A SALUTE TO THE ADMIRAL

The man who brought the word "humane" to life brought Connecticut and New England with his words and actions has throttled back his engines, somewhat, as New England Regional Director and has assumed the new leadership role as HSUS Special Projects Director.

Anyone who has ever met, corresponded with, or read about Rear Admiral James C. Shaw, USN (ret.) as Executive Director of the former HSUS Connecticut Branch or Director of the HSUS New England Regional Office, knows that his concern for animals has been lifelong. He has often been heard to say, "Sailors being close to nature, have always been partial to animals. After all, Noah was a sailor and look what he did!"

Friends and acquaintances of Jim Shaw recently paid tribute to him for the great work he has done to help advance the humane movement to its respected status today. A testimonial dinner and program was held in Stratford, Connecticut.

The program was M.C'd by Raymond Cummings, a regional advisor and former President of the HSUS Connecticut Branch. It featured many prominent speakers.

Attending from the HSUS headquarters office in Washington, D.C. were John A Hoyt, President and Paul G. Irwin, Vice President/Development.

Mr. Allan A. Loeb, Chairman of the Animal Welfare Foundation of Connecticut presented a check for $1,000.00 to Admiral Shaw as a special testimonial gift. The money will be used to establish a James C. Shaw Library Collection at the Norma Terris Humane Education Center. The library and resource center in East Haddam is named after the former regional director.

Mr. Allan A. Loeb and James C. Shaw

Allan A. Loeb and James C. Shaw

Miss Norma Terris, who donated land for the HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center, commended Admiral Shaw for his leadership role and accomplishments.

John Dommers, Director of the Education Center, presented Admiral Shaw with several testimonial gifts on behalf of his friends. The gifts included a Kodak Carousel projector, a 3-M Copy machine, and a portrait of Christopher Gratton Shaw, after whom the HSUS Scholarship is named.

In response, Admiral Shaw said, "Bettsy and I are overwhelmed by this expression of friendship. The good wishes and generosity of fellow humanitarians on this occasion make past trials and tribulations of humane work more worthwhile than ever. We extend our affectionate regards along with the hope that we meet soon and often."

***************
Cruelty Charged
IN GREASED PIG CONTESTS

During the first contest, about 40 youngsters charged a 25 pound piglet. Over half of them piled on top of the helpless animal in an attempt to grab its greased legs. Twenty or more adults participated in the second contest. The "pile on" was just as big. The majority of spectators, unaware of the cruelties of a greased pig contest, were audibly and visibly disgusted.

The regional director filed a formal complaint with the police department citing that the contests violated Conn. Statute 53-247 and 53-250 which prohibits using animals as prizes. (Each of the winners received a piglet as a prize.)

FILE ON!!!

After obvious ambivalence on the matter, the police department sent the paperwork to the county prosecutor. Twenty three members of the Bicentennial Committee were named in the cruelty charge.

After a week and a half of study, the prosecutor decided not to seek arrest warrants. He said, although the events could conceivably come within the statutes, the charge and investigation did not satisfy him that the law was broken. In the future, it is possible that such events could be prosecuted.

The chief and bicentennial committee decided, for yet unknown reasons, to allow the contests to take place before hundreds of spectators.

John Donners met with the police chief days before the events were scheduled and indicated that greased pig contests were interpreted to violate Connecticut cruelty statutes. If the events were allowed to take place, a formal complaint would be lodged. The chief indicated that the events would probably be cancelled, but legal counsel would be sought.

The chief and bicentennial committee decided, for yet unknown reasons, to allow the contests to take place before hundreds of spectators.

Ignoring a request from the HSUS New England Regional Director that a 4th of July Greased Pig Contest be cancelled, the Old Saybrook, CT police chief and members of the Bicentennial Commission allowed two brutal events to take place before hundreds of spectators.

The plight of animals used in such contests will be explored, discussed, and debated in detail. Pending acceptance and approval from the Connecticut Humanities Council, the symposium is slated to be held in early December. Adequate publicity is planned for the event.

PROJECT PLANNERS

Pictured above at The West Rock Nature Recreation Center in New Haven are 1-r:

Sister Joan Nicholas, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Albertus Magnus College, Richard Ser, Professor of Philosophy, Middlesex Community College, Gwendolyn Jensen, Associate Professor of History, New Haven College, and John J. Donners, HSUS Regional Director.

EDUCATORS GETTING TOGETHER

The New England Regional Office has contacted humane educators throughout the region in an effort to form an association. Individuals or societies may contact HSUS for information.

