

The Game and Fish Commission's

Black Gap Wildlife Mar



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Wildlife Management Area

By JAY VESSELS

Assistant Director, Publications

Flying Game Warden Frank Hamer, ex-U. S. M. C., slipped into the cockpit of the new Cessna 170 after tucking in his passenger. He gunned the engine to a reassuring purr, and they scooted off the giant hangar apron and out to the bomber-size runways which dwarfed the sturdy little aircraft.

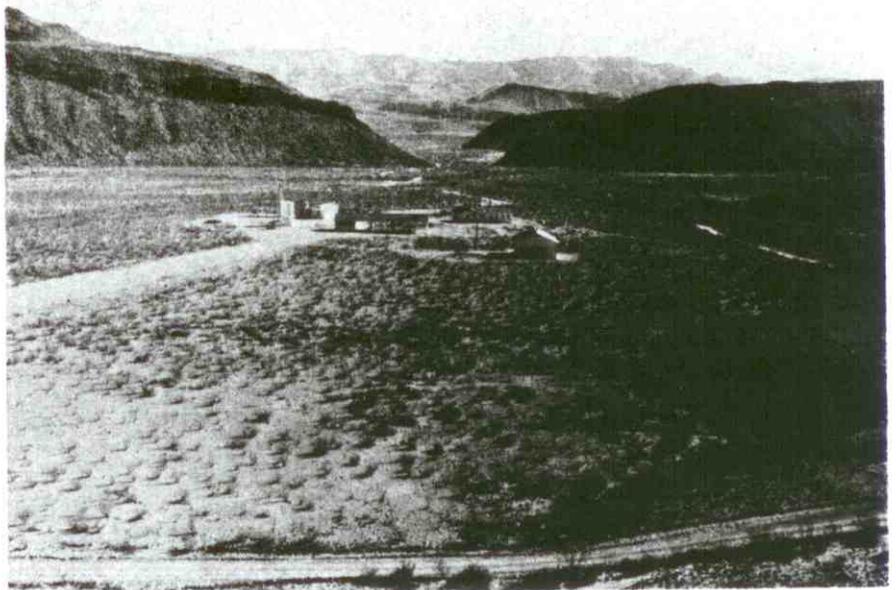
Hamer got tower clearance, pro-saically pulled his mount off the concrete and asked for a weather report. The pilot did not like the fuzz that cloaked the long ridges and high peaks because that hampered sight-seeing and, frankly, it did cut into maximum safety.

That was Hamer's concern, because the target was the remote Black Gap management area newly created by the Game and Fish Commission to help restore wildlife in the Big Bend country.

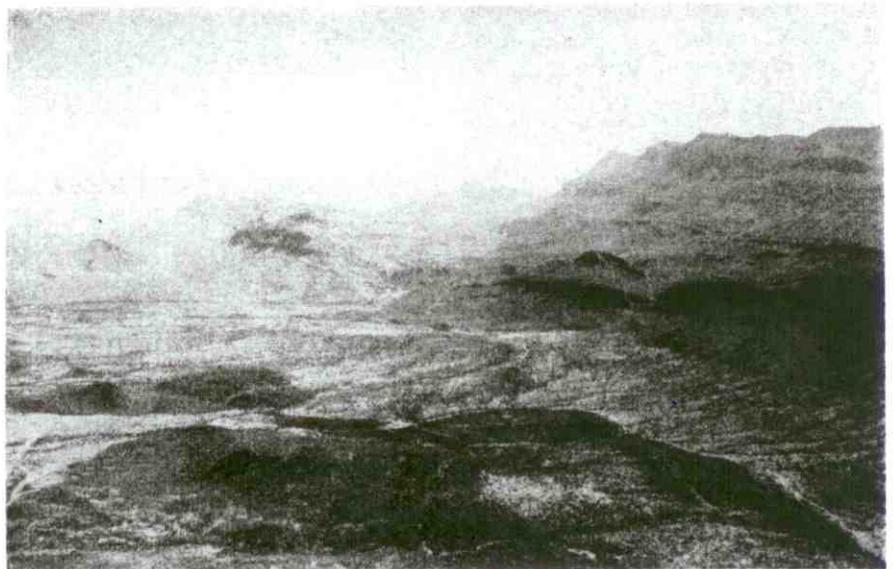
The trip was strictly routine for Hamer, personally. His aerial beat covers the isolated back country which is barely accessible to motor transport. This day of limited visibility he was just like any flying man feeling responsible for his passenger. But, once convinced the weather outposts would protect him from sudden "socking in" from dust, Hamer relaxed and began answering questions with the self confidence of a Fifth Avenue sightseeing bus driver.

The objective roughly was the Dead Horse Mountains. Landmarks along the way included Old Nigger Head, Persimmon Gap, Elephant Mountains and Dog Canyon, with a story about each which Hamer enthusiastically related.

Photos by Hunter's of Alpine



Looking east through Black Gap from headquarters of the management area. Sierra del Carmins in the background.



Looking south into Mexico, the Sierra del Carmins appear in the background. Dead Horse range is on the right.