



C. PLOWBOY EDWARDS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OFFICE NO. 3, PITTSBURG COUNTY
301 EAST JACKSON-PHONE 1831
MCALISTER, OKLAHOMA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Nov. 22, 1951

COMMITTEE:

- . PENAL INSTITUTIONS-VICE CHAIRMAN
- . REVENUE AND TAXATION
- . EDUCATION
- . INSURANCE
- . VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

-:-

STATE CAPITOL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Mr. A. E. Gray, Director
Fish and Wild Life Service
Box 1271 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

Yesterday I read a letter from you directed to Mr. Fay Hardin, Gov. hunter, stationed in this county (Pittsburg). It was with deep regret that I find you taking such action against an innocent employee of your department.

Mr. Fay Hardin as you stated has worked long and faithfully for and your department, now going on his 20th. year. His work has been commended even by you and all who know him; his character is above reproach.

You have stated that because of the opposition to the use of Cyanide gas in this county you will not be able to use him after Jan. 1, 1952. The only opposition is the use of the gas during the months of Nov. Dec. and Jan.; during the hunting season as written into the new Fish and Game Code by the last Oklahoma Legislature. The use of Cyanide gas in Oklahoma has been used unlawfully by your department for the last three years as you know because you showed me the law during the last session, which was repealed on your recommendation.

Mr. Gray, I ask you, what did the Federal hunters and trappers do before you directed them to use Cyanide gas? You evidently kept them busy trapping. As of today Mr. Hardin has a total of 16 wolves caught by trap this month and 8 by Cyanide gas. Under the new Fish and Game Code the federal hunter or trapper is permitted to use the traps 12 months a year and the gas guns 8 months a year, unless authorized by the Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission to use the gas 12 months.

I sincerely hope that you reconsider your action in regard to trapper, Hardin, in the immediate future as there are several organizations who taking this matter up directly with the Department of Interior: Sen. Kerr, Sen. Moroney, Con. Carl Albert and the Oklahoma Delegation in December.

I recall on several occasions you came to Mc Alester and asked my help on legislation pending here and in Washington, which help I was glad to give. As a mutual friend of yours and Fay's, I ask that you reconsider the request for resignation.

Sincerely,

COPY

Plowboy Edwards, Rep.



C. PLOWBOY EDWARDS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OFFICE NO. 3, PITTSBURG COUNTY
301 EAST JACKSON-PHONE 1831
MCALISTER, OKLAHOMA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NOV. 24, 1951

COMMITTEE:

- . PENAL INSTITUTIONS-VICE
CHAIRMAN
- . REVENUE AND TAXATION
- . EDUCATION
- . INSURANCE
- . VETERANS AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

STATE CAPITOL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Hon. Carl Albert,
Congressman 3rd. Dist.
McAlester, Oklahoma

Dear Friend Carl,

Enclosed herewith is a letter directed to Mr. A. E. Gray of the Federal Fish and Wild Life Service, Box 1271 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This letter to Mr. Gray is self explanatory and will give you the information on the situation that now exists in Pittsburg county.

The Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission authorized the use of Cyanide Gas under House Bill 443, the new Fish and Game Code Oct. 16, 1951; and Nov. 13, 1951 reversed themselves and countermanded their order asking Mr. Gray to withdraw the Cyanide Gas guns during the hunting season, Oct. Nov. Dec. and Jan. Mr. Gray complied and issued an order to the trappers to withdraw the cyanide gas guns.

There were several letters from this county to the Okla. Fish and Game Commission and from other counties which caused the Commission to change their order to Mr. Gray. The bird hunters, fox hunters, wolf hunters; also the coon and short game hunters sent in letters.

Now the stockmen and cattlemen are up in arms as they are about to lose their Federal trapper.

Mr. Gray has written a letter asking the Federal trapper, Fay Hardin, to resign effective Jan. 1, 1952, due to opposition to cyanide gas in Pittsburg county. The only opposition is the use of it during the hunting months.

