

**REPORT:
YANKEES'
OWNER WILL
SHAKE UP
HIS SQUAD
GREEN WOULD
BE MANAGER, 1B**



DIG OUT YOUR BEST HOLIDAY RECIPES

**FROM APPETIZERS TO MAIN DISHES, DESSERTS, IT'S
TIME FOR ANNUAL COOKBOOK CONTEST. STYLE, 1D**

**STUDIES:
BREAST
EXAMS AID
YOUNGER
WOMEN
MAMMOGRAMS
CUT DEATHS, 1D**

GNP INCREASES, BUT SO DOES INFLATION

**ECONOMIC REPORT FOR SECOND QUARTER SHOWS
EFFECTS OF IMPROVING TRADE DEFICIT. BUSINESS, 10B**

Reno Gazette-Journal

Wednesday

September 21, 1988

35 cents

Partly cloudy, high 65, low 36
Tuesday's smog level: 37 (good)
Today's smog forecast: good
Complete weather report, page 10A

More cloudy weather seen for Reno-Sparks

Today's weather forecast for the Reno-Sparks and Carson City areas calls for partly cloudy skies, light winds and a 20 percent chance of showers in the afternoon. The high is expected to be between 65 and 70 degrees with a low in the mid- to

73 wild horses found dead in Lander County

BLM says animals apparently shot

By Lenita Powers/Gazette-Journal

At least 73 wild horses have been found apparently shot to death in central Nevada, just miles from where a herd of mustangs were gunned down last month, the Bureau of Land Management said Tuesday.

The BLM spotted the carcasses from a helicopter Monday in a remote area of western Lander County after receiving a

tip from one of about 100 people under investigation for the earlier wild horse shooting.

The latest horse kill occurred about 30 miles west of the Mount Callahan area north of Austin, where 44 mustangs were found shot to death in August.

"We're treating it in our initial investigation as a separate incident," Bob Stewart, the BLM's public affairs officer, said. "We've only flown over the site and have not been on the ground yet to verify the cause of death, but from our aerial surveillance, we believe these horses also were shot to death."

No arrests have been made in either of

the two cases and Stewart said both are under "intense investigation."

The 73 horses appear to have been shot six months ago or more and the horses shot near Austin have been dead for up to a year, Stewart said.

This year's two mass mustang slayings and the recent sentencing of two men who admitted killing wild horses proves the punishment of such crimes is "a joke," according to Terri Jay, executive director of the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, a state agency founded to protect the animals.

Two brothers, Vern R. and Duane L. Dimick of Las Vegas, were each sen-

tenced to one year of probation and 120 hours of community service and fined \$250 as part of a plea bargain in which they pleaded guilty to shooting one horse.

The charges against them stemmed from the shooting of 12 horses in the Mount Charleston area. The men said they shot the horses because they were eating feed that could help the deer population grow.

"I'm sick," Jay said. "I'm just sick because of the hopelessness of the whole situation. People are going to continue to shoot horses and the BLM is going to con-

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Wild horses

From page 1A

tinue to investigate and come up with nothing unless they get something from the Secret Witness program.

"And then if it does go to court, they slap these people on the wrist. The whole system makes me sick."

Jay said prosecuting people who kill wild horses apparently is not a priority in Nevada.

"If the BLM comes up with something, I'll be the first one there to give them an 'attaboy,'" she said. "But the only successful prosecution they've come up with in the last few years has been when it's been handed to them on a platter by Secret Witness."

The BLM has three full-time law enforcement officers to patrol 48 million miles of public land, Stewart said.

The carcasses of the 73 wild horses spotted Monday were strewn across an area about a mile wide and eight miles long, located southwest of Mount Moses near the border of Churchill and Lander counties.

THEY WERE discovered in the same area the BLM had checked by helicopter last month. Stewart said the BLM flew over that area within the last six

weeks to check on the horses' condition.

"The reason we didn't find the carcasses then is when you fly over looking for live horses, you're looking for movement and dust," he said.

"Many of the dead were simply a pile of bones and they blend into the landscape. . . . It's hard enough to see a live person waving his arms, much less a pile of dead horses."

Stewart said the BLM is stepping up its surveillance of herds all over the state to determine if there are similar cases.

KILLING WILD horses is a violation of the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. A conviction is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, a two-year jail sentence or both.

"Any horse killing is serious and a multiple killing like this is given the full investigative pressure by the BLM's law enforcement authorities," Stewart said. "It's a condition that cannot be tolerated."

The BLM is still investigating the April death of seven wild horses in Long Valley south of Elko. Those horses also apparently were shot.

Last year, eight wild horses were found shot to death in the hills east of Carson City and some of the animals were slashed from the throat to the hind-quarters with a knife. No arrests were made in the case.