

THE RAM'S HORN

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ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

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MARCH 1974

NO. 2

PHASE II ZOO PROJECT

Construction at the Zoo was proceeding at a tremendous pace until we encountered a rather formidable problem. The problem was the stairs which form the so-called "Horns." The elaborate structure which was required to make the forms took everybody by surprise but thanks to the diligence and perseverance of our carpenter friends, Joe Hare Construction Company, it was solved and the stairs were poured on Saturday, 16 February 1974. This was accomplished by a tremendous outpouring of members and friends. Special recognition for this task is amply described by the 23 young men from Cement Masons Apprenticeship class. These men, under the leadership of Wm. Leon Garling, Apprenticeship Coordinator for Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 394 and S. Duane Carnahan, Apprenticeship Instructor, provided the necessary skill and professionalism to pour and finish the stairs. The participants from the Apprenticeship class were:

Allen, Dale	Largent, Charles
Amarillas, Ralph	Lawrence, Forest
Buerlein, Charles	Lugo, James
Burleson, Elgie	Luque, Ruben
Cruff, Paul B.	Piedra, Jimmy
Crowley, Flander	Rosales, Louis
Ferguson, John	Sonoqui, Gabriel
Garling, Wm. Paul	Vasquez, Edward
Hardie, Thomas	Villalobos, Pete
Hayes, Artie	Yniquez, John
Hill, James	Raso, Anthony J.
Jordan, Robert	

Notwithstanding these accomplishments, our schedule slipped by about 5 weeks and it was decided by the Executive Board that the tentative dedication set for 10 March 1974 must be postponed till a later date. The next issue of Ram's Horn will carry the full details of this milestone in your Society's history.

It is also with deep regret that Ram's Horn must announce that Jack Walters, one of the foremost proponents and initial originators of the Zoo Project, has a terminal disease and does not expect to be with us much longer. Therefore, Jack Walters has asked us to express on behalf of him and the Society our combined thanks to the multitude of his friends who so



"Big Al" as he is called, proudly surveys his home at the Phoenix Zoo. He was the very first resident of the enclosure and is becoming a fine specimen. Also, "Big Al" is on first-name basis with most of the Society members who have participated in Phase II.

graciously contributed financially and materially to the zoo project. Without their help this project would not be reality today.

Indeed, if a man ever deserved a memorial, the Desert Bighorn Sheep enclosure and the exhibit building at the Phoenix Zoo, will represent to all of us a truly fitting tribute to a great outdoorsman and a fine gentleman—Jack Walters.

LAST CALL-ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

As previously announced, the Eighth Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday 23 March 1974 at the Planet Room of Desert Hills Hotel, 2707 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix.

Cocktail hour will be from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with dinner served promptly at 7:30 p.m. The banquet will feature an exciting program with many attractions — all geared to Desert Bighorn Sheep and the work done by your Society. This year we have added another innovation — after the formal ceremonies there will be dancing till one o'clock. The bar also will be open during this part of the festivities.

If you want to spend a memorable evening with some of the greatest outdoorsmen in this part of the country — this is your chance!

UPCOMING WATERHOLE PROJECTS

There's been some changes made in the Society's published calendar of events. As far as the water works is concerned I'll list em in their coming order.

"Upper Thanksgiving Day Tank", March 16, 17, 74. No changes here. Meeting time is 8 p.m. Friday nite the 15th on Highway 85 approximately 20 miles south of Gila Bend going down toward Ajo. Watch for the lights of gang just off the road. Some of the fellas meet at "Circle K" on the West side of Gila Bend an then mosey on down to the turnoff spot. Saturday nite supper an' Sunday morning breakfast will be provided by John Houzenga, Jerry Petkovsek, and a new helper in the kitchen but an old hand at cookin, John Krause. As usual we'll split up the costs between all who wanta get in on this good eatin'. So bring along a big appetite and just a tad bit of that back pocket rat holded money for a good time round the dutch oven camp cookin campfire.

