

BY Ivan Barker

BARKER'S POT SHOTS

The deer season, is over except for a few controlled hunts in specific areas to be hunted by those lucky enough to draw permits. From all indications the general season was a good one despite the confusion in Salem at the beginning.

Game biologists report that hunting pressure was not up to par during the first and second week ends, with no heavy concentrations of hunters as compared to past years. However, in contrast to past years, the pressure

was constant all during the season, with the heaviest, of course, experienced during the few days when either sex-animals could be taken.

Throughout the state deer hunting was considered good with probably the highest kill made during either-sex hunt. Although the total kill will not be determined until all report cards have been returned, the game commission feels the deer season was a successful one. The kill may not be as high as that of the past two years

but in all probability will be close to the 100,000 mark.

It might be a good opportunity to advise deer hunters to get those report cards in as soon as possible. These should be returned whether you killed a deer or not. All cards are needed in order to accurately determine the total kill.

For those of you who do not know, the regulations require that hunters return the report cards within 30 days following the close of the season. Failure to do so could result in being denied a hunting license next year. So let's get on the ball and return the cards.

We have just made a tally of the hunting casualties for this year and find we have had 19 shooting accidents so far. The sad part of these shootings is that 3 of the 19 will hunt no more having died a violent death from gunshot wounds.

It might be of interest to know that 12 of the woundings were caused by persons 24 years old or under. The other shootings were caused by two persons of 27 years, one of 42 years, one of 45 years, and the last three unknown.

Perhaps hunters may be a little more cautious if we took a look at some of these shootings just to understand how they happened. In most all cases we can put the blame on plain carelessness.

In one of the deaths, the shooter was walking behind with his weapon pointed at the victim's back. And one of the cardinal rules of gun safety is not to point a weapon at anything you do not wish to shoot.

Tere's another victim shot through the stomach with a 30-30 rifle when his partner saw a movement and thought it was a deer. The victim was wearing blue levis, blue denim jacket open at the front over a red flannel shirt, and had on a bright yellow cap.

Another victim ended up with a shattered leg when his hunting partner looked thru the telescope on his 30-06 rifle and thought he saw a deer. Distance was about 20 yards.

These are just a few illustrations taken from the state police hunter casualty reports. Several more occurred when the shooter was walking along with either the

safety off or the hammer cocked, a practice for which there is no excuse.

But probably the most ironic of the lot was a hunter who stated he had a bad habit of placing the muzzle of his gun on his foot and leaning on it while watching for game. On this particular occasion the hammer was back and the gun discharged when he touched the trigger.

Well, the Ontario game farm is a thing of the past and will no longer be in production rearing upland game birds for the hunter's guns. Last month the game commission sold this pheasant rearing area and transferred all operations to the modern Hermiston establishment.

This is the time of year when on your day off if it rains and is nasty you go duck hunting and if it's clear you go steelhead fishing. Tuff life isn't it?

From all indications we are going to have a fishing parson in Sandy. Don Livesay is taking to the spinning reel and rod like a bird dog on a quail track. We couldn't think of a finer guy to go fishing with. Maybe when we loose that big one the air won't be quite so blue if Don is along.

John Mitchell was reported as taking a couple of nice silvers last week end. John is a master at taking the big ones in the Sandy.

We have had no reports of any steelhead being caught in the Sandy yet. Harold Edes came up with a dandy cutthroat about 18 inches.

Slim Smith brought in a nice Chinook. Took Slim's little woman about a half a day to get over the shock and realize that Slim had really caught the fish. Went something like this.

Slim proudly carrying the fish came up to the house. "What's that?", says Mrs. Smith.

"A salmon", says Slim. "Where did you get it?" "I caught it of course.", yelled Slim.

A new fish hatchery will soon be under construction in Oregon which when completed will be one of the most modern rearing plants in existence. This is the Gnat Creek hatchery, now in the final planning stage, which

will be located near Astoria. Construction of this modern fishery plant should be under way by early spring.

Since the Gnat Creek hatchery will be built with funds from the Columbia River program, all steelhead reared will be stocked in streams which form the Columbia system. These, of course, include the Clatskanie, Youngs, Willamette, Sandy, Hood, Deschutes, and other streams and their tributaries which empty into the Columbia.

— CP —

Beavers, Ducks Meet Saturday

EUGENE — Oregon's annual football civil war to be staged on Hayward field here this Saturday is shaping up as one of the most bitterly contested gridiron battles between the two state institutions in many years.

The Ducks, who were ticketed for last place in the coast conference this year by sports writers generally, is now leading the pack, with six wins and one defeat in coast conference play. Oregon last week won its right to represent the coast in the Rose Bowl on New Year's day when it trounced Southern California.

The Beavers from Oregon State can tie Oregon as co-champion of the conference if it defeats the Ducks, but if Oregon wins, as it is favored to do, it will hold undisputed title to the coast football crown.

— CP —

Bob Smith To Attend Tournament In Reno

Bob Smith, veteran Sandy trapshooter and president of the Sandy Gun club, left Tuesday for Reno, where he was to participate in the Nevada state trapshooting tournament which was to start Wednesday and continue thru the weekend.

Smith has been attending the Reno meet each fall for the past several years and has brought home a number of trophies to show for his prowess as a marksman.

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