

AGPA HISTORICAL SKETCH

By Max Layton

AN ONEROUS HONOR

This opening paragraph is for your writer's protection only. He was requested by your Executive Secretary to write a history of the Arizona Game Protective Association. The request was declined. The Executive Secretary charged him with the duty of writing the history. He refused. The secretary demanded he write the history. The writer asks only credit for knowing when he is licked. Therefore, if after reading this, which was written by one who is neither a Journalist, Historian or makes claim to any special talents, you consider it not worth the time, put the blame on Tom Calhoun.

INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE

It is important that those who render a public service be given at least a part of the credit due them As historically usual T. E. (Tom) McCullough, at great effort, has furnished much of the material used in this article. B. Van Voorhis has furnished a tremendous amount of research from old "Arizona Wild Life" issues and Game and Fish Department files, Harry Funk has assisted Tom McCullough. Our thanks to Phil Cosper for recent department data. J. A. (Jim) Diffin and the late Charles De Witt have supplied to your writer their old magazine files. Much of the information has been taken bodily from the research and findings of Tom and Van.

IMMEASURABLE TASK

This was ordered to be a history. But such is not possible without months and possibly or two of research. A complete chronological history of the fish and wildlife management, the Arizona Game Protective Association, Inc., the Game and Fish Commission and Department should be written. It is owed to posterity. No history, except perhaps that of some wars, would disclose so much accomplished by a few dedicated men for so many people. Though, we hope they will live forever in the accomplishments of their dedicated labors, the names of many have passed into oblivion. A greater injustice cannot be imagined.

TO BE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

First we must go back to find a reason for the Arizona Game Protective Association (A.G.P.A.) to have been created. It's paramount objectives were: 1. To secure a proper and scientific management of our fish, wildlife and other natural resources to the end of their full enjoyment by ourselves and our posterity forever. 2. For the purpose of accomplishing that, to secure a game and fish commission and department. The same to be sufficiently staffed with competent personnel free to do the job without political obligation or interference. To give that Commission broad regulatory powers to enable them to accomplish their purpose. 3. To educate the public with the principals of sportsmanship and the need for proper resources management.

I REMEMBER WHEN

So often in discussions of hunting and fishing we make and hear references to "the good old days." Let us now take a little walk back to the dark, dim past—"the good old days"—and see for ourselves what it was like. It could be we don't want anymore of "the gold old days."

Previous to 1929 when our Game and Fish Commission was established by the legislature these conditions existed Bag and creel limits, open and closed seasons and game reserves were set by act of the legislature, except as controlled by an initiative measure which will be discussed later. The Game and Fish Department consisted of the State Game Warden, who was chief, and twelve County deputy game wardens. Their appointments were Cotermimus with that of the Governor who appointed them. And the personnel was changed with each

change of Governor. Although not always, for we had some very capable and sincere game wardens, the usual qualification was ability to get votes for the Governor. A good example is a letter of the early 20's by the State Warden to an applicant for a deputy warden's job

"Yours of August 9th at hand. Glad that you are able to show a clean political slate."

"I do not care what a man's politics are just so he is a good clean democrat. I have had the opportunity (sic) in the past of seeing my own good men kicked out simply to make room for Republicans at the pie counter, damned poor ones at that. Therefore I do not intend that the few favors at the disposal of this department shall go to a foe of the administration. And I will further assure you that no matter how high a man assays in democracy or what his political pull he will have to be at least one hundred percent game warden to hold the job and I have no doubt that such a man can be found."

BABY STATE GAME LAWS

By plural vote in the election of 1912 bag and creel limits and license fees were set by a referendum measure. Open seasons: Male deer and turkey October 1 to December 15; Quail, snipe and rail October 15th to February 1; Ducks, geese and brant September 1 to April 1; Doves and white wings June 1 to February 1; Trout June 1 to September 1; Black bass, strawberry bass or crappie September 1 to December 1. Bag and creel limits: 2 male deer in one season 25 quail in one day; 25 ducks in one day; 35 doves or white wings in one day; 3 turkeys in one season; 20 pounds of trout, bass crappie or catfish, or forty individual fish not less than seven inches in length in one day. License fees: Resident general license 50c; Non-resident big game \$25.00; alien big game \$100.00; Non-resident bird license \$10.00; alien bird \$25.00.

