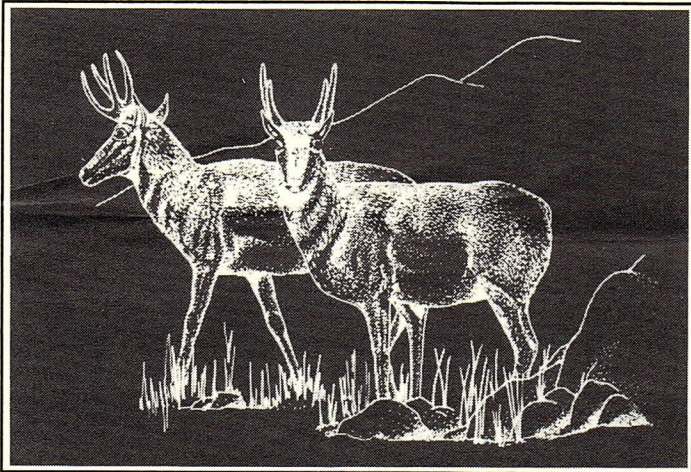


PRONGHORN

Official Publication of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Inc., A Non-Profit, Tax Exempt Corporation Volume 2, Number 1 Winter 1994

History Of Pronghorn Antelope In Arizona



Stockoceros pronguck. Drawing by Lauren Kepner.

*(Part One of a series)
by David E. Brown*

Though the dry plains of Arizona are not frequented by deer, still they are not wanting in inhabitants among the beasts 'that cleave the hoof.' Over them the Pronghorned Antelope . . . races with the winds . . . As on the land-seas of the Great Plains, as on every land-lake of Arizona, he is at home; for home to him means the grassy surface of the earth...

—Elliot Coues, *The Quadrupeds of Arizona*, 1867

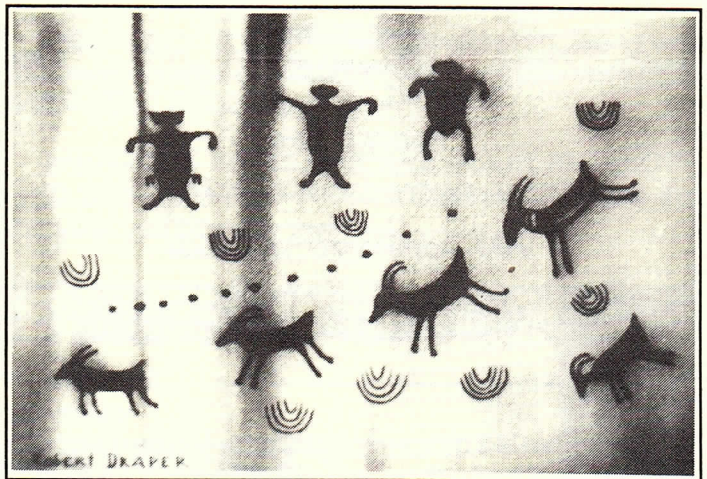
Our story begins more than fifteen million years ago, with the evolution of a small goat-antelope on the grassy plains of North America. These animals differed from the many deer and other antelope then present in that they had permanent horn cores covered by fused hair sheaths which were shed as the animal grew. Fleet of foot and adapted to feeding on coarse weeds and shrubs, these animals proved to be highly successful. Within a few million years, literally dozens of species of "prongbucks" roamed the vast savannas which stretched from California to Florida.

Although most of these prongbucks were smaller than today's pronghorn antelope, their horns came in a wonderful variety of shapes and sizes. Some had four

horns, some had six horns, and one had horns which twisted much like a kudu's. One of the smallest of these, the roe deer-sized *Capromeryx minor*, which lived in what is now Cochise County about two million years ago, only weighed about twenty-five pounds. Not all prongbucks were animals of the open prairie — the leg bones of at least one species of prongbuck show that it was adapted to living in rough terrain, not unlike the European chamois of today.