It's must reading for young people who are being assisted in developing sympathetic attitudes and respect for all animals. Understanding of animal behavior and good sense are the byproducts of this delightful book. It sells for $5.95 and makes an excellent gift for a child or a school library.

GRANT RECEIVED

The New England Regional Office recently received a $300.00 matching grant from The Connecticut Humanities Council to plan a public issues project. Acting as project director, John Donners worked with three college professors of the humanities to prepare and submit a project titled, "Is The Hunter A Dying Species?" If the proposed project grant is approved, a state-wide, public symposium, featuring nationally-known personalities will be held in Connecticut.

The philosophical, ethical, theological, historical and biological aspects of hunting will be explored, discussed, and debated in detail.

Pending acceptance and approval from the Connecticut Humanities Council, the symposium is slated to be held in early December. Adequate publicity is planned for the event.

SPECIAL THANKS...

...to Beverly Armstrong of the Santa Barbara (CA) Humane Society for donating two full pages of clip art to the Norma Terris Humane Education Center.

Beverly is a talented and resourceful person who makes her contribution to animal welfare in many ways. She is an accomplished puppeteer who has helped students and teachers develop a greater respect for life through her skills, and she is a skilled artist and poet.

We have two sheets of Beverly Armstrong's clip art available for $.25 which covers the cost of printing and mailing. Each sheet contains over 30 line drawings of animal subjects. They are perfect for illustrating newsletters, teaching guides, church bulletins or whatever. We used some of the art in this newsletter.

THE OPPOSITE OF "JAWS"...

...is the objective of a new book for children written by friend and humanitarian, Judi Friedman of Canton, CT. Titled, THE BITING BOOK, the beautifully illustrated book, published by Prentice-Hall, emphasizes the fact "animals never bite unless they have a very good reason or are sick or hurt."

It's must reading for young people who are being assisted in developing sympathetic attitudes and respect for all animals. Understanding of animal behavior and good sense are the byproducts of this delightful book. It sells for $5.95 and makes an excellent gift for a child or a school library.
Our congratulations to Mrs. Charles M. Lucas, President of The Connecticut Council For Humane Education, for developing and conducting a 9-week course titled "CONNECTICUT LAWS REGULATING DOGS: ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED TOPICS." A first of its kind, this highly practical course was taught by Mrs. Lucas and visiting lecturers including attorneys, canine control administrators, and humane authorities.

John J. Dommers guest lectured at one of the sessions which attracted over 40 enrollees from southwestern Connecticut.

Because of the success generated by the unique course, plans are being made to conduct it in different parts of the state this coming year.

For further information, contact Mildred Lucas at Junction Road, R.D. 3, Brookfield Center, CT 06805. (203) 775-3954.

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GETTING THE WORD OUT

Even when animal problems are obvious, at least to those of us who are involved in humane work on a daily basis, it isn't always easy to get the immediate corrective action we seek. Why? Because most people have never been inside the local shelter, or to the problem area at the zoo, or behind the scenes at an airport animal control area, to name a few examples. Now, then, is it possible to break down the walls of public and political apathy in regard to animal cruelty problems?

We do it by taking maximum advantage of the public media: television, radio, and newspapers. Through live appearances, news releases, public service announcements and films, and letters-to-the-editors, we continually inform and educate to control and prevent animal abuse.

Admiral Shaw and John Dommers appear on New Hampshire public radio stations; they talk to people...TV star support animal program

Frank Converse, who co-stars as "Will" on the popular TV series, "Moving On" visited the 76 Auto-Truck Stop in Branford with his wife, Astrid, to lend support to a CB animal benefit program.

The 76 CB'ers Club, Inc. sponsored an April 30, "Coffee Break" to benefit the Humane Society of the United States' animal welfare and humane education programs.

The benefit raised over $900.00 which will be used for educational materials designed to create an awareness of animal welfare and a desire to help in solving these problems.

According to Robert MacBride, President of the 76 CB'ers Club, "Animals play an important role in our lives, and we felt it appropriate to show our concern about the many problems wild and domestic animals face today by supporting the work of the H.S.U.S."

John J. Dommers, New England Regional Director for The Humane Society of the United States, Frank Converse, who co-stars as "Will" on the TV series "Moving On", Astrid Converse, Robert MacBride, President of the 76 CB'ers Club, and Lorraine MacBride.

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JOIN THE HSUS CLIPPING SERVICE

If you read an article in a newspaper or magazine which pertains to animal welfare, please clip and mail it to the New England Regional Office.

