

# USE AIRPLANE TO KILL EAGLE FLOCK.

Using a swift training plane to "beat the birds at their own game," a Texas flier and an expert marksman recently annihilated in several hours a flock of eagles which for a year or more had menaced sheep in the El Paso district. In so doing they not only solved one of the great difficulties of the sheep growing industry in the Lone Star State, but at the same time developed a novel use for small aeroplanes.

The story of the plane hunt, as told by R. P. Langford, manager of the R. and A. Airway and Gordon M. Porter, an El Paso newspaper man who witnessed the spectacular eagle hunt, has just reached the offices of the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation.

According to these men, the eagles, some of them with a wing spread of nine feet, had evidently selected the sheep ranches near El Paso as a choice spot for their predatory activities. Soaring lazily in wide circles, about 5,000 feet up, one of the huge birds would suddenly swoop to the ground. Others would follow and before ranchmen could do anything about it, several young lambs, worth \$300, were carried off in this manner. In a single season stock valued at more than \$2,000 was lost.

Shotguns fired by watchmen were long ago proved worthless, as eagles, guided by unerring instinct, seemed to know how to keep out of range of such weapons. The situation had become serious, and the sheep growers were at their wits' end.

This was before Clarence E. Robey, pilot, and H. S. Bernhardt, marksman, both of El Paso, Texas, took to the air in their Consolidated Fleet training plane and cleaned out the entire eagle flock. Using a plane that could out-climb, out-manuever and out-dive even these birds, the two men accomplished in a single day what the owners of the ranch had been unable to do in two years.

Bernhardt, an El Paso motorcycle patrolman, was selected to do the shooting because of his ability to fire accurately from any position. An automatic shotgun, using heavy buckshot, was the weapon decided upon.

Early one morning, Robey and Bernhardt circled over the ranch for nearly an hour, flying at an altitude of more than 10,000 feet.

Soon they saw an eagle circling lazily a few hundred feet below them and about a quarter of a mile away. Robey turned the plane toward the bird to bring it within shooting range.

Just as Bernhardt was about to shoot, the bird suddenly began to drop. It caught sight of a young lamb. Putting the plane into a power dive, the men and bird raced downward for thousands of feet, circling an swerving, the eagle with its eye on the sheep, the men watching the eagle. When the bird had come within a few hundred feet of the ground it stopped in its headlong drop. Robey jerked back on the stick and as he leveled off there were three quick reports from Bernhardt's gun. The eagle dropped dead.

Sometimes the program was varied, but with all the same result—a dead eagle. No one bird thus sighted escaped. A few of the eagles tried to fly away from the ship or dodge it, but in every case the plane was able to out-manuever them. Once or twice Bernhardt tried shooting over the top of the wing of the ship striking the bird from below. It worked once, but the bird came so close to falling into the propeller it was decided best to shoot over the side and down.

At the end of eight hours of hard and fast flying nine birds had been killed.

## MONTANA CLAIMS FIRST AERIAL SHEEP HERDER.

First the name of Earl Vance was synonymous with aviation in Montana; then it became in the last few years associated with sheep raising, a highly remunerative pursuit with prevailing wool prices.

Now the erstwhile Miles City (Mont.) pioneer pilot has brought his two loves together, and he is an aerial sheep herder.

Vance in his idle moments runs the principal air taxi service there. He also owns several flocks of "woolies." But his sheep, as all good sheep do in the Rockies, have a habit of straying, so Earl hops in his singlenseater biplane and goes a hunting. To date he has recaptured three recalcitrant bands of sheep that strayed from their grazing grounds.

"They're the easiest things in the world to spot from the air," remarks Vance. "I don't know the special ba-ba of my bands, but if I see a bunch that is in a pocket of the mountains alone, I know darned well they are mine."

## PENN STATE SENDS CATTLE TO CHINA.

Penn State shipped a Holstein and two Jersey heifers to Lingnan University at Canton, China, last week.

For many years the college has been interested in the agricultural college at the Chinese institution. Two Penn State graduates are located at the school, G. V. Groff, a 1907 graduate, being dean and L. M. Zook, a 1929 graduate, serving as instructor. Dean R. L. Watts, of the Penn State School of Agriculture, long served as a trustee of the institution and chapel offerings of Penn State students have gone to finance the work.

—Rear the Watchman.

## CLOTHES OR HOME.

"Forward ribbons," said the motor-

man. "Forward carpetsweepers," said the conductor, and then they both grinned and the car slowed down at the corner for a good-looking young fellow in a smart rain coat, and shoes that he would undoubtedly call "classy," and a pretty girl in a red coat and a red hat and a red umbrella—all to match.

