

More About Hunting in the Catherine Creek District

(By Jack Hunter.)

So much having been said on the subject of hunting, that if it wasn't for one fact, it would be next pure temerity, in trying to write more. That fact is:—We are more or less governed by the conditions of the surroundings; the more so, as we get closer to nature, and, exceedingly so, when we deal with life in the wilds.

Everywhere, from the time that the first white man set his foot in the forests, conditions have gradually changed—in turn changing the nature and habits of the denizens of "the tall and uncut." Time has wrought a wonderful change all over, which necessitates a change in the methods of the hunter. A good hunter of twenty years ago, using the same old tactics today, would invariably come home disappointed.

And, the greatest factor, outside of the general change by nature, is that we have the locality of which like all else in nature—no two alike—so, that animals of each locality, have their own individual nature and habits, corresponding to the place in which they live. In that sense, it is opportune, to give such information, gathered from a close study of a given locality.

Of course, it will be understood that there are general principles which the hunter must absolutely possess regardless of time and place. Sagacity, courage and determination with good common sense, and with a physis to withstand the arduous walks and climbs, are necessary; and a fair understanding of fire-arms, with steady nerves to shoot straight, at a living and moving animal, is also essential.

Locality.
This territory, is best reached by the way of Union. The best place to camp, is at the Forks of Catherine Creek; being at the mouth of the two main canons, with main trails connecting with all points of the National Forest Reserve, with telephone at Hunter's Big Log Cabin, connecting with Union, and long distance. Distances are all via Union, to Hunter's at the Forks—Union, 14 miles, Baker, 47 miles, La Grande, 32 miles. Autos can come within one mile of the place. Horses and pack outfits can be secured, at all these places when requested in advance.

Equipment For One Week Or More.
In selecting an equipment always bear in mind that your trails here, are 95 per cent climbing, and 5 per cent rocks. So select the very lightest possible, and yet comfortable loose garments—never wear anything tight in these mountains. Good high top boots, of which the Chippewa packs are a first class pattern, are most necessary. They should be large enough for the wearing of two pair of woolen socks; one pair heavy weight and one pair medium. Take two extra outfits of socks for changing often.

It is not amiss here to state, that if you have tender feet, don't encumber yourself with powders or drugs, which are worthless, compared with this simple remedy of the mountaineers:—Take the bark of the alder, which grows everywhere along the creek; boil a kettle full, making a strong liquor; bathe the feet well in this liquor, before retiring at night. Two or three applications, and by keeping your feet clean, will make tough feet out of the most tender baby feet.

Along with your camping outfit, bring a tarpaulin, to use, in case you have tracked some animal quite a ways from camp, and want to spend a night out in the higher mountains. The rest, as to camp outfit, can be selected much as the individual taste desires. But we must here elaborate on fire arms and hunting implements.

As to the make and model of guns, this can be left to the individual taste again; but one gun is enough, and it should not be larger than the 303 Savage or 30-20 Winchester. A good hunting knife and belt case, and a coil of 25 feet of small, but stout rope, to be packed at all times during hunting. A good supply of strong twine strings in the pockets is also very handy. A small pocket flash light, and never forget matches. A small package of medicated cotton, with tape—a small bottle of peroxide, and a bottle of turpentine in case of an accident or a cut, are very essential, and are ample for first aid and quick relief. All this can be conveniently carried in the place of a six-shooter, which is practically a nuisance.

Now then, assuming that you are at the Forks and camped, had a good breakfast of flap jacks and beans, let us go for pheasants first.

Pheasant Hunting.
Pheasants are very numerous in this district, but they have certain places where they live at certain times of the year. In the open season, the country next to the creek, has too much activity for the pheasant to make any lengthy stops; but as they like water, and the tender grasses that grows around the edges of streams, they are found along the North and South Forks, for about two miles up from the Forks, where there are not many people to bother them. Their haunts, are along the small creeks and rivulets, which are numbered in the hundreds, but they are never found up very high in altitude. And there, again we must find what they feed on. They feed principally, on hazelberries, huckleberries, dewberries or sugar plums, snowdrops and the wild currents. They also must have few shoots from the fir and tamar-

ack trees—therefore we proceed along the little creeks where those things are in evidence; as before mentioned, we don't go too high, because along with an abhorrence for the dry, that also is the home of the grouse, who fights them fiercely off their ground.

Here, then, we find a covey of locusts, the trees wherein they light. This is not so very hard to do, because they will light anywhere, from 20 to 30 feet high—and they are very careless as to their hiding, entirely different than the grouse. The pheasant seems to be more like a hawk in this respect. It always selects a limb where they can watch on all sides, thereby in plain view to the hunter. Now all that remains, is to aim straight at their heads and cut it off. Always take the lowest bird, and then you may shoot your bag limit off one or two trees. By taking the upper birds, when it falls to the ground, the birds below takes it for a signal to all fly away.

