

ALLIGATOR SKINS BRING GOOD PRICES

Killing and skinning alligators is the profession of Ernest McGee and August McGee and their wives. The hides are marketed for good prices. They arrived in Eagle Lake, Texas, from a season of alligator hunting in Sabine Lake and pitched their camp upon the shore of Cedar Lake, near Bay City. During the first three nights of hunting the two men killed 163 alligators. Their wives do the skinning of the saurians, which measure from two to eight feet.

The McGees hunt from boats on the lake each night, beginning as soon as it is dark. They use a headlight worn on their heads for shining into the alligator's eyes. They hunt in separate boats and can easily sight the eyes of an alligator, which look like two red coals of fire when the headlight is reflected on them.

On the first night the hunters succeeded in bringing in 60 alligators. They use shotguns to kill the larger alligators and most of the smaller ones were killed with a .22 caliber. However, quite a number of the smaller alligators were captured without being wounded. When the light is thrown on them the boat is rowed up to the saurian and the hunter reaches down and jerks it into the boat before it knows what it is all about. Then a sharp hatchet is applied to a spot in the back of the neck and it is all over with that alligator.

The two men spend most of the night out on the lake hunting. After they get back to camp and deposit their boatload of alligators on the sleeping while their wives do the alligator skinning, the hides being salted, carefully rolled and packed in boxes for shipping to market.

Mrs. August McGee was busily engaged in alligator skinning when a visitor called at their camp.

"No, it isn't hard work," she answered in reply to a question. "It's fascinating when you know how to do it, and it can be done so easily that I really enjoy it."

"The knives have got to be sharp," she said, "but the men folks keep them in splendid shape for us," she continued as she finished skinning a two and a half footer, rolled the skin into a neat little package and placed it in a box where a hundred others were salted down.

"Going to skin another one?" she was asked when she reached down under the bench and brought another small one to the top of the table.

"Yes, and I want to finish all that pile over there," pointing to a pile of alligators of all lengths under a tree, "before it gets too hot."

She was asked how long it would take her to complete the job.

"Well, I don't know exactly," she said, "but I have skinned as many as 41, cooked dinner for three hunters and myself and finished up washing the dishes by noon."

Alligators measuring from two to seven feet are the choice ones for the hide market, August McGee explained stating that no matter how long an alligator is the markets pay only for a seven-foot length. The skin is not taken off the backs of the larger alligators, but the full skin, back and all is taken from the smaller ones.

Americans Look to Germany to Supply Canary Pets.

In 1922 America imported 192,000 canaries; in 1925 the number had risen to 495,514, valued at \$748,381. Of these Germany sent 311,000—almost 65 per cent of the total. That year, 1925, there were nearly 1,000,000 birds sold in the United States in all, bringing in well toward \$30,000,000 receipts for cages, feed through the years and accessories.

There are 4,000,000 homes in the United States today in which there are one or more canaries, and since there are some 25,000,000 homes in this country altogether, the market is still far from saturated.

More pets are being sold every year. One odd market for canaries that has developed recently is the traveling fair or carnival, where birds are given as prizes to winners of games of chance, instead of fluffly dolls so popular a few years ago.

A dealer in a small town on the New Jersey coast said last year that for weeks after such a carnival had visited his neighborhood, he was busy explaining to disappointed persons that female canaries do not sing. He sold some of these persons male canaries, allowing them \$1 or \$2 for the female canaries in exchange.

But usually, although the persons who won the birds at these fairs have not previously had the remotest idea of owning a canary, some member of the family becomes attached to the new pet, song or no song, and the bird stays. One recent newspaper interview gave as an estimate 97,000 canaries in cages disposed of through these carnivals in a single season.

"Grammar is a most confusing affair," remarked Cassidy to his friend. "I never can remember whether to say 'It is I' or 'It is me.'"

"I can give you a good rule on that," returned his friend. "Just say over to yourself this rhyme: 'It is I, said the spider to the fly, and there ye are.'"

A few days later the friend met Mike and inquired if the rule had been of any help.