Nice-looking young couple they were. Well dressed, prosperous good humored, smiling—I wondered why the motorman and the conductor grinned when they saw them waiting for the car—and in the afternoon when I went home on the car I asked the conductor about it.

You see, I've known that particular conductor for a good many years, and every once in a while he tells me the news about transfers and wages and things—sometimes we even discuss the stock market or the newest form of some new religion.

Nice fellow the conductor—and intelligent—has a nice little wife and two children. He commutes to his little home in the suburbs and he carries a picture of his wife and the two children in his pocket—a snapshot he took from the front of his little house one day.

He grinned again when I asked him about "forward ribbons."

"Oh well," he said, I'm just kind of old fashioned I guess, that's a nice young couple—they ride down to work with us every day.

"He's in ribbons, and she's in household goods. They have a couple of furnished rooms down the street and sometimes when she's been to the dentist or something and they don't come together, she asks me if he's been along yet."

"Nice little thing, I'd like to see her in a home of her own, that's all, but I guess she wouldn't care about that, she's got to have clothes you know, and shoes—the right kind—and silk stockings, and, of course the young fellow can't buy them for her, so she keeps her job and they hurry home at night and buy chipped beef, and baked beans, or codfish cakes, or potato salad, at the delicatessen run home, and make a pot of coffee—and that's that."

"At night they go to the pictures or window shopping—they seem to hate to stay at home, they're just like thousands of other young couples, I guess."

"I went home the other night and told my wife I thought she ought to go to work and help make the last few payments on the house."

I knew of a good job for her, I said, I thought she was going to throw the coffee pot at me.

"She had a good job when I married her, but she's old-fashioned, too, and she'd rather have a home, and a couple of kids than the best job in the world."

"Not much class to her, I guess, nor to me, either."

"Well, it's a good thing we are not all alike, isn't it?"

"It certainly is," said I, and when I walked down the street I kept thinking of the conductor, and the little home he is buying and his wife who hasn't "class" enough to care much about clothes, and his children and the new Alredale pup somebody gave him the other day and the way the conductor looks when he tells you about them—dear me, I am afraid I am hopelessly old fashioned, too.

Are you—by any chance?

## MOST EXECUTIONS OCCUR BEFORE SUNRISE.

It is impossible to say just why dawn is the favorite time for executions. The custom of putting condemned persons to death early in the morning is very old and one writer suggests that it may be a survival of the practices of prehistoric sunworshippers who offered human sacrifices at sunrise. Another writer thinks the practice is of military origin. Persons condemned to death in the army were shot as early as possible on the specified day, which was just as soon as it was light enough for the firing squad to see to take accurate aim. Be this as it may, there are several good reasons for following the practice at the present time. The day on which an execution is to take place is set by the court; the exact hour is generally left to the discretion of prison officials. Usually the unpleasant task is performed when it will interfere least with the routine of prison life, which is as early as possible in the day, when the prisoners are in cells and most of them are asleep. A pending execution depresses all the inmates of a prison, and if the condemned prisoners were electrocuted or hanged during the day or early in the night the other prisoners might be incited to a demonstration if not a riot. Where executions are public the number of morbid spectators is reduced by having it at dawn.

## MANY WILD DEER VISIT PENN STATE NATURE CAMP.

With the conclusion next week of the first nature camp conducted by the summer session of the Pennsylvania State College, the second group of naturalists will move into the camp located in the Tussey mountains. Registrations are still being received for the second camp, according to Professor George R. Green, director of the camp, and there probably will be places available for students until the opening day of the camp, July 16. The camp will continue until August 8.

The present group have seen a great many deer, Professor Green said, in addition to a number of smaller animals. The deer seem to be more numerous this year than in former seasons. The camp is located between two tracts of virgin forest, both public preserves, which makes for an abundance of wild life.

—Read the Watchman and get all the news.

## NEED 10,000 PILOTS FOR MILITARY DUTY.

For a major emergency the United States should have 10,000 trained military pilots upon whom it could call for immediate service, in the opinion of Maj. Gen. James E. Fechet, chief of the army air corps. Of this number there should be 2,500 in actual service in the regular army, he believes.

In testifying before a subcommittee of the house appropriations committee during consideration of the War Department appropriations bill, General Fechet declared that there are only 4,000 first class pilots in the country who are fit for military service without special training. These men are in the army and navy air services or are kept in continuous training through the reserve system. There are 1,064 reserve pilots ready for emergency duty, he said.

The ordinary commercial pilot who has had no military training is not available for emergency duty, General Fechet pointed out. Before he can be used he must be given a general military training. Many commercial flyers never can be qualified as military pilots because they fail to possess qualifications which a fighting pilot must have, but which are not required for ordinary flying.