With the advent of the Ice Ages, which began about two million years ago, many species of prongbuck died out and were replaced by others. One four-horned species, Quentin's pronghorn (*Stockoceros onusrosagris*), must have been especially common in Arizona, as more than sixty individual specimens have been recovered from a single excavation near Canelo, Arizona. All of the skulls found have horn cores, indicating that both sexes of Quentin's prongbuck may have had horns. Other prongbucks during this time looked much like the pronghorn antelope of today.

For reasons which remain unclear, almost all of North America's plains animals vanished at the close of the last Ice Age, around ten thousand years ago. Open country animals such as camels, horses, mammoths and saber-toothed cats were especially hard hit, and
(Continued on page 7)



Reproduction of a pictograph by Navajo artist Robert Draper. Courtesy of Budge Ruffner.

Arizona Antelope Foundation, Inc.

1994 Executive Board and Committees

President

Jim McCasland - 445-3886

Vice President

Henry Aguilar - 753-2357

Secretary

Don Johnson - 278-3010

Treasurer

Brian George - 968-1903

Immediate Past President

Pete Cimellaro - 275-7096

Directors

David E. Brown - 973-0591

Mike Cupell - 954-8300

Harry Hussey - 942-8104

Nancy L. Lewis - 942-7682

Joe Bill Pickrell - 943-0454

George Welsh - 753-3612

Committee Chairmen

Bylaws & Resolutions

Jim Marquardt

Coordination

Pete Cimellaro

Finance

Brian George

Habitat & Projects

Joe Bill Pickrell/David E. Brown

Membership

Don Johnson

Publicity/PAC

Mike Cupell/David E. Brown

Programs

Henry Aguilar

Pronghorn

Nancy L. Lewis

AAF Administrative Office

3875 N. 44th St., #102, Phoenix, AZ 85018

(602) 952-8116 - FAX (602) 952-8230

Charter Members - 1993

Larry D. Adams	Bullhead City	AZ
Henry Aguilar	Kingman	AZ
Rod H. Aguilar	Kingman	AZ
Benny H. Aja	Buckeye	AZ
Jim Babbitt	Flagstaff	AZ
Ralph Baglino	Phoenix	AZ
Robin W. Bechtel	Gilbert	AZ
Tom S. Boggess, III	Phoenix	AZ
William T. Borum	Scottsdale	AZ
Arthur L. Boswell	Tucson	AZ
David E. Brown	Phoenix	AZ
Peter A. Cimellaro	Phoenix	AZ
Jerry & Heidi Clarno	Tucson	AZ
William C. Cordasco	Flagstaff	AZ
Robert L. Dixon	Flagstaff	AZ
Wallace H. Duncan	Flagstaff	AZ
Ron L. Eichelberger	Peoria	AZ
Judy K. Fogwell	Grand Canyon	AZ
Patrick T. Frawley	Scottsdale	AZ
Arthur F. Fuller, Jr.	Kingman	AZ
Brian R. George	Scottsdale	AZ
Walter E. George	Paradise Valley	AZ
Walter J. George	Paradise Valley	AZ
Michael M. Golightly	Flagstaff	AZ
John W. Harris	Odessa	MO
Eugene H. Hays	Tucson	AZ
Robert R. Hebert	Scottsdale	AZ
Scott D. Horn	Colorado Springs	CO
Larry Hunts	Trail	OR
David L. Hussey	Phoenix	AZ
Harry Hussey	Phoenix	AZ
Terry Jackson	Tucson	AZ
Donald R. Johnson	Phoenix	AZ
Roy G. Jones	Lake Havasu City	AZ
Raymond M. Lee	Phoenix	AZ
Warren J. Leek	Scottsdale	AZ
Nancy L. Lewis	Phoenix	AZ
James E. Marquardt	Phoenix	AZ
William D. Martin	Kingman	AZ
James K. McCasland	Prescott	AZ
Keith L. Miller	Tucson	AZ
Mark T. Miller	Mesa	AZ
Mark D. Morris	Tucson	AZ
Richard A. Ockenfels	Peoria	AZ
Gustave Pabst	Prescott	AZ
Joe Bill Pickrell	Phoenix	AZ
Arthur R. Parter	Scottsdale	AZ
Richard L. Robles	Mesa	AZ
Michael J. Rusing	Tucson	AZ
Glenn B. Sampson	Phoenix	AZ
Donald J. Short	Forest Lakes	AZ
Bruce J. Sitko	Kingman	AZ
Franklin A. Tennant, Sr.	Mesa	AZ
John Vassel	Queen Creek	AZ
Robert R. Walker	Phoenix	AZ
Jerry C. Walters	Winslow	AZ
George W. Welsh	Kingman	AZ
Brian H. Williams	Mesa	AZ
David L. Wolf	Flagstaff	AZ
Jack & JoAnn Yeager	Phoenix	AZ

Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles and stories are welcome and will be considered for publication. Please address all such items to: *Pronghorn* Editor, 576 W. Moon Valley Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85023-6231. Phone: 942-7682. Deadlines: March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15.

Message From The Immediate Past President

by Pete Cimellaro

The first year of the Arizona Antelope Foundation is now behind us, and I would like to make a few brief observations as my final act as the Foundation's first President.

The year went well. We laid a solid foundation upon which to build in the future. We obtained funding and manpower to complete two antelope habitat projects, which were well attended, much appreciated and provided an opportunity for members to get to know each other. These ongoing habitat projects will undoubtedly prove to be the backbone of this organization, and I hope that every member resolves to attend at least one of these projects a year.

Every effort has been made to involve all regions of the state. There are plans for projects everywhere there are antelope populations in Arizona, and it is my hope that membership and participation will eventually reflect all such regions.

I am grateful for the cooperation and assistance of the Arizona Game & Fish Department and its various regional personnel. Without such cooperation and our ability to utilize the Department's resources, my job would have been very difficult, indeed.

I am also thankful to have had such dedicated officers and directors. Their guidance, talent and combined knowledge was much more than any new organization could hope for.

The Arizona Antelope Foundation was organized to address the needs of a beautiful, noble and deserving animal, and this first year of its existence is encouraging beyond my expectations.

Keep up the good work. This is a cause worthy of the efforts of all of us. With such a good beginning, the Arizona Antelope Foundation can only get better and stronger in the years to come. Good health and good hunting.

Message From The President

by Jim McCasland

The arrival of the new year brings new challenges and opportunities for our organization. With the continual population growth of Arizona, more and more wildlife habitat is being lost. For this reason, your continued support for Arizona's antelope is imperative.

Please respond positively to the 1994 renewal notices. In fact, if every member, in addition to his own renewal, were to get just one more member to sign up, then that much more could be accomplished for antelope.

Our second year outlook is exciting. We have obtained both of the Arizona Game & Fish Department's special auction tags and expect the bidding for each of them to be exciting and rewarding. We are also looking forward to at least three habitat projects, as well as the Second Annual Hunters' Clinic.

The habitat projects, even though they are a lot of work, are also plenty of fun and offer a terrific opportunity for a family outing, and we'll put anybody you bring to work, from Junior to Granny! Besides, those of you who live in the hot desert, what better reason can you find to get out of the heat? And which of you who attended last year's clinic can forget the fine trophies displayed? We expect bigger and better this year.

AAF's continued desire is to have active participation from throughout the entire state, and I encourage all those who wish to contribute to contact me or any Board member. The more active members available, the more we can accomplish for our antelope. Your ideas, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, and our Board meetings are open to everybody.

Please send in your renewal application, along with the new member application of at least one conservation-minded friend today.

ARIZONA'S ANTELOPE ARE YOUR ANTELOPE AND DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP! Make this the year you become involved.

SHARE YOUR GAME TO FEED THE HUNGRY

For Information Write Or Call:

Lynne Blair, Coordinator

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

4800 Grants Pass Road • Tucson, AZ 85745 • (602) 620-1220

New Members Needed — No Experience Required

by Don Johnson

The Arizona Antelope Foundation came into being as a result of several conversations around campfires during a few hunting trips in 1990 and 1991. In the beginning, there were a handful of people who thought they could get something started which could do some good for Arizona's antelope population. As these people began to bounce the idea off others, it became apparent that this idea had a chance of working.

