

## Many Bears Gave Birth To Three And Four Cubs This Past Winter

### Bear Quads

A litter of two black bear cubs was in past considered average, and one of three cubs was worthy of note. But three dens containing four cubs, an exceptional number, were found in Pennsylvania this past winter. This is the story of the quads, plus one about triplets.

Early in February a prospecting beaver trapper and his dog located a female bear with four young on State Game Lands in Clarion County. When word of the unusual family got around curious humans flocked to the spot. The Game Commission established a refuge around the den, but inconsiderate people continued to worry and frighten the mother. This excitement may have been the reason she did not rescue all of her babes when the den was flooded, late the same month, by a rain-swollen creek nearby. Three of the little cubs, their eyes not yet open, drowned.

Coincidentally, another female bear with quads was observed a few miles away. About them Game Protector William Denton said, "This mother and babies are getting along fine, but the people continue to disturb them."

### Mother Deserts Cubs

In Pike County, March 13th, four men doing gypsy moth control work discovered a hibernating bear. When they walked toward the den the bear "came for them", they said. One of the men yelled and the mother bear ran away, abandoning her four young. Investigation next day disclosed the female had not returned. The shivering cubs were then "adopted" into the family of Game Protector John Lohmann, of Milford. They were brought back to health by Mrs. Lohmann, who is a Registered Nurse. When another visit was made to the den the following day no indication was found that the mother had returned to the den.

### Three More Cubs Saved

On January 22, three men accompanied by a dog were looking over the rhododendron in Monroe County when the animal happened upon a hibernating bear. The dog made such a fuss it roused the bear, a female, and she ran off leaving her three cubs to the elements. Game

Protector John Spencer learned of the "find". By the time he and assistants arrived at the scene the nearly hairless two-day-old cubs were so cold and stiff they were near death. The little fellows were carried inside the men's warm jackets and were placed near a fireplace to finish the thawing-out process. Fed reviving liquids, they gradually improved.

When the triplets were in good physical condition, having been cared for by a deputy Game Protector and his wife, they were picked up by George Koehler, the Game Commission's wildlife exhibitor. He and Mrs. Koehler nursed them along so well they "stole the show" when displayed at the Philadelphia Motor Boat and Sportsmen's Show early in March.

### Game Lands Gift From Department of Welfare

Recently, a gift from the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare increased State Game Lands approximately 500 acres. The property was formerly part of the Retreat State Hospital grounds. It lies in Luzerne County, north and west of Highway 11, and 18 miles south of Wilkes-Barre.

The Game Commission recognized the opportunity to increase the public hunting grounds and quickly availed itself of the free offer, made by Welfare Secretary Harry Shapiro.

The newly-acquired tract is timbered mountain land, is from 1200 to 1500 feet wide and about two and one-half miles long. Lying as it does in an area of great human population, it will be used and appreciated by many hunters and trappers.