In the past, such clippings have not only kept us informed, but have alerted us to take action. Clippings of regional interest are retained for use here. Clippings of national or worldwide importance are forwarded to HSUS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Continued appreciative thanks are extended to Harriet MacGregor of Hartford, CT and Marion Bryant of Farmington, ME for an almost daily flow of valuable clippings.

GETTING TOGETHER


The Norma Terris Humane Education Center.

This picture of Barbara was featured in our popular book, CAREERS: WORKING WITH ANIMALS. Especially designed for students and guidance counselors, the manual provides detailed information on animal welfare and conservation careers. The book is going into its third printing. The student edition costs $1.95. This book makes an excellent gift for an aspiring animal welfare worker.

TEACHERS!

We have a special offering of a leather key fob and ring and a metal belt buckle with a leather insert featuring a blue whale and calf. The message: "Save the Whales." Either or both would make an excellent present for a friend or yourself. The cost: Key Fob $3.00, Belt Buckle $5.00 (postage paid).

Make checks payable to HSUS and send to the New England Regional Office. These are great stocking stuffers, too!

TEACHERS!

We've previoud and critiqued Scholastic's '76-'77 LET'S FIND OUT year-round learning program. It's titled, "Animals: Their World and Ours." It's excellent - a humane theme throughout. Write to: Scholastic Magazines, 902 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632 for a sample copy.

SAVE THE WHALES

speaking of gifts

During the height of the World War II Japanese suicide attacks on the U.S. Navy, my ship was visited by a famous American inventor who scrambled all over the vessel repeating a single question, "What's your problem? What's your problem?" Answers from the crewmen varied but all referred in one way or another to the main problem -- stopping the kamikaze before he stopped us. Our noted visitor stirred togethet the responses and cooked up his recipe as a solution. It wasn't bad, either, since all of his considerable research entered into the result.

I hadn't thought of the inventor and his reiterated query for years until the other day when a friend, not a member of any humane society, quizzed me about animal welfare. "What's your problem? What's your problem?"

I believe there is. The principal problem in animal welfare stated in one bold-face word is IGNORANCE. Easy to explain in terms of mean children or deprived human groups. They treat animals badly because they don't know any better. Somewhat the same rationale applies to hunters, trappers, commercial animal exploiters and calloused animal-care attendants. Figuratively, they are wearing
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM continued

blinders and can't see the cruelty they inflict or tolerate. The same is true for Government men whether legislating, administering, enforcing or judging; where animals are concerned they all too often just don't know enough about the subject to act intelligently or humanely.

Now, and this may surprise you, I am going to lump some humanitarians in the ignorant category regardless of their good intentions. Really, it's true. You may rightly ask, "How can that be?" Here's how: Many humanitarians, on occasion, cannot distinguish cruelty, do not know the law, have no conception of the non-humanitarian's motivations, are unable to inculcate the humane ethic in others, are untrained in leadership, communicating, inspiring, organizing, funding and doing the myriad tasks that must be done in every community if kindness is to supplant cruelty.

So all of us in the humane movement, when confronted with a problem, must think in terms of, "Perhaps I don't know, but I'm surely going to find out. Furthermore, when I do know for sure, I'm going to tell others." This brings us to the role of The Humane Society of the United States as an educational institution founded to delineate areas of ignorance and then to enlist all people of good will to dispel that ignorance which, in turn, should torpedo the causes of cruelty. Thus, The H.S.U.S. is in effect a catalyst endeavoring to instruct and inspire all the people in how to promote kindness and halt cruelty.

In accomplishing these purposes, The H.S.U.S. today is blessed with the most highly regarded reputation in our Society's history and with its most knowledgeable membership of all time. The public does look, listen, learn and act when we do or say something in behalf of animals.

Return now to our initial question: What's YOUR problem? Whatever its specific nature, reflect for a moment. Wherein are the areas of ignorance? Maybe the press does not comprehend the situation, or humanitarians do not have the facts, or politicians can't see the need, or animal-care people are untrained, or teachers don't appreciate the importance. And so on........

In the humane movement, such ignorance is not bliss. On the contrary, it can be hell for the animals. It's up to us, all of us, to learn the facts, pass the word and lead the action. I have great faith in you, our valued members, that you will do just that today, as you have in the past.

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A POINT OF INTEREST

Greyhound race tracks in New England don't always hit the jackpot. For instance, one in New Hampshire went broke; one in Connecticut moans about competition from Jai Alai; one in Vermont on the drawing board just didn't happen.