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## Dearl Adams to Show Film of Turtle Project, Adams Hits Jackpot On Ridley Turtle Hatchout - The Valley Sportsman

The Valley Sportsman (Harlingen, Tex.)

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ARCH SLIDE QL 666 .C536 R52 1960 Supp.3

ARCH SLIDE QL666.C536 R52 1960 Supp.3 Ridley Turtle Mexico Beach, South Padre Island

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# THE VALLEY Sportsman

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## VSC Will Discuss Mexican Restrictions on Guns

### SCOT Notes

(The following information is from Sportsmen Clubs of Texas with which the Valley Club is affiliated — Editor).

**THE CAMEL HAS HIS HEAD** in the tent. Governor Connally signed H. B. 917 over protests from sportsmen throughout the state. It is now a law that money in the Special Game and Fish Fund will be used to pay counties and school districts for assessments in lieu of property taxes.

If the law stands, the Parks and Wildlife Department will be the only state agency to dole out funds to counties and school districts in what would amount to taxes. Rep. Heatly in his H. B. 917 did not specify the method nor standards for assessments so the door is open.

**THE TROUBLED WATERS** OF southeast Texas got smoothed out somewhat through H.B. 741 which provides for reciprocal sport fishing and hunting in any of the waters forming a boundary by the Sabine River and Sabine Lake. Counties Jefferson, Orange, Shelby and adjacent parishes are the only ones involved. Either Louisiana or Texas licenses are good for residents in those confines.

**LOOKS LIKE CORPUS CHRISTI** pass will not be opened soon. Engineers hired by the Parks and Wildlife Department estimate a cost of \$3,400,000 for jetties, movable bridge and dredging with an \$80,000 a year maintenance cost. No one knows where the money for this project could be found.

**SPORTSMEN WILL GAIN MUCH** from the new U. S. Fish and Wildlife Sportsfish Marine Laboratory at Port Aransas. Ground breaking ceremonies were held Saturday, June 17, with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Commissioner Clarence Pautzke and Congressman John Young on hand for the affair. Pautzke said population dynamics and disease studies would be in the foreground. Another important and necessary study would be that of economics.

Meet: KENNETH HUNTER



Kenneth Hunter, who lives at 1905 E. Van Buren in Harlingen, is a game warden for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Cameron County and is familiar with the area because he was raised in the Valley.

Just a few months ago he was game warden at Port Mansfield in Willacy County and he has been with the Department about two years altogether.

A native of Vernon, in North Texas, Hunter attended the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo schools and became a sergeant on the Pharr police force for two years and he was on the Edinburg police force for three years before becoming a game warden.

His hobbies include horses, gun collecting, hunting and all outdoor sports.

He and his wife, Mary Ann, have a son, 12, and two daughters, Lynette 10 and Kathie 8.

### Adams to Show Film Of Turtle Project

Mexico's new regulation which limits visiting hunters to a single gun is sure to be discussed when the Valley Sportsmen Club meets in Pierce's Restaurant at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 11. Details of the regulation may be found on another page of this issue of the Sportsman.

The club also will hear a report from Dearn Adams of Brownsville on "Project Ridley" which had the best turtle hatch in history on Padre Island recently. This will be the program for the evening. Adams will tell about his project and show slides and movies all the way from Rancho Nuevo near Tampico where the eggs were obtained to the very successful hatchings on Padre Island.

The executive committee will hold a dinner meeting at 7 p.m. just prior to the club meeting.

At the June meeting in Raymondville, the club discussed the advisability of repainting four club signs on Padre Island and approaches. The signs at the jetties and other locations urge the public to keep the premises clean, not leave dead fish on the jetties and to observe minimum size limits (12 inches for trout and flounder and 14 inches for redfish).

It was announced at the June meeting that all the papers have finally been signed for the new boat ramp at the northern edge of Arroyo City and that the State Highway Department has asked the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit. Construction is expected to take place by fall.