"It would have been but for one thing," replied Cassidy. "I couldn't for the life of me remember whether your rhyme was: 'It is I, said the spider to the fly, or it is me, said the spider to the flea.'"—Boston Transcript.

Patronizing elderly man: Well, little girl, and what are you going to do when you grow up to be a big woman like your mother?

Modern child:—Diet, of course.—Judge.

MUSKRAT FARMING IS EASY AND QUITE PROFITABLE.

Man has engaged in the trapping of fur bearing animals since the early ages. The women of the stone age wore furs as clothing, the modern women wear furs not alone because of its warmth but for its beauty and their personal adornment. Trappers spurred by high prices have ruthlessly depleted the wild supply. The drainage and reclamation of swamp lands have destroyed the breeding grounds of millions of muskrats. So if we are to have dependable supply of fur they must be raised. Statistics compiled by Frank G. Ashbrook, of the U. S. biological survey shows that the muskrat is the most important of all fur bearers. More than 50 per cent of all fur used today is muskrat. His glossy pelt is not only used in its natural state, but when dyed is sold as Hudson seal, river mink, southern beaver, neutria, otter, sable and many other popular furs. For the past few years the demand for muskrat pelts has exceeded the supply by from 15 to 20 million pelts. The result of this demand has prompted the commercial raising of this little fur bearer, by some of our largest manufacturing furriers and far-sighted individuals. Muskrat farming is a business the same as banking, manufacturing or mining. It is as practical as the raising of sheep, cattle or hogs, the difference being that it is from five to ten times as profitable.

To successfully raise muskrats one must have a spring-fed marshy swamp with an outlet which can be dammed, so that a uniform level may be obtained. The depth of the water and muck, or floating bog, must be sufficient so that it will not freeze to the bottom in the most severe winter, the result of which would be cutting off the food supply and the starvation of the animals, unless artificially fed. The swamp lands must abound in the natural foods of the muskrat such as cat-swamp bullrushes, duck millet, three blade grass, wild rice wapato, and wild celery. The location must also have high dry ground surrounding the swamp on which fences are built. Proper fencing is of the utmost importance. Sixteen-gauge galvanized wire six feet wide of one-inch mesh should be sunk well into the dry hard ground, about two feet, that part which is above ground should be bordered at the top with a wide band of galvanized sheet steel, this not only affords the muskrat protection from his enemies such as the minks, weasels, and others, but confines him within the enclosure. Should an attempt to climb the fence be made by the muskrat or his enemies they find it impossible to obtain a foothold when the smooth steel is reached. The smart rancher rids his waters of the carnivorous fish and turtles, also insures protection against the crows, hawks and owls, all of which prey upon the young muskrats. Crop of root vegetables, such as carrots, parsnips, and sugar beets should be planted, stored in root cellars and fed during the winter months, by using feeding houses. On ranches where the muskrats are in the habit of using the feeding houses, the rancher has the opportunity of scientifically feeding during the breeding season, which results in a larger number of young litters. Another decided advantage of feeding houses is the ability to catch the animals. Trap doors are over the entrances, by closing them when one wishes to make a catch the muskrat cannot escape. This enables the rancher to market only prime pelts, which command the highest prices. Number one prime muskrat pelts today are selling as high as \$4.25 on the New York markets.

If a muskrat farm is ideally located, properly fenced and equipped, it is bound to be a money-maker. We do not have to dig under ground for it. It is a never-failing crop, unaffected by hot, cold, wet, or dry weather. It is the natural functioning of nature and is sure. The law of the reproduction of nature assures muskrat farmers of success.

Muskrat Farms Show Profit as Fur Prices Rise.

The "lowly" musk rat, believed in 'olden times' an almost worthless animal, is so valuable at the present time for skins in the making of "milady's" fur coats, that the raising of these small water-rodents, so-called 'Rat-Farming' has become one of the foremost fur industries in the United States, according to furriers and sportsmen who own large 'rat-farms.'

One of the largest of these unique places is located between Venetice, Pa., near Sandusky and Bay Bridge, a small hamlet on the eastern shore of Sandusky Bay. It consists of 178 acres of marshland and is owned by Cy and Clarence Nielsen, sons of Alex Nielsen, nationally known sportsman and guide and pioneer Sandusky Bay trapper.