"Fire Mountain Kingman" on March 30, 31, 74. No change here either. We'll be creating a waterhole; a retention dam and a silt diversion dam in sort of a box canyon type of layout. We'll apply sealant on sidewalls of our resevoir area for holding water against leakage. It could offer you a different approach to our projects as you can get in on the ground floor this time. We're now planning a car pool type of trip up and back. Bob Stonoff has offered use of his ten passenger van, and has lined up a second offer if another ten wanta take him up on a good arrangement like this. It'll be a share the gas an oil xpenses and limited to the first 10 to definitely commit their participation. If you'd like to travel to the "Fire Mountain" with Bob give him a call at 967-6326, or contact one of the Board Members if it's necessary. He's got room for each man's gear and has several good ideas lined up for the crew with him. If however, you prefer to use your own transportation—Bob and those other drivers will meet at the AG&FD, Greenway Road, Phoenix at 6 p.m. Friday nite March 29, 74. It's a long trip and travellin' together is a good idea these days. We'll again meet up with the rest of the workers at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Regional Office/Yard in Kingman 'round 10:30 p.m. or 11 p.m. This office is on the Las Vegas Road outa town, and I believe there's a highway sign opposite their driveway. Somthin' bout 100 miles to somewhere from there... anyhow you can't get lost on Vs now—so we'll be lookin' yer way if the sun's in yer eyes! Supper provided on Saturday nite as usual!

The April 6 and 7th date on the calendar of events has been axed. No pothole project for those dates.

However, we've changed the next project date. We're goin out west again for those cowboy sheeps. On 20, 21 April we'll be working on the "Cabeza Prieta Game Range."

The supervision on Monte Dodson, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. We did two for him and USBSF&W and he was one of the most pleased and appreciative fellas you could imagine. And we had a good time too. With lotsa memories for future savoring at campfires. Once again we meet Friday nite the 19th of April at 10 p.m. on Interstate 8, mile post 48 which is located on south side of the highway eight miles east of Tacna.

Bring yer camera, binocs, and room for soaking up lotsa scenery. Supper Saturday nite 'round the big ol' campfire as

usual. So plan to add to our fun an memories. Note again the change of date, huh?

In closing out the '74 projects year we aim to go back to "Box Canyon Tank" on May 18, 19, 74. We hadda move this date too. As it had somewho got set down on the weekend of Mothers Day Sunday. So you fellas that have a lil' debt to repay to your wimmen folks for watching the fort all those weekends you went off hunting, scouting, zoo project, waterhole projects, etc. better make a note here now of both these worthwhile dates to remember. Meeting time is 8 p.m. Friday nite April 17, 74 at the Gulf Service Station on the east side of Buckeye. This station is on the north side of the big ol' highway 80. Last time we came outa the work area we enjoyed a stop and Barbeque, pit style, at Bill O'Brian's ranch. "Box Canyon" is located in the Clanton Hills beyond the Eagle Tail Mountains, an Bill will probably tell you bout some of the rams in his area. They're there...or we wouldn't be! This time we'll have an easier fun project weekend than last time there. And I'll copper by bet an' say that our Saturday nite supper will be another good 'un!

In closing off this tally count—we're sure sorry bout having t' change a few bits of information. It's only 'cuz the Society is growin and getting better all the time. Come along on a trip sometime and help us show you how we get Marboro Country in our blood.

Writ by hand
Signed/Joe "KK" Kane



Lazarus Tank clean-up was almost completed when this photo was taken. Note the large mound of debris in front of the dam. Photo by Bob Stonoff.

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2nd 1974 PROJECT

by a Guest Writer*

It all started 9:30 Friday night, February 8th when we rendezvoused at Ramsey, a watering station for thirsty travelers. (Also for topping off the gas tanks). From here we traveled by dusty caravan south through the desert to the Hidden Tank site in the New Water Mountains. At the camp, Dan Schadle and Don Belknap representing AG&F and Monte Dodson from Yuma USBFSW were on hand to welcome us. After some more serious talk around the campfire most of the gang hit the sacks. It is known that Joe Bormanis and Wade Dominy (not you know who) were the last two to turn in.

