

## Penna. Game Commission Weekly Letter

Muskrat Season Opens  
November 23

Thousands of fur takers will begin setting traps for muskrats at 7 a. m. November 23, the beginning of this particular season. The Pennsylvania rat season ends at 12 noon, January 16, 1954. A metal name tag must be attached to each trap.

The muskrat, an aquatic rodent, is much sought for its dark glossy brown pelt. It is the most abundant furbearer in Pennsylvania and, in total, provides fur takers with their largest cash return.

The muskrat is said to be in "about normal numbers" in the state today. Unlike the sagacious mink, he is easily trapped. A large percentage of those seeking the "marsh rabbit" will be farm boys. To them, the thrill of trapping and the desirability of dollars in the jeans provide incentive enough.

If streams and ponds remain low, and ice does not form to hamper trapping operations, there should be an exceptional early take of the little water-going furbearer.

Number of Summer-Fall Deer Killings Excessive

Game authorities noted a rash of violations in recent months in the ten-county north-central division.

From January 1, this year, until the middle of November, 109 cases of unlawful deer killing had been successfully prosecuted in that area alone. Almost all of them dated since early July. The number of cases and fines imposed, about \$15,000, established an all-time high in this division, for the period named.

A revision of the Game Law that became effective July 28th, 1953, provides that the unlawful killing of a deer in close season shall, in addition to a \$100 fine, bring a mandatory denial of hunting and trapping privileges for a period of three years.

Bucks Batt'e Before Autoists. Game Protector Charles F. Keiper, who headquarters at Renovo, Clinton County, reports "On the night of October 31 a rare treat was enjoyed by upwards of 100 people traveling a dirt road in East Keating Twp. On leased land near the road the Game Commission's food and cover crew had planted 4 acres of wheat. Probably 30 deer enjoy the green cover every night. This has attracted crowds of sightseers who enjoy watching the deer and their antics. In fact, some nights the place looks like a drive-in theatre. On the night mentioned, two huge bucks got into one of their seasonal fights, watched by the occupants of about 30 automobiles. Actually, the area was lit up like an arena. The two fighters were in the center of the stage, not minding at all the attention they were attracting. To top it all, everyone of the spectators can tell about it, through no one had a flash camera handy to record the event."

Road Kill of Wildlife High. Many motorists have remarked on the exceptional number of wild birds and animals they observed dead on highways this fall. Such road kills are generally considered to be one measure of wildlife abundance.

Recently, Game Protector Norman L. Erickson, of Emporium, produced some unusual figures on the number of deer that fell to highway vehicles in his district. He reports 102 deer were crash victims on Cameron County roads in October of this year. Erickson points out that Deputy Joseph Zekoll of Sinnemahoning, picked up 31 of the 102 deer, and he says, "Our deputies don't receive enough credit for the work they do. Zekoll not only saved me much valuable time at this busy time of year he also saved me a great deal of auto mileage."

Hungry Bears Are Unafraid. On Oct. 22, Game Protector Robert F. Ellenberger became quite depressed.

"Assisted by Game Protector Hancock," he says, "I went out to settle a claim for bear damage to bees, a few miles from Coudersport. While we were checking the extent of the damage done the previous night, and waiting for the claimant to return from work, we saw four bears coming single file through a field and into the woods back

of the bee hives. A few minutes later the owner arrived. As he was signing the claim papers there was a noise back of the house.

"We went around to investigate and there, a few yards away, were all four bears having a wonderful time tearing more bee hives apart! After some effort we managed to chase the animals away. Then the bees chased us away. We dejectedly tore up the papers we had just filled out and told the claimant we would return the next day. At that time it was necessary to pay for the entire epoxy."

## News Items From E. D. Twp. School

The East Donegal high school has a unique and novel instrumental group. The instrumentation of the group includes seven bottles, three jugs, and two files. The assorted sizes of the bottles and jugs

plus the addition of water makes it possible to play many interesting musical compositions with a different tonal color than is generally heard. Members of the group are Paul Kauffman, Jack McKain, Stephen Doles, Ross Esbleman, Fred Wetzol, Barbara Martin and Sonja Carver. The group was organized and is directed by Morrell Shields.

The varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads were announced last Thursday by Miss Jo-Anne Dunnick, teacher of girls' health

and physical education and advisor to the cheerleading squads. The five girls who will lead the cheering for the varsity team are: Phyllis Wolgemuth, Sarah Singer, Patricia Houseal, Barbara Warfel and Patricia Hawthorne. The five girls chosen to be junior varsity cheerleaders are: June Heinaman, Gloria Scholl, Edith Raber, Jean Wagner and Betty McKain. Alternate cheerleaders are Marlene Murry and Erma Monn.

When in need of Printing, (anything) kindly remember the Bulletin

## Weddings

### GRAYBILL — HONBERGER

The marriage of Miss Mary Belle Honberger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry K Honberger, Salunga, to Arthur H. Graybill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin G. Graybill, Stevens R1, was solemnized at 6 p. m. Saturday, at a candlelight ceremony in Landisville Church of God.

The Rev. E. Thomas Tillett, pastor, officiated at the double

ring ceremony, assisted by Rev. John L. Myers, pastor of the bridegroom's church.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. The matron of honor was Mrs. Frank F. Walter, Jr., sister of the bride. J. Carl Graybill served as best man for his brother.

Rebecca D. Walter, niece of the bride, was flower girl, and James Carl Graybill Jr., nephew of the bridegroom was ring bearer.

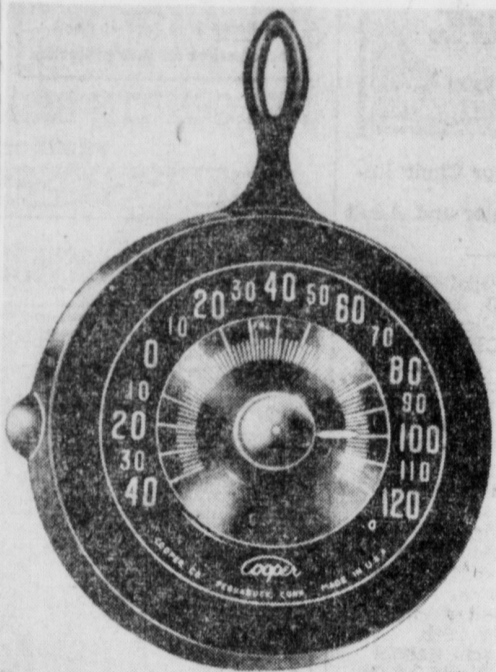
Ushers were James L. Honberger, brother of the bride,

and Irvin H. Graybill, brother of the bridegroom.

Mrs. E. Thomas Tillett officiated the traditional wedding music and William Gassman was soloist.

A reception was held at Silver Spring Play Barn. After a short wedding trip, the couple will reside at Stevens R1.

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