The Foundation officially got its start on a Sunday afternoon in August of 1992, when 8 or 10 people sat around a meeting table and pitched in \$100 each to become charter members and give the new organization some start-up funding.

Each person at that first meeting agreed to help "spread the word" and recruit new members. From that beginning, we have grown to the point where we now have 214 paid members.

Even though we recruited some members by mail and at our workshop last summer, MOST of our 214 members have joined because ANOTHER MEMBER ASKED THEM TO.

The Foundation's membership goal is 500 - 1,000 members this year. Why do we need this many members, you ask?

1. We need more people involved to get the work done. We have been swamped with requests for manpower to do "hands-on, on-the-ground" habitat work. We would like to put on two or three versions of the antelope workshop this year.
2. We can become stronger advocates for Arizona's antelope with a larger membership. We will be hard to ignore if we have the interest and support of 1,000 members.
3. We need to attain the financial strength to put our money to work to help antelope.

How can you help? First: renew your membership today. If you can afford to become a sustaining member, the additional money will all be spent on antelope work. Second: sign up one or two new members. Make a copy of the membership form in this *Pronghorn* and use it to recruit a new member. Write YOUR name on the form also, as we are planning a special drawing for some very special items. The details of this drawing will be officially announced in the spring issue of *Pronghorn*.

Thank you for your previous support. Please renew your membership today and get to work on recruiting those new members.

Upcoming Events

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Activity Center, Prescott.

Both Arizona Game & Fish Special Antelope Permit/Tags will be auctioned at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society's 1994 Fundraiser on SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1994, at Mesa Centennial Hall (next to the Mesa Sheraton). Tickets are \$50.00 per person. Room reservations are available. More information can be obtained by contacting Susan Rea at 952-8116 or Warren Leek at 494-0213.

Arizona Antelope Foundation's first habitat project for 1994 will be held in Unit 35A near Elgin on the Forest Service/BLM/Appleton Ranch/Audubon Society Research Sanctuary property. This will be partly a fence removal project and partly a fence alteration project. The property owners and the neighboring ranchers are extremely cooperative and appreciative. They have offered indoor sleeping accommodations (dormitory style) and a complimentary dinner Satur-

day night. The property is breathtakingly beautiful, and the chances of seeing antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer, javelina and many, many species of birds are excellent. This project will take place on THE WEEKEND OF MAY 21.

The Foundation's second habitat project will take place on THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 11. This project will take place at the Elgin location if the work doesn't get completed on the weekend of May 21. If the work does get completed in one outing, an alternate project will be announced.

Please make every effort to attend as many habitat projects as possible, as "many hands make large projects small" (or something like that!). The Elgin project is huge, and we welcome all the bodies we can get to participate. As the dates get nearer, maps and further information will be mailed to you, along with information on whom to contact to let us know you will be there.

One More For The Book

by Sam Jaksick, Jr.

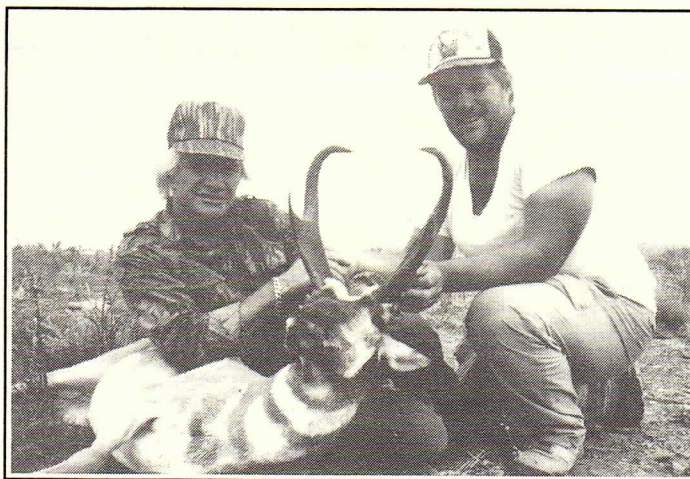
Last spring I was once again fortunate to obtain one of the two special antelope permit/tags issued annually by the Arizona Game & Fish Department.