"Developing and maintaining a 'rat farm' is not an easy task," the Niensens told visitors.

The 'rat-farmers' have constructed lagoons, canals and a pumping station in order to keep the 'farm' covered with water when it goes dry, because, they said muskrats will "positively not stay where there is no water." The Nielsen farm becomes dry between July and September, it was said.

The habits and life of these amphibious animals are interesting as explained by the Nielsen brothers of their 'rat-herd.'

"Muskrats possess an instinct that is almost uncanny," Cy Nielsen explained. "They know just when severe weather is going to set in, and real winter weather catches them napping."

"You'll suddenly hear them gnawing at marsh grass stalks and then you will see them carrying the stalks to a certain spot where in due time their 'home' or hut will be completed. The hut is a structure resembling a 'pit' in which our forefathers used to 'bury' potatoes for the winter season."

HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 1.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12				13	
14				15				16	17
18				19				20	21
22	23							24	25
26	27			28				29	30
				32				33	
34				35				36	37
				41				42	
44	45			46				47	48
51				52				53	54
55								56	
58									59

- (© 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)
- Horizontal.**
- 1—Base, servile
 - 4—Double teeth
 - 11—Single points
 - 12—Before
 - 13—Drug producing plant
 - 14—Point of the compass
 - 16—Clatter
 - 18—A small child
 - 19—An item of property
 - 21—Shade tree
 - 22—Finish
 - 24—Fruit-bearing part of a cereal plant
 - 26—Precious
 - 28—Employed
 - 29—Conjunction
 - 34—Mass of floating ice
 - 36—Play on words
 - 38—Cooled, or made cold
 - 41—A weapon
 - 42—A Shoshone
 - 43—Mineral; also a color
 - 44—A low haunt
 - 45—Public speaker
 - 46—Record of events
 - 48—Vex
 - 49—Irish of burden
 - 51—Gaelic
 - 52—Mark with seams
 - 59—Name, usually given to pet dog
- Vertical.**
- 1—To persecute
 - 2—Reverberate
 - 3—Neutral
 - 4—Doctrine
 - 5—Smaller
 - 6—Pure
 - 7—Latitude (abbr.)
 - 8—Varies
 - 9—Revolve
 - 10—Appeared
 - 15—Evil
 - 17—Took food
 - 20—Petition
 - 22—Positively not
 - 23—Examine accounts
 - 27—Pointed instrument
 - 28—What maple sugar is made from
 - 29—Falled
 - 31—Protract
 - 32—Tree of oola-nut family (pl.)
 - 37—Exclamation of disgust
 - 39—Tree of pine family (pl.)
 - 40—Harder to penetrate
 - 42—Low like a cow
 - 43—A large vase
 - 45—Ireland
 - 47—Pack tightly
 - 48—A direction
 - 52—A small mound
 - 54—Fresh
- Solution will appear in next issue.

150-Year-Old Boxwood Tree Moved 27 Miles.

On hundred and fifty years ago a tiny boxwood tree was planted in front of King George's Tavern, near New Tripoli, Pa., and after having stood as a silent guardian in that spot while the Revolution, the Civil and the Spanish-American wars were fought, it has been given a change of scenery.

This was learned with the announcement that the venerable tree, known to hundreds of motorists, has been purchased by Robert P. Hutchinson, president of the Bethlehem Fabricators, and removed by motor truck to his spacious estate, Kenridge at Macada, where it stands out as the main attraction among hundreds of other choice shrubs and trees.

The purchase was made from John S. Mosser, of New Tripoli, on whose property it stood. It is said that the consideration was in the neighborhood of \$400.

Although the records of King George's Tavern were lost in a fire that destroyed Miller's hotel in New Tripoli, it is known that it was built more than 150 years ago, and that during the French and Indian wars served as a hiding place for stores and provisions.

The tree itself is considered one of the largest specimens in existence, and stands 130 feet high with a circumference of 66 feet. The work of moving it required a week's careful preparation and the actual load when the transfer was made being estimated at 25 tons.

