Killing Buffalo for Fun

The annual buffalo hunt in northern Arizona is conducted by the Arizona Fish and Game Dept. because, as an official described it, “It provides a rather unique opportunity for people to take one (buffalo) and it’s a reasonable method of obtaining management objectives.”

Until recently, the Fish and Game Dept. accepted requests from hunters wishing to participate and drew from the requests a number equal to the number of buffalo to be killed. The selected hunter paid $45 for the “privilege,” which entitled him to shoot the animal, retain its head and one front quarter. The selected hunter would take his position on the shooting stand while Fish and Game officials on horseback "hazed" (drove) the buffalo near the hunter for the kill. In a recent year, 125 buffalo were slaughtered in this manner.

In 1972, the Arizona SPCA took legal action to stop the slaughter. The action charged the hunt was illegal because of an existing law prohibiting the shooting of caged or confined animals. The Arizona Attorney General’s office declared, however, that the law did not apply in this case; therefore, the hunt was legal.

In the face of criticism that the hunt was staged for the purpose of raising money for the department, a Fish and Game spokesman declared the hunt was actually costing money to produce rather than making money. Following this disclosure, an SPCA member, in a registered letter, offered the department $500 for each animal that would be slaughtered. The Fish and Game Dept. offered no response.

The “hunt” attracts numerous mobile taxidermy displays and refreshment vendors, contributing to a circus-like atmosphere. Although Fish and Game officials brief the hunters prior to the hunt, advising them of the most humane shots (usually near the ear), many hunters ignore the recommendations.

Continued on page 3

Regional Service Includes Arizona

Arizona is now part of the HSUS Rocky Mountain Region.

Since January, HSUS Regional Director Frantz Dantzler has extended his assistance on municipal animal control problems and other animal-related matters to communities throughout Arizona. He has already visited the officers of several local societies in the state and plans to meet with many more before the end of the year.

Even before January Arizona had been an integral part of national HSUS programs, largely through the leadership of two Arizona residents on the HSUS board of directors. The Hon. Raul Castro, judge of Children’s Court and Criminal Court in Tucson, has been a member of the board since 1971. Amanda Blake, who recently left the part of Miss Kitty on “Gunsmoke” after 19 years, has been an HSUS director since 1972. Miss Blake, who is Mrs. Frank Gilbert, lives in Phoenix, which serves as a base for many national wildlife projects.

Judge Castro, a former ambassador to San Salvador and Bolivia, has been active in animal welfare, ecological, and wildlife conservation work for many years. He is a candidate for governor of the state.

Other parts of the Rocky Mountain Region are represented on the HSUS board by Robert Welborn, a Denver attorney, and Hal Gardiner, a Salt Lake City advertising and public relations executive. Other states in the region are Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho.
Regional Activity Increases

By Frantz Dantzler, Director
HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office

Organized humane work in the Rocky Mountain Region is at its highest level in history. It is not difficult to understand such a statement when one considers the scope of activity that is being generated across the area. New organizations are being formed, and ambitious, new programs are being developed by many existing groups. As the interest of several municipalities in improving animal control procedures and shelter facilities, and it adds up to a lot of area activity.

During the past months, the HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office has been very active in many of these projects. Some of the current activity around the region includes:

**COLORADO:** Senate Bill 76 was passed and signed into law. The bill was introduced in the winter of 1972-73 following several cruelty cases in which hundreds of horses were victims of neglect during severe winter weather. (See April 1973 News.) The law provides for emergency care and outlines impoundment and disposition of cruelty cases. Should a complaint be issued. The HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office was invited to testify on merits of the bill before the Senate Agriculture Committee by the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Ted Strickland, who has since been appointed Colorado’s lieutenant governor.

The Colorado Humane Society (CHS) recently completed a pilot project of new dog training classes in which the participants were young paraplegics in the state. In addition, CHS officials are planning to expand the program to include additional and larger classes. In addition, CHS plans to open a new humane center in May.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Office has been working with Summit and Lake County officials in planning new shelter construction and animal control legislation. The new shelters will be constructed in Leadville and Breckenridge.

**IDAHO:** Last fall the Idaho Humane Society and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office assisted in the formation of the Federation of Humane Societies in Laramie. The new federation is eager to serve you and other welfare groups in the five-state region as they work to prevent cruelty to animals, and to implement national HSUS programs in the region.

In Laramie, the Rocky Mountain Regional Director F. L. Dantzler (standing) met with officers of the recently organized Wyoming Federation of Humane Societies in Laramie. Left to right are: Ruth Poots, Cheyenne, vice president; Sherman Mast, Laramie, president, and Patricia Mass, Casper, secretary.

Several new working committees to assist existing programs in humane education, neuter and emergency clinic. The $170,000 facility will complement the existing animal shelter operation and will include ample space for two veterinarians.

The Salt Lake County Animal Control Dept. has been working in conjunction with our office in the planning of a new $450,000 animal shelter. Our help has also been requested in drafting new animal control ordinances.