The party for this project was comprised of the following:

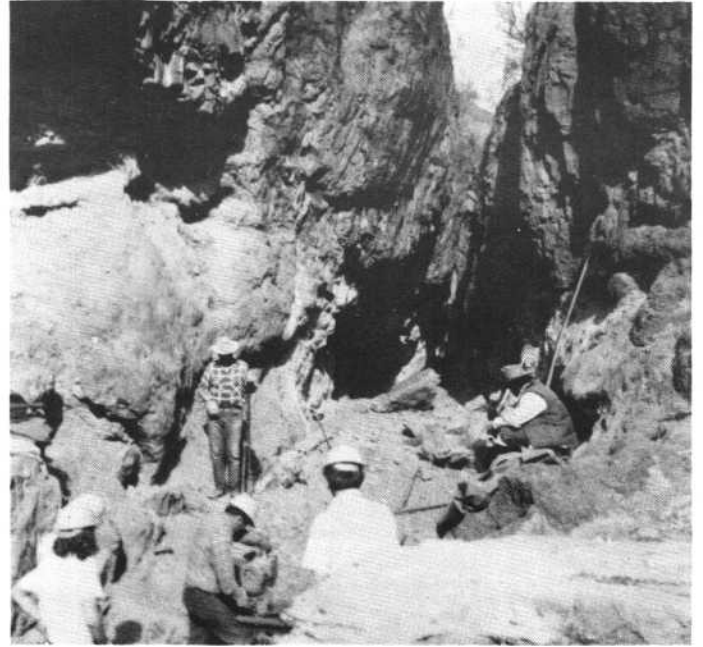
Dan Schadle, AG&FD	Don Belknap, AG&FD
Don Rinker, AG&FD	R.K. 'Bob' Weaver, AG&FD, Yuma
Stan McNabb	Matt Dominy
Bill Snider, Yuma	Don Langdon
John Houzenga	Tom Brown—Southwest Portable Tool Co.
Dave Mitchell	John Krause
Ron Schreiner	Ed Shannahan
Joe Kane	Wade Dominy
Bob Stonoff	Mason Bauer
Bill Furedy	Jerry Petkovsek
Monte Dodson, BSF&W, Yuma	Greg Schreiner
Joe Gundry	Bob Gray
Dave Daughtry, AG&FD	Rob Cavin
Doug Reynolds	Joe Bormanis
Danny Pfaff	Casin Wells

Next morning at daybreak found most of the camp stirring, a few tried to sleep a couple of minutes longer, but Pres was out early picking up litter and he has a way of always managing to drop his plastic bag of old goodies on a late sleepers head.

Breakfast over everyone headed up the trail towards "Hidden Tank" The tank was a slit in the mountain wall over 50 feet long. The top of the slit was so narrow that the three men working up there to remove loose rocks, braced their backs against one wall and their knees against the other wall. The bottom was approximately seven feet wide. The work consisted of breaking up large rocks with jack hammers and carrying away the pieces, lots of shoveling sand and prying rocks loose. This went on all day Saturday and by 5 pm. everyone was ready for "Thats it Men, let's head for camp."

John and Jerry, self appointed cooks, had left ahead of time to prepare the evening chow. We had roast antelope, bighorn sheep, deer, beef, salad, turnips, green beans, cowboy beans, cornbread and biscuits. Everyone pitched in \$1.25 as his share for the food and come away from the table so full they could hardly walk. A real tribute to our two cooks! As a special surprise for one of the younger members, who was celebrating (and holding) his 38th birthday, a lighted birthday cake decorated with a rams head appeared. Truly a work of art and for once the Irishman couldn't speak except to say "Thank you men". Then after more fun, songs and talk everyone went to bed.

Sunday morning the same—breakfast, up the trail, move



Entrance to the Hidden Tank showing some of the work party clearing the rocks from this narrow area. This task was greatly simplified by Tom Brown's portable jackhammer expertise. Photo by Bob Stonoff.

more rocks. By noon we were finished and headed for camp and home.

We did complete all the work that was planned for this trip, however there was a general feeling that after a few spring rains with heavy run-off, another look will have to be given to this tank.

While most of the work party remained at the Hidden Tank Site, Joe Kane, our Projects Chairman, took a small party to the Lazarus Tank. This tank is located in a scenic area on the Southwestern end of the Plomosa Mountains, about a 45 minute drive from the Hidden Tank and was built by the Society during the last season.

