Farm wife makes mark

(Continued from Page B2) bouquet of daisies

Another trip took them to Black Beard's Island, on the Georgia coast, a legendary hideaway of the notorious high seas pirate. Hunters had to be on the stands before daylight, setting off while the moon was still shining, but were forbidden to shoot before 9 a.m.

Huge, ancient oak trees cover much of the forested, swampy island, and some of the Hare's hunting companions came back with tales of seeing water moccasins slithering through the marshy grass. While Clyde bagged his limit of two, Mabel found her mark only once.

"Hunting isn't as much work using a bow," is Mabel's assessment of archery. "Instead of walking after the game, you wait for it; plus there's the challenge of letting game get very close.

When that arrow does leave the bow, she wants to be very sure that the hit will be a lethal one, not just an injury which cripples the deer. Because of that standard, and in spite of her expertise at distances, Mabel sits tight until a deer is within 15 to 20 yards, closer than she did in earlier years.

Both she and Clyde are also extremely selective, shooting only mature animals, and never small,

Once her target is hit, she walks for up to 30 minutes before giving chase. It's a practice Clyde taught her from the first years of archery. A stricken deer, if chased immediately, will flee often great distances. With no one in pursuit, the animal usually travels just a short way and then lies down.

Even the best shots, sometimes, are simply left go.

While in a stand once, Mabel watched as a partially-grown fawn worked its way from the woods toward a stand of apple trees, the mother warily following. Able to see the ribs protruding on the gaunt, still-nursing, doe, Mabel left the bow untouched.

"Her baby needed her much more than I did.

Archery excellence has won the Hare's an array of trophies and awards which dot their farmhouse, along with mounts of very special trophy deer.

One is Mabel's first, a spike buck taken in Lycoming County. Others are award-winning specimens, including her 10-point whitetail from Eastern Shore which won Mabel the Maryland competition ın 1970.

With archery season now history tor this year, the Hare's have both meat and memories of still another

hunt. Some of the venison will be used in Mabel's favorite 'ham'' recipe. She roasts a whole "ham" portion of the leg, with pineapples, in a slow to moderate oven for several hours Sliced cold, this venison makes excellent sandwich and cold-cut type meat Other portions become roasts, stew meat, chops and spicy bologna.

Although thousands of other farmers still await rifle season for whitetails, Mabel Hare's advice from behind the bowstring is just as viable applied to the butt of a nimrod's firearm. Sit Be quiet. Have patience.

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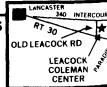








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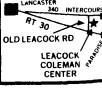








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