Mr. Gray is now 68 years old, has worked for this department 40 years (Civil Service) and I believe he is in his dotage and should be retired.

This Department was once under the Department of Agriculture but is now in the Department of Interior. I am sure Mr. Gray's title is District Agent.

We need immediat help in this matter to retain our Federal Trapper.

Your friend,

C. Plowboy Edwards
Plowboy Edwards

Mr. Gray's immediate supervisor
John G. Gatlin, Regional Director
U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wild Life Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico

pursuit of fur-bearing animals during the legal open season therefor.

Any person or persons convicted of violation of this Act in a court of competent jurisdiction shall forfeit to the State of Oklahoma any firearms found to be in his or their possession at the time of his or their arrest, and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 522. Cyanide or Other Poisonous Gas — Use Limited. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to set or use at any time any cyanide gas gun, bomb or other similar device using cyanide gas or other poisonous gas as the lethal agent, for the purpose of killing wolves or other animals, at any time during the months of October, November, December, and January, unless authorized by the State Game and Fish Commission and under the supervision of an agent of the State Game and Fish Commission. Any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 523. Commercial Licenses May Be Revoked. The State Game and Fish Director is hereby authorized to revoke any commercial license issued any person by the State Game and Fish Department when such person has been convicted for violating any of the provisions of this Act (Chapters 1-6). Such person so convicted and whose license has been revoked will not be eligible for another license of the type revoked until the expiration date as shown on the revoked license has passed.

***Section 524. Inspection, Wrapping and Identification of Frozen, Stored Food.** No food shall be placed in a locker for storage unless it has been sharp frozen at

* Laws 1945, ch. 7, page 240, Sec. 12; 63 O. S. Supp., 1949, 324.12, as amended by House Bill 193, Laws 1951. Section 524 was so numbered in this booklet for convenience in indexing. Original section numbers as carried in House Bill 443 (game and fish code) have been followed throughout unless otherwise indicated by footnote. Section 524 is not classified as a law relating to Game and Fish but is printed herein as one which may be applicable to storage of wild game.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

McAlester, Oklahoma
November 27, 1951

Mr. A.E.Gray, Director
Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Box 1271
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Gray:

I am receiving a number of complaints about the prospective loss of Mr. Fay Hardin, Government trapper stationed in Pittsburg County.

I certainly hope this can be straightened out because the farmers of this county are most anxious to retain Mr. Hardin's services. He is doing an excellent job and, in my judgment, it would be a serious mistake to let him go. Anything you can do will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

CARL ALBERT, M.C.
Oklahoma-Third District

CA:ab

FISH AND WILDLIFE - Interior

McAlester, Oklahoma

November 27, 1951

Mr. C. Plowboy Edwards
State Representative
Office No. 3, Pittsburg County
301 East Jackson Street
McAlester, Oklahoma

Dear Plowboy:

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to Mr. A.E. Gray, State Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior in Oklahoma City, regarding the discharge of Fay Hardin, Government hunter stationed in Pittsburg County, and also Section 522 of the 1945 State Laws governing the use of cyanide gas.

I have already had other complaints about this and have written Mr. Gray, asking him to keep Mr. Hardin on. I will do all I can to help out.

Sincerely yours,

CARL ALBERT, M.C.
Oklahoma - Third District

CA:ab



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

P. O. Box 1271
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

November 28, 1951

Hon. Carl Albert, M. C.
House of Representatives
Oklahoma-Third District
McAlester, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Albert:

We have received your letter of November 27 relative to the suggestion made to Mr. Fay Hardin, Government Hunter, that he submit his resignation effective December 31, 1951

Mr. Hardin is jointly employed by the Board of County Commissioners of Pittsburg County and the state and federal governments under the terms of an informal agreement to control predators in that county. Because of Mr. Hardin's long and faithful service, we regret that such a suggestion should be made but, because of the opposition that developed in Pittsburg County as to the use of the Humane Coyote Getters, we believe that the contemplated action in terminating the predator control in the county is justified as it is not possible for Mr. Hardin to accomplish worthwhile results with the use of traps alone, particularly during the winter months heavy rains and freezing ground.