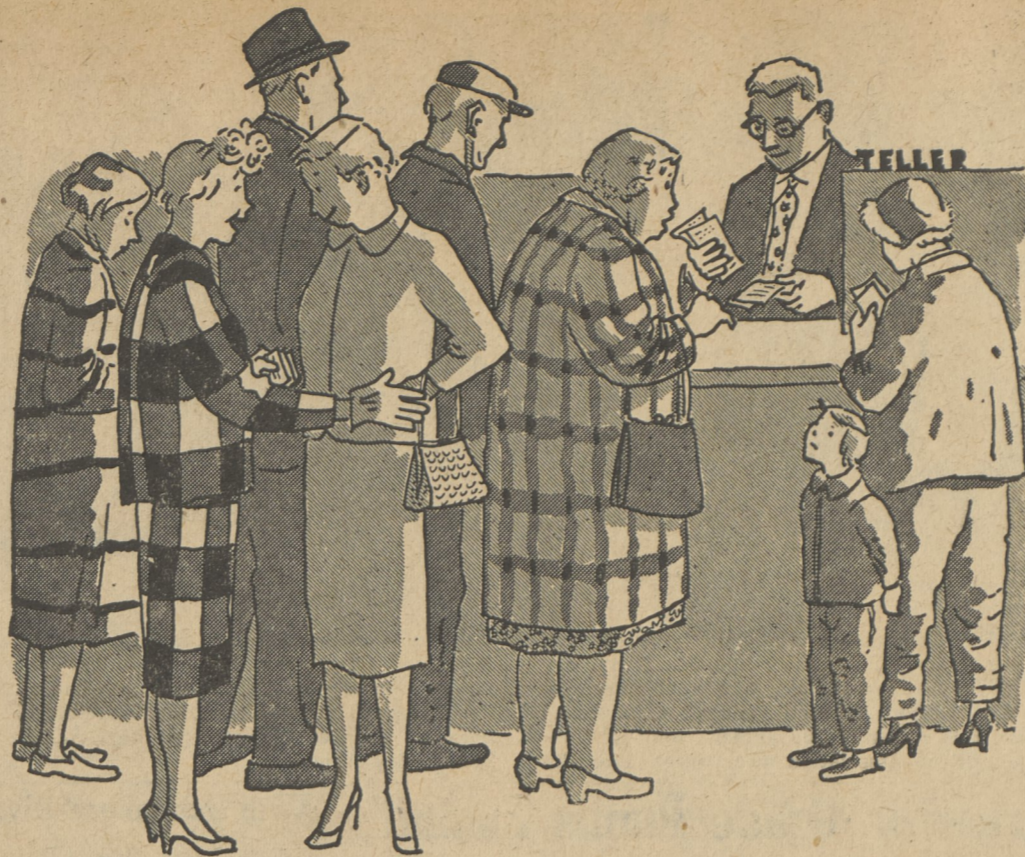
### Deer Hide Sale

The Game Fund was recently increased by a profitable sale of deer hides acquired by Pennsylvania Game Protectors in the late months of 1955 and early this year. The following commendatory letter by Logan J. Bennett, Executive Director of the Game Commission, to these officers tells the story.

Said Dr. Bennett: "We have just finished compiling the deerskins collected by our officers and the respective Divisions and sold to the highest bidder.

Hattie: No Special Interest.

Sara Gertrude



I just love the people at the bank because they're never surprised at anything!

"It is gratifying to observe that as of March 14, 1956, 2876 deerskins have been submitted from the various Divisions to the Katzen firm which submitted checks in the total amount of \$7,509.45 to cover these skins. This figure represents a substantial increase over the \$2,714.75 received in 1955 for a total of 2198 skins.

"The results of this year's sale reflects not only the better price received from initial bidding on these items but also clearly demonstrates considerable more care in the preparation, handling and grading of the hides."

### Imported Furbeaver On Loose

Late last winter, nutria belonging to a man in Mercer County escaped from their enclosures, says Game Protector Arthur Biondi. He reports: "These beaver-like animals scattered all over the Shenango Valley. Uninformed persons who saw these animals, or caught them in their traps, called my headquarters asking what they were. These people knew nothing of the animal. Some wondered whether an unknown creature was invading Penn-

sylvania. Though Biondi's statement may not be prophetic, a recent report from Texas tells that the Executive Secretary of the Game and Fish Commission cautioned persons propagating nutria as a means of controlling aquatic vegetation. He said the rat-like animals helped in some instances but proved a nuisance in others. Residents of one Texas locality were on the warpath against nutria, the officials said, because the fur animals raided farm-



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## Loyalville WSCS Plans Birthday

Loyalville W.S.C.S. met Tuesday night with Mrs. Walter Wesley to plan for the birthday dinner May 9. The next regular meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Russell Scott, May 15.

Present were Mesdames Minnie Wesley, Pearl Ide, Mary Ann Swire, Lois Hughes, Martha Steinrock, Vesta Boston, Eleanor Cragle, Mal-

fields. Three females and two male nutria were released in the area six years ago. Now, more than 2000 of the aquatic rodents have been killed in a move to control them. Some of the nutria have been seen as far away as twenty miles from the release point, the report said.

vina Scott, Cecilia Thomas, Clara Eckerd, Phyllis Reader, Roberta Cragle, George Stuart, M. Sidas, Florence Wiley, and Mary Cragle.

## Scholarship Exam Slated For May 4

The State Senatorial Scholarship Examination will be conducted at Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on Friday, May 4, 1956, at 8:45 a.m. (DST). Each year approximately 160 high school students take this examination, which is conducted by the County Schools Office. One scholarship is given in each Senatorial District. The scholarship award amounts to \$400 toward a four-year college course in a Pennsylvania institution of higher learning.

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