This party, consisting of Wade Dominey, Don Langdon, John Krause, Matt Dominey and Joe Bormanis, had the task of cleaning out the debris accumulated over the previous years. The tank turned out to be more than expected and on Sunday, Dave Daughtry, Bob Stonoff and Bob Weaver joined in. Through these combined efforts this tank was completely cleaned out and should provide a large capacity water storage. At that point, there still was water in the deepest part of the tank and fresh sheep sign was found on both days.

It was felt by the experts in the work party that this is one of the most used tanks within the sheep range. When we left, some of us made the promise to go back there to see how much water will be there after the spring rains. We hope it is full to the top!

Editors Note: This part was written by a guest writer who claims he "writ by pen with a poor memory of the other good things that happened after 11 p.m. two days after Ram's Horn deadline!"

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS PASSED

The General Membership Meeting held on 13 Feb 1974 passed an amendment to the Society's bylaws. This amendment created a Board of Governors, comprised of all Past Presidents, with the exception of the immediate Past President.

OBSERVATIONS OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

by Monte Dodson

On June 29, 1973 I was participating in a summer waterhole count and located at North Pinta Tank on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range. At 5:15 a.m. I observed an adult female bighorn standing some 300 yards up the side of the mountain. While observing this animal through binoculars I noticed that she was intent on something of interest in another direction, never taking her eyes off her object of curiosity. She took about 10 or 12 steps cautiously and stopped. After standing there for a few minutes she again took a similar number of steps and stopped. This was repeated a number of times. I then gazed to my left to see what this animal was interested in and I saw at some distance a coyote standing on a ridge. Up to this point the coyote had not seen the sheep and was looking off at another direction. It looked as though the ewe was stalking the coyote and it was only until the sheep had approached within some 50 yards of the coyote that it was detected.

For a few seconds both animals stood gazing at each other intently and then suddenly the sheep bolted and charged head long at the coyote running to within some 50 or 60 feet of it. The suddenness of the ewe's charge was too much for the coyote and it departed with one giant leap in the opposite direction. As soon as the sheep had seen that the coyote had retreated, it wheeled and ran off equally as rapid in the opposite direction. The sheep did not come to water and continued off out of sight.

On July 18, 1973 David Stearns and I were on patrol in the Castle Dome Mountains of the Kofa Game Range. We parked our vehicle and walked in to McPhearson Tank; upon reaching the tank we found a bighorn lamb which looked to be more dead than alive, the animal's tongue was hanging out of its mouth and completely dried out. It had lost a large amount of weight but was still able to climb out of the tank as we approached. It showed little fear of us and actually tried to come into the tank with us standing there. We noted that the tank was all but completely dry. Only a very small amount of water was left, probably no more than one-half gallon.

We did not observe any other sheep and it appeared that the lamb had been abandoned or had not been able to keep up with other animals. The tiny amount of water that was still available was highly polluted and being utilized mostly by bees.

Using shovels we removed about 1 1/2 yards of gravel and sand so that more water would be available, but we doubted at the time that the lamb would be able to survive, considering its present condition. The following week Joe Rodriguez checked this same tank and found the lamb dead.

McPhearson Tank is a very large catchment but unfortunately is filled with gravel and sand. It has a fine potential for improvement but due to its size it would be a mammoth job to shovel this tank out. Earlier on January 30 of this year Arizona Game and Fish Department Biologist, Don Belknap, Joe Rodriguez and I had inspected McPhearson Tank for improvement possibilities. Don suggested some appropriate measures in which we may be able to alter the action of water coming to the tank and perhaps increase scouring action.

Editor's Note: Monte Dodson, a long-time member of the Society, is the Acting Refuge Manager for the Cabeza Prieta and Kofa Game Preserves.

An Ode to a Pot Hole

By Bob Gray

I've watched you below the rocks on high
And raise your glasses to the sky
I've watched you shovel sand all day
And bury your pots deep in the clay
I've listened as the embers glow
And "Dear Old Girl" is all you know
I've watched you as you've toiled away
From all across the U.S.A.
And when you've gone I went to see
Just what you left behind for me
And there behold deep in the rocks
A watering place for all my flocks!

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