



# THE RAM'S HORN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

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NO. 5

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A pause in retrospect into the original philosophy of this Society brings forth the sincere desire of its founders to diligently assume the stewardship for the propagation and welfare of the Arizona Desert Big Horn Sheep. Each year that stewardship rotates to a new group, hopefully with the same determination to faithfully fulfill those high ideals that have brought forth honor and respect from those with whom we have contact.

To assure that your new Board has the broadest reservoir of knowledge to draw from in order to accomplish our purpose we have asked the former Presidents to serve on an Advisory Committee. I am confident that with their paternal assistance we can better achieve our objectives.

Those various objectives such as our Water Hole Projects and our Zoo Project have never been left half done because there has always been a wonderful responsive flow of physical, financial, and moral support from the unselfish, dedicated membership of this Society. The individual effort of our members never ceases to amaze the various agencies and people with whom we are associated from time to time.

Our newly elected Board of Directors has already plunged into their areas of responsibilities with vigorous determination to meet their various committee obligations head on. The results of those efforts are readily becoming apparent as time progresses.

This Society has achieved its objectives because of "you" — the person devoted to the Arizona Desert Big Horn Sheep.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

January will start our annual membership drive. Four hundred and seventy-five sportsmen, sportswomen, conservationists and interested friends enjoyed the benefits of the Society during 1973. The 1974 season will be as exciting and enjoyable as the past years. Our 1974 membership goal is 750. To reach this goal, we need your help. Contact a friend and pass on the good word on the Societies activities and goals.

Enclosed is a membership card to renew your 1974 membership and a copy of the Membership Invitation to pass along to a friend.

Minimum contribution to belong to the Society is the same today as when the Society was founded — just \$5.00. Society Membership would make a sporting gift for that good Hunting Buddy.



The exhibit building as it stands today.  
Photo courtesy of Phoenix Zoo.

## PHASE II ZOO PROJECT

The final phase of the Zoo Project will be kicked-off on the weekend of January 12 and 13 according to our project chairman John Houzenga. The activities will start at 7:30 a.m. at the zoo site on Saturday morning and will continue on Sunday. The project will be resumed on the following two weekends, (January 19, 20 and 26, 27). This will be the final push to get the exhibit building ready by 23 March 1974. It is certainly a formidable task but if we get the proper support — it will happen.

The tasks that must be accomplished are: finishing of the walls and roof; forms must be constructed for steps and concrete must be poured; railings for stairs and observation deck; interior finishing and decorating as well as constructing a fence to come up to the building so there is an unobstructed view from the exhibit building observation deck to the sheep in the enclosure.

The most important support needed is a lot of manpower to get things going. No special skills are required except willingness to work. There are some tools that are required, however. If you can participate please bring trowels, picks and shovels. Material-wise we are still looking for donations of 150 ft.

(continued on Page 2)

## ZOO PROJECT . . .

of 2-inch galvanized pipe for railings and 2 x 10 x 10 joists for the roof. Any help in locating these donations would be greatly appreciated.

Up to this point 550 hours of labor have been expended. This effort consisted of leveling the area, digging foundations, pouring footings and floor, stone walls, groating and laying block walls. When finished, the building will have over 4000 ft. of steel. All of this was accomplished on twelve outings with a workforce of 4 to 12 men working between 3 to 9 hours at a time. The average temperature at the site was 128°F and it was kept there by 47 barrels of our perspiration.

If you can help, please contact John Houzenga at 946-6914. We will be using the back gate of the zoo to get to the building site. The easiest way to get there is to take McDowell to 68th Street then turn South and continue on where 68th becomes Campo Allegro. The back gate is located directly on the north-west side (on your right) when you reach the golf course.

Let's pull together on this one — it is the big one!

## 1974 PROJECTS

Merle Haggard is singing a hit "If I Make It Through December". However around my campfire I'm not singin' — just prayin' I'll make it! The good ol' USA has an energy crunch. In January we'll have our own small world size crunch. . . .as we will need energy and willing hands to launch Season Number Six into being history.

Project 1 is scheduled for the weekend of January 5 and 6, and was moved ahead so as not to conflict with the Arizona Wildlife Federation Convention on the 11th through 13th of January. Our first effort of '74 is known as "Betty Lee Cistern". It's located in the Copper Mountains, south of Tacna and Welton. Our work will consist of maintenance of the existing development and should allow us to get going at a more comfortable pace before going to work for John Houzenga at Zoo Phase II the following three weekends.

Meeting place will be at the Mohawk Gas Station (better make that "Service" instead of "Gas", ahem!). The exit from Highway 80 will be Avenue 40E. In Tacna, the station will probably be closed anyway but we'll meet at 9:30 p.m. on Friday night, January 4.

