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The Mount Joy Bulletin

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Penna. Game Commission Weekly Letter

The bear kill in Pennsylvania's one-week 1953 season, that ended November 21, is estimated by game protectors at 301 legal animals. It is apparent from field estimates that, complimentary to hunters, there were substantially less cubs killed this season than in that of 1952. The state-wide estimate is that 12 cubs were killed in the '53 season.

The 1953 take of bears compares favorably with the 1952 season of the same length, when 261 bruins of legal age were killed in the Commonwealth, but actually the bag of legal bears was low in each of the past two seasons. The average, computed from kills of several other recent years, is about 400. All indications are, therefore, that the bear population of this state is building up.

Last year, fog and rain restrained hunters, and poor visibility undoubtedly lessened the take. In the season recently ended it is believed several factors combined to keep the kill much lower than expected. Briefly stated: Most of the bear hunters left the woods after the second day, and there was not the usual outpouring of hunters on Saturday, the last day of season. There was no blanket of snow and the weather was unseasonably warm. Too, the scarcity of nuts throughout most of the normal bear range caused these animals to travel and spread in sections not usually considered natural areas for these big game animals. Indicative of conditions is the report of the Game Commission's northcentral division, where there was only about 50 percent of the expected kill.

Game officials are of the opinion the abnormally heavy flow of bear damage complaints of the past summer and fall will continue until natural food conditions for bears improves.

There were no gun accidents to humans and there were but 3 accidents due to hunters' guns. Hunters who bagged bear are reminded their kill tag is due in the Harrisburg office of the Game Commission.

Report on Small Game
Reports from the supervisors of the Game Commission's six field divisions indicate that in mid-season, small game hunters continued to be quite successful. This was especially true in case of squirrels, pheasants, wild turkeys and cottontail rabbits. It appears 1953 may be a banner year for ringneck pheasants and turkeys. One of the northern divisions reports its wild turkey kill as double that of 1952.

Don't Waste that Venison
The Game Commission cautions successful deer hunters "When you get your deer don't waste it. Much tasty deer meat is lost and trophies are allowed to spoil each year through neglect or careless handling."

When a deer is brought down it should be dressed out at once and the body cavity propped open to allow cooling. If the weather is warm, the carcass should not be allowed to hang at a camp for days with the "jacket" on it. The best plan is to skin it out and hang it in a cooler to age it properly, then place it in a freezer.

When a deer is carried in the trunk of an automobile, both the carcass and the compartment should be propped open to allow free circulation of air.

It is suggested that novices ask advice of experienced hunters. When venison is brought home in good condition, meals featuring steaks, roasts, chops, or venisonburgers may be enjoyed. Otherwise, the fruit of the chase, delicious deer meat, may be wasted.

Duck Hunter Carries Insurance Against Further Trouble

Harry H. Rickert, a long-time game protector living near Kutztown, Berks County, often finds something humorous in his daily chores. Here he tells of an episode encountered the first day of the 1953 wild waterfowl season.

Says Rickert, "We apprehended two young men attempting to kill ducks at a rather late hour. Their excuse was that they had no watch. It was finally agreed to meet and make settlement of the case the following afternoon. I met the young

CROPS RISE DESPITE CUT IN FARM POPULATION

With the aid of improved equipment and methods, a farm population that is about 20 per cent smaller than in prewar days, has been able to market a postwar production that has averaged 28 per cent greater than in 1940-41, reports American Iron and Steel Institute.

Mechanization of the country's farms has in turn depended on steel. Average annual shipments of steel for farm equipment, exclusive of trucks, tractors and residential supplies, have been over 1,370,000 tons in the postwar period, compared with 1,028,000 tons annual average in 1940-41. This increase of 34 per cent is particularly significant since the number of persons on the farms in this period decreased. The number of acres harvested, on the other hand, rose from 321 million in 1940 to 345 million in 1950.

Tractors on farms numbered a little over 1.5 million in 1940 and a decade later had risen to above 3.5 million, with further substantial growth since then. Sales of wheel-type tractors for farm use have run over a half million units a year in recent years.

Domestic sales of farm machinery and equipment have run well above one billion dollars a year since 1948, surpassing \$1.5 billion for the first time in 1951, several times as great as in prewar years. Tractors constitute under half of this total.

Steel in the form of modern farm implements and structures, has vastly increased the farmer's production, lightened his task and raised his standard of living.

Coal chemicals, which the steel industry produces in huge quantities in connection with its coking operations, are playing a very important part in improving farm soils.

In addition to the steel in purchased equipment, farmers buy large quantities of steel from warehouses in the form of wire, fencing, roofing, and other parts of farm buildings.

Patronize Bulletin Advertisers.

men the next day and while in my car writing out the acknowledgments I heard a loud ticking of what I hoped was a watch and not a time bomb. I asked which man had the fine watch I was hearing. One reached into the pocket of his hunting coat and brought out a large alarm clock, set to ring at sunset, the time duck hunting regularly stops."

