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### Lake Louise Beavers Are Pleasant Neighbors, C. F. Goeringer Thinks **Only Remaining Local Couple Have Resided**

**On Estate Three Years. Once Flooded Road** 

The beautiful wooded shores of Conrad F. Goeringer's Lake Louise have become, quite by accident, so far as any one has been able to determine, a retreat for discriminating beavers . . . and while the couple which have made their home out there also made considerable inroads on his stand of timber, Mr. Goeringer considers them very pleasant neighbors indeed, and will allow no traps to be set for the industrious little trespassers.

by.

the latter.

of the pond.

MUSKRATS AND WATER

SNAKES SHARE LAKE

Beavers, of course, are not

the entire complement of wild

life at Lake Louise. A thriv-

ing colony of muskrats has

lived out there on Goeringer's

estate for a number of years,

too. There seems to be some

affinity between muskrats and

beavers, and wherever one ani-

mal is found, the other is near

rats have their runs and homes

adjacent to the beaver hutch

and seem just as satisfied with

the Lake Louise territory as

snakes about the lake, too,

and one day last month Joe

Gavek, an employee of Mr.

Goeringer, shot 15 at the outlet

Are Good Lumbermen

There are a good many

The Goeringer musk-

WITH BEAVER FAMILY

They are something of a prize possession to him . . . for after all it's not every country gentleman who can have a pair of beavers in his front yard.

A few days ago a reporter from The Post went out to Lake Louise to investigate the beaver situation, since the Goeringer beavers are about the only family in this section of the county and hence are really very prominent residents of the Back Mountain region.

Mr. Goeringer himself wasn't home at the time, but the reporter followed up a couple of errant sheep and ran across one Joseph Gavek, who works about the Goeringer farm and knows all about beavers.

"Beavers," he explained, on the way down to the wooded shores of the lake . . . which incidentally, Mr. Goeringer created himself some nine years ago, because it seemed to be about the only pleasant geographical features his estate lacked "are destructive little beasts. The ones we have here cause more damn trouble than they're worth." It was easy to see what he meant

when the little party reached the wood and soft maples are considlake shores, for all along the eastern ered toothsome, too. bank it looked as if a twister had wandered aimlessly through the woods, knocking down trees in all to a foot in diameter. Not just which have been felled across the teeth into any but soft-wood it's easier for them to get around.



### **Typical Beaver Haunt**



It is in quiet forest pools such as this one that beavers prefer to make their homes, well protected from the inroads of humans, whom beavers regard with suspicion, and surrounded with soft-bark trees from which the busy little animals take their food.

his hind legs, which brings him a weigh somewhere around thirty The Lake Louise beavers don't foot or so from the ground, and pounds, and their pelts or blankets, directions. Beavers, you under- seem to care where they cut, either, chew around the trunk until an ade- as they are sometimes called, would directions. Beavers, you under stem to tate where they car, chart, are intrepid woodsmen and and every so often Gavek has to quate cut has been made. And then the open market. But perhaps the are willing to tackle any tree up take his axe and cut away trees he stands back from his work and the open market. But perhaps the beavers understand how nice they to a foot in diameter. Not just which have been felled across the any kind of tree will do, though, said pathways of the wooded private waits for the wind to blow up and would look around a pretty girl's Gravek, for beavers are discrimi- park. Perhaps the beavers prefer topple the tree to the ground. All neck, and so whenever they see nating and won't sink their cutting to work around the paths, because the wild tales about beavers knock- some one coming they make theming trees over by slapping them is where their tails come in handy; growths. The toll on poplars and Their methods are fairly simple. soundly with their tails is strictly birch is particularly heavy, and bass- A well-trained beaver will stand on nonsense says Joe, who has made

> After a tree has been felled, the is right. beavers strip off its bark with their teeth and then cut off all the twigs then just to make sure that no one else makes off with the assembled debris, they take it into the lake and anchor it to the bottom, where it's money in the bank until winter

Oh, yes, in case you've been wondering, beavers do all this in order to get three square meals a day. Being herbiverous little beasts, they like nothing so well as a good chew of bark or mouthful of sapling. And for some reason or another they're always putting a little aside for a rainy day. A night in the summer hasn't been well-spent unless a tree has been felled or a fallen tree stripped. Given a few more years they've been there for three'

. . the Lake Louise beavers will have constructed a wicker-ware bottom for the entire pond, and then the vill roti imber business and sit back to enjoy life A year or so ago they constructed a dam, from force of habit, along the road which skirts the little lake, and succeeded in flooding a considerable portion of the eastern shore. In fact, so successful was their enterprise that the road was impassible for quite some time, completely awash in the dam back-water. For two small creatures they've created considerable stir and roam in the period of their residence.