Even in 1913 the people of Arizona placed a value on their wildlife. A statute provided for the State Game Warden's filing Civil suit to recover its loss to the state. No judgement for taking, killing or injuring could be less than: each elk \$200.00; each deer \$50.00; each antelope \$100.00; each mountain sheep or goat \$200.00; each bird \$10.00; each fish \$1.00.

A WARDEN'S COURAGE

In 1916, the statute governing bag and creel limits was amended by initiative measure. The general resident license was increased from 50c to \$1.25. The bag limit on turkey was reduced from three to two and on buck deer from two to one. Also for the first time bear was given protection. The following part of a letter written by Mack Willard, State Game Warden, best tells a part of the amendment.

"When first appointed in 1912 the season opened on doves and whitewings June 1 and after being successfully opposed by the so-called sportsmen of Phoenix in my efforts to have the legislature act in the matter I went over their heads in 1916 and initiated a bill giving the birds six weeks more time for nesting and reduced the bag from 35 birds of each kind to 25 birds including both. And these amendments carried by nearly 700 majority in spite of the fact that this county rolled up a majority of 2000 against them. But the law is still inadequate and nobody can work harder than I intend to work to have these birds given a longer period of time in which to bring off their young."

In the "good old days" back in 1917 a bill was introduced in the legislature to close the season on deer and turkey until 1921, a period of four years. It passed the Senate but failed in the house. There must have been grave concern over the future of big game in Arizona.

EXPERIMENTAL GAME MANAGEMENT

In 1921 a state game farm was established at about 7th and 8th Streets on East

McDowell in Phoenix. Here experiments were carried on in the raising of turkeys, quail, pheasants, chuckers and hun-partidges. No doubt a lot of eggs were distributed and birds released in the wild. But politics and graft raised their ugly heads way above the board fence.

A December 1918 letter states, "Pettis started yesterday for the Graham mountains with a bunch of wild turkeys to be liberated there. We put 18 turkeys on the Huachuca Reserve about three months ago and we thought we had better liberate the remainder of the bunch before we left the job and take no chances on them decorating the dinner table of Joe and his friends as we suspect was the end of most of the stuff we turned over to them before." A new governor had been elected.

POLITICS VS CONSERVATION

Tom McCullough writes: "An illustration of the domination of Governor Hunt is shown in the method of his control of the operations of the game farm, which was located somewhere around 7th and 8th Streets on East McDowell near his residence. This was prior to the new Game Code's effectiveness in 1929. It so happened that when Governor Phillip's appointed game warden took office on January 22, 1929, he found in the wastebasket receipts from the game farm showing who received both pheasants and turkeys and the number. It was quite significant that immediately prior to Thanksgiving in 1928 and immediately before Christmas of that same year how many trios of pheasants and turkeys were distributed for the intended purpose of propagation with the 50% increase being turned to the Department. For the year 1929 and 1930 the Commission did not receive one pheasant or turkey, and it is not difficult to imagine what kind of fowl graced the festive boards of the favored few at Thanksgiving and Christmas in the lush political year of 1928.

AH WILDERNESS!

In 1898 the last known of Arizona's native Merriam elk was killed near Mt. Ord. The price of elk meat, hides and ivories in the absence of interest, management or restraint led to the slaughter to extinction of one of God's most stately creatures and to the eternal disgrace of Arizona its native home. Wonder if the deer and turkey in 1917 were not facing the same disgraceful fate? Before their rescue, the antelope and the desert bighorn sheep came near. The grizzly bear no longer exists in Arizona. The mearn and scale creatures (lost portion) former habitat.) When God put these creatures here he must have intended they remain. This destruction began with the advent of "Civilized?" man.

EXOTIC IMPORTATIONS

The story of the introduction of an exotic species of elk, the Kaibab North or Grand Canyon National Game Preserve, the Buffalo, and the rescue of the big horn sheep would each be a large chapter in itself in that history book that should be written. These stories are of men who were civilized – no question mark. Without desire for personal gain they worked long and tirelessly for the benefit of the denizens of the mountains and the deserts and consequently for their fellow men.

