

Some clouds

Partly cloudy skies are forecast Tuesday for Idaho Falls and vicinity. Highs will be in the mid-20s to mid-30s, with lows tonight in the teens to mid-20s. Details on Page D-3.

The Post-Register

EAST IDAHO'S HOME PAPER — 101 YEARS OF SERVICE

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Monday, December 21, 1981

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East Idaho
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4 Sections — 25 Cents

Vol. 51 — No. 44



On the run

MUD LAKE — Hundreds of jackrabbits speed across the snow covered farmland in the Mud Lake area as farmers chase them towards a holding pen where thousands of

rabbits were clubbed to death in an effort to rid the area of the over-population of the animals which has caused over \$5 million in crop damages.

Drive claims thousands of rabbits

By BETHANY BUSH
Post-Register staff writer
MONTEVIEW — It started Saturday morning with more than 10,000 jackrabbits and 200 people.

It ended with at least 10,000, and possibly up to 20,000 rabbits clubbed to death, filling a snow-fence pen four feet deep in carcasses.

Related stories on Pages A-2 and A-11.

"It felt like walking on a waterbed," a woman said, who had been in the pen during the clubbing.

"It's all over in less than an hour, the rabbits die within seconds. Is there a more humane way of killing them?" Dean Carpenter, a farmer who works less than two miles from the roundup site, said.

The farmers considered it a very successful drive — more than last week's which netted around 2,000 rabbits.

A few miles past the tiny town of Montevideo near the INEL site, a small, crudely made sign read "Rodent Drive."

For the unsuspecting, the sign would most likely go unnoticed.

But it directed farmers and residents to private land where they would again try to put a dent in the rabbit population. Farmers say the rodents have caused an estimated \$5 million in damage to this year's crops.

"We've got a problem here," Orvin Twitchell, head of the Mud Lake Farmers' Rabbit Committee, said before the drive began. "We're trying to cure it in the only way we know how."

The press, he feels, has been siding with the Idaho Humane Society and other such groups who feel the drive is bizarre and barbaric.

The now-famous jackrabbits have been headlining the news across the country for a week, including the Denver Post and Los Angeles Times.

But rabbit drives are not new in Idaho, despite the national attention.

A similar drive to destroy the animals was held last week, but was much less organized and much less successful.

And in the Oasis Cafe in Mud Lake a photo hangs of an 1898 rabbit drive.

Farmers stayed with their chosen method of hitting the animals on the head again this weekend. Farmers said using firearms, for example, is too expensive and the rabbits are too quick to shoot.

Twitchell stood in the back of a pickup truck and shouted instructions.

"When we come along that line, keep it together — stay shoulder to shoulder and hit straight down — we don't want anyone to get hurt."

Children were told to stay back and not to run ahead of the line.

"Boy, we're really organized today," one child said. "Charge!"

Those on motorcycles and horses headed out across the field first. The rest jumped in the backs of pickup trucks. They were going to the starting point of an approximately

2,400 acre area chosen to be scoured of rabbits.

"The rabbits are pests," farmers said as they hopped on back a pickup truck.

"They've got to go."

Drivers of pickup trucks circled the outside of the ring of people, watching and giving advice on keeping the line together.

Keeping the line together was important.

The closer the rabbits get to the pen, their sheer density makes them turn and try to make a break for it.

That in turn causes participants to break ranks as they try to club the escaping rodents. That happened last weekend, and the farmers tried to minimize it Saturday. They wanted to confine the clubbing to the pen.

Even so, an estimated one-third of the rabbits escaped through the line of people as they neared the pen.

As the rabbits entered the final enclosure, they were forced up a ramp that had a short dropoff into the pen area. The rabbits stopped before the edge, causing a bottleneck. As a result, participants began clubbing the rabbits from where they were standing, as well as inside the pen.

Another drive has been definitely scheduled in the same place next Saturday, Jack Richins, watermaster of Jefferson Irriga-

tion Co., said. Richins, also a farmer who works near the weekend roundup site, said he hopes a lot more people will be around to help during the Christmas holidays.

