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ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE AGENT OF

*Walter J. ...*  
Secretary of State

THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

Nov. 8, 1943

The past year has been busy as usual. Our Society was seventy-four years old in October, the sixth oldest humane group in America, organized October 21, 1869. We are greatly indebted to those fine public spirited citizens who so nobly pioneered in humane activities here in Minnesota. To them it was unintelligent to let ignorance, selfishness, thoughtlessness and cruelty prevail when enlightened opinions and united effort could make the world better and kindlier and a more beautiful place in which to live. They builded better than they knew.

We handled the past year, a total of 1068 cases and other items pertaining to our work, besides a constant flow of correspondence. The total number of Cattle trucks found in violation of livestock transportation rules and regulations 681. No count was kept of those trucks inspected and found complying with the law. Cases involving farm and domestic animals in general numbered 220. Other activities consisted of various conferences with individuals and groups relating to livestock and other domestic animals, and poultry.

We spoke to 12 adult groups, such as Luncheon Clubs and Church Organizations. We also gave 28 talks to various children's groups. We sponsored 11 radio broadcasts over Station W M I N of St. Paul. We wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and grateful appreciation to the Management of Station W M I N for the free use of their station for our monthly broadcasts which is their contribution to the humane cause.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the splendid cooperation of the following members of our Society who participated on our Radio Education Programs. They are as follows: Clinton A. Hackert, Dr. D. L. Halver, W. A. Peck, Henry C. Capser, Al. Priddy, Miss Marie Magee, Raymond A. Jackson, Miss Beulah Bartlett and James O'Neal Sheehan, all of whom gave most interesting and helpful talks of Humane subjects. We received many compliments on our Radio Programs.

As most of you know, the Midwest Humane Conference, with which our Society is affiliated, was held in Minnesota for the first time. It was held at the St. Paul Hotel May 7th and 8th last. It was one of the finest Midwest Humane Conferences held thus far. It was well attended considering the many war restrictions. It was at this convention that the late Clinton A. Hackert, former Chief of Police, gave an outstanding address on juvenile delinquency and the cause. Chief Hackert was one of our Directors. We shall miss him very much, for he was deeply interested in the Humane cause and all that it stands for. He was one of the outstanding Police Chiefs in the United States whose integrity was above reproach.

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As usual we have had a number of outstanding cases during the year. The following are just a few samples of the cases reported to us from time to time.

A lady in rural Minnesota wrote us and complained that her husband was in the habit of shooting at their chickens and the chickens of their neighbors, also. She begged us not to reveal her identity and to handle the situation as diplomatically as possible, which was done to the satisfaction of all concerned.

We received a complaint from one of our rural communities, stating that an old gentleman was being neglected by his guardian. We wrote the guardian a letter. There has been no complaint since.

We received several complaints against a beer parlor operator on the Stillwater Road, Washington County, who was suspected of setting out poison for the neighbor's dogs. There was no positive evidence to work on so we wrote Mr. Beer Parlor operator the usual letter in such instances, as if he were an innocent party. We addressed him in cordial terms and with the usual inquiry for information, together with an offer of one hundred and fifty dollars cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party or parties as the case might be, also a marked copy of the law governing such cases. Talk about 'the wicked fleeing when no man pursueth', they sure do but Abraham Lincoln once said, "They make better time when being chased." We have used this method for several years and while we have not been successful in apprehending the culprits, due to lack of sufficient evidence, they certainly do run for cover; for they fear the consequences of their nefarious act and are afraid to repeat.

We received a complaint from a neighbor of a Washington County resident, that the adjoining neighbor, a widower with two teen-age children had gone to Chicago to work and had left a pig in a pen in their back yard for the 13 year old son and 16 year old daughter to look after. The children, not being under parental restraint, went to St. Paul to visit some friends. They stayed for some time and left the pig to its fate. We authorized the neighbor (which we may legally do under the circumstances) to take the pig and care for it and to keep track of the cost. In the meantime, we notified the owner, but received no reply. When he supposedly sent a representative to call for the pig, the bill was thirty dollars. He left the pig.

We received a complaint from a party in Claremont, concerning a bull which was kept in the same position so long that it was standing at an almost 45 degree angle. The manure had pyramided so high that it was impossible for the bull to lie down. The animal was never allowed out for exercise, fresh air or sunshine. A mother and son were operating the farm, the husband and father had been committed to a State Mental Institution. We made certain recommendations which were carried out.

We received a report of an abandoned horse in Resurrection Cemetery near Mendota. The original owner had been inducted into the Armed Forces and had given the horse to a neighbor who turned it loose in the Cemetery. They told us that they were unable to catch the horse, that if we could catch it, we could have it. We arranged with a couple of experienced men to catch the horse. It took several hours before they could round it up. We gave them the horse for their trouble.

We received a long-distance phone call from the County Attorney at Mora, Minnesota, who reported that the owner of the Golden Valley Riding Stables near Minneapolis had abandoned thirty-five head of horses in a barren pasture without food or shelter, that twenty of the horses had died from exposure and lack of food and water. The owner was arrested and fined fifty dollars, and ordered to remove the remaining horses at once which he did.