Tony Grimmatt, my good friend and guide, had accompanied me on three different successful antelope hunts in the last two years, and all three animals were exceptional. They all scored high enough for entry in the *Boone & Crockett Record Book of North American Trophy Animals*. The largest of the three scored 92-6/8 points (#3 in the world). The others scored 86-4/8 and 82 points, respectively. These tremendous successes turned me into an avid antelope hunter. I have hunted many species of animals, but never have I become so addicted to the beauty and the challenge of any other animal as I have to the antelope. The fact that there is still an opportunity to harvest a new world's record of *any* species in this day and age only serves to make antelope hunting all that more exciting to me.

True to form, Tony began tirelessly scouting for me as soon as we had the tag in hand. He and another friend, Paul Stewart, spent a combined total of over 50 man-days in the field scouting on my behalf. Tony reported to me on a regular basis and finally told me what I had been waiting to hear - that they had located a large buck which would, in their opinion, score in excess of the magic 90 points. I was elated. This news added to my excitement and anticipation of another great antelope hunt. Waiting for the hunt to begin was becoming difficult for me to bear.

Then, a full week before the hunt date, Tony informed me that he, his son Eli and Paul were scouting one last time and stumbled across an absolute monster which materialized out of nowhere. They were in agreement that this particular buck was definitely larger than the one they had found the week before, which they had estimated to be 90 points.

When I arrived, Tony and Paul had spent the two previous days making sure the buck was the one they wanted me to hunt. During those two days, they realized that they had seen that same buck in June. They had even nick-named him "Righty." At that time they hadn't given him very much thought, figuring him to score 86 or 87 points, which he probably did score - in June. When they saw him again, they realized that, with the perfect summer weather and rainfall, this great buck had grown quite a bit more since they last saw him several months ago. There was no doubt about which buck they wanted me to hunt, and we loaded my gear and headed for northern Arizona to locate Righty for me.



Sam Jaksick and guide Tony Grimmatt with Sam's 93 2/8 special permit antelope.

We did locate him, and opening day of the special hunt afforded me not only a good look at him, but also several stalks on him. As circumstances would have it, though, I either couldn't get in a position where I had a good, solid rest, or else could not close the distance enough for a sure shot. We returned to camp that night empty-handed but full of anticipation for the next day's hunt. After all, there was absolutely

no pressure on this animal or any other antelope, as there were only two antelope hunters in the field in the entire state and the other hunter was nowhere near where we were hunting.

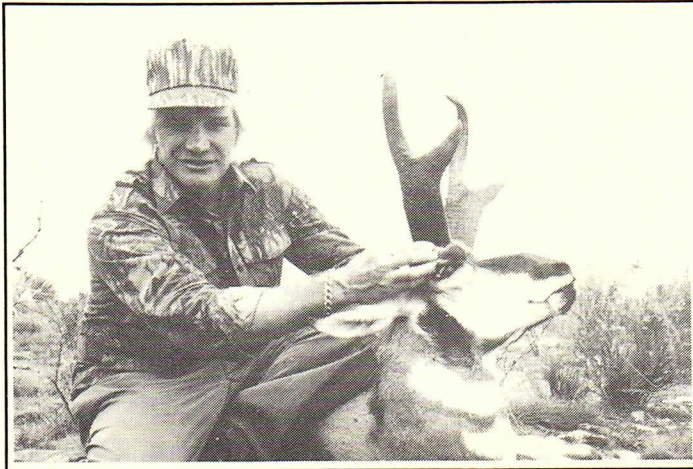
We took our time and didn't get upset when our stalks and our strategies fell apart for one reason or another. We knew it would all come together sooner or later and that we had a whole month to see that it did. As it turned out, however, it only took three days. Righty had been by himself the first two days of the hunt and, even though we had numerous opportunities for shots both of those days, we hadn't been able to capitalize on them for one reason or another.