Richins said of the area, "It's a perfect breeding habitat for them (rabbits). We could come back to the same place next weekend and find just as many."

He added, "We haven't had a really 'bad' winter in six or seven years."

Normally, nature would decimate the animals during a 40-degree below winter when the rabbits become "stressed," he said.

"If we don't have a bad winter soon," he warns, "the farmers are going to have to pack their suitcases and go."

Carpenter said he considers himself a "small-time farmer" (280 acres). "190 acres of what I have I farm," he explains, "grain and hay." And he's lucky — the rabbits have only gotten about 45.

But the big-time farmers can't fight back by putting fences around their hay like smaller farmers do. "They've got hay all over the place," he says. "They can't afford to fence all that, and even if they could, it'd be hard to decide where."

Fencing doesn't even work, he continues. Rabbits can still dig under them.

The rabbits eat haystacks from bottom up, eating through the string that binds bales and toppling the stack. The strewn out hay then rots.

As soon as the sweet blue sage shrubs are completely covered with snow, says Richins, those rabbits will be in to eat the hay.

The farmers were in luck Saturday. The weather, cold air and lightly falling snow helped push the rabbits out of hiding, as well as discouraging anyone but those who were serious about the drive from attending.

And an unmarked helicopter, reportedly sent by Friends of the Animals, a national organization, flew over but did not land. Last week, a helicopter from a Salt Lake City television station landed near the drive and was blamed for scattering the rabbits and reducing the take.

Farmers were uncertain Saturday what would be done with the carcasses. Some said they would be burned or buried or possibly shipped east for mink feed.

Early Monday morning, it was reported, that a truck piled with some 25 tons of dead rabbits left for Spirit Lake, Iowa, where the meat will be used for feed. Another truck piled with just as much meat left Sunday.

Despite the uncertainty and the possible dumping of last week's rabbit meat, Richins predicted more successful drives.

"If we get the public and community to participate, we'll do 'er good," he said.

Many intellectuals and Solidarity activists from the Warsaw area were first imprisoned in Bialoleka, but most have since been moved because of the deplorable conditions. Temperatures inside the cells were said to have dropped below freezing.

Pockets of resistance to martial law were reported in several key regions. Most concern focused on the coal mines in southern Poland where up to a dozen mines were thought to be closed by strikers.

However, an official Polish radio broadcast monitored in London Monday claimed that after talks with workers in Katowice province, police ended protests at three mines and a repair shop.

In the same area, the official Soviet news agency Tass claimed Sunday that Solidarity "instigators" had blown up an exit from the Ziemorin mine, leaving some 1,300 miners underground.

The sketchy Tass report said the "instigators" threatened to seal the second escape route from the mine if authorities approached. The Tass account was unclear on the status of the miners and whether they were working or on strike.

Other reports said the miners had been on strike since the imposition of martial law and had barricaded themselves inside the mine in a standoff with authorities.

In Jelenia Gora province, Radio Warsaw said, Polish army officers had talked workers into resuming production at mine factories.

The official Polish radio also listed a number of Solidarity leaders who had been arrested on charges ranging from pouring glue on machinery used to package matches to conveying information for the banned union.

First drive's rabbit meat still not at destination

Six-thousand pounds of jackrabbit meat from the first Mud Lake rabbit drive still has not reached Houston, where it is supposed to be loaded for shipment to Nigeria, according to a Rigby trucker who is handling the shipment.

Scott Archibald of A & B Trucking, Rigby, said the meat is still sitting in Dodge City, Kan., while he waits for full payment of his \$2,025 bill to haul the meat to Houston.

"We received a partial payment on it Saturday, and it was only about half of what the freight was invoiced for," he said. "Before we'll deliver the meat, payment in full needs to be made."

The meat is the remains of an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 rabbits killed in the Dec. 12 drive near Mud Lake. In a second drive, held Saturday, farmers estimated that they rounded up and clubbed more than 10,000 of the crop-eating animals.

Archibald had threatened last week to dump the meat, after a payment from two Nigerians who want to ship the meat to their

homeland did not arrive when promised. Archibald said Monday he has set no deadline for receiving the rest of the money. He said that although the handling of the meat was poorly planned and organized, he thinks it can still reach Nigeria.

