

The Outdoorsman



Hunting Costs Analyzed

By Don Macalady

Big game hunting can be expensive, but it doesn't have to be. Today I'd like to dispel some miscalculations which many people make about the initial and continuing cost of local big game hunting.

The first and usually the biggest headache is buying a high-powered rifle. Any good new rifle will cost nearly \$100 and even used rifle bargains are in the \$50 - \$60 range.

Besides the obvious solution of using a shotgun with rifled slugs, there is another way to cut this initial cost.

In almost every sports magazine are found numerous advertisements proclaiming the sale of various foreign and domestic military rifles. To an informed buyer, who knows what to buy and what not to buy, these sales provide an opportunity to obtain an accurate, serviceable high-powered rifle at a very low initial cost.

Many of these rifles can be used with little or no adaptation, and will serve the average deer and bear hunter's needs. Others may require minor or major alterations.

The rifles listed below can be used with no alteration. Even on these, a little sawing and/or filing on the stock can be a big help in reducing the rifle's weight. All require at least minor sight adjustments.

Those suitable "as is" include (with condition and current standard prices in parentheses): U.S. Model 1917 Enfield, caliber 30-06 (very good—\$30.00); British S.M.L.E. Lee Enfield jungle carbine, caliber .303 (very good—\$25.00); G33/50 Model 95 Swedish Mauser carbine, caliber 8.5X55 mm. (excellent—\$30.00); and Steyr Model 1930 Mannlicher Schonauer carbine, caliber 6.5 mm. Mann-Schon. (very good—\$35.00).

Good rifles which can be used with only stock and/or sight changes include: Late Models of the British Lee Enfield rifle, caliber .303 (very good—\$10 - \$20); WWII Model 98 German Mauser rifles, caliber 8 mm. (good—\$30.00); and pre-war Japanese Ariska rifles and carbines, caliber 6.6 or 7.7 mm. (very good—\$20 - \$35). Good Japanese rifles are becoming scarce, however, so be wary of "bargains."

Of the second group of rifles, most can be made into a suitable sporting arm with the addition of a sporterized stock, and a set of open sights.

A good quality semi-inletted stock can be purchased for about \$7.00. By finishing and fitting the stock yourself, additional money can be saved.

Sights, too, are relatively inexpensive. A good outfit for woods shooting will cost about \$10 - \$15, installed.

Here are rifles which I don't recommend for sporting purposes: Italian Terni rifles and carbines, Spanish and Mexican Model 93 and 95 rifles and carbines, Italian Carcano carbines, Canadian Ross rifles, Swiss straight-pull rifles, Austrian Model 88/90 Mannlicher, and French Model 1874 rifles. All are obsolete or use ammunition which is not readily available.

So, by wisely buying and converting military weapons, an economy-minded hunter can obtain a suitable deer and bear rifle for \$25 - \$35.

If you are interested in doing an extensive conversion job on any popular military weapon, there is an excellent book on the subject. It's called "How to Convert Military Rifles," and can be purchased from the Williams Gun Sight Co., Davidson, Mich., for fifty cents. The book gives details on problems and drawbacks plus the advantages of converting many military rifles to sporting weapons. Converting military rifles is an activity which can be enjoyable as well as profitable.

Ammunition, too, can become a financial burden to the unwise buyer. Alert, economy-minded hunters know that most areas have several local gun enthusiasts who reload and sell common calibers of ammunition. This is done at substantial savings to the buyer.

Dealers who sell military rifles usually sell both jacketed and hunting ammunition for the rifles they stock. Many bargains can be found among the offerings of these firms.

Reloading your own cartridges can be, in the long run, a money-saving venture. But, the initial cost of reloading equipment is often prohibitive.

The point is, that if you are interested in big game hunting the cost should not discourage you. Fancy rifles, specialized hunting clothing, pocket warmers, electric socks, etc., are convenient at times, but not at all necessary for an enjoyable hunt.

A rifle, warm, brightly-colored clothing, a pair of boots, and a desire to go hunting are all you really need.

A few notes on the first days of small game season: Rabbits are scarce. Most hunters I've talked with report that the number of rabbits seen is small in comparison to other seasons.

Pheasant population, however, is high. In most areas, stocking programs and a good spring weather situation helped provide an unusually large flock.

Turkeys, too, are comparatively plentiful. The state's program for increasing the turkey population has been a remarkable success thus far. Fifteen years ago, wild turkeys were practically non-existent in Pennsylvania. Today the state's flock rivals any in the nation.



Macalady

Liberty Bowl Cowards Begin Practice Grind Commitment 'Not True'

Judging from an innocent little paragraph hidden away in an article concerning prospective bowl teams on page three of Sunday's New York Times sports section, Penn State is going to the Liberty Bowl again this year.

The article, which had an Associated Press byline but no date-line, dealt with possible choices for the Gotham Bowl scheduled for New York City Dec. 9.

It ruled out the Lions as a possibility because "Penn State is committed to the Liberty Bowl, where it has played for the past two years."

But according to three sources close to the Liberty Bowl scene, there are no grounds for such a statement.

Penn State Athletic Director Ernest B. McCoy — "Whoever wrote that story is full of nonsense. It's definitely not true. We haven't been contacted at all. We have four real tough ball games left and I haven't even thought about it."

Associated Press sports writer Ralph Bernstein — "You're on safe ground in assuming that no team has been committed to the Liberty Bowl."

Liberty Bowl Publicity Director Hal Freeman — "There's certainly no truth in that. Right now nobody's committed to any bowl. Just like everybody else, we're waiting to get the best teams available. It just so happened that the last two years we felt you were the best team available and we were happy to get you. People seem to think that because you're a Pennsylvania school there is some kind of tie-in with Penn State and the Liberty Bowl, but that's not true."

"We have in no way committed ourselves to any team. Of course, we feel that Penn State has one of the best teams in the nation and they'll certainly be considered. In fact, should you defeat Maryland this week, you would knock Maryland out of the race and put yourselves near the top of the list." — Jim Karl

The Collegian Cowards, still snickering over last year's 34-8 victory over Pitt, will make their initial appearance of the season Saturday, traveling to Maryland to meet the staff of the Terrapin student newspaper in the lidlifter for both teams.

Business Manager Wayne Hilinski announced that the squad will fly to College Park Friday evening and work out under the lights in preparation for the big opener.

Due to the importance of the battle, the team will work out twice daily this week, with both morning and evening drills scheduled.

Publicity agent Joel Myers announced that tomorrow the Cowards will hold a closed scrimmage against another

highly rated power, the Collegian Cuties. The outcome of this game should give head coach, manager, and quarterback John Black an idea of what his team really has.

Any one interested in joining

NEWMAN CLUB BASKETBALL TEAM

meet at 207 Chapel

Thursday, November 2,
at 7:00 P.M.

FROTH AD STAFF

MEETING TONIGHT at 7:00

Froth Office
HUB Basement

All members must be present

I'M HUSTLING TO...

The first meeting of Penn State Chapter

RHO EPSILON

National Real Estate Fraternity

TONIGHT, 7:30 P.M.

at Beta Sigma Rho Fraternity
Fairmount Avenue and Locust Lane

Speaker: JACK FALK
"Financing Real Estate"

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