The "Betty Lee Cistern" is on a military reservation but clearance is OK — at this point in time anyhow. We'll attempt to seal the tank and repair the roof deflector.

Other waterhole project dates are for the weekends of February 9 and 10, March 2 and 3; "St. Patricks Day" March 16 and 17 — April 6 and 7, and April 27 and 28.

We're all aware of the problems that face our neighbors and ourselves. By the same measure we are conscious of the value placed upon these waterhole/zoo projects by the wild game, sportsmen, the public, state agencies and officials, and our fellow Society members. "Where There's a Will There's a Way" goes an old saying. There are some practical solutions to our particular situation — and I'm sure they will come to your mind as you approach your individual decisions. 'Nuff Sed!

by Joe "KK" Kane

## THE DESERT BIGHORN

*The following article by Wayne Homan, Phoenix Zoo Curator, which appeared in the spring issue of ARIZOO is reprinted here by permission of the Arizona Zoological Society. This article not only provides an excellent historical background of the Desert Bighorn but also tells how the Society became involved in what is now known as the "Zoo Project".*

Editor

ARIZONA IS HIGHLY TOUTED for its natural wonders, and rightly so, for its topography is so diverse as to include all the major ecological formations of the world. Such a wide range of habitat selection produces an equal diversity of wildlife; 751 species are listed in Dr. Lowe's "The Vertebrates of Arizona."

The Desert Bighorn Sheep, truly the most interesting and majestic of the endemic large mammals, is today the least sighted. The State's phenomenal "progress" of the last century has pushed these seclusive creatures into remote and nearly inaccessible desert mountain ranges. It is now a privilege reserved for the most hearty and daring desert wanderer to have an eyeball to eyeball sheep encounter.

Contrasting sharply to today's situation are the comments of early pioneers.

Father Kino's 16th century expedition reported a bustling trade of dried deer and Bighorn meat among the desert Indian tribes, items of such demand that one village located close to the present site of Sacaton was named Tusonimon ". . .from a great heap of horns from the wild or sylvan sheep, which appears like a hill."

Later observations from army expeditions into the Arizona Territory include mention of the famed Kit Carson securing an ewe near the banks of the Gila River. Accounts of cowboys and vaqueros lassoing wild sheep for sport are not uncommon, and many of today's senior citizens can recount seeing the Bighorn in the Valley's surrounding mountains. One such person, Mr. Edward Green, made mention of collecting a trophy animal near the turn of the century in the buttes which make up Papago Park and the Zoo.

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The decline in population of Bighorn Sheep is attributed to the pressures and stress imposed by man's settling the territory. Domestic stock first displaced the Elk and Pronghorn from the plains, and then as the demand for more and better pastures increased the Bighorn were driven from the lush bajadas and more accessible canyons. With the shrinkage in natural range, the sheep were limited to the desert mountains where prospectors furthered the persecution. Logistics required these men to camp at water holes and to rely on wild game for sustenance.

The Bighorn and Desert Mule Deer were poached indiscriminantly as to sex and age. The agriculture industry's needs created more problems through its retention of surface water and use of ground water, thereby drying up hundreds of miles of rivers and natural range which had been used by the animals. Sports hunting also took its toll although regulations had been enacted at the turn of the century.

The sheep population dropped to a dangerously low number from these forces, and it was evident that drastic steps had to be taken to save the animal from extinction. In 1939, by Executive order, two game ranges were established with a view especially protecting the Bighorn. Encompassing one and a half million acres of desert mountains, the Kofa and the Cabeza Prieta Game Ranges received the attention needed to start the Bighorn on the road to recovery. Limited grazing permits, construction of water catchment basins, predator controls and patrols to discourage poaching went into effect with the result that, by 1950, a limited hunt could be held.

To the laymen it would appear a contradiction to declare even highly restrictive sports hunting of a depleted specie. Such action was justified by the game biologists in order that they have specimens to examine for disease and parasites; spread the ram-ewe ratio, evaluate reproduction trends, and most important to generate public interest in the research and management problems of the sheep.

Hunting has continued every year since the first hunt with gratifying results. The Game and Fish Department, through close supervision of all hunters, has been able to secure the information they have needed to better manage the sheep, and public interest has increased to such an extent as to foster the organization called *The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society*.

Membership of the Society is composed of all classes of individuals—from the professional game guides to the weekend naturalist—and all have one thing in common: a sincere concern for the Bighorn. This concern manifests itself in their work to improve the Bighorns' status, and these people are doers. Each year they take on projects, usually prescribed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, that involve hundreds of hours of labor to improve the habitat of the Bighorn.

