released in the Birch Creek drainage near Blue Dome. Of the 12 sheep, eight were adult ewes, two were yearling rams and two were female lambs.

Radio collars were placed on two of the females to monitor their travels.

The sheep join a group of previously transplanted sheep released there two years ago. The sheep of the original transplant have been reproducing and seem to have adapted well to the area.(NOTE): This transplant effort was reported in THE SHEEPHERDER at that time.

On January 26, the department joined forces with the Wyoming Game and Fish personnel in trapping 17 sheep near Dubois, Wyoming. Included in the 17 were two male lambs, two female lambs, two yearling rams, one four-year-old ram, one yearling ewe and nine adult ewes.

The sheep were transported to the Big Lost drainage near Mackay and released into Elbow Canyon. Radio transmitters were placed on two sheep to enable biologists to follow their movements.

Both release sites were previously studied, and it was felt they could sustain sheep populations. They are areas that had historically held sheep populations but later could not support the sheep after the introduction of domestic livestock.

It is speculated that the sheep's disappearance was due to competition, deterioration of range and disease.

With the changing of times and improvement in conditions, sheep can once again live successfully in the area. The reintroduction of these sheep into these areas will increase their population and expand the distribution in Idaho.

With the authorization of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, four Idaho department personnel assisted in trapping the sheep. The first attempt resulted in trapping the 17 quite easily. Additional attempts proved unsuccessful, however, as the sheep became wary and seemed to have lost interest in participating in the program any further.

Wyoming may provide Idaho with additional sheep next year.
Idaho Fish and GAme Department News Release, February 8, 1978

TRAIL PEAK AREA NOW GIVEN PROTECTION FROM SKI DEVELOPEMENT ENCROACHMENT

Doctor Lutz Society President has recently learned that the Trail Peak area near the disputed Horseshoe Meadow area has been included in the H.R. 3454---The Endangered Wilderness Act---in that part now known as the Golden Trout Wilderness. The Society's concern has arisen due to the fact that this is an historic bighorn sheep range of the California bighorn specie. It has been reported that there is indeed a small relict band of these sheep on this mountain area. Many conservation organizations in California have had deep concern for this Golden Trout Wilderness and have worked diligently for many months, even years, to gain some type o- protection for species of fish and wildlife native to the area and which would be endangered through recreational developement or by logging of virgin forest areas within it. The total area as agreed upon by the Senate-House Conference Committee will encompass some 330,000 acres. It was bitterly opposed by developemental interests and by the logging industry and their supporters.

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THE LEGEND OF "SPOTS"