**WYOMING:** In Laramie, the Rocky Mountain Regional Office assisted the Animal Care Center of Laramie in the formation of the Wyoming Federation of Humane Societies. With humane education as one of its primary goals, the federation will also seek to establish continued on back page

Rodeo Cruelty

The HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office and the Bannock Humane Society of Pocatello, Idaho, filed charges of cruelty against a stock contractor a few months ago after a “bucking horse” was seriously injured in last year’s Pocatello Independence Day Rodeo Celebration.

According to witnesses, the horse stumbled, fell, and remained on the ground during the celebration. The injured animal was then dragged from the arena with ropes tied to its head. Neither a skid nor a sled, which are usually used for moving injured animals, was used.

As the animal was dragged through a series of gates in route to the isolated holding areas, the horse became entangled in one of the gates. Several cowboys pulled on the animal’s tail in an effort to free the animal’s rear legs from the gate. The horse was fully conscious and several rodeo spectators voiced disapproval by booing.

Sometime later, an announcement was made over the public address system requesting the assistance of a veterinarian if one were present as a spectator. A veterinarian was on hand who was able to get the animal released after satisfying the $100 bail requirement.

Under Idaho law, a defendant has 10 days in which to enter a formal plea after bail has been posted; otherwise, the money is forfeited. The contractor did not make a formal plea.

The case is another tragic example of the cruel treatment that exist in rodeos and other events, where the welfare of animals, is the primary concern, Dantzler said.

This is Your Region

The HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office has two primary objectives: to assist individual humanitarians and local animal welfare groups in the five-state region as they work to prevent cruelty to animals, and to implement national HSUS programs in the region.

The staff of your regional office is eager to serve you and other humane groups in the five-state region as they work to prevent cruelty to animals, and to implement national HSUS programs in the region.

BUFFALO Continued

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BUFFALO Continued

The Humane Society of the United States

Interested, currently rules issued by the Arizona Fish and Game Dept. seem to be designed in response to growing public opposition to the hunt. The current fee is $500, compared to the $45 formerly charged. Hunters are now driven by the law to travel some distance away from the public.

HSUS has protested the hunt on several occasions in the past and will continue to look into legal possibilities of putting an end to this spectacle masqueraded as “conservation.”

John A. Hoyt, President
The Humane Society of the United States

HSUS’s Frantz Dantzler (right) assisted in the formation last year of the Federated Humane Societies of Idaho. Officers of the federation are (left to right): Doris Hawley, Mountain Home, secretary-treasurer; Bobbi Glasmann, Twin Falls, president; and Theresa Harmon, Boise, publicity chairman. Helen Wilson of Nampa is vice president. The HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office includes the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

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Frantz L. Dantzler, Director
A Rodeo Debate

During the first annual meeting of the Federated Humane Societies of Idaho, the subject of rodeo was discussed in what became a public debate. Originally, HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Director F. L. Dantzler was scheduled to discuss the HSUS position on rodeo for the benefit of those Idaho societies represented at the meeting in Twin Falls. Upon hearing of the planned discussion topic, a local member of the Rodeo Cowboy's Assn. (RCA) requested an opportunity to present the RCA position. Federation President Mrs. Gordon Glassman agreed to have the RCA represented. However, several days prior to the meeting it became apparent RCA intended to use the opportunity to publicize the "sport."

Several articles mysteriously appeared in a number of Idaho newspapers intimating the federation was seeking legislation outlawing rodeo. The articles further stated that persons interested in rodeo should attend. As a result, approximately 300 "cowboys" and 4 RCA spokesmen attended the meeting.

RCA President Dave Stout admitted in his statement that injuries to animals occasionally occur in rodeos. However, he contended that the rate of injury was less than 1% throughout the industry.

Dantzler, speaking for HSUS, challenged Stout's remark, saying Stout was speaking of visible injuries, not the unseen internal injuries that are inherent in many events. Dantzler also pointed out that HSUS, after researching roping events from a scientific point of view, concluded that 12-15% of the animals used were injured. He said the fact that RCA "at the very least, was admitting that injuries do occur should be cause for serious concern among all responsible persons."

The meeting was attended heavily by school-age children. Several were transported great distances by rodeo sympathizers anxious to encourage their participation.

A single HSUS representative found himself up against four representatives of the Rodeo Cowboys Assn. (RCA) in a debate on whether or not rodeos are cruel to animals during last year's annual meeting of the Federated Humane Societies of Idaho in Twin Falls. The humane federation had originally invited HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Director Frantz Dantzler (speaking) to present the HSUS position that rodeos torment and injure animals in certain events. But, by meeting time, four RCA representatives were on hand to counter Dantzler, supported by some 300 rodeo fans in the audience.

provided assistance in the alleviation of animal cruelty. The Cheyenne Animal Shelter, recently organized, now has a contractual agreement with city officials for the operation of the once problem-ridden shelter. Society officials are reporting excellent progress in several areas, including humane education and shelter renovation. In travels throughout the region, we have found a climate very receptive to HSUS goals. And it is encouraging to see humane work on the increase.

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