"Things have just been all messed up all the way through. But things can still work out on the deal, and it hasn't gone completely sour yet," he said.

"I think this meat going to Nigeria would have been a good deal, but it was not done in the right way," Archibald commented. He said it would have been better if the meat had been held in storage until completion of the second rabbit drive.

A combined cargo of 40,000 to 45,000 pounds of meat then could have been shipped, and the operation would have gone more smoothly, he said.

Archibald said he is not involved with shipping any of the meat from the second drive. For the future, "I don't want anything to do with any rabbit drive," he said.

Reports say priests beaten; Polish ambassador defects

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Roman Catholic priests reportedly have been beaten and arrested in Poland, and Communist Party sources say the government has threatened to move against the church if it leads opposition to military rule, according to uncensored dispatches from Poland.

Related stories on Pages C-4, C-7, A-4.

Church sources said Sunday that priests were attacked in the cities of Wroclaw and Gdansk, where the church has been heavily involved with the now-banned independent labor federation Solidarity. There were no details of the incidents.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who has refused to cooperate with authorities since he was detained, has reportedly been moved from a villa south of Warsaw, apparently because his whereabouts had become too well-known. Solidarity sources said they believed he had been moved to general staff headquarters in the capital.

Poles filled churches Sunday — the only place they're allowed to freely assemble under martial law — and heard a plea for calm issued by Archbishop Jozef Glemp, Roman Catholic primate for Poland.

Glemp said peace is necessary to safeguard the church's future as well as the country's.

The mood at many churches was somber on the Sunday before Christmas as resistance to martial law was reported in various spots around the country.

Meanwhile, Romanid Spasowski, 61, Poland's ambassador to the United States, was granted political asylum in Washington on Sunday and told reporters, "The road to

peace is the only road. The Catholic church in Poland represents a great moral force, the soul of the Polish nation." He called for talks between the church, Solidarity and "the authorities" to end the crisis.

Spasowski's defection was reported on Radio Warsaw. Polish officials said he had been suffering depression and had been called home. They did not report his remarks accusing the government of "brutality and inhumanity."

Spasowski said his action was an "expression of solidarity" with Solidarity leader Walesa.

In the latest reports from Poland, church sources said that they have been able to verify the names of 1,100 people who were being held, but they estimated that the total number being detained may be as high as 40,000.

Solidarity sources said that the government has claimed as many as 2,000 were under arrest. They said they assumed that represented the number that face long-term jail sentences. Some people arrested in the first days of martial law have already been released.

Many of the detainees are being held in large camps in the Mazurian Lake district in northeast Poland near the Soviet border. Other detention centers include an enclosed arena built for Nazi rallies in the 1930s in the former German city of Wroclaw, the dispatches said.



Romanid Spasowski

Idaho ruling vital to ERA

WASHINGTON (AP) — A ruling expected early this week by a federal judge in Idaho could be a major factor in the campaign to win ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

According to Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, an adverse ruling on either of two questions before U.S. District Judge Marion Callister of Boise could be "catastrophic" to the ratification drive.

The judge's law clerk, David Thompson, told The Associated Press on Friday that the ruling would come sometime this week, Monday at the earliest.

The two crucial questions before Judge Callister in a suit filed two years ago by Idaho and Arizona were:

- Did Congress violate the Constitution in 1978 when it extended the time for ratification from March 29, 1979, to June 30, 1982?
- Can a state legislature, once it has ratified the amendment, vote to rescind its earlier ratification? If so, the ERA outlook would change drastically because five state legislatures have cast doubt on the validity of earlier ratifications.

"This is a political case on the life or death of the amendment," according to Ms. Smeal.

Dismissal of the suit would be a boost to the ERA drive, and the supporters would be

helped even more if he ruled that the ratification deadline extension was proper and that states cannot rescind previous ratifications.

It was possible, however, that the judge might base his ruling on technical points and therefore not resolve the constitutionality of extension or rescission.

Feminist groups supporting the proposed constitutional amendment are hoping to spend some \$15 million in the final six months of their nine-year campaign.