To mention those few of whom your writer has found record, there is Dr. R. W. Looney after years of hard work and expense with the assistance of the Elks Lodges of Arizona And sportsmen not known, in 1911 secured and released 83 head of elk. In 1927, Game Warden D. E. Pettis, with the help of the White Mountain Sportsmen under the leadership of K. C. Kartchner, President, and W. P. Geary of the Holbrook Gun Club, secured and released elk on the Blue Range and in the Hualapai Mountains.

CREEL & ROD

The first hatchery was commenced in 1922 on the South Fork of the Little Colorado River by State Warden Joe Prochaska, and was finished the next year by his predecessor and successor (change of governors), Mack Willard.

THE FIGHTING FEW

Back in “the good old days” there were many true sportsmen and conservationists, both in and out of official position. The fruits of some of their works are being enjoyed by we youngsters today. But with a diminishing big game population, inadequate law enforcement, only a small hatchery to replace the fish in our small streams, management controlled by a legislature without interest, a political, non-career game department often contaminated with rotton (sic) politics and graft, it is a wonder how they mustered the courage to fight on. Thank God they did for thru (sic) their efforts the 1920’s saw the dawn of a new era breaking over the horizon. The Arizona Game Protective Association was born and the realization of their dreams and hopes was coming into view.

A MEETING PLACE

The exact date is not known, but about 1916 a small group of Flagstaff sportsmen organized. There were about 35 in all. Their immediate interests were in land exchanges affecting wildlife habitat and improving the game habitat in their area. They worked toward improving resting areas for wild fowl, planting of duck food. They even sent representatives to Washington to protest land exchanges which would have fenced off forest areas to the detriment of wildlife. They were known as the Flagstaff Game Protective Association.

TOM MCCULLOUGH

Dates and names are lost in antiquity, but sometime previous to 1923 sportsmen-conservation clubs were organized in Tucson, Globe and Prescott in addition to Flagstaff. In October 1923 representatives from these clubs met in Flagstaff. There with the help and advice of that great and famous conservationist, the late Aldo Leopold, the Arizona Game Protective Association was born. Real Americans think the hand of Providence guided the hands that wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the execution of the Revolutionary War. When an important segment of the creation of that same Providence was threatened in Arizona, we wonder was its hand guiding this meeting in Flagstaff in 1923. T. E. (Tom) McCullough, that great conservationist, the old stalwart who would fight a cornered wildcat for principle, was elected the first President. He was destined to lead to a successful conclusion a long bitter fight to secure proper management of our fish and wildlife and their habitats. This was to the end that they would be ever productive so all future generations can enjoy them.

EARLY CONSERVATIONISTS

Those representing the Prescott Game Protective Association at the organization meeting were Basil Wales, Charles Scholey, Ray Vyne, and Herry Brinkmeyer. Dr. Charles C. Vorhees was one of the Tucson delegation. It is a shame that the names of the rest of these men who rendered such important service cannot be presented, but they are not known.

A NON-POLITICAL OBJECTIVE

This Flagstaff meeting in 1923 marked the beginning of important revolutionary history of game and fish management in this state. Dedicated leaders and members of only four small clubs determined to do the impossible. It was impossible but they did it anyway. They took the management of game and fish from the incompetence, politics and graft of the state’s most powerful political machine, that of former Governor Geo. W. P. Hunt. At any other time under

any other administration it would have been much easier. Mr. Hunt loved his politics, he played them well. He was a power and as popular. And he was ruthless when an obstacle came in the way of his political control and machinery. Despite this, these men were determined to secure non-political and scientific management of these resources.

APPEAL TO LEGISLATURE

In 1924 they asked the administration controlled Legislature to repeal the old game and fish code. Then to establish a Commission form of management with regulatory powers and staffed with scientifically trained and career personnel. The legislature turned them down.

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE

By 1926 a few more local chapters had been added. One of them was at Superior, the others are not known to the writer. But the conservation movement was growing. This year they tried a referendum to repeal the old game code and make way for the creation of the Commission. All the energy, heart and soul of these pioneer conservationists was put into the campaign. But the voters failed to approve it.