On that third day, we observed him as he challenged for the harem of a much smaller buck (a 15-incher). From a distance of about a thousand yards we watched in horror as the two bucks fought, fearful that Righty would break a horn or a cutter in the altercation. As the

(Continued on page 6)

One More For The Book

(Continued from page 5)



Sam Jaksick and his special permit antelope. Score: 93 2/8.

two bucks continued to fight, we were stunned when we realized that Righty was losing badly. It was then obvious to us that Righty was an old buck with the prime of his life behind him. He finally simply left the smaller buck and the does and began ambling along for several miles until he entered a huge canyon.

We, of course, were in hot pursuit the whole time and were of the opinion that the canyon would afford us a good opportunity for success, as he would no longer be out in the open where he would be able to spot us if we made a mistake. We also figured we would be better able to find a good, solid rest with a minimum of movement.

We were approaching an overlook to the canyon and anticipating an easy ambush when we spotted Righty exiting the other side of the canyon about half a mile away from us! The frustration was telling on us - we kept getting foiled at every turn. Deciding (once again!) to

make the best of a bad situation, we began to circle back to the other side. That was when our perseverance paid off and the Red Gods finally smiled on us. As we began to circle around to get to the other side, for no apparent reason the buck stopped, turned and began to walk right toward us! We quickly got down and watched the buck approach us. He stopped 300 yards in front of us and simply stood there, attempting to determine what we were. As my bipod was too short, I set up with two sticks I carry for just such an eventuality. It was a difficult shot for several reasons: the buck was standing 300 yards away, he was facing us, there were bushes in the way and the sticks were awkward. I shot. The buck ran to our right, got behind another bush and again stood looking at us. Not knowing if the first shot was good, I shot again. This time there was no doubt that the shot was true.

After the usual back-pounding and congratulations, Tony again assured me the buck would measure at least 90 points. We began walking to where the buck lay and, as we got closer, our astonishment increased. The buck was huge. His body looked like that of a mule deer lying there. His field-dressed weight, in fact, was right at 120 pounds! We were amazed and speechless. Tony realized that this buck was even bigger than my #3 buck, which was 92-6/8 points.

We took pictures and skinned the buck. Then we measured him. He green-scored more than the world's record! After the requisite 60-day waiting period, his official score was 93-2/8, which, if the Boone & Crockett panel upholds it, will place it as #2 in the world. Ironically, this would bump my #3 buck to #4. At any rate, I feel extremely fortunate to have had Tony as my guide. With his knowledge and assistance, I have taken two antelope which occupy honored places with the top ten largest antelope in the world, and I am looking forward to continuing my quest with him for that new #1 buck. But most of all, I simply look forward to continuing to hunt God's greatest creation — the pronghorn antelope.

First Annual Membership Meeting

The Arizona Antelope Foundation held its first Annual Membership Meeting on November 11, 1993. President Pete Cimellaro welcomed the members in attendance and gave a summary of the organization's first year.

The meeting was then turned over to Don Johnson of the Nominating Committee, who announced that Article II, Section 2 of the Arizona Antelope Foundation Bylaws had been complied with and that no further nominations had been received within the 30-day time limit. He then submitted his committee's recommended slate of offic-

ers and directors for 1994 to the membership. It was unanimously approved by the membership.

The Arizona Antelope Foundation officers and directors for 1994 are as follows: President: Jim McCasland, Vice President: Henry Aguilar, Secretary: Don Johnson, Treasurer: Brian George, Directors: David E. Brown, Mike Cupell, Harry Hussey, Nancy L. Lewis, Joe Bill Pickrell and George Welsh.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

History Of Pronghorn Antelope In Arizona

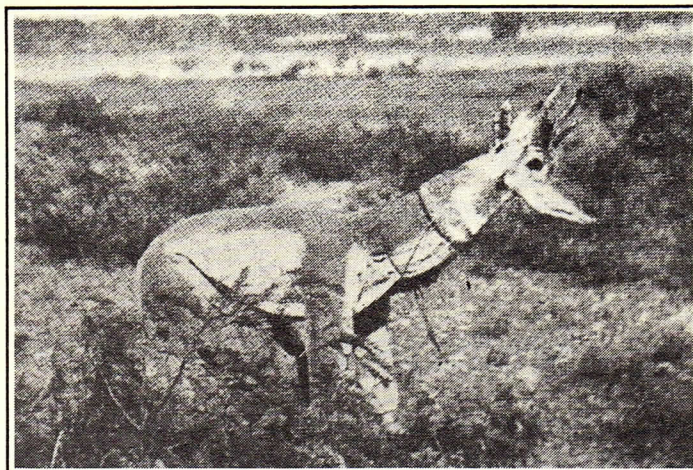
(Continued from page 1)

