

## Idaho farmers threatened

# Crop-eating bunnies killed

**United Press International**  
MUDLAKE, Idaho — To farmers they are the scourge of the desert — mangy, crop-gobbling pests which descend on haystacks and standing grain.

To America's urbanites, the furry creatures with wide brown eyes are mild-mannered cousins of the soft animals cuddled by children at Easter.

This disparity in how eastern Idaho's jackrabbit population is seen has spawned death threats against growers who clubbed more than 100,000 animals to death this winter.

As early as 1895, counties offered a nickel-a-head bounty for the rabbits. Some growers, it is said, were able to pay off their mortgages with money earned from turning in rabbit ears to local officials.

Since then, farmers have conducted drives in Idaho and other western states where infestations threaten to reduce piles of baled hay to scattered debris.

But none of those campaigns against the long-eared jack have received the attention which accompanied the past winter's drives in the Mud Lake Valley about 60 miles west of the Grand Teton mountain range.

When the first drive was announced, conservationists and animal-protection groups protested. Reporters and film crews arrived.

Hundreds of growers and their neighbors flushed an estimated 15,000 rabbits from

*...Men, women and children began a wild assault on the animals with tire irons, baseball bats and sticks. Hundreds were killed before they ever got to killing pens set up for a systematic slaughter.*

fenceline and ditch on the Joe Hartwell farm. A helicopter got in front of the drive line, frightening thousands of rabbits back toward the wall of clubwielding herders.

Men, women and children began a wild assault on the animals

with tire irons, baseball bats and sticks. Hundreds were killed before they ever got to killing pens set up for a systematic slaughter.

"We just weren't organized right," said Orvin Twitchell, head of the Mud Lake Rabbit Committee. "The whole thing broke down, but we learned about the right way to do these things, and we showed the media that we really do have a rabbit problem up here."

The National Humane Society officials called the slaughters "abhorrent."

The Fund for Animals, a New York-based wildlife organization which has fought the shooting of burros at China Lake, Calif., and seal hunts in Canada, demanded an immediate halt to the roundups.

Gov. John Evans, fearful of damage to Idaho's image, set up an ad hoc committee to explore other means of rabbit control. Outraged Americans sent a pile of letters to Twitchell, some threatening Mud Lake farmers and their families.

But the farmers said they dared not wait until research was conducted on other possible

means of control.

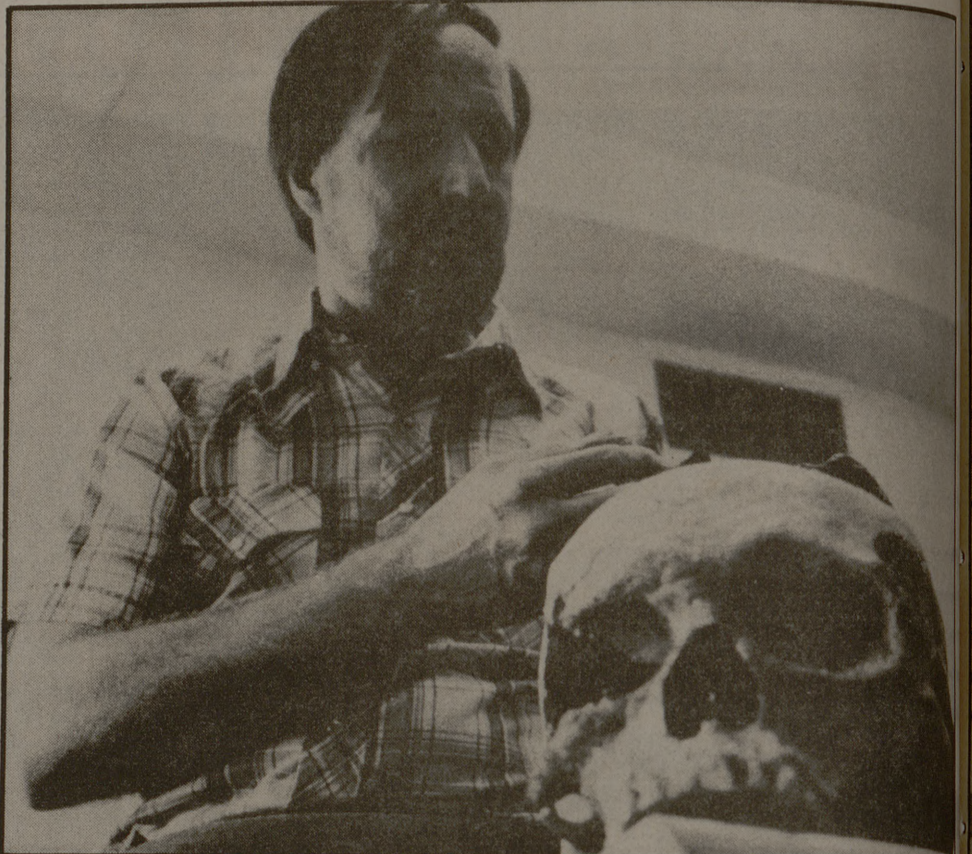
During the worst winter in 20 years in the state, the growers said there would never be a better chance to curb the rabbit population.

"The snow groups them up, brings them into the haystacks where we can round up a lot of them in a short space," Twitchell said.

The farmers paid a price for the easy roundups. Haystacks representing an entire summer of work toppled as starving jacks attacked their bottom layers. Growers, who set losses in Jefferson County at more than \$5 million, talked of forfeiting on farm loans.

So the drives continued. In snowstorms and gale-force winds rabbits were driven into killing pens and slaughtered. Carcasses were weighed and shipped to Iowa mink growers.

