

Eloise kept some Robin Hoods at home on 1st day of archery season

by J. L. Biesecker

An unusual breed of hunter is now quietly spending time in the woodlots and forests of Pennsylvania. Archery season opened on the recent soggy Saturday, September 27. The storm Eloise had many of the local bow hunters moving furniture, pumping basements and anxiously listening for "crest" reports instead of stalking through the woods in quest of a deer. Rain should have been expected; nature has given us rainy weather for opening day of Archery Season for the last several years.

Opening day of the 1973 season stands out in my mind as a very wet and interesting one. Plans for that season called for a group of friends tent camping and hunting on recently purchased land in Potter County. Forecasts of extensive rains caused the other members of the group to withdraw from the trip, but, common sense failing, I headed for the woods alone that Friday night.

Just north of Williamsport large rain drops began to warn of things to come. Needless to say, it was raining on my arrival, raining as I drifted off into a soggy sleep and was pouring down when the alarm

rang several hours before daylight. In spite of the weather a small fire was coaxed to life, which cheered me and I cooked my breakfast.

Through the dark and rain soaked woods, I found my way to the spot that summer scouting indicated would offer a fat buck to my bow. Snuggling against the base of a large pine I anxiously awaited the first grey of the false dawn as the rain continued. In spite of the adverse weather, opening day adrenaline began to course through my body as ears and eyes strained for signs of the deer that was sure to come up the trail.

Into the glow of my opening day optimism came the awareness that the blackness was greying into dawn. However, neither the increasing rain and wind nor the leaks in the old poncho were noticed as weak morning light crept through the valleys below. Carefully watching the trails through scrub oak and rain, I was taken completely by surprise when a stunning blow sent me sprawling among the soggy leaves and roots. A falling limb had struck my shoulders and head. Slowly assessing the extent of my injuries and checking my equipment, common sense came flooding back into me.

Suppose I had been severely injured and unable to move, with my expected return home still four days away? Hunting alone could be dangerous; an injured hunter might be without assistance until reported over-due. One man alone in the woods, removed from man made surroundings, is a fragile being, much more so than we often realize. The opportunity to experience this realization in itself makes the risk worthwhile. However, there are other compensations when one accepts the risk.

When totally alone in the forest, hunting with a bow, the 3000 year gap between

myself and our stone age ancestors is suddenly narrowed and I understand a little better where man has been. One sees, hears and experiences nature more completely without the distractions of other people. Several evenings alone by the camp fire or in a tent as the rain taps out its gentle tune heightens an appreciation for other people. The smell of the morning coffee and the warmth of the evening fire are fine alone, but grand when shared.

For some of us, it takes a good long soaking and a lump on the head to realize that hunting, like all of life, is better when shared.

Needlework Guild ingathering on Oct. 28, 29 at St. Mark's

Dates for the annual ingathering and distribution for the Mount Joy Branch, Needlework Guild of America, were set for October 28 and 29, in St. Marks United Methodist Church, Mount Joy. The planning session was held at the home of the president, Mrs. Simeon Horton.

Ingathering will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28. The directors will hold their annual meeting at 2 p.m. followed by a tea for the visitors.

At 4 p.m. the Girl Scouts will be served refreshments and awarded buttons. Distribution will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 29.

The public is invited to view the items from 2 to 4 p.m. on the 28th.

Mrs. Horton, conducted the business meeting and read a letter from the National President, Mrs. Mary E. Thompson, offering her best wishes and a message from Gerald Ford, President of the United States, congratulating the organization on its 90th anniversary.

Three new directors were introduced: Mrs. Ann Elvin, Mrs. Wilma LeVin and Mrs. Daniel Wolgemuth. Miss Ruth Eby was appointed treasurer after the resignation of Mrs. Melvin Weaver.

A note from the former president, Mrs. Sam Balsbaugh, was read thanking the members for her farewell gift. The committee chairpersons presented reports.

Committees appointed were: Arrangements; Mrs. Robert Shirk, Mrs. James Madara, Mrs. Walter Brandt, Mrs. Harriet Brown, Mrs. Fannie Myers, Mrs. John Weidman, Mrs. Daniel Wolgemuth;

Adam Greer, Mrs. Clyde Eshleman, Mrs. John Booth, Mrs. Lester Eshleman, Mrs. David Schlosser, Mrs. Walter Brandt;

Marked Garments: Mrs. Maurice Bailey, Mrs. Paul Stoner.

Refreshments: Mrs. Sam Balsbaugh, Mrs. Ann Elvin, Mrs. Floy Gilbert, and Mrs. Wilma LeVin.

The Mount Joy Branch includes Marietta, Maytown and Mount Joy and also the rural areas in between.

Weis names consumer director

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Mrs. Heist may be contacted by writing to Weis Markets, Sunbury, Pa.

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October 5 through 11 is FIRE PREVENTION WEEK. Please remember to keep Fire Prevention an active subject the other 51 weeks of the year.