the prongbucks were no exception. At the time the first humans arrived in North America, around twelve thousand years ago, the only prongbuck remaining was the animal we have come to know as *Antilocapra americana* — the pronghorn antelope. Nonetheless, this pronghorn was so superbly equipped for existing on the continent's remaining grasslands and advancing deserts that it numbered in the tens of millions.

As a source of meat and sinew, pronghorn antelope rivaled deer and buffalo in importance to the Indians of western North America. Indian shamen or hunt leaders often pecked the images of pronghorn antelope on boulders and rock faces, either to invoke the animal's spirit to assist them in future hunts or to celebrate a recent successful hunt. Nobody knows the true purpose of these outdoor art galleries, but petroglyphs (rock etchings) and pictographs (painted drawings) of pronghorn antelope by prehistoric peoples are outnumbered only by those of deer and bighorn sheep.

Nearly all of Arizona's Indians hunted pronghorn antelope. Several tribes such as the Hopi, Navajo and Chemehuevi had special songs and legends regarding antelope to relate the lore of the animal's natural history and to assist them in the hunt. Unlike on the Great Plains, however, there is little, if any, evidence that Arizona Indians ever conducted drives to herd antelope over cliffs or "jumps." Nor did they use grass fires to herd antelope to waiting hunters.

Indians hunted pronghorn antelope by stalking individual animals, similar to modern archery hunters. Getting close enough for a killing shot with a wooden bow and cane arrows was no easy task, however. Also, the use of flaked stone points meant that the hunter had to be especially skilled in tracking wounded quarry. Great stealth and patience were required, and a common technique was for the hunter to don an antelope head mask or headdress and drape himself in an antelope skin. Such a guise, coupled with the judicious use of a piece of cloth or other lure, exploited the pronghorn's natural sense of curiosity and allowed the hunter to approach within shooting range. Needless to say, the number of pronghorns killed by such methods was hardly excessive, and any animals taken were quickly recouped during the next fawning season. Those who hypothesize that early man hunted the many species of prongbucks present in prehistoric times to



Indian in pronghorn hunting guise. Photo taken from Carl Lumholtz's *Unknown Mexico*, published in 1902.

extinction never hunted pronghorn antelope with a primitive bow and arrow!

When white men first came to the American West, they saw pronghorn antelope in numbers difficult to envision today. One expert has estimated that between thirty and forty million of these animals roamed the plains from Canada to central Mexico. Though they were not so numerous in arid Arizona, pronghorns were commonplace. Early explorers and travelers reported encountering "antelope" in almost every valley and on almost all of the foothills. Besides being attested to in early reports and journals, many antelope observations are commemorated by Arizona place names. Some examples include Antelope Peaks (northeast of Oracle Junction and also near Vekol Valley, both in Pinal County), Antelope Hill (along the lower Gila River in Yuma County and also west of Casa Grande in Pinal County), Antelope Pass (through the Peloncillo Mountains in Cochise County), Antelope Springs (southeast of Tombstone in Cochise County and also on the Navajo Indian Reservation) and Antelope Creek (near Yarnell in Yavapai County). Unfortunately, pronghorn antelope are no longer present in the vicinity of any of these locations. How this came to be will be addressed in the next *Pronghorn*.

David E. Brown is a wildlife biologist and author. Before retiring from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, he was Game Branch Supervisor. He currently serves as a Director on the Board of the Arizona Antelope Foundation.

HELP STOP POACHING OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call Toll Free 24 Hours A Day To Report Any
Game And Fish Violations Or Suspected Violation
1-800-352-0700