The military pilot must fly instinctively and not mechanically, he declared. He must be able to fly tight, close formations and to carry out his work without endangering the other men.

"Some men," said the air corps chief, "cannot fly that way, because they just absolutely cannot fly close. Their nervous makeup prevents them from doing it. Others, when they are close, are so occupied in watching the other ships that they make poor formation flyers."

In addition the military pilot must know the use of machine guns, the use of bomb sights and the dropping of bombs, aerial photography and observation work. He must have military training, ground work on engines and instruments and navigation. He must know enough of military tactics and operation to cooperate intelligently with ground forces. Many commercial pilots would require from two to eight months training to become good military pilots, General Fechet estimated.

## PREDICTS COLLAPSE OF STONE MEMORIAL.

Samuel H. Venable, former owner of Stone Mountain, issued a warning that Stone Mountain, the South's unfinished Confederate Memorial, was doomed to fall and smash. He said a rift in the stone behind the massive sculpture of General Robert E. Lee's horse would ultimately cause the work to collapse.

## MAPLE SUGAR SEASON WAS ABOVE AVERAGE.

The maple syrup and sugar season in Pennsylvania this year was one of the best in the past decade, according to the Federal State crop reporting service, Pennsylvania department of agriculture.

The season opened in January and continued an average of 4.7 weeks compared with the usually short season of 2.6 weeks last year. Weather conditions were rather favorable throughout and exceptionally good in March in most localities.

The number of trees tapped—565,000—was the same in 1930 as in 1929 but more than twice as much sugar and almost three times as much syrup was made. According to the official estimates, 87,000 pounds of sugar and 224,000 gallons of syrup were made. In terms of sugar, the total production this year amounted to 1,879,000 pounds compared with 723,000 pounds in 1929. The average production per tree this season—3.333 pounds—is one of the highest on record in the Commonwealth and exceeds that of any other State for the present year. Production per tree in other States is as follows: Massachusetts, 2.80 pounds; New York, 2.60; New Hampshire, 2.35; Ohio, 2.47; Wisconsin, 2.27; Michigan, 2.61.

Since there was little rain or snow during the season, the sap was reported as very good and the quality of the product was placed at 96 compared with 92 a year ago. Prices reported for sugar were higher this year than last but last year's crop of syrup, despite the lower quality, sold at about six cents more per gallon. This year, sugar averaged 35 cents per pound and syrup \$2.08 per gallon, the report indicated.

Pennsylvania now stands fifth in production of maple products being outranked, in order named, by Vermont, New York, Ohio, and Michigan.

The average salary of a Congregational minister in New Hampshire is \$1,599 a year. "Why don't they (ministers) save something for a rainy day?" a layman once said to a minister's wife. "My goodness, deacon!" she replied. "In the minister's family it rains every day."

## CONTROL OF APHIDS ON ROSES AND VEGETABLES.

Many housewives have asked the county agent for methods of controlling aphids or plant lice which are quite numerous this year on roses, indoor plants and garden plants. These common pests may be recognized and controlled as follows: Aphids or plant lice are small, soft bodied, sucking insects which range in color from a yellowish green, through green to black. Winged and wingless forms often work on plants at the same time.

The damage is caused by the withdrawing of plant juices which usually result in a deformation of the part of the plant attacked. When the insects occur in large numbers the plants may be entirely destroyed. Leaves that are attacked curl or become discolored and drop. Spraying with Nicotine sulphate (black leaf 40) is effective against these pests. One teaspoonful of nicotine sulphate and one cup full of hydrated lime should be added to two quarts of water for spraying. The amount of nicotine used, however, should be increased in order to take care of the more resistant forms which sometimes attack peas. Timeliness of application is important. Control measures should start as soon as the aphids appear. Several treatments may be necessary, especially if lice are very abundant. Nicotine applications will be most effective if made when the daily temperature's average is above 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

## READY MADE HOME SATISFIES BEAVER.

Frank P. Plessinger, a surveyor for the Game Commission, has reported a colony of beavers in Wyoming county which apparently found a ready made home and dam for their use.

The new colony was found in Stony Brook using a flat rock about 20 feet in diameter as a shelter. The rock is tilted against the bank, providing the under wave entrance which the beavers demand. The depth of water at the place made a dam unnecessary. The beaver colony is subsisting on the aspen growing nearby.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

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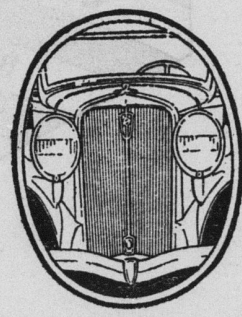
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