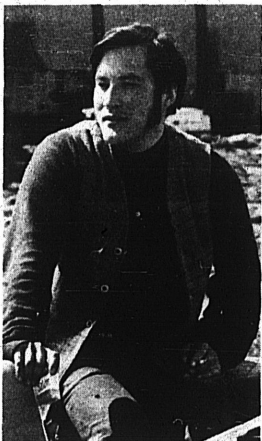


Senator J. Sackett Charges Wastage Of Wild Game Meat

Sheep Trophy Hunters Accused; Unrestricted by the State Gov't.

FAIRBANKS — State Senator John C. Sackett, R-Galena, charged Thursday that trophy hunters are overrunning sheep hunting areas near Arctic Village, unrestricted by the state, and failing to bring back the meat.

We have sworn statements to the effect that some 100 sheep have been killed with assistance of big game guides and that they are bringing back the horns, but no meat, Sackett said.



SEN. JOHN SACKETT

In years past, hunters in the Arctic Village area left the meat with local people and also hired

Arctic Village residents as guides," the state senator from Galena said, "This provided the people not only with food, but a better economy.

"Now sheep hunting in all other areas has been literally wiped out and the Arctic Village area is the only one that has any sheep left and it has been descended upon by the trophy hunters," he said.

"There are no caribou and no moose at Arctic Village this year and the people have been living on fish all summer long," he said.

Two years ago, residents of Bettles Field/Evansville, had the same problem and it was brought to the attention of Gov. William A. Egan, but it took two years to get enforcement into the Bettles area, Sackett said.

Now the problem has come to Arctic Village, which has no fish and game enforcement officer assigned, he said. "There is only one trooper at Fort Yukon and area residents say it takes him two days just to do the paperwork when a problem such as this arises," he said.

Sackett said the urgency of the problem was brought to his attention Wednesday, while he was in Fort Yukon. He immediately contacted officials of the State Department of Fish and Game and State Department of Public Safety and was told they

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would investigate.

"I'm glad they will investigate but the problem should never have occurred in the first place, if they had decent management and enforcement of fish and game regulations," Sackett said.

"Hunters coming out of the Arctic Village hunting grounds and other hunting areas must be checked to see if they brought back the meat," he said.

Sackett noted that the Alaska Legislature last year defined all edible parts of big game that could be taken out, for the purpose of better enforcement of the law. "But the administration of this act has evidently been non-existent.

"It does no good to pass these laws if they are not going to be implemented," he said.