A Tribute to Nevada's

Prince of the Desert Bighorns

By Jim Yoakum

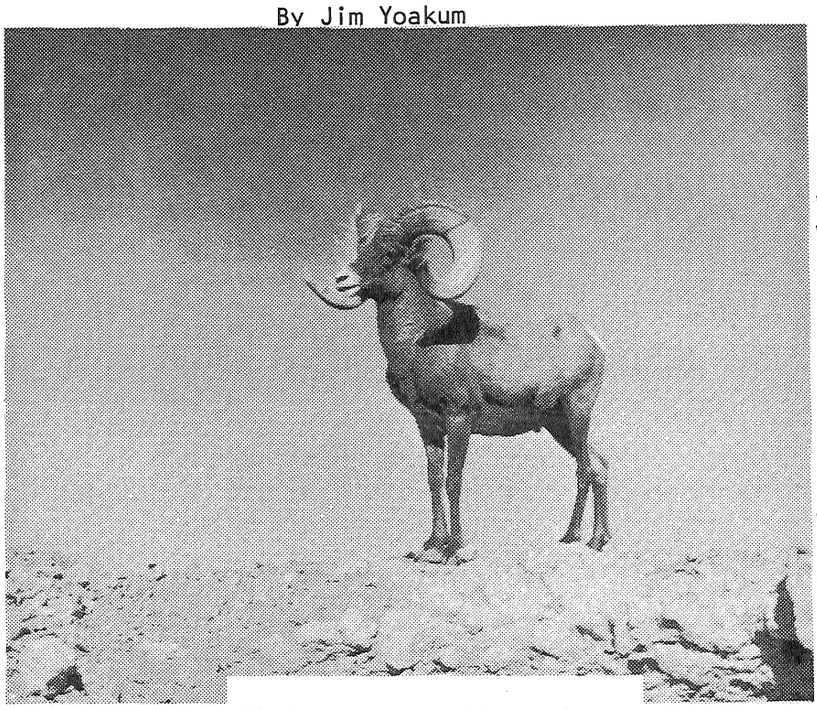

Photo courtesy Jim Yoakum

Sixteen years ago there was born in southern Nevada a prince among bighorn sheep. As he grew to be a yearling, there appeared two small spots on his chest. Thus he was to be known to the world as "Spots".

This bighorn ram lived his entire life on the desert 30 miles north of Las Vegas, Nevada. His mother was "Nanny" and his sire was "Tom".

Life as a young ram was good, for there was an abundance of forage and water, and there were many more bighorns to spar and challenge to duals. Upon reaching prime adulthood, he became the dominant ram, thereby siring many lambs to perpetuate his species on earth.

When "Spots" was seven years old, he had already become a living legend. This reputation was founded upon his regal set of horns.

Most bighorns habitually "broom" or rub off the tips of their horns. But not so for "Spots". His were extraordinary---they were large, massive, symmetrical, and graceful. In many respects it appeared as though Mother Nature had created her finest example of handsome bighorn endowed with a magnificent set of horns ever witnessed on the species. He was truly a prince among bighorns.

For the next seven years, the prince monarch ruled the desert bighorn domain. His reputation for portraying wildlife beauty and strngth traveled far. People from many distant lands came to photograph his regal horns, to paint on canvas his gracefulness, and to cast his stature in bronze. Within one decade, this one single majestic bighorn dominated all publications depicting our native bighorn sheep. And for score of years to come, we will see his figure more than any other single bighorn in scientific and educational publications.

The years added up to 14 now for "Spots" and he is a retired monarch. His horns remain outstanding, but the years begin to show on a body beginning to fade with time. Younger rams stand guard protecting him from molesting visitors. Days are now peaceful with no more fighting and more restfulness. It is the golden years fading away with each day.

The year 1977 is the 16th year. Each day seems harder for survival and it becomes necessary to sleep a great deal under the big mesquite trees. At times the gigantic horns are heavy, too heavy to hold high, so the head bows down to the earth. Life has been full and good, but "Spots" is now tired and weak. Then on Tuesday July 12th, "Spots" watched the sun rise on his domain, but when it set that evening, the prince of desert bighorns was in breathless sleep. The world is richer now because he leaves his legend of wildlife grandness.

SEARCH IS ON FOR ARAVAIPA BIGHORNS

WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER--Arizona Game & Fish Dep't.

The Game Management Division ---Arizona, is attempting to remedy a scarcity of knowledge about the transplantedAravaipa Canyon bighorn sheep herd by sending in Wildlife Assistant John Theobold to locate, count and get some idea of the range of the herd. As many as 100 sheep could have been generated by the transplants, but true numbers are an unknown factor. Theobold's assignment (a dream come true for any outdoorsman, and he gets paid for it too) hopefully will change the situation as far as knowledge of the desert sheep's movements go.

SUMMARY OF DESERT BIGHORN RESEARCH AT DEATH VALLEY DURING 1977

Charles L. Douglas

Bighorn research has beenconfined to the Black Mountains. A vegetational mapping project is nearing completion in this range, and will provide information on the extent of sheep habitat.

A helicopter survey was conducted in late September, during which time springs also were inspected. Late summer rains apparantly allowed dispersal of the sheep, and only 6 individuals were observed: three ewes, one lamb, and two rams (ages 5 and 7).

Lost Spring. in the Panamint Mountains was inspected for bighorn and burro sign. Burro droppings and two animals were present. Bighorn droppings were not present.