# **Agriculture Had** Heyday In 1915

Farm-Crop Value Was Higher, Problems Less

Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture show interesting conditions existing in farmer for his milk was \$1.76 per farming in this state 25 years ago hundred pounds, 33 cents for a when agriculture was enjoying a pound of butter, live chickens 12 heyday as compared with the mul-tifarious problems of 1941, Secre-potatoes and 38 cents a bushel for

asserted today.

ly 219,000 farms in Pennsylvania board by the year was \$235 or \$1.20 previous and 79,260,000 pounds compared with about 169,000 at present, acreages devoted to the without board. The last general various grains were greater, yields were as high and in some instances day. Livestock, poultry and milk prices, however, were lower and the same was true of wages, but more people were employed because farms had not reached the present high state of mechanization. In 1915 the estimated wheat har-

1,312,000 acres which had a total value of \$26,174,000 compared with the 1940 production of 18,789,000 bushels from about 900,000 acres which had a value of \$15,219,000. The total estimated production of

of conjecture. They are more or less nomadic, and whenever the best has been taken from the forests, they are very apt to set out for other Elysian fields. That's probably how they happened to move to Lake Louise to begin with, although there has been loose talk to the effect that the State Game Commission planted them in the neighborhood.

Whether or not the Lake Louise beavers have been raising children on the side is not known. At least no one has seen any young beavers about. It might be a good thing for the beaver population if they have, however, for the breed is rapidly falling off in these parts. A something of a study of beavers and hear a good, husky beaver thump hard years, and the beaver situawhen a beaver hits his stride, he his tail a mile away, when the wind tion has been so critical in Wyoming, Sullivan and Columbia Coun-

How long the beavers will stay ties of late that no trapping is aland branches within reach. And around the lake is purely a matter lowed in these regions at all

In 1915 there were approximate-

a day with board and \$1.60 a day

vest was 24,928,000 bushels from

#### corn was 54,792,000 bushels which Warning had a value of \$41,641,920 com-

pared with a production of 53,640,-A warning has been issued by the 000 bushels valued at \$38,621,000 Department of Agriculture to all unlast year. Hay shows little change, licensed livestock dealers to prothe production 25 years ago having cure their licenses at once to avoid been 3,558,000 tons compared with 3,238,000 tons, but the value of the prosecution. Several prosecutions crop a quarter century ago was have already been made for failure placed at \$56,752,200 compared to procure 1941 licenses and in each with \$31,850,000 last year. case fines have been imposed in addition to the costs of prosecution.

The average price received by the Tobacco There is a total of 113,841,000

pounds of Pennsylvania seedleaf totary of Agriculture John H. Light eggs. Milk retailed at an average of seven cents a quart.

bacco in storage in the warehouses of the country. This compares with The average farm wage with 112,788,000 pounds stored a year

held January 1 this year.

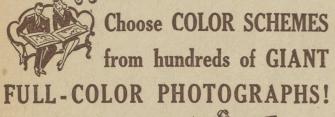
report showed the average wage rate per month with board was shown from those figures when the higher and yet prices received by \$29.50 and the daily wage \$1.80 present survey is completed as a the farmer were above those of to-with board and \$2.35 without board, result of the defense industry wage but considerable advances will be appeal to farm labor.



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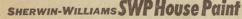
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### Move To New Home

After a year or so on the eastern bank, however, they decided that perhaps their whereabouts would become known, so about a year ago they picked up their household effects and traipsed across the lake into new territory. Their new home is just acoss from the picnic clearing on the eastern shore, and fits snugly into a little cove before a well-nigh impenetrable section of the woods on the west bank.

Woods, however, mean nothing to The Post reporter, and he plunged into the dense underbrush behind the sturdy back of Gravek to get a better look at the beaver haunt. As he and the woodland youth approached the new beaver hutch, he could see a number of smoothly worn trails heading towards the lake ... Beaver slides they're called . . along which the couple navigate in their travels. Incidentally, the beavers had the good judgment to build just beyond a stone fence, which was calculated to keep outsiders from prying into their private lives. That fence, by the way, must be a hundred or more years old and was a feature of a farm that used to cover the one-time meadows now flooded over by the lake waters. The top of the beaver hut looks like . . . and is . . . a huge pile of cut twigs and branches, with moss and clods of earth pushed into the intercesses to make it watertight. The real living quarters, though, says Joe, are under water. Probably the beavers have tunnelled under the lake bottom for quite a space, to make sure that they would be free from interference. There is one opening above water, but the main entrance is located somewhere beneath the surface.

Gervak has seen the beavers occasionally. They're nice, plump, little animals, he says, with luxuriant, glossy fur of brownish-black. They

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