

Wolf . . . Killer Or Money Maker

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Huntington, a Native Athabaskan Indian born at Hughes on the Koyukuk River, 60 years ago, has historically lived off what the land has to offer in raising 12 children. Currently living at Galenā on the Yukon River, he does seasonal commercial fishing and works as a carpenter for the U.S. Air Force. Huntington is active in community affairs and vitally interested in educational processes having served 15 years on the school board.)

By SIDNEY HUNTINGTON

The fact that the No. 1 moose killer is the sneaky and crafty wolf is finally being realized by some of our classroom-trained biologists and big game specialists along with a few dogooders.

This killer is making monkeys out of silly human beings who class the wolf almost as a pet. They like to compare Mister Wolf to a backyard puppy against the raging bellowing bull moose who fight each other during mating season. Isn't it strange, so do the male wolves snarl and fight at mating time but that doesn't make such exciting public reading.

Me, an ordinary dumb Indian along with hundreds, yes thousands of both white and Indian — see — the sign writing on the wall — placed there by Native city people and outsiders. What is it? "STOP WOLF HUNTING BY AIR! Let them (killer wolves) multiply without positive control! Let nature use its hand of fate!

If you want to save the four-legged killer wolf, and our friends in the Lower 48 think so much over them, let them shoot them with tranquilizer darts and take them to wilderness areas where they say "friend" wolf is almost gone.

It is a known fact trapping will not control the wolf. He is smarter than foolish man thinks. Mr. Wolf will run at the sight or smell of his human enemy which by the way is classed, as far as the moose is concerned, as (two-legged wolf) a killer.

With two-legged wolves on the increase killing more moose carelessly and then letting real killer wolves multiply unchecked without positive control, our moose will be gone soon again.

The year 1937, was the first year moose showed signs to

amount to anything along the Koyukuk River. Before that year the Indians would take their families over to the Melosia (Meloizitna) River to hunt moose using the hide to make their boots and sinews to sew with. The wolf got too thick along the Melosia (Meloizitna) River so the moose moved on trying to get away from this killer "friend."

For a few years the number of moose and caribou were kept in fairly near balance by use of aerial wolf hunting. There is no aerial wolf hunting now because our dogooders thought aerial wolf hunting was evil and unsportsmanlike. I wonder how unsportsman our wolf, the killer, gets sometimes. I personally watched 16 wolves kill a moose after running him to near death for about four hours and over a 100 miles. They nicely started eating him while he was still alive because he was hamstringed. Very unsportsman-like, I would say. Our moose haven't been in this area too long. I say let's do all we can to help him stay a little longer. We can't have both the moose and wolf like you can't keep your cake and eat it, too. The sheep men and cattlemen know what the wolf and coyote do to their animals.

Allow aerial wolf hunting to equalize the wolf, say one wolf to every 50 moose. Fine the head hunters who kill the moose for the use of the horns only. Let them pay \$5 an ounce for the horns and/or \$5 a pound for the meat whichever one is lesser. Fine those who kill moose for no good reason than to kill and those who kill moose for dog food. Let them pay a fine of \$1,000 per moose or \$5 a pound, whichever is lesser.

Alaska's 10,000 wolves can't be wrong, they know good meat.

Right now most of the moose being slaughtered is by wolf, even by some of our dogs. They are smarter than those who don't class him the killer and only want to kill moose for their horns.

Millions of animals have died on the face of this earth before the wolf. Many more millions will die after the wolf are gone including the human being. Right now, the wolf has stayed too long. We don't need him to balance our diet. Moose is one of our main subsistence foods, not the wolf. He wouldn't be worth eating as far as I am concerned. To our dogooders he might be. Who knows? Maybe it won't be too long before the headlines

will read: "MAN FEEDS WOLF" but man won't write it himself, the wolf will.

When the wolf is gone it will be because there is no more food available, neither will there be other big game animals.

Effectively control the wolf so we will all eat a little longer.