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CLARK MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SIGHTING REPORTED

The latter part of January Robert P. McQuivey of the Nevada Department wrote to Dick Weaver of the California D.F.G. and said in part: "We just received a report of eight rams being observed in the vicinity of Clark Mountain near your new water development. The y were observed on January 12, 1978, by a gro up of geologists working in the area.

They also reported observing numerous burros in the vicinity of Stateline Pass. It appears that that population is spreading north and is now occupying the southern extremes of the Devil Peak area. " end q uote.

Dick's reply to Bob said, in part: "Thanks for sending the bighorn observation. No doubt the catchment is in a good location. I haven't seen the installation but they constructed a rail fence to exclude burro. These fences have proven to work on springs. We'll have to wait and see if they deter bighorn from using a new source of water. I take it there were no white bighorn this time or it would have been mentioned....." end quote.

This Clark Mt. catchment project was the one constructed last May 7th at which time a record number of volunteers were on the job. That day there were 123 people who signed the register, and there may well have been a few more.

The allusion to 'white sheep' is in reference to actual sightings on several occassions of there actually being a group of white colored desert sheep along the stateline in that vicinity. Glenn Sudmeier, Water Project Coordinator for the Society is one of those people who have reported such sighting as has Dick Weaver. These observations have been previously reported in these columns

The pipe-rail fences that Dick alludes to were the result of research experiments carried out by Jack Helvie of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Arizona and which he reported on to the Desert Bighorn Council in 1971.

IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN A HUNTING TRIP INTO THE YUKON TERRITORY?

Harold Hamrick of Stockton, California, following the dinner of the Society in Bakersfield gave the Editor the following note :

Landon George, a new member of the Society has a hunt booked in the Yukon with one of the best Guide-Outfitters there. The area includes dall sheep, moose, caribou and grizzly. Cost of the hunt is $3300. Due to some cancellations there is an opening for one or possibly two hunters. If anyone is interested call Landon at (916) 962-0469 evenings."
Landon George lives at 5991 Tanforan Ct., Fair Oaks, Calif. 95628

SOCIETY WINS ACCLAIM FROM THE ASSOCIATED SPORTSMEN OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

During the October 16th meeting of the A.S.C.- a strong sportsmen's-conservation organization of the San Francisco Bay area, Hal Hamrick reported concerning the Water for Desert Wildlife Progam of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. He spoke about the type of projects and the great participation of so many concerned people, who do go into the desert to work on these projects; of the air-lifting of equipment and materials needed on the projects; he spoke and wrote of the transplant efforts of the Society and the involved Agencies; he spoke of the problems that are created for desert wildlife by the feral burro, and advocated that the burro be made a game animal instead of being classified as a completely protected specie. He also advocated that the desert sheep of California be re-classified as a game animal with a system of permits for the harvest of surplus animals.

The Associated Sportsmen of California is the dominant sportsmen's organization of Northern California..

HORIZONTAL WELL DRILLING --Some successes and some failures

report by
LES COOMBES--Wildlife Habitat Assistant I

"The horizontal well drilling equipment was received in March, 1975 as a gift from the Southern California Safari Club International.

Horizontal well drilling efforts were begun in November 1975.

Attempts to produce water have been made at seven locations. Water production was successful at three sites, unsuccessful at three sites and one site is still questionable.

As a matter of judgement, it would appear that water production associated with fifty percent of our attempts would be justifiable in critical areas.

The following is a brief summary of our attempts at each of the seven locations:

!. Magnesia Spring, near Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, November 1975. Drilled approximately 25 feet in extremely hard rock. The bit broke off in the bore hole and further effort was abandoned.
2. Mangalar Spring, northern end of Anza Borrego State Park, San Diego County, Jan., 1976. Drilled 60 feet adjacent to old horizontal well. The original well was at a drip stage and the new well resulted in 8 gallons per hour. A small rock-concreter storage basin was constructed.

