

Elkton Making Plans For Play Day, Rodeo

Posters, tickets and prize ribbons for the coming Juvenile Play Day and Rodeo, July 25, at Elkton, will be purchased by the Elkton Saddle Club, President Gale Madison announced today.

The all-day session will be held at the Carl Binder ranch, near Elkton, and will feature a potluck dinner, with ice cream and refreshments slated to be sold. The Kellogg Juvenile Grangers, 167, invite all young people and children to participate in the various games, races and contests planned for the different age groups. Adults are invited to witness the games and contests and share the picnic.

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SPLITS and HITS

By Glenn Wellmon

HOW WOULD you like a sneak preview of the rules for the next state tournament? As vice president of the state association, it was our pleasure to attend the meeting in Coos Bay of the executive committee on June 20.

We had a very nice meeting, and among the most important items considered were the rules which will govern the 1955 tournament. As you all know, it will be held in Coos Bay next winter, as they outvoted the bid of our own association for the tournament at Albany, due to the fact that Coos Bay already had a ten lane set-up, while ours was still in the planning stage.

WE THINK one of the most important rules changes made was in regard to bowlers trying to figure out how to get their teams into a lower class. For instance, a bunch of good bowlers will take on one very low average man, in order to roll in a lower class, which we considered unfair to the legitimate contestants in such a class.

Therefore, for next year, any team with three more Class "A" bowlers in their line-up will have to bowl in Class "A," regardless of their average. In the same way, any team with three or more Class "B" men must bowl in Class "B," unless their total strength will be above 875, which will naturally put them into Class "A." This is not likely, as the effort has always been to try to get into the lower classes. The same rule will apply to Class "C," which will not be allowed to in-fringe on the rights of Class "D." We hoped this would equalize the number of teams in each class, and left the classes the same as they have been.

THE TOURNAMENT will start Jan. 21, 1955 and run till Feb. 27, a total of six weeks. If less time is required to complete the entries scheduled, we will start later.

Is That So!

IN THE NEVER-ending struggle to evade stronger animals, some of the weaker ones have come up with truly amazing answers:

Some feign death—among these are the hog-nosed snake which turns belly-up; the opossum which falls rigid with tongue lolling out; some spiders curl up into a ball; some discharge noxious fluids—the horned toad when cornered or captured opens wide its mouth, swells out its body, and then spurts out jets of blood from the corners of its eyes to distances up to 5 feet; the llama spits with telling accuracy; the skunk discharges a fine effluvium, a drop of which makes the receiver a social outcast; the cuttlefish emits a smoke screen in which to hide.

Some animals capitalize on the protective defenses of others—small fish, often up to a dozen at a time, may find shelter beneath the stinging tentacles of the jelly-

fish known as the Portuguese man-of-war.

YET OTHERS, such as the three-banded armadillo, the pangolin and our porcupine make like a ball, rolling themselves up in their own defense armor or spines.

Clever as these defense tricks may be, a more amazing job, I think, is made by certain animals which will sacrifice part of their body to keep their necks intact. With them, this defense mechanism is so well worked out that it can be performed without bleeding.

This sacrificing of a piece of the body to save the possessor's life is done by a number of lizards. When chased by a foe and the contest seems lost, these fellows will discard a sizable chunk of tail, leaving it wriggling to occupy and engage the enemy while they glide away to safety.

The so-called glass snake—really a legless lizard—makes a bloodless amputation of his tail by suddenly contracting the muscles in the tail. The common blind-worm, another legless lizard, has the same ability of self-mutilation.

IN SOME INSTANCES, to help concentrate the pursuer's attention upon the tail, that part of the body is brilliantly colored. Then, after it is detached, its wriggling persists due to muscular action for some time, even up to an hour.

In the long process of evolution of this special technique, the act is not of such a drastic nature as it may appear. To make the painless and harmless, the bones of the tail are divided across the middle and are held together merely by a thin pad of gristle, the severance always taking place at one of these joints.

The discarded tail is eventually replaced, sometimes growing as a double structure, but the bones of the new growth are not true bone—they are replaced by a rod of hardened tissue.

With quite a number of other animals it is not unusual for them to lose a tail or a leg in combat—but this is not self-mutilation, although death does not result. The starfish and crab, for example, will surrender a leg to a foe when in difficulty; this act being performed by contracting the muscles violently at the base of the leg about to be lost. Spiders sometimes jerk off their own legs to make good their escape.

QUITE POSSIBLY, the squirrel's fluffed-out tail gives the threatening pursuer a mouthful of hair, and should part of the tail accompany the hair, what is that in comparison with losing the head? Along with bobbed squirrel-tails—quite likely torn off in combat—I have also seen wild mice with part of their tails missing. And seldom will a shrew reach the ripe old age of 2 with a whole tail.

Birds, too, derive a safety benefit from fluffing out their feathers. I've seen a hawk striking a ruffed grouse, only to come away with some loose feathers because the grouse had fluffed them out. And when a road-runner engages a rattlesnake in furious combat, it fluffs out its feathers and the snake will hit into the feathers repeatedly without touching a vital spot.

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