THE BULLETIN, Mount Joy, Pa. Thursday, December 3, 1953

Old Timers Schedule Practice Nights

Four more players have signed up for the Old Timers Basketball game which will be played Tuesday evening, December 29, 7:00 p.m. in the local high school auditorium. The new players added are Dr. Harold Fellenbaum, Jack Weidman, James Heilig and Gene Crider.

Two more players have been added to the Alumni line-up; Myron Weber and Edgar Breneman.

Entertainment for the games will include group singing between halves and a record dance after the games. Refreshments will be sold by the Varsity Club.

Practice will be held for the Old Timers, Monday evenings, 7:00 p.m. December 14 and 21. All Old Timers are invited to attend.

A meeting of the group will be called early in January in the fire house. At this time, the movies taken of the Old Timers Baseball game will be shown and will be open to the public. Also at this meeting will be discussed the feasibility of renting the high school gym for the balance of the winter season each Monday evening for the oldest of the town to play volley ball and other sports. A method of financing and methods of operating will be discussed.

Christmas Plans Are Announced By Leaders

Christmas plans have been announced by the Girl Scout and Brownie troops in Mount Joy and Florin. Troop No. 170 under the leadership of Mrs. Harold Billow and Mrs. Frank Hassinger is making favors for trays for the Lancaster General Hospital for Christmas Day. The group is also making paper star decorations for their own trees as well as having a Xmas party.

Mrs. Robert Hawthorne's Troop No. 96 is planning a Christmas party to be held at the home of Nancy Diller and Miss Verdella Longenecker's Troop No. 192 is planning a Christmas party for December 14 at the home of Miss Julia Witmer, her assistant leader.

Mrs. Eric Olson, Mrs. Myrtle Nornhold and Mrs. Paul Steh-

man Jr., and their troop No. 147 are making presents for their mothers and fathers in addition to having a Christmas party. Troop No. 75 directed by Miss Marilyn Newcomer, Miss Christine Smith and Miss Christine Weidman will hold a Christmas party in Lester Hostetter's home December 7 and Mrs. Warren Foley Troop No. 12 will hold a party following the caroling. The girls are making scrapbooks for the Alleman twins who are at Heart Haven and also working on a Christmas project.

Mrs. Frank Young and Mrs. William Gassman and their Troop No. 212 have planned a Christmas tea for their mothers. The tea will be held December 15, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the St. Mark's E. U. B. Church.

Of the four Florin troops, Mrs. Earl Koser's group will hold a Christmas Party December 23 at which time they will have a "talent scout" program and gift exchange.

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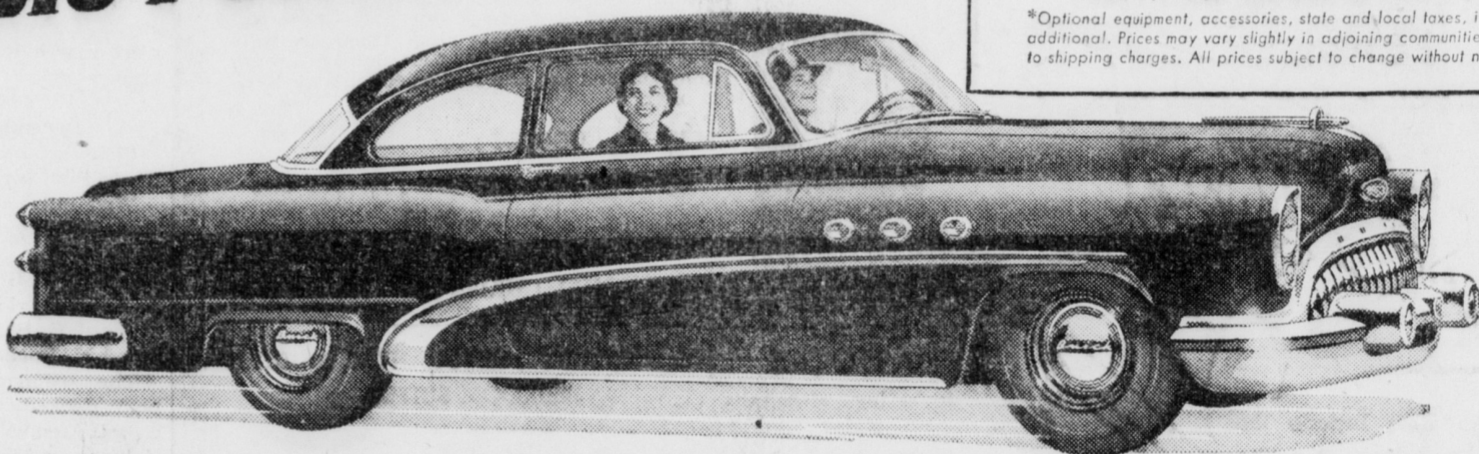
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