S482.16

The old adage, that "you might whip a good man but you can't keep him down" certainly proved true. In the mean time the movement had grown to a little more strength. The only record available is a short column in the first issue of "Arizona Wild Life" dated October, 1928, reporting high lights of the sixth annual A.G.P.A. Convention, at Phoenix on September 29th. T. E. McCullough, President, presiding. Eleven locals were represented by twenty-four delegates. There were a total of seventeen locals, eight of which were less than a year old. The report of the Treasurer showed a cash balance of \$192.16 remember that figure because history of the utmost importance was to be made in slightly more than a month.

OFFICERS OF '28

At this 1928 convention the following state officers were elected: President J. A. (Jim) Diffin, Bisbee: Vice President Southern District, Ben Tinker, Tucson: Vice-President Central District, Henry Brinkmeyer, Prescott: Vice-President Northern District, T. E. (Tom) McCullough, Secretary-Treasurer, H. E. Cristy, Bisbee.

CLUBS OF '28

Between the convention and the end of the year one more club had organized. To show some light on the local clubs participating in the 1928 campaign, to be reported, the January 1, 1929 roster is here given.

1. Ajo G.P.A. – W. R. Denison, Pres.; Gordon A. Johnson, Sec'y.
2. Bisbee G.P.A. – J. A. Diffin, Pres.; R. H. Presley, Sec'y, Box 1159
3. Casa Grande G.P.A. – Clyde Potter, Sec'y.
4. Douglas G.P.A. – M. E. Irwin, Pres.; H. W. Williams, Sec'y.
5. Flagstaff G.P.A. – T. E. McCullough, Pres.
6. Gila Valley G.P.A. – (Miami) Wm. Heger, Sec'y.
7. Hayden G.P.A. – H. F. Easter, Sec'y.
8. Florence G.P.A. – Harold Fulton, Pres.; Walter Hoffman, Sec'y.
9. Mohave County G.P.A. – F. A. Mylius, Sec'y, Kingman, Ariz.
10. Nogales G.P.A. – Joseph P. Sexton, Jr., Sec'y.
11. Prescott Fish, Game & Forest P.A. – Henry Brinkmeyer, Jr., Pres., Frank Grugg, Sec'y.
12. Safford G.P.A. – Cliff Stewart, Pres.
13. Seligman G.P.A. – M. C. Jolly, Sec'y.

14. Superior G.P.A. – Fred Stoll, Pres.; Fred Gibson, Sec’y.
15. Tucson G.P.A. – L. B. Hart, Pres.; Ben Tinker, Sec’y, 1610 E. 2nd Street.
16. Verde Valley G.P.A. – Perry Ling, Pres., Jerome, Ariz.; R. E. McAlister, Sec’y Box 685, Clarkdale.
17. White Mountain Sportsmen’s Ass’n – K. C. Kartchner, Pres., Springerville; H. O. Cassidy, Sec’y.
18. Oracle G.P.A. – J. W. Lawrence, Sec’y, Oracle, Ariz.

SECOND APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE

Again in 1928 the A.G.P.A. went to the people with a referendum to repeal the game and fish laws to make for establishment of a Commission form of management. Referendum No. 314 was voted upon by the electorate of Arizona at the general election on November 6, 1928.

The results by counties were:

	YES	NO
Apache	814	174
Cochise	3,009	2,427
Coconino	1,225	510
Gila	2,041	1,049
Graham	340	1,043
Greenlee	270	443
Maricopa	5,084	9,559
Mohave	439	411
Navajo	1,066	711
Pima	4,641	1,990
Pinal	714	679
Santa Cruz	631	335
Yavapai	3,035	1,549
Yuma	<u>808</u>	<u>932</u>
	24,227	21,853

VICTORY FOR CONSERVATION

The referendum passed with a plurality of 2,374 votes. The impossible had been done. Arizona was about to embark upon an era of sensible resources management, but not without a fight to hold the ground gained, and a continuing vigilance (sic) is necessary.

NO LAW AT ALL

Since the repealed law was an initiated law the referendum abolished all game and fish laws. That meant no closed seasons, no restrictions whatsoever. The law allows the Governor a period of thirty days after election to declare passage of a referred measure and the law remains in effect until such is signed. Therefore A.G.P.A. officials prevailed upon the Governor to await the full 30 days. So in the first week in December, 1928, Governor Hunt signed the proclamation repealing all existing game and fish laws. So we were “open season” until after the Legislature convened in January, 1929.