The shooting range leased by the Brownsville Club was reported ready for use although it is still being improved.

Marine Biologist Joe Breuer of Harlingen talked about fishing conditions and gave many good pointers.

Edinburg and Brownsville agreed to swap dates so that the July 11 meeting of the club will be held in Edinburg and the August 8 meeting in Brownsville.

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PLENTY OF FOLKS helped Dearl and Ethel Adams with their ridley turtle project as may be seen by the size of this camp at the hatching site on Padre Island.

## Adams Hits Jackpot On Ridley Turtle Hatchout

Dearl Adams of Brownsville and his sportsmen club buddies who helped him have really hit the jackpot this time.

Some of the 2,000 Ridley turtle eggs he imported from the Rancho Nuevo Beach near Tampico under special permit from the Mexican government, started hatching a day or so earlier than anticipated on Padre Island and, as this was being written, well over half of them had hatched. This was in great contrast with last year's operation which was the most disappointing.

Adams was able to pinpoint the hatching this time because the Ridley turtle eggs were flown to Padre Island within six hours after they were laid in Mexico. In four previous years, the Valley people could not be sure just when the eggs which they brought back from Mexico had been laid and this resulted sometimes in weeks of watching.

Most of the eggs were brought to Padre Island covered with Mexican beach sand and placed in nests protected from coyotes and other predators by wire mesh.

There were dozens of kibitzers on hand as the turtles hatched and started scrambling for the gulf. They instinctively know where the Gulf of Mexico is and head there although other water, the Laguna Madre, lies right behind them. Adams is gambling on the hope that the females, when they get to be about five years old, will as instinctively return to Padre Island to lay their eggs.

The only Ridley laying area, as far as anyone knows, is that single beach near Tampico where they are subject to raids by commercial egg snatchers with very little protection from the Mexican government which, however, has shown more interest in preservation of the Ridley since Adams began his project. Mexican coast guardsmen

now guard the eggs and biologists are studying the Ridley.

Adams will report on the project and show slides and movies at the July 11, meeting of the Valley Sportsmen Club in Pierce's Restaurant at Edinburg. It is hoped that slides and movies exposed this month on Padre Island will be ready for showing at the Edinburg meeting.



GLADYS ABBOTT of Brownsville made this flag for "Ranchito Tortuguito" or "Little Ranch of the Little Turtles that flew over the hatching area on Padre Island.





DEARL AND ETHEL ADAMS with a few of the more than 1,000 ridley turtles hatched on Padre Island this year, the largest number yet in a five-year effort to restore sea turtles to Valley waters. (Foehner Photo).

## Lewis' Mounted Polar Bear To Be Here Soon

It won't be long before Bill Lewis of Harlingen, who shot a large polar bear in Alaska last winter, will have it in his electric shop on West Tyler Street in mounted form. The bear is being mounted with one paw on a seal which, incidentally, Lewis did not shoot. Lewis is going desert sheep hunting this summer and hopes to return to Alaska sometime to shoot Dall sheep.

Lewis has now entertained all four Valley Sportsmen groups and the July 14 program of the Harlingen club will consist of two movies, "Texas Hex" and "The Big Ditch." "Texas Hex" is a coastal fishing movie in color with a good many scenes from the Valley and "The Big Ditch" is on water pollution in the Arroyo. It will be Walter Plitt III who has been active in anti-pollution work. It is a shortened version of a film which appeared on Channel 4 some time ago. The July 14 meeting will be in the First National Bank.

## Fine Work, Pal!

The Weslaco Sportsmen Club recognized the good work Lewis Hartwig, former Valley and Weslaco club president, is doing by signing up new members and getting renewals. The club passed a resolution at the last meeting thanking Hartwig for the more than 60 names he had turned in.

There are quite a few members of the club who regularly work at memberships, turning in a steady stream of new names and renewals. If each member of the club got just one new member apiece we could double our membership. Let's more of us work at it. Sometimes bringing a friend to a meeting will help turn the trick.

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