3. Agua Alta Spring, Martinez Canyon, Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County, May 1976. Equipment was flown in by helicopter and the hillside was drilled fifty feet. Original site was producing about 10 gallons per day. After drilling production was increased to 500 gallons per hour. A small rock-concrete atorage basin was constructed.
4. South Fork Spring, Martinez Canyon, Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County, May 1976 The drilling equipment was transferred by helicopter from Agua Alta Spring. The hillside was drilled forty-two feet. Prior to drilling, the side of the hill was dripping water about 20 feet in width, but no measurement was possible. After drilling, 60 gallons per hour were produced.
5. Lower Cabin Spring, Martinez Canyon, Riverside County, May 1976. The equipment was transferred from South Fork Spring by helicopter. The site was abandoned when it was found sections of the drilling could not be safely put together for drilling.
6. Bodie Hills #1, Bodie Hills, Mono County, August, 1976. One hundred feet were drilled in soft ground in a meadow. The water table was not reached and the well casing was removed.
7. Bodie Hills #2, Bodie Hills, Mono County, September, 1976. Drilled 140 feet and 80 feet of well casing were left in place. The well may function if water table rises and the well does not silt in.

Additional sites will be drilled in the future. "

Les Coombes

THE DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL WILL MEET IN KINGMAN, ARIZONA-APRIL 5-6 &7, 1978

The Annual meeting of the DBC will be held at the Holiday Inn. Room rates-$14. single;$19. double.

Kent Jackson, Jack King and Jim Barrett of Arizona Game and Fish Department have made arrangements. Many papers dealing with problems and welfare of the bighorn sheep are given during the two days of formal session.

On the lighter side: there will be a buffet dinner, refreshments and an evening Bar-B-Que. On Friday the 7th the field trip will be a boat trip on the Colorado River. Kingman is not served by scheduled airlines. Nearest commercial air is Las Vegas - 100 miles distant.

Everyone interested in the bighorn sheep is welcome to attend and become a member. A copy of THE TRANSACTIONS is worth more than the cost of membership--$5.00 The majority--probably 95% are professionals in the field of Wildlife Management, yet there are many non-professionals also. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep will have not less than five members present. In previous years papers have been given by society members, James DeForge (Director), Dr. Jack Turner, now of Wyoming, Dick Weaver of California DFG. The first two have been given some financial assistance in their studies of bighorn here in California---DeForge in his work in the San Gabriel Mts. and Jack Turner for his research at the Deep Canyon Research Center in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Ladies are welcome to all sessions and find them of interest. The 'Ewe Band'---wives and ladies of the delegates usually sell art work and then use the proceeds to assist in funding attendance of some delegates from foreign countries.

Attendees in 1977 came from as far away as the State of Alaska, from Canada and eight men came to the Desert Bighorn Council meeting held in Las Cruces, New Mexico from the Mexican Department of Forests and Wildlife. The contingent from Mexico had been the hosts in 1976.

IT IS LONG PAST TIME FOR MANY OF THE SOCIETY TO GET THEIR DUES CURRENT. NON-MEMBERS ARE URGED TO TAKE OUT A MEMBERSHIP AND ASSIST THE SOCIETY REACH IT'S OBJECTIVES. NON-MEMBERS MOVING WITH NO CHANGE OF ADDRESS GIVEN THIS OFFICE WILL BE DROPPED FROM MAILINGS.

The Society was created for the purposes of Conservation, Preservation and wise use of the wild sheep of North America. Membership is open to anyone and to persons of any age. The Society needs members who are aware of the vast problems that need to be solved in these areas and are willing and determined to help solve these problems. A conservation attitude and a willingness to be of assistance when called upon, are all that is necessary. If you are interested do not delay--make your application today. The bi-monthly newsletter---THE SHEEPHERDER attempts to encompass each aspect of events and causes that are of concern to this rare, and, in some areas, an endangered specie.