A NON-POLITICAL COMMISSION

The A.G.P.A. leaders were not asleep. The new game and fish bill had been drafted before the referendums were submitted and was ready for introduction in the legislature. It provided for establishment of the Game and Fish Commission with broad regulatory powers and for trained personnel in the Department. The Legislature soon enacted the bill into law with the

emergency clause so it would become effective immediately. We still have basically the same law even tho (sic) it has been amended many times.

A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE

Have you stopped to think how it was possible for a comparative “handful” of men with a treasury of #482.16, to sell a referendum measure to the people all over this large state? They must have been dedicated to a principle. They must have spent a tremendous amount of their time and money which they could not afford, with no hope or desire for personal gain. In addition to the named state and local officers, the few others known are entitled to recognition, and they are Judge C. C. Faires of Globe, Les Hart, of Tucson, Walter P. Taylor, Dr. Charles C. Vorhees of the University of Arizona, Harry Funk, the late Charlie DeWitt, Ed Dentzer, Dan Kitchel of Bisbee, Bob Pressley, and B. Van Voorhis of Superior.

DRAFTING A CODE

This new game code was drafted by the A.G.P.A. Code Committee made up of Les A. Hart, Dr. E. P. Mathewson, Fred Winn, Dr. Walter B. Taylor and A. J. Eager appointed by James A. Diffin, President.

Governor John C. Phillips, a fine sportsman and conservationist and friend of the A.G.P.A., then appointed the first Arizona Game and Fish Commission, L. B. Hart, Tucson, member and T. E. McCullough, Flagstaff, member.

TO ABOLISH THE GAME COMMISSION

Governor Hunt was again elected in 1930 and took office in January 1931. The battle lines were immediately drawn and the heads began to roll. The Examiner was waiting at the Game Department door looking for irregularities, and he reported several. In the mean time the governor asked the Legislature to abolish the commission. The A.G.P.A. put on too much pressure and the Legislature refused, the issue was too hot for them.

A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

The Flagstaff A.G.P.A. demanded a legislative investigation of the commission. A complete investigation of each of the commissioners and of the department was made and a public hearing held. John V. Sloan had been appointed chairman in March 1930 to succeed A. F. Jones who had died in office.

Twenty-four pages of the March 1931 issue of “Arizona Wild Life” are devoted to a detailed report of the House Committee investigation under the caption, “Arizona Sportsmen Win Fight To Retain Game Commission.” Only a few of the principal charges will be presented here. At the conclusion the investigating committee gave the Commission and department an absolute clean bill of health.

TO DESTROY THE PEOPLE’S FAITH

1. It was charged that the 1939 records of license sales had been destroyed to prevent an audit.

It was found that the records were in the department office and were made available to the Examiner. He apparently was incompetent to make an audit. After request for an official audit was not forthcoming, the Commission had had a complete audit made by a certified public accountant.

2. The Governor charged, “I believe there is no precedent in the history of our State where any official or officials charged with the conduct and administration of a Department of the State Government have arbitrarily and without warrant of law, destroyed their records.”

“A better system of booking and accounting appears to be needed in this Department of the State Government, according to the report of the State Examiner.” (Taken from the Governor’s letter of charges to the Chairman of the House Fish and Game Committee).

It was found that Hunt’s last previous State Game Warden had destroyed the fiscal records except two or three incomplete journals. An unemptied wastebasket left on his retiring from office revealed the distribution of state owned birds to the Governor’s personal friends and political Co-horts (sic). Letters were introduced addressed to D. E. Pettis, Ex-State Game Warden written in reply to his demand for payment for licenses sold. They were from the clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County, Geo. E. Baumgartner of Williams, and Felipe Chaviz of Springerville. (Note the address “Ex-State Game Warden.”) Each held his cancelled check for payment of license sold and registry receipt for return of unsold licenses.

Checks were shown received by the previous Hunt administration for license sales which were endorsed and cashed without the Department stamp. Where did the money go?

It was found that the Commission had an ample and efficient set of books of account. That all license dealers had been placed under bond. That all unpaid accounts for licenses had been inherited by the new commission from the previous administration.

With charges frivolous and serious, defense and finding, this could fill a small book.