Indiana was the last state to ratify the amendment, in 1977. Ratification by three more states is needed.

The proposed 27th amendment to the Constitution reads in full: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

Opponents contend the ERA could upset traditional family relationships and the role of women by, for example, making women eligible for any military draft.

Congress approved the amendment in 1972 and, according to the constitutionally mandated procedure, sent it to the states.



\$1,000 Goodfellow

A CHECK for \$1,000 from the Howard Daugherty Foundation topped Monday's Goodfellow contributions. The check presentation to the fund was made by Calvin Brant, trust officer of Idaho First National Bank, co-trustee of the fund. Pictured at the right accepting the check from Brant is J. Robb Brady, editor, publisher of The Post-Register. The Foundation has been a large contributor to the fund for several years.

Be a Goodfellow . . . Daugherty Fund gives \$1,000 to Goodfellows

There are but three days left to become a 1981 Goodfellow to help provide Christmas dinners for the city's needy families. With the fund falling far short of its needed funds to take care of the increased number of people this year, the program got a welcome boost from the Howard Daugherty Foundation in the form of a \$1,000 check.

Daugherty, who is now a resident of Silver City, N.M., was a longtime Idaho Falls businessman and is still president of Pioneer Investment Company in Idaho Falls. He is a regular visitor to the city and for the past several years, through his foundation, he has provided a most generous gift to help those who are less fortunate than himself have a Merry Christmas. The presentation of the \$1,000 check was made by Calvin Brant, trust officer of Idaho First National Bank which is co-trustee of the Foundation.

Receipt of the \$1,000 Monday greatly enhanced the fund which will have to stretch farther this year than ever before. The total amount raised to date is far below the same period of time a year ago and economic problems have forced more people off the work rolls than is normal. This means that less dollars will have to be spent on higher priced items than in previous years to take care of many more people. If the last minute tempo of the drive should pick up, there is a chance that Christmas can be brighter for many hundreds of people including countless youngsters who might otherwise have to face a bleak Christmas. In addition to purchasing traditional Christmas dinners for these families, Goodfellow dollars also have gone, in the past, to purchase toys, dolls and a variety of warm winter clothing items. This year, however, the fund will be hard pressed to provide an adequate Christmas dinner for these families.

Captain Benton Markham of the Salvation Army, the clearing house for the fund, has noted that his social workers have been extremely busy certifying needy families for help during this special time of year. They are also in the final stages of preparing the goods for distribution this week to those who are eligible.

In addition to Daugherty's \$1,000 contribution

tribution there were several other notable givers whose contributions came in Monday. The Anheuser-Busch barley growers added \$300 to the cause, while Selective Data Services Inc. and Teton Crane and Transport each brought in checks for \$200. Dr. E.J. Glazier became a Goodfellow with his \$150 check and Circle Valley Produce and Charles E. Matthews II were \$100 contributors. There was also a slight increase in the number of smaller donations Monday. These are the gifts that do so much to help push the fund over the top each year.

This is the 49th year the Goodfellows have appealed to the city's more fortunate people to help those less fortunate than themselves at this time of year. When this column was initiated those many years ago, it founded a pledge to see that "no home in Idaho Falls be without a full ladder on Christmas Day." This goal has been achieved every year since then and only three times in 49 years did the goal fail to exceed the previous year. This year, the goal has reached record proportions and to date, giving has been slow.

Goodfellows represent all walks of life and provide donations in varying amounts. There is no gift too small or too large and there is still time.

Become a Goodfellow today by sending or bringing your contribution to The Post-Register at 333 Northgate Mile or Box 1800. Join with these other Goodfellows who are already doing their part to help brighten a Christmas:

Howard Daugherty Foundation \$1,000.00
In memory of Fred and Anna Gustafson \$1,000.00
A Goodfellow \$500.00
ORGANIZED LABOR GROUP: \$400.00
I.P. Central Labor Union \$250.00
Carpenters and Joiners Local 909 \$125.00

Masters and Cement Masons Local Union No. 629 \$200.00
Orrie Myler \$75.00
Elks Club \$350.00
Community Thanksgiving Service \$300.00

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