Now, here you are apt to meet a cougar, because the cougar, has the knowledge of where to hunt for these birds, and is so much cat-like, that he may be pretty close to you—and, here is the beauty of carrying a rifle, because you can plug Mr. Cougar or Mr. Bruin, who is very fond of these same fruit, and may be loitering around, at two or three hundred yards; otherwise with the old shot gun you would miss a great thrill.

The Mountain Grouse.
Our next trip will be for the mountain grouse, who lives now, at this time, in plateaus and long stretches of smooth lands and plenty of tall large pine trees, and around small springs and streams, where the chokecherries and a few sarviceberries are to be found. The mountain grouse is very fond of insects, especially the grass hoppers, which are found where the land is tolerably dry, with an abundance of grass. So up the mountain we hike, but not to the top, and our best time is 10 a. m. till 4 p. m. There we run on to regular flocks of them. We must watch very close the high trees they fly to, because they will perch from 100 feet high to the tallest tree, and sometimes they will fly quite distant. They also have the facility to make themselves look just like limbs they will perch on, very hard to locate, indeed. It also requires skill to shoot their heads off, because, one must stand sometimes a good distance from the tree, to see them, and the sun may be right in your face. But, with a little caution and by observing these rules, you will find them, and no great amount of labor will be necessary to bag your limit of mountain grouse.

The Blue Grouse.
We will next go after the blue grouse. This bird is the largest, and the most prized bird to get. It is also the hardest, because it takes a little more work and patience to find its location.

This bird, some of them weigh as high as 6 lbs. They are not so numerous, but there is enough to satisfy the hunter, who is not a game hog. Two of those birds ought to be the bag limit any way.

We find the blue grouse, on the highest tops of the timbered mountains, not far from some springs, or head of the little creeks. The blue rocks or cliffs, always brings one to a flat and bare spot on the very top, and invariably with a jungle of tall tamarack and black pine poles. Here is their home during this season. They live mostly from the tops of these trees, catching what insects they find on the bare spot, also feeds on huckleberries, that grows in these jungles. They are found in flocks from ten to perhaps fifty, according to the size of the spot and jungle. Here beside the hard climbing after them, they are much harder to locate in the trees, because the forest here is so dense—sometimes necessitating a solid hour, of good rubber-necking up in the tree tops for them—and they are almost invisible, and they very seldom stretch their necks, having their head, pretty close to their body, being a splendid opportunity to show your skill, at cutting heads off and not spoil the body of the bird. But if persistent, you can at least get a couple of these birds every trip, and you will certainly enjoy the experience.

Here you will also run great chances to meet with a panther, and if perchance you have to go in the jungle, you may see signs of a cinnamon bear.

If you, happen to meet with any of these animals, of which there are quite a number, also fox, and the bob cat is very apt to be seen around the cliffs, you will find that the

hope you have carried, will come in handy to string the animal to a limb, to quickly skin and dress whatever bear meat you wish to take with you. I will describe the hunting of those wilder animals in another article.

Besides the above described birds, we have the California grouse; the little eastern partridge; with a few foot hen and strayed prairie chickens. But the above information is ample for the hunter to make a success of bird hunting, in this district.

The bird hunting, will not take you much more than three miles from camp, and doing this for a few days, will trim you up for the real hunt of the biggest game afterwards.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale.

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an Attachment Execution and Order of Sale, duly issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Union, bearing the date of the 5th day of September, 1923, and to be directed and delivered, upon a judgment decree and order of sale duly entered in said Court, in the suit therein pending, wherein Harriette B. Mott, was plaintiff and Jay Conley, was defendant, in which judgment and decree was entered in favor of Harriette B. Mott, plaintiff and against Jay Conley, defendant for the sum of Eleven Hundred (\$1100.00) dollars with interest thereon at the rate of 8% per annum from the 16th day of Nov., 1921, until paid, and for the further sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five (\$125.00) dollars as attorneys fees and the costs and disbursements taxes at Eighteen and 80-100 (\$18.80) of redemption, all right, title and interest in and to the following described real property to-wit: The NE 1/4 Sec. 15, N 1/2 Sec. 14, NW 1/4 Sec. 13, Twp. 3, S. R. 25, E. W. M.; The W 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 24, E 1/2 SE 1/4 E 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 27 Twp. 2, S. R. 25, E. W. M, all in Union County Oregon.

Dated at La Grande, Oregon, this 5th day of September, 1923.

