

Cold, Snowy Weather Ushers In Deer Season This Week

Report Good Kill For First 3 Days

Snow, wind and the sound of gun shots ushered in the long-awaited 12-day 1955 antlered deer season for Pennsylvania Monday morning of this week as scores upon scores of hunters took to the woods and fields of the state for the opener.

And despite the otherwise miserable winter weather of wind, snow and sub-freezing temperatures, the first three days of the season, a fine number of deer were reported killed.

And again it was that same old story for many of the hunters—"I saw a buck, but I couldn't get it." And again we heard that "if I hadn't moved I would have had my buck."

However, the weather once again proved to be a great help to the hunters in all parts of Pennsylvania. Here at home, snow came a falling not a bit too soon. The first snowfall began at about 5:30 a. m. Monday morning and as each day passed a little more fell, thus making tracking good.

Reports came from the central and northern parts of the state, that the snow there was just a bit heavier.

Although many, many deer hunters take to their hunting camps in the central and northern sections of Pennsylvania, it seems that the guys who just stay here at home to hunt, also get their share of the kill.

But for the first three days of the season a real army of deer hunters has been reported. Game protectors all over the area report large numbers of hunters, and at the same time good kills.

Game protectors also said that the general conduct of the hunters this year is extremely good. Some argue that deer hunting is better up north, others say it's better in the central and southern sections. But not as an argument state officials repeat their opinion of the season, that the state's deer herd is moving south.

Deer-kill reports this week are rather scarce, but only because three full days have been covered in the 12-day season. And to go along with the reports we have these many oddities and "famous" deer stories.

Get Your Buck? Send Details In to 'Courier'

Don't be angry if by chance your name isn't listed in our Deerslayer column and you are numbered among the area hunters who felled deer this year. Nine chances out of ten you didn't report your kill.

If you are numbered among the many area residents who made kills or your make a kill at anytime during the season just let this office know, or contact one of our local correspondents. If a tale goes with the kill, we would like that also.

The Deerslayer column will be published again next week and again in the Dec. 8th and 15th issues. If you make a kill we will be only too happy to list your name among our very favored deerslayers.

However, on the tragic side of the deerslayer picture are reports of fatal shootings of humans, and some non-fatal accidents. One district man died of a heart attack just after he had bagged a trophy. Another was wounded by a stray bullet.

Over the entire state heart attacks, fatal shootings and traffic accidents cut into the ranks of the half-million hunters as only the second day of the season ended Tuesday evening the tragic hunting roster showed 11 hunters died of heart attacks, two others killed in accidental shootings and three killed in traffic mishaps.

Be careful! Deer hunters are cautioned that many brown-clad persons will be in the brush during the deer season. Therefore point your gun safely at all times, and carry it on safe until ready to shoot. And please identify your target as a legal buck before you fire. Remember deer are not color conscious, therefore you will not spoil an opportunity to score if you wear bright clothing that marks you as a human.

Yes sir, identify your target before you shoot. That means make sure your target is a deer and not a human and make sure it's a buck and not a doe. And this bit of advice pays off for an area deer hunter the very first day of the season.

The following isn't one of those "famous" deer hunting stories. It's positively true. And it shows good signs that at least some deerslayers think out a situation before acting.

Monday in the St. Lawrence area an area hunter brought down a three-point buck only after he was positively sure it was a buck and not a doe. Sitting out a deer drive by his companions, Louis Veckley, Carrolltown, saw two deer go past him, and although they were fine specimens, he couldn't clearly see just ex-



actly what they were. And so he left them go by. A few minutes later another pair of deer came past him. Again he wasn't too sure if they were buck or doe. Remembering an aged hunting philosophy that if he hear any kind of a sound they will stop and take a look-see in the direction of the noise, Mr. Veckley took aim at the two deer, then let out with a yell. The deer stopped. Looked in his direction. Then Mr. Veckley was sure. He shot. The prize, a three-point, about 100-pound buck, hog-dressed.

And then there were stories, and stories and stories. In fact last Sunday evening three area residents in the conservation area over the coming season, shot not less than four buck as they sat around the old coal stove in an area store just talking about the season which opened the following morning.

And for the guys who go to their deer hunting camps in the central and northern sections of the state, last Saturday was the shopping day. Orders for groceries went well over the \$500.00 mark in many instances. And in seeing this we often wonder if these fellows hunt or just plain eat and drink on their hunting expeditions. There have been arguments pro and con on this subject.

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