

Protesters to pack seal's islands

Sit-in planned for seal pup kill

United Press International
KIRKWALL, Scotland — The government has refused to call off its seal slaughter in the Orkney Islands, but animal lovers think they

can save the lives of 5,000 pups and cows with a sit-in on the barren rocks where the gray seals live. Bruce Millan, the British government's secretary for Scotland, rejected a late appeal Wednesday to

save the creatures because he does not believe there is a scientific case for calling off the hunt.

Fishery experts say the gray seals gobble up \$40 million worth of fish every year, enough to keep three Scottish fishing ports in business. The government has approved a cull of about one-twelfth of the herd of 60,000 seals.

No firm date has been fixed for the slaughter, however, and the conservationists still think they can win.

Millan said he will not risk confrontation with the protesters and endanger human life. So the seals' main champions, members of the California-based Greenpeace Organization, hope they can prevent the slaughter by occupying the barren and uninhabited rocky outcrops off northern Scotland.

"If the sealers are ordered not to go on any island where there are protesters, we will pack every one of them," said Greenpeace spokesman Pete Wilkinson. "What will they do then?"

"I honestly believe we can stop the cull going ahead."

The government's hired crew of

Norwegian marksmen have been ordered to shoot 4,000 seal pups and 1,000 breeding seals.

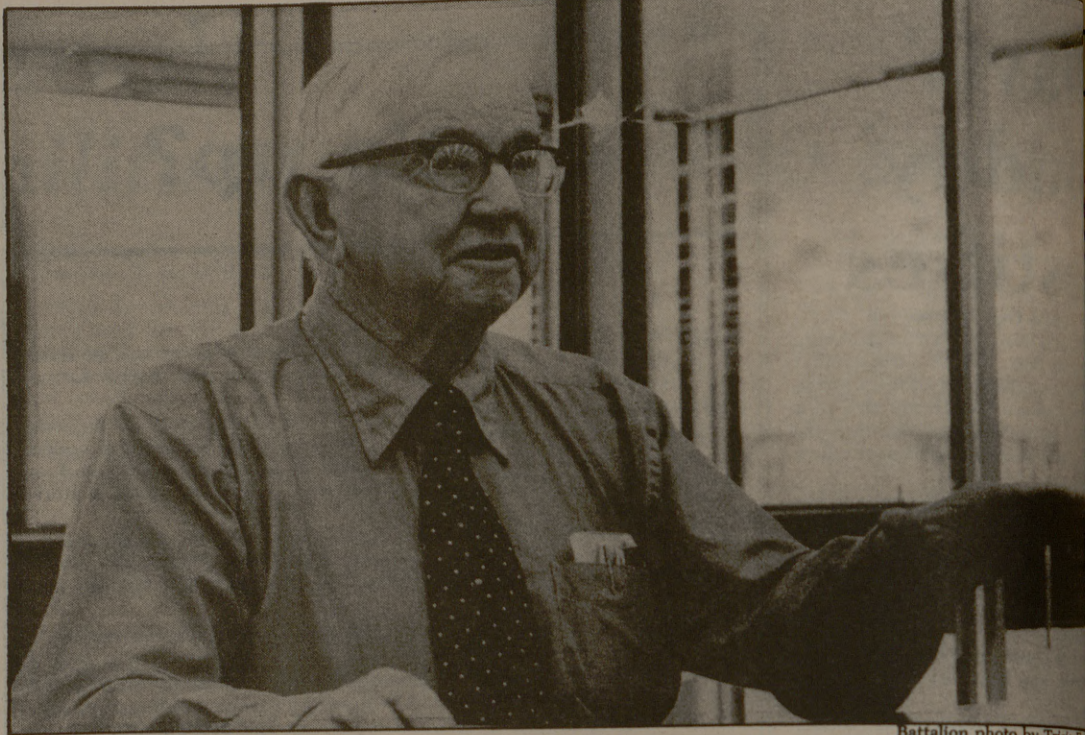
The hunters say many of the seals would starve and die anyway because there are no longer enough fish to feed them all.

Newspaper and television pictures of cuddly baby seals with pleading brown eyes have provoked a national outcry by animal lovers.

As both sides waited for action, a tag match continued between the government's sharpshooters, cruising the North Sea in their bright red ketch Kvitungen, and the conservationists aboard Rainbow Warrior, a green trawler with a rainbow painted on its side.

A caravan of reporters and camera crews followed the vessels in the chilly waters.

A Nature Conservancy official aboard the Kvitungen said the fuss was doing the seals no good at all. Reporters and conservationists who landed on the seals' normally uninhabited islands have frightened off many cows, who then deserted their pups to starve and die, he contended.



Battalion photo by Fred Norcross

An old familiar face soon to be missed

As machines are taking over all aspects of life, so it is with Fred Norcross. Norcross' friendly smile will be missed next year as electric equipment will replace the men who check books at each of Texas A&M University's libraries exits. Norcross has worked 10 years at the door and said he will spend more time on his hobby, woodcarving, from now on.

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County agents celebrate birthday

United Press International

TERRELL, Texas — In 1903 an Iowa researcher on a federal mission "to promote agriculture in the South," thought his ideas could revolutionize farming if he only could persuade Texas farmers to adopt some of his new techniques.

When Seaman A. Knapp made his pitch in a crowded community meeting, Walter C. Porter stood and volunteered 70 acres of land for a demonstration plot contingent

upon a guarantee his income would not be reduced.

When local businessmen agreed to place \$450 in a bank to cover any loss the Porter family might suffer, Knapp, a special agent with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, initiated the historic project. On Thursday farm demonstration celebrated its diamond anniversary in ceremonies attracting 600 national, state and foreign leaders.

On a farm planted to cotton and corn for 25 years without commercial fertilizer and without rotating crops, Knapp applied his idea that farmers would adopt new farming techniques if he could just "demon-

strate results they could see with their own eyes on their own farms."

The 70-acre field on the Porter farm was divided into plots to demonstrate use of more intensive tillage, commercial fertilizer and crop rotation. Despite boll weevil damage to cotton in 1903 being the worst in 25 years, Knapp was able to demonstrate good results on Porter's test plot.

On one plot he produced 166 pounds per acre by planting and farming it the way Porter always had grown cotton and second plot he produced 326 pounds per acre with intensive cultivation, application of 200 pounds of commercial fertilizer

per acre and planting the cotton with 18 inches between the rows.

On a third plot, he produced 414 pounds per acre using the same cultivation techniques but with the added benefit of growing the cotton in a field which had been planted to nitrogen-producing cowpeas the previous year.

Porter and his neighbors watched the plot all summer and were persuaded by the demonstration. As a result of the increased production from his 70-acre volunteer plot, Porter was paid \$700 more than he normally would have received from the local cotton gin.

From that beginning on the Porter farm, Knapp's work spread

quickly as private and local provided funds for 33 "agents" work with farmers in 1904 and 1905. Farmers planted "demonstration plots" on their farms so neighbors could see the results.

Congress became interested in the technique and passed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, establishing the Cooperative Extension Service which today has a staff of 100,000 professionals serving the people from approximately 3,150 county offices.

The 800-acre Porter farm is operated by Walter's son, Walter C. Porter, grandson and still is visited regularly by county agents.

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