J. E. WARRICK,
Sheriff of Union County, Oregon.

Date of first publication Sept. 5th, 1923.
Date of last publication Oct. 6th, 1923.
Sept. 5-15-22-29-Oct. 16

For Sale

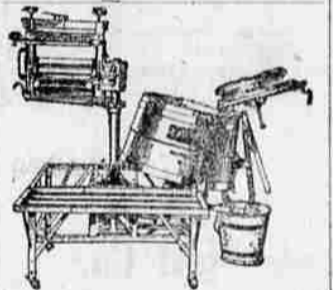
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and for accruing costs, and in which Execution, I am commanded to make sale of the hereinafter described real property to satisfy said judgment, decree, interest, attorney fees, and the costs and disbursements, including accruing costs.

Now therefore, by virtue of said writ, and in obedience to its commands, I will on Tuesday, the 16th day of October, A. D., 1923, at the hour of two o'clock p. m. of said day, at the front door of the County Court House, in the City of La Grande, in Union County, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand subject to the statutory rights

of redemption, all right, title and interest in and to the following described real property to-wit: The NE 1/4 Sec. 15, N 1/2 Sec. 14, NW 1/4 Sec. 13, Twp. 3, S. R. 25, E. W. M.; The W 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 24, E 1/2 SE 1/4 E 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 27 Twp. 2, S. R. 25, E. W. M, all in Union County Oregon.

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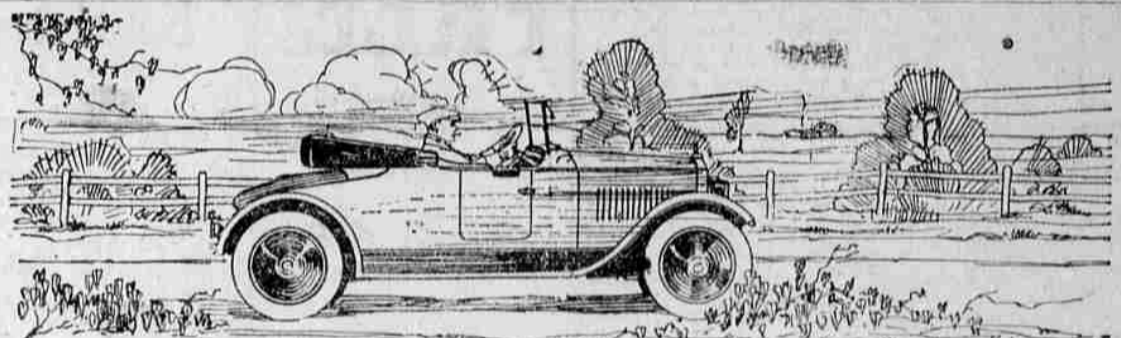
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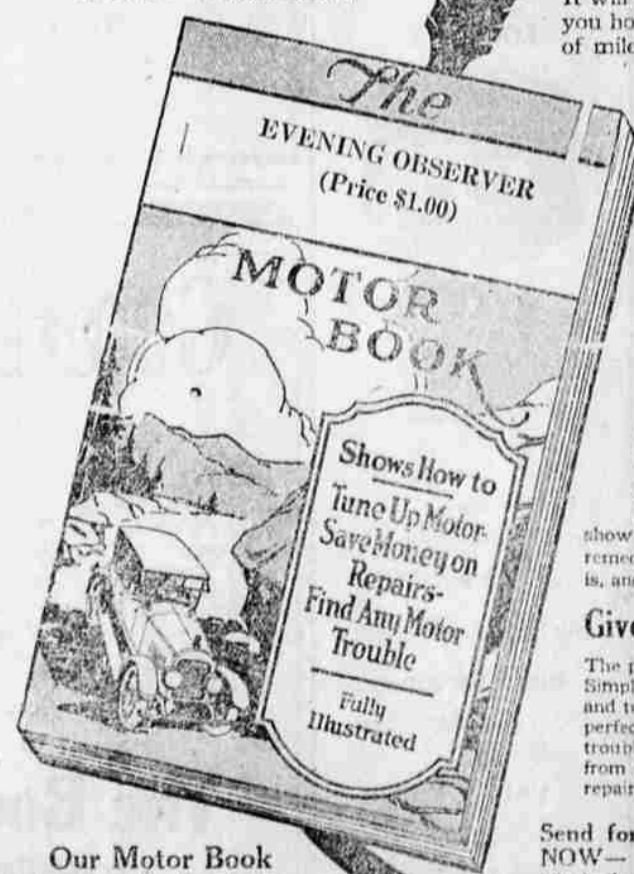
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