

Editorial Comment—

Trophy Hunters Continue to Waste Big Game Animals

There is something bitterly unsavory about big game trophy hunters who prey upon Alaska's prime game. Their main purpose, of course, is to get the biggest set of horns of ruminants, such as sheep, moose and caribou, and to hell with the fine meat of those animals which they often leave to rot in the wilderness. Much the same thing happens when the two-legged predators go after carnivores such as polar bears, Kodiak brown bears, grizzlies and so forth. On top of this despicable trait, these hunters are completely lacking in consideration of Alaska's great animal kingdom that they might seriously deplete certain species down to a dangerous level.

Up in the same level of the above type of hunters are some unscrupulous big game guides who also have no consideration of the animals they stalk for their fare except a handsome wad of money they will receive. Also included are some of the common hunters who eagerly await the opening date of a hunting season and start shooting with despicable abandon just for the thrill of killing the animal. These are unforgivable sins the serious minded hunters and the serious minded public despise.

There are indeed serious minded people who care a great deal about the continued existence of Alaska's unequalled animal resources. There are, also, those people who are charged with overseeing the favorable or unfavorable conditions of important herds of game who seem to be unaware of some situations where and when they are needed. They are public servants paid with public funds. They need to improve their surveillance in guarding our priceless animal system in Alaska. If they don't, our fabulous animal resources may begin to make downward trend toward extinction. And if this happens, it could be the beginning of one of the world's greatest disasters — the loss of a splendid animal resource and heritage.

We are fortunate indeed to have people like State Senator John Sackett who courageously alert us to the unsavory incidents regarding trophy hunters and others who seem bent on destroying our precious animal heritage.