During 1969, the Zoological Society and the Bighorn Society joined forces in an effort to secure and display a small number of Bighorn Sheep at the Phoenix Zoo. The motive was to bring the sheep to the Zoo where yearly the hundreds of thousands of visitors might view these majestic animals. The State's constitution places ownership of wildlife to the people of the state, and it was obvious that few owners would ever see these animals if they were left only to the remote country they presently inhabit.

The Zoological Society's responsibilities of this partnership were to furnish the display site, offer design specifications, and

acquire the animals. The more difficult tasks of raising funds and the physical construction of the exhibit were taken on by the Sheep Society. Response by members and friends to the Bighorn Society's campaign was galvanic. As the fund drive began to accelerate, weekend work parties started appearing at the Zoo.

The site chosen for the display incorporated one of the natural buttes on the Zoo grounds. Visiting Zoo Directors have often commented on the good fortune of the Phoenix Zoo in having these buttes within its boundaries; they must construct their mountain animal display with gunite. What they do not realize is the Herculean tasks they create for construction crews. Impossible grades and cutting stone that has the consistency of concrete combined to make building a gunite mountain seem like child's play. The work parties in many instances had to move heavy welding units and rock drills up grades and into positions that a Bighorn Sheep would be proud to accomplish.

The exhibit was not quite finished when the Game and Fish Department started coming through with their end of the bargain by delivering the first Bighorn. The Zoological Society had entered into an agreement with the Game and Fish Commission, which, in essence, stated that the Society would maintain Bighorn Sheep for the Commission in a display and manner which would meet with the Commission's approval, and would furnish any progeny that might develop for the Commission's use, i.e. restocking historic range or study areas.

The first animal to arrive was a young ram that had wandered out of the mountains along the Colorado River and persisted in visiting inhabited areas. For his own safety, the Game Department decided to move him to the Zoo. Shortly thereafter, more animals were collected through the use of a new tranquilizer technique perfected by the Department.

Presently the Zoo displays three specimens of these noble animals in a display as natural as can be had; the species had actually roamed these same buttes before man's intrusion. Designed to include the seclusion necessary for their well-being, supported by nutritious diets and medical aid, it is the hope of the three agencies involved—Arizona Zoological Society, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, and Arizona Game and Fish Commission—that this exhibit will again allow the Arizonan the delight of readily viewing the Bighorn.

## LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article VII (Section 1) and Article IX of the BYLAWS of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Inc. the President of the Society has called two Special Meetings (January 9, and February 13, 1974) at the Phoenix Zoo Conference Room for 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the January Meeting will be the presentation of a proposed Amendment to the BYLAWS.

At the February Meeting this proposed Amendment will be voted upon. The proposed Amendment is reprinted below:

### ADDITION OF ARTICLE XVI – CREATION OF A BOARD OF GOVERNORS

All Past Presidents of the Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Inc., except the Immediate Past President, will become members of the Board of Governors. This Board will govern itself and will be entitled to one vote, as a whole, on any matters brought before the Board of Directors.

## EIGHTH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Society will hold its annual awards banquet on Saturday evening, March 23, 1974. Cocktail hour will be from 6:30 to 7:30, dinner at 7:30 featuring delicious broiled top sirloin steaks at the Desert Hills, Jupiter I Room, 2707 East Van Buren, Phoenix.

Bill Sizer, a well known speaker from the Arizona Game and Fish, will be featured with some interesting movie and slide coverage of Desert Bighorn Sheep. Successful hunters that took rams qualifying for the Arizona Wildlife Trophy book during the 1973 hunt will be recognized with trophy plaques. A special trophy will be awarded for the outstanding ram of the season. A nice collection of free door prizes will be awarded to lucky number dinner ticket holders. Send your \$8.00 per person to Carolyn Langdon, 8132 N. 16th St., Phoenix, Az, 85020, 944-7862 to order your tickets. Make checks or money orders payable to Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Inc. Tickets will be mailed to you after January 21. Remember, this event is open to your friends and neighbors. Get your tickets early. We expect 150 plus banquet attendance so make sure you don't miss this outstanding and most interesting event of the season.