The Society advotes: putting the bighorn under the management of the Fish and Game Commission, rather than under the State Legislature; the developement and improvement of water sources; elimination of the checker-board patterns on National Resource Lands; reduction of competition from domestic livestock and feral animals on sheep ranges; the transplanting of sheep into matched environments; continuance of the annual census, and the making of recommendations as a result of these censuses; the finding of the basic cause(s) of infant mortallity and endeavor to correct these causes; the obtaining of adequate funding for Departments of Fish and Game in order that they may be effective.

April 1 & 2--Bill Lowery and Loren Lutz will complete the fibre-glassing of tanks at the Blue Springs .

April 8 & 9 Repairs to Sheep Camp installation in the Old Woman Mts. Marvin Wood is Team Captain for this area.

April 8 Dinner at White's Restuarant in Mojave---PURPOSE is to generate local public interest in the new Sheep and elk preserve on the HANSEN RANCH WILDERNESS PRESERVE a few miles to the north, and to generate funds for the project. TAB: $25.00 per person

April 15-16 Ron Vickery & Crew will complete the Dolomite Canyon Project.

April 22-23 The Fish and Game Council will meet.

April 29-30 Complete repairs to the Chuckwalla Water Storage Project.

NOTE: ALL OF THE ABOVE REPAIR PROJECTS ARE PRESENTLY FULLY STAFFED WITH VOLUNTEERS ALREADY SIGNED UP. NO ADDITIONAL NEED FOR HELP ON ANY OF THE ABOVE

HOWEVER: In early May NO DATE SET There will be a repair job to the NOPAH project north of Baker.

MAY 27 & 28, 1978 ---THE ONLY COMPLETELY NEW PROJECT SCHEDULED FOR 1978 will the SMITH APRING in the Sacramento Mountains about ten miles southwest of Needles. A good turn-out will be needed. There will be an about 2½ mile hike in to the project from as far as you can go by 4-wheel drive. A map giving full direction will be in the next issue of THE SHEEPHERDER. Lew Carpenter - Team Captain this area.

YOU ARE INVITED TO RETURN THE ENCLOSED CARD WITH A DONATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUYING THE "HANSEN WILDERNESS RANCH PRESERVE" spoken of on page three of this issue.

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SOME LATE INFO:

In a letter received yesterday, March 29th, Dr. Lutz writes: "The Sawmill sheep are still drifting. If they aren't corraled this week, they won't be.(meaning this year). Had a great sheep count. (San Gabriel Mt. mentioned on page two) Found sheep where I always expected them, but not verified--Chilano Canyon above Cogswell Dam, a ewe band. I have counted rams in there, but no ewes. Sudmeier and crew have been very busy fixing guzzlers, Ron Vickery and Loren Lutz and crew will finish Blue Spring on the 1st and 2nd of April.. The County of Los Angles granted the Society $9,200.00 for bighorn research in the San Gabriels. So we're forging ahead. NOTE: These funds granted for research are from the Propogation Funds which are derived to the Counties on a 50% basis of fines levied by the Courts, upon conviction for violation of California Fish and Game Codes.

BIGHORN SURVEYS ARE NOT WITHOUT PERIL

The A.D. Game & Fish Newsletter Nov., 11, 1977 reported: "The second desert bighorn survey helicopter crash of 1977 has resulted in a wrecked vehicle but no injuries to the surveyors. Wildlife Manager Al Guenther said,"The pilot just grabbed the controls, and down we went. We crashed into the side of the mountain. The b ubble broke. The pilot yelled, "Let's get out of here." We ju st ran down the side of the mountain." The place where they crashed was about 30 miles north of the Mexican border in the Agua Dulce Mountains. The helicopter was beyond temporary repair, and another chopper may have to be used to get it out." The survey was to resume in mid-November if another helicopter is available. Guenther reported that he was ready to go again.

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TEAR OFF HERE AND USE THE APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
or renewal

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

Telephone number : Home-_____Business_____

Place of Birth_____ Date of Birth: _____

Occupation_____

ENCLOSED: you will find my check or money order for $20.00. This includes my initiation fee of ($5.00) and my first year's dues of $15.00. (Students dues are $5.00 per year.) I will endeavor to do my part on behalf of the bighorn sheep.

Signature:_____