Traps cannot be set in mud and when the ground is frozen traps will not spring from the weight of a predator. Furthermore, the predations increase materially during the winter months. For these reasons Mr. Hardin furnished a few Humane Coyote Getters. The limited use of the getters, which is an approved method of control by our Service, enabled Mr. Hardin to work all of Pittsburg County and increase his catch of predators approximately 12 percent. Since the taxpayers are paying for this service we believe it is our duty to utilize fully the methods of predator control which are adaptable to the local conditions. This policy apparently has met with the approval of the farmers and ranchmen throughout the state, but the reduction of coyotes and wolves has, since the inception of the cooperative control work in Oklahoma nearly 23 years ago, been vigorously opposed by the owners of dog packs.

Partially as a result of this organized minority's opposition the 22nd Session of the Oklahoma Legislature made it unlawful to use the Humane Coyote Getter except as appointed agents of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department. Our cooperative hunter force and Service personnel were appointed as agents of the Department, thus enabling us to legally use this method of control. Early in the 23rd Session of the Oklahoma Legislature

Page Two

a bill was introduced from Pittsburg County to restrict the use of the coyote getter east of the Rock Island Railroad. This bill failed to pass, but H. B. 448 was enacted into law, Section 522 of which liberalizes the use of the Humane Coyote Getter in that it permits its use during eight months of the year but made it unlawful to use it during October, November, December, and January except and unless authorized by the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department and under the supervision of an agent of that Department. Our hunter force and supervisory personnel were again appointed as agents of the Department so that the method of control could be lawfully used.

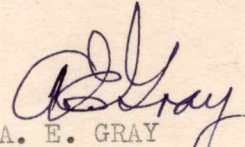
Early in October, Mr. Fay Hardin was asked by a farmer who had lost three calves as a result of predation by wolves to check the losses. Mr. Hardin immediately set traps and three coyote getters. The setting of the getters resulted in such a protest from a few citizens of Pittsburg County that the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department rescinded its action in the appointment of the hunter force as agents which permitted them to legally use the coyote getters.

The Department's action comes at a time of the year when the seasonal calf crop is being dropped and our hunters working with traps alone cannot check the losses that will occur as the Oklahoma Statutes require that traps be visited every 24 hours; also if the traps are buried in mud and snow or frozen down the hunters' attempt to check losses is ineffective.

The use of the Humane Coyote Getter permits the hunter to cover a larger territory, and when adverse weather conditions prevent traps from functioning the coyote getters are killing coyotes and wolves. Service policy requires that the landowners' permission be given the hunters before either traps or getters are set on their lands. Also, that all gates and other entrances leading into the area where traps or getters are set are posted with a special warning notice. Apparently these notices mean nothing to the dog owners who consider privately-owned land as public domain.

We trust that it will not be necessary to terminate the predator control in Pittsburg County but if the citizens most benefitted by the control work do not support the project there is no good reason why public funds should be wasted there.

Respectfully yours,



A. E. GRAY
District Agent

Predator and Rodent Control

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

30 November 51

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in the matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

D o y o u w a n t t o

s e n d a c o p y t o

P l o w b o y ?

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McAlester, Oklahoma
December 3, 1951

Mr. C. Plowboy Edwards
State Representative
Office No. 3, Pittsburg County
301 East Jackson Street
McAlester, Oklahoma

Dear Plowboy:

I have received an answer from Mr. Gray and he seems to think that any further use of trapper service in Pittsburg County, in view of the present law and set-up, would be a waste of public funds and, apparently, is going to decline to do so.

His opposition seems to be based upon the fact that the Fish and Game Commission will not let them use a certain type of getter without which he contends it will be impossible to do any good.

I will talk to you further about this when I see you.

Sincerely yours,

CARL ALBERT, M.C.
Oklahoma-Third District

CA:ab