Farmers learned they should have made their case with the public on the need for the drives, exercised better control of them and barred children from participating. Andy Anderson of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, said.



Getting ahead

photo by William Langley

Dr. Harry Shafer, associate professor of anthropology, examines this skull discovered in a Pueblo ruin in New Mexico. The man is believed to have been about 30 years old at the time of his death and belonged to the the Mimbres Mogollon Indians.

# Border official accused of civil rights violations

**United Press International**  
DEL RIO — Jack Richardson directed U.S. Border Patrol activities in El Paso for only two months, but that was long enough to outrage members of the Mexican-American community and generate a lawsuit accusing him of civil rights violations.

Richardson, 52, recently returned to his regular duties in Del Rio, and he said he had no regrets about his temporary assignment as acting chief agent in El Paso or the admittedly aggressive way he defended the border.

"The first day I was there (El Paso) I said the border was controllable," he claimed. "They

didn't believe me then, but they do now."

However, some Mexican-Americans in El Paso believe Richardson established border control at the expense of their civil rights.

Pascual Mendoza, an El Paso fireman; Roberto Luna, a bar employee; and bar owners Jesus Hernandez and Feliz Castaneda filed a lawsuit against the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the El Paso Police Department for alleged civil rights violations.

Richardson, whose raids on industries and bars in Texas and New Mexico resulted in the arrests of about 20,000 suspected illegal aliens, mostly from Mexico, was named specifically named in the suit.

Luna claimed he was arrested Jan. 29 and taken to a detention center, despite showing proof of his U.S. citizenship. Hernandez and Castaneda claimed their civil rights were violated by Border Patrol agents who burst into

their bars in search of illegal aliens.

"As far as I know, we operated within the law — within Department of Justice guidelines," Richardson claimed in a telephone interview. And he said he would request that the justice department represent him in the lawsuit, which he did not feel was justified.

"I really went out there (El Paso) with no special instructions — to be a caretaker and maintain the status quo," he said. "But when I saw the way it was, it became impossible to stay in that mode."

Richardson said he did not believe his aggressive policy of raids, patrols and constant surveillance of the border violated anyone's civil rights, and that he planned to continue those policies in Del Rio, where they were developed.

"The way I've felt all along is that the border is controllable with good management techniques; solid, sound intelligence information; coordination with all branches of the U.S. and Mexican governments; and a strong, visible, open policy," he said.

"Tell them (aliens and alien smugglers) what you're going to

do and then do it."

In Richardson's philosophy, it is a mistake to think that the more aliens you catch, the better job you're doing.

"The opposite is true," he claimed. The fewer aliens you catch, the better job you're doing because you've prevented criminal violations. You do this by making it (crossing the border) hard to succeed and by following with swift prosecution and swift deportation (when they do get across).

"When you remove the (potential for) financial gain, you get control of the border."

Back in Del Rio, Richardson is the chief agent in charge of 46 Texas Counties which border Mexico for more than 200 miles.

In the first 15 days of March, Del Rio-based agents arrested 3,145 suspected illegal aliens and 50 suspect alien smugglers. Richardson predicted that 6,000 aliens would be arrested trying to cross the border from Langtry south to the Webb County line by the end of March.

"There's no way I feel I'm being wasted here," he said of coming back to Del Rio, "it's fairly consistent. We arrest about 50,000 illegal aliens and 1,300 alien smugglers a year."

**Feel the luxury . . .**

**Warm water running through your hair. Cleansing. Massaging. Gentle suds rinsed out, leaving a soft, sweet scent. Now, the cut. Crisp. Precise. Fresh. Perfect. Feel the luxury at . . .**

**That Place**

707 Texas Avenue  
696-6933

**That Place II**

Culpepper Plaza  
693-0607

**April Fools Sale**  
Thur. Fri. Sat.

**Savings on.....**

- Spring Fashion Dresses \$24<sup>99</sup>
- Silk Dresses \$50-\$75
- Coordinates 1/3 to 1/2 off
- Shoes 1/3 off

and  
**Introducing our fine Jewelry & Accessory Department**

**Carnaby Square Ltd**

Mon-Sat 10-6  
Thur. 10-8  
Culpepper Plaza

**T.S.O.**  
Prescriptions Filled  
Glasses Repaired

BRYAN  
216 N. Main ..... 799-2786  
Mon.-Fri. 8-5 Sat. 8-1  
COLLEGE STATION  
8008 Post Oak Mall . . 764-0010  
Mon.-Sat. 10-9 p.m.

**TEXAS STATE OPTICAL**  
Since 1935.

**Mor Rae Boutique**

Your Danskin Headquarters

Manor East Mall 779-6718

**BOB BROWN UNIVERSAL TRAVEL**

Air Line Reservations (Free Ticket Delivery)  
(713) 846-8719

TOURS • CRUISES • TRAVEL COUNSELING  
HOTEL • MOTEL & RENT CAR RESERVATIONS  
CHARTER FLIGHTS

"If You Have Tried The Rest — Why Not Try The BEST"

BOB BROWN JO ANN MUZNY PAM HALL  
RAMADA INN LOBBY  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77840

A small space in the right place makes . . .  
**A BIG SALE!**

The Battalion Classifieds  
845-2611

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**  
General Studies Program

Students who plan to Pre-Register for the Fall Semester in the General Studies Program are **URGED** to pick up a Pre-registration Form in Room 100 of Harrington Tower from Mar. 29 thru Apr. 16.

**K&M SEBRING SCHOOL OF HAIR DESIGN**

All work done by Senior Students at reduced salon rates!  
693-7878

**"K&M Sebring School of Hair Design"**  
693-7878  
1406 Texas Ave. Down from Gibsons