

TED RIGGS

Ted Riggs, is one of the best known Mule Deer hunters in the West. During a lifetime spent in the Country known as the Arizona Strip, Ted has killed 40 bucks with antler spreads exceeding 30 inches, ten of which measured over 36 inches, and fifteen in the 34 to 36 inch range. His widest buck had a spread of 43 1/2 inches, and scored 249 6/8 Boone and Crockett points.

Ted is best known for the many Mule Deer he has taken, but to those that know him best, his real prowess is as a trapper and tracker. "I've been trapping for 65 years now. When I was 8, I can remember my father would set the traps for me and I would go bury them. By trapping, I was able to put myself through High School during the Great Depression."

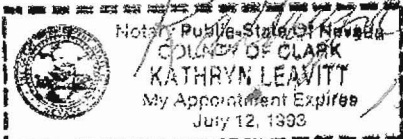
Ted was born in 1916 in Kanab, Utah. After being discharged from duty with the U.S. Engineers in 1945 he went to work for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "At that time Ranchers were losing 45% of their calves and lambs to predators. We shot coyotes, used coyotes getters, poison (strychnine and arsenic and later 1080)." Four years after we began the ranchers' calf crop jumped to 90%. "1080" was the most effective, we would inject it into the meat of mustangs or burros and scatter it across the desert once a year.

Ted spent 28 years as a guide, mostly hunting Mule Deer. "I'd take three weeks annual leave each fall. Got to know nearly all the Country between Lake Powell and Lake Mead."

"Studied deer and the outdoors all my life. All of the big deer I have killed were a product of predator control. I worked five years on the Arizona Strip before I ever saw a deer." "Whenever we would slack off in controlling coyotes and lions, deer would get down to nothing. But, as soon as control was started we would have large numbers within five years." "You would see the effects elsewhere too. There were lots of turtles in the 40's and even into the early 70's."

"Predators are just too thick now, a year ago last winter (winter of 1988 and 89) I had my coyote sets set off 20 times by Mountain Lions. I had to release seven of the big cats."

"The lions were so hungry they were eating nearly all the coyotes and fox I was catching. All they would leave was the face, the feet and the tail. The rest of the carcass would be gone, even bones and hide." "There's few animals left out there any more but the lions and coyotes, no Mountain Sheep and hardly any deer." I look for an outbreak of rabies before long, particularly in California.



Kathryn Leavitt
10-92

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