

The hunters of America are being hunted

by J. L. Biesecker

As we move into another fall hunting season most of us hunters anxiously plan and prepare to participate as we have for many generations. However, there are signs that this will not be the case in the future. Hunting, as a sport, may not survive for another generation. Increasingly strong attacks are being made on hunters and hunting by anti-hunting groups. We hunters have contributed ammunition to the attack.

Some hunters rob from nature; they are guilty of the excess portrayed in the recent television show "The Guns of Autumn". There are greedy hunters, there are ignorant hunters, there are outlaw hunters. These are the people who committed the atrocities filmed for the anti-hunting show.

We cannot deny that the atrocities exist; we saw them in living color on CBS. The images developed in that show will be remembered by the non-hunting public, unless we convince them otherwise. We can tell people of the conservation efforts of hunters such as George Bird Grinnell, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, Aldo Leopold and many lesser known or unknown hunters who have spent much time, effort and money preserving wild life and wild life habitat. However, all the names, examples, facts and statistics you share will have little impact upon the non-hunting public if you do not set a personal example.

Each hunting season some of us out-law a little. We kill more than the bag limit, kill a hen bird, trespass, shoot too close to a building, let a gate open, shoot a pet cat or carry out some other small act that is noticed and remembered. These are the acts that will aid the continued growth of anti-hunting pressure that will end hunting.

One land developer with a bulldozer can drain a swamp and prevent the hatching of many thousands of ducks in the future yet not be perceived by the non-hunting public as a cause in the decline of the duck population. However, the man who shoots more than the legal limit will be seen as a major factor in the decline of the number of ducks.

If your sport is to survive, we must act to ensure that it does. This cannot be done by sloshing into the local bar in muddy boots, blood stained pants and with a loud exaggerated story,



reveal the gory details of abuse of the land, animals and laws.

People need to hear of our respect for the animals. They need to know that the respect comes through knowledge and understanding. The hunters love of being outdoors and the pleasures of nature must be shared. We need to be seen as outdoorsmen, not just "hunters".

The non-hunter can be helped to see that our sport is more than killing cute bears and innocent deer. I believe that the non-hunting person has trouble seeing beyond the killing aspect of hunting. As our population becomes more urban, a decreasing percentage of people have direct and continued contact with the natural world. Increasingly, the urban world experiences vicariously through television, movies and books. They lack the direct contact with nature that is necessary to the development of a thorough understanding and respect.

Too often, the urban person has not been assistant mid-wife to a dog at age four, fish catcher at age five, helper at fall butchering at age six, planter of seeds, harvester of the crops that are living things. Beans, tomatoes, carrots, chickens, pigs, cows, rabbits, deer and fish are living things that we harvest, we kill, in order to live. All of mankind kills, kills continually, directly or indirectly in order to live.

Outdoorsmen and rural people experience death and killing directly, while the urbanite experiences it only indirectly, vicariously, through a T.V. cowboy, a sensational newspaper story or a butcher in the meat packing slaughter house. Since direct, close personal contact with death is not a part of their experience, the urbanite gets hung up there,

failing to understand more about hunting than its killing aspects. This limitation magnifies the weaknesses and shortcomings among hunters as we go afield and also makes possible the anti-hunting propaganda.

We need to watch carefully every move we make as hunters. Each of us has some impact on the possibi-

lity of the future of hunting. We cannot afford to violate game laws and carry out acts that continue to reflect hunting in a bad light. Each hunter can educate the non-hunter around him only by developing his own knowledge and by setting an example. Through our careful, diligent efforts the sport may have a chance of surviving for another generation.



Maytown Jaycees meet

The Maytown Jaycees will hold their next meeting on October 1 at 8:00 at the Legion in Maytown. All members are asked to come

and anyone who is interested is also welcome at the meeting.

The Jaycees welcome any support you might give.

Maytown Boy Scouts

by Barbara Roaten

Maytown Boy Scouts will hold a bake sale and paper drive on Saturday, October 18. The bake sale will be

held in front of Shank's Store in Maytown Square, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

This will be the last paper drive, as the Boy Scouts are discontinuing this project.

DID YOU HEAR....

Elizabethtown College's Concert Band will present a concert at the Music Pier in Ocean City, N.J., on Friday, October 3. This is the

second year in a row that the Concert Band has been invited to play at the famed pier.

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