RENDEZVOUS WITH POLITICS

So the Governor failed to regain control of a fat political plum? No. He waited for adjournment of the Legislature, then he held the ace of trumps. The law provided that a commissioner could be removed from office by the Governor after charges and public hearing before him. He was the complainant, prosecutor, jury (and judge.)

(some lines lost)

neither space available in this paper or time for your writer to research it all, even if he had the ability to organize and write it. The story of the Kaibab and of Dr. Looney and the elk have only been mentioned. Arizona owes a debt to Dr. R. N. Looney that can only be paid by keeping faith with him by properly managing his elk. The story of Charlie (Buffalo) Jones and his introduction of the buffalo, and his buffalo preserve that was never withdrawn must wait for a special chapter. Here again an undying obligation exists. But wonder if it is known?

All has not always been well within the Association. As would be expected in a free thinking democratic organization; there have been misunderstandings and discard (sic). Even just a historical sketch should mention them, perhaps it would be dishonest not to. About 1938 or 1939 what is now known as the Phoenix Sportsmen’s Association became disgruntled and broke away. It attempted to form a rival organization called “The Arizona Sportsmen.” The effort failed and the returned to the fold in 1940. Sometime within the past two or three years the Yuma Rod and Gun Club left the fold for a few months. Your writer recalls threatened break-offs from Globe-Miami and Tucson.

BATTLEMAN REUNION

In spite of some few internal difficulties let this be understood, with no mistake about it, when either in a positive or negative form, our renewable natural resources have been threatened, the A.G.P.A. has stood united and strong in its unity.

THIRTY YEARS OLD

The Game and Fish Commission and Department, the baby born to the Game Protective Association, is now thirty years of age. It is now a mature adult. It is worth the birth pains.

STATISTICS FOR SPORTSMEN

Records of game numbers, trends or kills do not exist from away back when. The earliest data found is in an article by Walter P. Taylor, published in the first issue of Arizona Wild Life (Aug. 1928). There he reports a 1925 census by the United States Forest Service of big game animals on the national forests in Arizona:

Antelope	1,809
Black Bear	1,233
Grizzly Bear	29
Kaibab Deer	30,000
Other Deer	19,638
Elk	797
Mountain Sheep	<u>95</u>
Total	53,601

This is on the forests only.

A DIFFERENCE OF INVENTORIES

In 1924 the Game Department furnished the following inventory to the Stae Auditor:

1	Collection of stuffed birds	\$ 5,000.00
2	straight chairs, 1 rug	478.50
	Misc. office equipment & supplies, including 2 charts postal scale, 2 seals, 3 desks, 1 typewriter, 1 adding machine, 1 filing cabinet, 1 bookcase, 2 swivel chairs, 2 straight chairs, 1 rug	478.50
1	Ford touring car	250.00
1	Ford ton truck	500.00
1	Fairbanks Morse engine	132.50
1	Fish hatchery, buildings and equipment	<u>15,000.00</u>
	Total	\$ 21,361.00

Wonder where the valuable collection of stuffed birds now is?

On a day's notice, with an apology which is not understandable, Phil Cosper of the Department furnished the following inventory:

“It is difficult to assemble figures on the value of our capital investments in such a short period of time. For expediency we have used the insurance evaluation which was made at the end of the last calendar year.

Motor vehicles and trailers	\$ 264,800.00
Boats and motors	10,000.00
Office equipment	30,170.00
Field equipment	10,000.00
Heavy equipment	50,000.00
Buildings	<u>240,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 604,970.00

“The estimated market value of Department owned land is approximately \$366,300.00.

“The obvious very large omission from the above list is the literally millions of dollars invested in improvements, including fishing lakes, rainwater catchments, windmills, road, fences, etc. We also have about 450 head of buffalo which would probably be worth a couple hundred dollars each on the market. Another interesting intangible asset is the unplanted fish in

the hatcheries. At some times this amounts to 200,000 pounds, which would cost better than a dollar a pound on the open market.”

As near as your writer can determine there was no lawful antelope hunting from statehood until 1940 or '41. In 1941 we harvested 286 antelope. There was a general climb in antelope kill until 1954 when it hit 301, starting a climb back.

