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Penna. Game Commission Weekly Letter

Game Protectors To Help Fish Wardens
Game Commission field personnel have received their usual spring directive to lend every assistance possible to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission during the coming busy period. Game protectors will cooperate with the sister agency in its law enforcement program particularly. They will help, also, with other Fish Commission

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Commission programs as requested, consistent with maintenance of their regular duties.

Sportsmen Raise Fund For Woman Injured In Hunt
In the "doe" season of last December, Mrs. Fenstermacher, of Titusville R2 went with her schoolboy son to hunt deer on the family property. During the hunt several deer milled around Mrs. Fenstermacher in wooded territory. A man who was unaware of the woman's presence shot at one of the deer. His bullet struck the woman in the right leg. Quick assistance by the shooter and hospital attention quite possibly saved the victim's life. Even so it was necessary to amputate the wounded leg above the knee.

Medical and hospital expenses were burdensome to the Fenstermacher family. In view of the circumstances the Pine Creek Sportsmen's Club of Warren County started a fund-raising campaign. Money received from sportsmen's clubs and generous individuals will be used to purchase the expensive artificial leg needed by the unfortunate woman. Mother of 5 children, Mrs. Fenstermacher has reportedly been most gen-

erous in her attitude about the unfortunate incident.

Early this month it was reported contributions to the aid fund totaled over \$400.

Champ Crow Hunter
With pride, Game Protector Harold E. Russell says: "We have an ardent Perry County crow hunter to whom much credit is due. In 1953 Roscoe Seiler, of Liverpool R. D., killed 1143 crows. From December 15, 1953, until February 7, 1954, his gun accounted for 407."

Tail Story About A Ringneck
An upper Berks County game protector named Harry H. Rickett belatedly tells this with some reservations: "Last November, a Farm Game Protector in my district named Percy Bayer was harvesting corn with a mechanical picker when the conveyor chain broke. After an inspection Bayer found that the machine had picked up a male pheasant and had killed and plucked it—all in one operation."

Annual Hunter Casualty Report
Pennsylvania latest hunting casualty figures, compiled by the Game Commission show deaths due to sporting guns totaled 34 in 1953. In the 12-month period woundings numbered 509. Such shootings covered the hunting of predators as well as wild game. They included all persons so shot whether in an open or close game season. Conditions under which the shooting mishaps occurred were broken down more completely in this report than ever before. The game authorities study this unpretty side of an otherwise pleasurable, beneficial sport to learn the causes behind the human shootings. In so doing they hope to find better methods of prevention.

Some casualties incorrectly called "hunting accidents" are not included in this report. Heart failure while hunting is an example. It might claim a victim during a period of over-exertion at home or at work. Similarly an auto crash victim could be involved in an accident on any road trip.

A study of the record reveals the needlessness of most of the hunting casualties. Here are a few examples: 5 hunters fatally shot themselves and 79 injured themselves by gunfire while hunting. (One of them killed while hunting in close season.)

There were no hunter gun deaths in the 1953 bear season, but in the deer seasons there were 9. Humans killed in small game seasons totaled 14, while 411 were wounded. The hunting of unprotected species, such as crows and foxes, accounted for 2 fatalities and 2 non-fatalities. In pursuit of furbearers, 1 person was killed, 2 were injured. Discouragingly, the number of persons killed hunting the lowly woodchuck was 8, and the number of those wounded was 32.

Shotguns of hunters killed 15 persons in the Keystone State last year, wounded 415. Rifles took the lives of 19 persons and injured 87.

Causes of hunter-gun casualties include: shot in mistake for game, 11 fatalities, 17 non-fatalities; did not see victim in line of fire, 9 and 195; gun placed in dangerous position, 4 and 56; hunter, 2 and 31; using gun as club, 1 and 2; etc.

The localities and conditions under which a high percentage

of the shooting took place destroyed alibis citing "accidental" causes. Investigations showed that many of the persons shot were in open fields or open woodland at times when visibility was good.

When all is said, the principal causes of hunting casualties are still in the human frailty class—greed for game, lack of firearms knowledge and reckless handling of sporting guns. (There were no human casualties due to bow and arrow hunting in 1953).

Unfortunately, there will always be human casualties in the hunting sport. Even so, the high hunting casualty record of 1953 will serve as a sad reminder that hunters' urges, and impulses under stress, call for emotional control. The problem is how to bring about this restraint so that most persons, at least, will not handle or shoot guns carelessly or stupidly, therefore dangerously.

Sportsman and Writer Conventions
On March 20 the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs held its semi-annual convention in Harrisburg. Delegates from clubs all over the state debated numerous resolutions presented there. In the main those acted upon proposed to better hunting and fishing conditions. Resolutions passed by the convention convey the wishes of the organized sportsmen to the Commonwealth's conservation agencies and lawmakers.

The evening of the same day the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association gathered for its semi-annual dinner meeting near Harrisburg. Discussion there centered on ways to present hunting, fishing and other subjects with the outdoors to newspapers and magazines in more acceptable form.

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SATURDAY NITE — 5:30 - 7:45 - 10:00

MONDAY, APRIL 12
JOHN HODIAK — AUDREY TUTTER -in-
"Mission Over Korea"

TUESDAY, APRIL 13
RED SKELTON — JAMES WHITMORE -in-
"THE GREAT DIAMOND ROBBERY"

WEDNESDAY — THURSDAY, APRIL 14 - 15
MARGE AND GOWER CHAMPION -in-
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Weddings
NOLT — GRIDER
Miss Marie H. Grider, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Grider, Columbia R1, became the bride of Samuel M. Nolt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Nolt Sr., Mount Joy R1 on Saturday at 2 p. m. in the Ironville Evangelical U. B. Church. The Rev. Grant Miller officiated at the double ring ceremony. The bride is employed at the Marietta TC Depot and the bridegroom is associated with the Hoffman Seed House, Landisville. They will reside at Lancaster R1.

Winnings
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