Having survived despite the rigors of many seasons, having heard the creak of the ox cart, the shrill toot of the automobile horn and the whir of the airplane; having quivered at the report of the gun, and shaded the exhausted frontiersmen; having been admired by generations of nature lovers, the grand old tree stands today as a symbol of the sturdiness of the peoples in whose midst it grew.

One hundred and fifty years is a long time to wait for a change of scenery, and having achieved it, this King of Boxwoods continues its silent vigil, lifting its branches in state-ly grandeur to guard with solemn dignity the destinies of its new estate.

Very Simple Matter to Build Receiving Set.

Any amateur who knows how to handle a screw driver and how to bend a piece of wire with a pair of pliers can build a receiving set. The soldering of the connections is reduced to its simplest expression because the wires used and the terminals on all the apparatus are timed and the soldering, if required, is no difficulty worth mentioning. It is not necessary to have a knowledge to read diagrams of hook-ups. To build any standard circuit, full size drawings are furnished showing very plainly the place each part occupies in the assembly and the various wires connected to each one.

Half the City Council are Crooks.

A retraction in full was demanded of the editor under penalty of arrest. Next afternoon the headline read, "Half the City Council Aren't Crooks."—Lethbridge Herald.

TALKS WITH THE EDITOR.

PACIFY DEARLY

P	A	N	T	R	E	F	O	I	L	O	A	R
I	T	O	A	O	M	E	S					
E	R	A	G	E	P	E	T					
G	R	P	S	E	N	O	R	E	T			
E	R	T	E	R	O	E	S	I	N	O	D	
S	C	E	R	I	N	A	T	E	B	E		
L	A	A	M	I	A	B	L	E				
H	I	A	S	P	G	E	E	L	B	C		
U	N	C	L	E	N	O	R	L	A	R	C	H
R	E	L	T	O	N	I	C	P	O	I		
A	T	P	I	A	I	S						
H	A	M	P	E	R	F	O	R	M	H	I	S
B	E	F	O	R	E	R	A	T	H	E	R	

Mile Posts on Road in Conserving of Penn's Woods.

1681—William Penn in his charter of right to the Colonists of Pennsylvania stated: "In clearing the ground care should be taken to leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared, especially to preserve the oak and mulberries for silk and shipping."

1877—Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, Father of Forestry in Pennsylvania, appointed Michaux Lecturer in Forestry at the University of Pennsylvania.

1886—Organization of Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

1898—First land acquired for State forests, June 13. The present area of the State forests comprises, 1,133,050 acres.

1901—State Department of Forestry established. The first State Department of Forestry established by any State.

1903—Pennsylvania State Forest School established on Mont Alto State forest under the direction of the Department of Forests and Waters. The oldest school of its kind and next to the oldest existing forest school in America.

Druggists Now Sell Snake Bite Cure; No Prescription Needed.

Even if it were legal there is no longer any excuse for carrying old-fashioned antidotes for snake bites, Dr. William G. Turnbull, asserted recently. Science, Dr. Turnbull said, has punctured a tradition that dates back to the time when hip pockets were considered a necessary part of a man's clothing.

Dr. Turnbull referred to a newly-developed anti-venom serum which, if used immediately, is effective for snake bites. The serum is of such a nature that those who carry it are not tempted to use it prematurely. It may be obtained at drug stores—without prescriptions.

All organized camps and parties of campers should carry the serum with them, Dr. Turnbull advised.

The Retort Courteous.

Bertie's school report had just come in. It wasn't very good.

"I'm losing patience with you!" exclaimed his father. "How is it that young Jones is always at the top of the class, while you are at the bottom?"

The boy looked at his father reproachfully. "You forget, dad," he said kindly, "that Jones has awfully clever parents."—Tawney Kat.

Where Training Pays

Each year business becomes more specialized. The jack of all trades finds himself without employment, for he lacks special training in any particular calling. No where is this truer than in financial affairs, and people are turning to banks to perform services that used to be given to individuals without special knowledge.

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Use Good Judgment

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