Apparently due to nesting habitat destruction and predation, it was thought by many in 1943 and '44 that the turkey was on its way out. But in 1946 the hunters too 526 turkeys. There followed a general climb but with ups and downs, until 1953 when 1,216 turkeys were killed. The next two years were somewhat down but in 1956 the kill was 1,367. The last two years were down again to 727 in 1958. The turkey is coming back and is here to stay.

Remember the effort in 1917 to close the season on deer and turkey in order to preserve the balance of them? In 1948 in this state 41,578 hunters killed 8,705 deer for a success ratio of 20.9%. There has been a steady climb to 1958 when 77,189 hunters made Arizona's record kill of 33,130 deer for a success of 42.9%

In 1935 when legal elk hunting began in a bull only hunt 145 elk were killed. From then to 1948 with ups and downs in closely controlled hunts the kill climbed to 920. For four years almost unlimited hunts were held from 1950 to '53. While this is a highly controversial subject even today, the announced purpose was to reduce the elk where undue competition existed between farming and domestic stock to prevent over use of winter range. In these four years the annual kill varied from 1,180 to 1,603. In 1958 the kill was 251.

MORE TO BE HAD THAN EVER BEFORE

In 1920 approximately 20,000 licenses of all kinds were sold. In the fiscal year 1958-59 Arizona sold 103,871 hunting license (sic) and 205,364 fishing licenses. Could our fish and game have withstood the pressure in the pre-commission days? Yet now the general hunting and angling success is higher than ever before.

This did not come about by accident or in the normal course of life events of nature. Man is constantly encroaching upon the home of our game. But thru (sic) research and the use of the findings of that research in management we are more than holding our own. Many factors concerning the welfare of fish and game are still unknown so we must continue on the same path.

NOT FOR PUBLIC WELFARE

Eternal vigilance is the price of retaining what has been gained for us. Only a few years ago a Cochise County legislator prepared a bill for introduction in the Senate designed to classify elk as predatory animals and remove them from the protection of the Commission. He was so well burned by the A.G.P.A. that his bill was introduced into the waste basket. Not long before a lady member of the House argued that her husband had been charged fifteen dollars for an elk permit, and did not get an elk, in support of her bill or proposed bill to abolish the Commission. Certainly it sounds stupid. But there are still those who would make a political plum again of our game and fish.

B. Van Voorhis has furnished a part of a letter written apparently about 1917. It is from the State Game Warden to Field and Stream magazine in response to a questionnaire: “We thoroughly believe that the automobile, automatic gun and gun club sports are the three big factors in the extermination of game, and I make this statement without apologizing or qualifications.”

STOCKMEN AND SPORTSMEN

A considerable number of the early members and organizers of A.G.P.A. locals were stockmen. They had a genuine interest in the preservation of the wildlife. For several reasons during the thirties and into the 1940's the sportsmen and the stockmen grew steadily apart. They reached the point of actual enmity. In 1948 the Stockmen Sportsmens Committee was organized from the A.G.P.A. and the Arizona Cattle Grower's Association. A year later the Arizona Wool Growers Association became a member. It was found that we had more common interests than conflicts. The two groups jointly sponsored and (supported) many matters of legislation for mutual benefit.

An agreement was reached between the parent organizations of the Committee and the Commission that all matters of a controversial nature would be submitted to the Committee for solution. Many controversial matters were submitted. In the nine years of its existence the Committee never failed to arrive at a solution of a problem. In each instance without exception its solution was approved by the parent organizations and the Commission when it was involved.

JOINING THE NWF

In 1951 the A.G.P.A. was admitted to affiliation with the National Wildlife Federation as the representative for Arizona.

Through the joint efforts of the Commission, Department and A.G.P.A. working with (sic) the American Wildlife Management Institute a Wildlife management institute was secured for the University of Arizona. It is under the direction of Dr. Lyle K. SOWELS. Now degrees can be had in Arizona in wildlife management. The Institute is also of great research value.

AGPA & THE GOVERNOR

Since the final defeat of Governor Hunt the relationship between the Commission and the A.G.P.A. and succeeding governors has been generally most excellent. With the exception of an instance or two all Commissioners have been A.G.P.A. approved and recommended before appointment. The Association has been widely recognized as a power for good.