## AN APPEAL

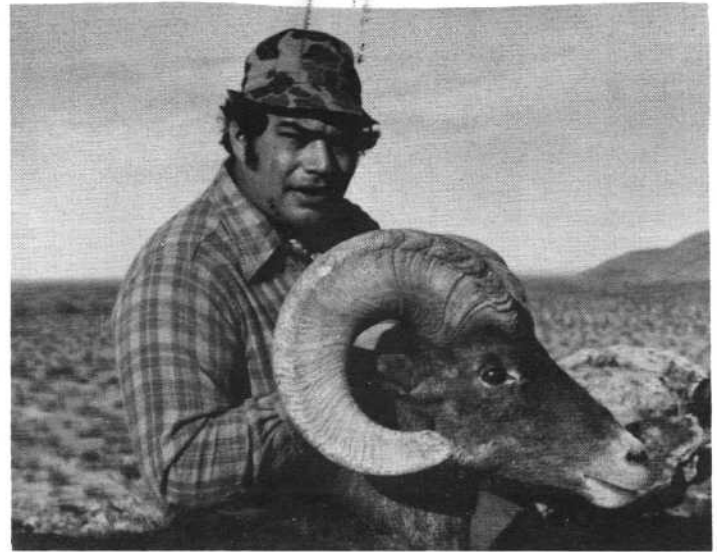
As in the past years your editor again is soliciting photographs and stories from the hunters who just finished the 1973 Arizona Sheep Hunt. The photos will be published in our Ram's Horn Trophy Room and the stories will be consolidated in the upcoming issues.

This year, however, I would also like to see stories from those hunters whose luck did not come true. Why? I believe that we can all benefit in hearing what went wrong or why that prized trophy never appeared where the hunter was. We always hear the success but seldom the other side. Let's hear them both — we all can stand to learn more!

The Editor

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Larry Kaplan of Tempe took this trophy in Unit 40A on the second day of the 1973 hunt. He was guided by the Arizona Outfitters Dean Bowdoin and Tom Saad with Bob Gray doing the cooking.



Don Gerhardt of Phoenix got this one in Unit 41 on the sixth day. His guides were Dean Bowdoin, Tom Saad, Mike Mell, Ronnie Bowers, Tom Kirstem and Bob Gray of the Arizona Outfitters.

# 1973 RAM'S HORN TROPHY ROOM I

Ed Note: Ram's Horn Trophy Room will continue till all 1973 hunt pictures are published.



Lamar Haines of Flagstaff took this ram in Unit 15B West near Lost Cabin Springs. It took Lamar 19 years to draw his permit. From left to right Less Haines (Lamar's son), Mark Foster (son-in-law) and Lamar Haines.



Ed Cox got his ram in Unit 15A & B East on the sixth day. He was guided by John Houzenga.



Steve Weisser took this trophy on the fourth day of the 1973 hunt in Unit 43A East. It scored approximately 174 B&C points.



Duane E. Barkley took his trophy on the third day in Unit 40A.



Tom Carlson of Ogden, Utah took this ram in Unit 15B West at 11:00 a.m. on the opening day. He spotted 5 legal rams and made his choice. Tom's guide was John Houzenga.



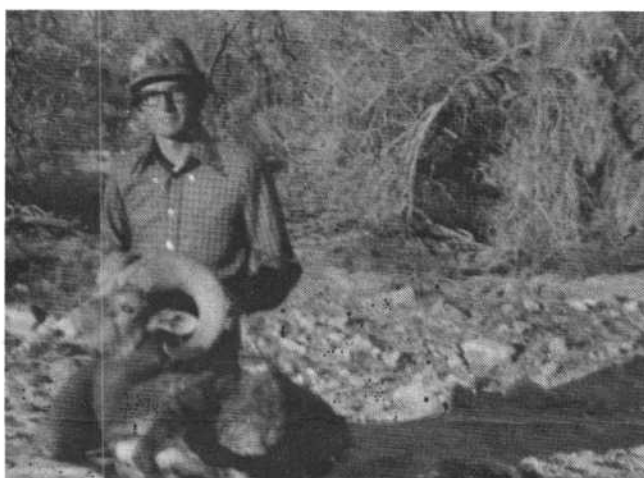
Bill Carney succeeded on the 8th day in Unit 40A.

# 1973 RAM'S HORN TROPHY ROOM I

Ed Note: Ram's Horn Trophy Room will continue till all 1973 hunt pictures are published.



Bob Goolden of Canton, New York took this trophy in Unit 15B West on the third day of the hunt. The raw score was 158 7/8 and his guide was Dick Fite.



Stanley Johnston of Glendale, Arizona was successful on the 10th day of the hunt. He took this fine ram in Unit 43B South.



Manley V. Johnston of Phoenix, Arizona got this ram on the 6th day of the hunt in Unit 43B South.



Dick Ullery of Casper, Wyoming, guided by Don Moon, was successful on the 10th day. He took this ram in Unit 43B South.



Randall Walker of Long View, Texas took his trophy on the 5th day of the hunt in Unit 43B South. He was booked by Jack Walters/ Danny Nasca and guided by Ronnie Clark.



Dr. Marion Peterson of Mesa, Arizona took his trophy ram on the last day of the hunt in Unit 43A in the East Kofa's.