



# The Shepherd

office  
401 North Garfield  
Alhambra, California 91801  
213 284-5113

editor  
LEWIS E. CARPENTER  
815 W. Gettysburg  
Fresno, Ca. 93705

September - October 1974

## SOCIETY TO GATHER AT THE TAIL O' THE COCK

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and their friends will be gathering at the Tail O' The Cock, 477 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, California the 19th of October--this is a Saturday evening affair and is the annual dinner for the Los Angeles area. This will be a good opportunity to meet your associates of the various waterhole projects, and not in their sweaty overalls and jeans. The Attitude Adjustment Period (NO-HOST) will be from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at which time the dinner of Beef Brochettes will be served. On this occasion James A. "Jim" Blaisdell, Wildlife Biologist of the National Park Service will be our after dinner speaker. You will note that Jim keeps us well informed concerning the goings-on at the Lava Beds National Monument and the bighorn sheep project at that enclosure. He has sent in a report for this issue. Jim is one of the founders of the Desert Bighorn Council and a past president of that organization. He is also a contributor to the soon to be published book of the Council, The Desert Bighorn. Every one is requested to please fillout and send in the enclosed card and to state whether or not you will be present, how many there will be in your party. Please return the card prior to October 10th, if possible. Dr. tutz would like to have a good idea of how many will be present.

Also as part of the program for the evening will be the showing of the new - Color motion picture "BIGHORN". This picture made by the Stauffer brothers is released through their Stauffer Productions of Aspen, Colorado. The Stauffers followed the sheep in the Rockies of Montana and Canada through the International Peace Park and through the yearly cycle of the sheep. Beginning in spring, it follows the band of wild sheep through the summer, autumn, and winter to the following spring..."the old ram, the leader of the group, is dead. But the ewe he bred the fall before is alive. And when her lamb is born the cycle is completed --from one springtime to the next..." The picture was first shown to the Desert Bighorn Council in Moab, Utah, this past April. The quality is excellent. The picture has received many awards. It is really worth seeing.

NOTE: The location of teh TAIL O' THE COCK is, I believe near the Santa Monica Freeway, at 19th St.,-----Be sure to check location first, i.e., how to get there.

## LAVA BEDS FLOCK DOING WELL



Received from James A. "Jim" Blaisdell, under date of July 26, 1974, a note and a memorandum under that date --an Inter-Agency Report concerning the Lava Beds Project, that is the re-establishment Program for the Monument. Several articles have been run in THE SHEPHERDER concerning this project, and undoubtedly Jim will fill us in on this at the Banquet. In his report Jim states, " At our annual meeting on December 6, 1973, I reported to you that although eight lambs were born last year, setbacks of one kind or another had limited the total population to 16 bighorn. It was also reported that results of the loss of the two rams last fall would "not be known until spring ." Spring has passed and we can now state that things are not nearly so bad as they could have been.

This year we had a total of five lambs born, and all are alive at this date. Two adult ewes apparantly did not produce lambs. The shooting of the two adult rams occurred on October 20, just prior to the rut (the older may have been hit by fragments, but he died on November 23). The mystery remains; which ram did the breeding? The three-year old was dead, the seven-year old was very sick, and the yearling may or may not have been capable of

-Other fence inspections showed possible holes and fence breaks where the animals might have escaped. Because most were located on the side of the pen away from where the animals were seen, Lava Beds personnel do not believe those potential exits were used.

"There's no indication." Blaisdell said. "It's still a real mystery."

Increased fence patrol along the pen was being done today. The only thing we can do is watch them very closely." a relieved Haertel said this morning. "I hope", he added wistfully, "This doesn't become a habit."

\*\*\*\*\*

Also in his note Jim said, "I'm busy with about a dozen other projects. The Desert Bighorn Council book, THE DESERT BIGHORN, is about ready.".....Your editor has seen the draft of the book. Believe me, it really is a very interesting book.

#### THE FRATERNITY OF THE DESERT BIGHORN requests assistance

A quote from their July bulletin, "A public hearing on the withdrawal of mineral entry and the addition of some 70,000 acres to the Desert National Wildlife Range wilderness proposal was held at the Clark County Courthouse on July 11th. In June of '74 the President is reported to have recommended to Congress that no action be taken on the Desert Wilderness bill until a US Geological Survey study was complete. This recommendation by the President has pretty much bogged down the entire proposal. The Fraternity is most adamant in the opinion that this bill has been delayed long enough. We urge all interested parties to write to their Congressmen expressing their views on this important matter. Letters should also be directed to the Bureau of Land Management here in Las Vegas. Your letters will be appreciated." end quote.

#### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THE PROJECT IN THE CHUCKAWALLA MTS.

Letter from John Massie, Wildlife Habitat Supervisor.

August 21, 1974

Dear Volunteer:

It is still hot in the east desert as I'm sure you are aware, but we have been busy readying the development for this coming fall. The helicopter and foot surveys in the Chuckawalla Mountains of eastern Riverside County were completed last week and we are aiming at the weekend of October 5 and 6 for the work on this site. Maps of the route are included with this letter.

The campground will be located as near to Corn Spring as possible. We will begin the hike just north of the campground. It is a difficult 1.5 miles of rock scrambling, but then most sheep habitat is that way. We hope to start very early this time and be on the trail by 0600 hours Saturday morning.

This construction will be similar to a number of sites we have done in the past with a wash dam, 300 feet of pipe, three 1,500 gallon tanks and a float valve drinker.

This particular dam is not large at 7 X 7 feet and there will be only a small amount of excavation for the tanks. We expect to easily finish on Saturday.

You will be expected to furnish your own food, water and camp gear as before. We will furnish all the tools and materials. It will all be airlifted onto the site before you get there so you will only have to carry your lunch and drinking water on the trail.

Funds (\$4,500.00 according to Dr. Lutz), for this work were made available from Riverside County fine Monies through the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

We have a lot of interest from new groups and hope that you older members can set a good example for them with a good turn out.

Sincerely,-----John D. Massie

#### DIRECTIONS TOGET TO THE PROJECT

Go easterly on Highway 10 through Indio and then through Desert Center; Go through Hell and about 9.3 miles from Desert Center take the Chuckwalla Road to the right and southeasterly for about .7 of a mile; then turn right towards the southwest on the Corn Spring Road; after about 8 miles go through or around the Corn Spring Rec. Site and continue for another 6+ miles which will be near the camp site. Be certain to bring plenty of water. We hope that these maps will be of some assistance.