DUTY OF THE AGPA

It is the duty as a department of state of our Commission and Department to give the best management possible to the resources entrusted to them. They are our babies, the creatures of our efforts. It thus becomes the A.G.P.A. duty to represent them before the public, to lobby legislation for them and oppose proposed legislation adverse to their interests or that of the resources they govern. It is further our duty to protect them from attacks from without, but to ourselves administer any spanking which might be found necessary. And above all it is the A.G.P.A. duty to keep at all times, our babies qualified, efficient, free of graft and dedicated to that purpose for which they were created and at all times worthy of absolute public trust. They are the managers. We are the protectors.

A GOOD SKETCH

To be even a good sketch, this should contain perhaps two hundred biographies and personal recognitions. If only it was possible!

Tom McCullough: Termed the "Father of the Arizona Game Protective Association." At least two times President. Member of the first Commission. Unconquerable fighter when a fighter was needed. Always a source of sound advice. And now approaching the twilight years still very active as Coconino County Vice-President.

Jin Diffin: Several times President. A leader in the establishment of the A.G.P.A., creation of the Commission and the fight to defend and retain it.

Fred Gibson, deceased: Two times President. Campaigner for the Commission. Fired from his job at the insistence (sic) of Governor Hunt at the Boyce Thompson Arberatum (sic) for

his strenuous defense of the Commission and Department. Restored and made manager because he had the courage to stand on principle and fight.

James E. Babbit(sic), deceased: Two times President. A constant worker for the cause of conservation. As State Senator used great influence in cementing good relations between Commission, A.G.P.A. and Legislature. Fathered law providing matching funds for Pittman-Robertson money.

Judge C. C. Faires: No official positions known. Early A.G.P.A. member. Always a defender of all conservation movements. A quiet but constant and influential worker. Tom says, "like a rock of granite."

Dr. Charles C. Voorhees, deceased: One of the finest men dedicated to conservation and devoted unlimited time to publication of conservation movements. One of four men from Tucson who attended organizational meeting in Flagstaff in October, 1923.

B. Van Voorhis: One of the organizers of the early Superior local. Active in establishing and defending Commission. Several times Pinal County Vice-President. Past Chairman and member of the Commission.

Charles Beach: Appointed to Commission in 1933 and served with highest distinction continuously for 18 years until January 1951. Was always loyal and devoted. A stabilizing influence and revered by all.

Ed. Dentzer: Early Superior local organizer. Leader in the battle to wrest control of the wildlife from the politicians. Pinal County Vice-President. Past member of the Commission.

Harry Funk: Charter member of the A.G.P.A., Past President. Several times Yavapai County Vice-president. Member of Stockman-Sportsmen's Committee. Present member of the Commission.

Charles De Witt, deceased: Early A.G.P.A. member. Devoted much time and effort in campaign to establish Commission. Pioneered Williams Creek federal hatchery. Past Yavapai County Vice-President.

M. J. McGarry: Early member of the Bisbee club. A campaigner for and defender of the Commission.

Bill Connor, deceased: Helped to organize one of the earliest clubs in the Verde Valley. A man without fear. Outstanding in the effort to hold the Commission in the control of the sportsmen. Past Chairman and member of the Commission.

Dr. R. N. Looney: He will live in the hearts of its people so long as the stately elk lives in the forests of his state.

No attempt has been made to give recognition to the leaders of the last twenty years even tho(sic) much credit is due to many. For his own benefit the writer classified most of the happenings of that period as current, not history.

Mr. Van Voorhis who has continuously been a member of the A.G.P.A. since 1926 recently wrote for the benefit of this article, "These past thirty three years of important contacts with men over the state has not changed my thinking that the foundation of the organization is right, and, regardless of a few dissenters, the goal has not changed."

HOW CAN WE REPAY?

The men about whom we have been writing and their un-named Associates who have topped out and passed over that high ridge of life still alive, And if we keep their faith, they shall always live so long as the hearts of men thrill at the sight of the great Creator's wild creatures in their native homes in the deserts, the valleys, on the mountains, the ridges and in the canyons. They served us well and we owe it to them and prosperity.

A HISTORY TO BE WRITTEN

A parting plea to you “old timers.” Don’t let your old correspondence memos, and records be destroyed. Send them to the A.G.P.A. If you don’t want to part with them now, then pass them on in your will. Some day this History will be written if the History itself is not lost in the oblivion of time.