We received a complaint from Henry Clausen of Hutchinson, Minnesota stating that two city employees of that city who were thawing out street man holes with a portable steam boiler, had grabbed his Irish Setter and shoved the live steam hose into the dog's mouth, scalding it so badly that it had to be shot to put it out of its misery. The men were arrested but we were unable to bring them to trial. They evidently settled with the owner of the dog to avoid prosecution.

We received a call from the South St. Paul Horse Market to investigate the maiming of two cats by three drunks, who had deliberately chopped off the tails of two pet cats, for a lark. The culprits left town before they could be apprehended.

We received a call from Gen. George Simpson of the Railway and Warehouse Commission to investigate a badly injured Belgian colt near Forest Lake. The owner at first denied all knowledge of it until we went out to the adjoining pasture to look for the colt. When he saw us from across the road, he came over and asked what we were looking for. We told him, then he confessed ownership. It seems the colt had been caught in a barbed wire fence and its left hind leg was badly torn. We suggested the services of the local veterinarian which was done and the colt was saved.

We received a call from the police on a hot Sunday afternoon to check on a load of cattle enroute from South St. Paul to Atwater, Minn. The owner of the cattle had engaged a commercial livestock trucker from Atwater to haul the cattle for him. On their way from South St. Paul they stopped at a private home for a drinking party. The loaded truck was left standing in front of the house most of the day in the hot sun without water or care. We had the men arrested. The owner posted twenty-five dollars bail and was ordered to proceed on his way to Atwater. The driver was sober. The bail was forfeited the following Monday.

The above mentioned cases reveal the broad scope of our activities and the need for Humane Societies. As another said in commenting on our work, "The very fact that a Humane Society exists, prevents many acts of cruelty that would otherwise happen if there were no Humane Societies to report them to." The fact that a Humane Society does exist to handle such cases is a restraining influence in the lives of many. And so we could cite many more such interesting cases if time permitted.

We are advised by W. A. Peck that there has been a marked improvement in livestock transportation. Mrs. Roy Andrews of Mankato, one of our Directors, also reports that cattle trucks passing through Mankato on their way to livestock terminals have greatly improved, due to our checking. Our method is prevention through education rather than by prosecution. J. Edgar Hoover of the F. B. I. said recently, "The basis for improved law enforcement lies in education." Hence we never prosecute unless conditions warrant or where the act is willful and deliberate. Much of livestock abuse and neglect is the result of ignorance. That is why we use the education method, rather than prosecution, with the exceptions above mentioned.

We have had the Humane Laws of our state codefied and put into pamphlet form, insert size. All livestock truckers whose trucks do not comply with the rules governing the transportation of livestock are sent a warning letter and a marked copy of the laws, as well as all others who violate the Humane Laws of our State, and we have had very good results.

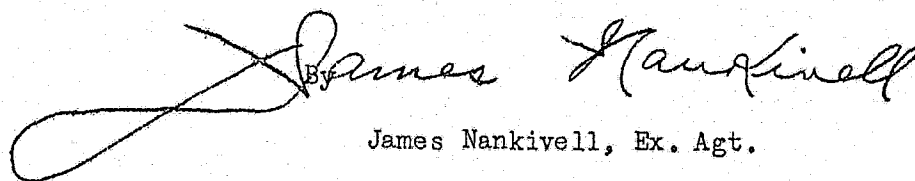
We received a letter from the President of the Southern Minnesota Peace Officers Association, last fall, asking our cooperation in helping to have a bill passed by the Legislature prohibiting the shipping or transportation of poultry in sacks. We replied that there is already such a law on the statute books, all they had to do was to enforce it. We sent them a marked copy of our pamphlets containing all the Humane Laws of our State and their problem was solved. It seems that poultry thieves were active in Southern Minnesota. They were putting the poultry in sacks and when the poultry smothered, they would discard them on the highway. The law provides that poultry must be provided with suitable crates allowing poultry room to both stand or lie down while in transit. Evidently the Peace Officers of Southern Minnesota were not aware of such a law.

We have received fine cooperation from the veterinarians of Minnesota who have reported cases from time to time for our attention. We are glad to quote herewith what Dr. D. L. Halver, President of the Minnesota State Veterinary Society has to say concerning the value of our Society. "As a practitioner of veterinary medicine, with the knowledge of the characteristics of especially animal life and the understanding of the sensibility of most animals to kindness and average care, I would be very disheartened were it necessary for the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to abandon or even curtail its activity. An active Society for the Prevention of Cruelty is sufficiently uplifting to animal husbandry, that any veterinarian desirous of a location would be unwise to locate for practice in a state where such a Society did not exist. An active Society such as I think we have had in Minnesota the past several years, has not only an ameliorating effect upon animal life within the state and other states but make for the practice of Veterinary Medicine a more pleasant and fruitful livelihood. I pledge all the reasonable and sympathetic effort possible toward a continuation of such a Society." Dr. Halver is not only a life member of our Society but a contributing member as well.

And last but not least, we are proud of our Junior Humane Division which now numbers over fifteen thousand boys and girls, and they are joining almost daily. All of them have pledged themselves to be kind to all living creatures. Some of course may fall by the wayside, but most of them will sincerely try to keep their promise which will be reflected in their adult lives. Children do not forget their pledge to be kind; it will always be a restraining influence in their lives.

Respectfully submitted

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James Nankivell

James Nankivell, Ex. Agt.

