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FROM The RIVER'S EDGE

By George MacAlevy



THE WATER ANIMALS

There are five sizeable water animals that inhabit our local streams and ponds. Three of these belong to the rodent family, and two of them to the weasel group. These are usually thought of as animals of the wilderness, not something that can be found right in the midst of man's work. Yet, all five of these animals live and thrive in the proximity of man. Some have modified their habits to adapt themselves, some live no differently than they have for eons of time, their natural furtiveness serving them well in this competition with civilization.

The water animal that always comes to mind when the word is mentioned is the beaver. Castor Canadensis is the name zoologists have tagged him with. The Beaver is a large animal, up to thirty inches long plus a ten inch tail, and often weighing as much as 60 pounds. Rich brown fur characterizes this animal, and his broad horizontally flattened tail is his most distinguished field mark.

The beaver has always had a reputation for being nature's foremost engineer. In the past, folk have endowed him with all kinds of superior knowledge and native intelligence, attributing to castor a mentality second only to man. In our time these myths have been exploded and the Beaver is found to be well down on the intelligence scale. He has a mania to make dams and ponds, and has the stubbornness and perseverance to go with it. Contrary to belief, these are not always placed at the best site, nor is their construction necessarily an engineering accomplishment. Mr. Beaver depends on bulk more than skill in his dam building, and he has not the slightest conception of what a spillway is. Actually he doesn't need to in normal water flows as his dams are leaky enough to let the stream trickle through. In high water, though, he often loses his dam because of this lack of a spillway.

Neither does a beaver know which way a tree will fall when he cuts it down. I have seen the beavers on my creek cut down three large cottonwoods before one fell in a direction

in which they could use it. The first two fell up the slope away from the creek and lodged in other trees, and they abandoned them to cut a third. With pressure from trappers and farmers over the years, the beaver did finally learn that this house was one of his most vulnerable possessions, and led more to his undoing than any other facets of his being. So, today, beavers have largely abandoned the beaver house for caverns dug in the banks of pond or stream, still retaining the characteristic underwater entrance. These caverns may be quite large. I recall a caterpillar tractor that caved in one and would up at the bottom of a water filled pit with the tractor completely below ground level. The driver had to grade a ramp out of the pit to retrieve the tractor. Luckily the dozer blade was attached to the tractor when it went in.

Often the muskrat will live in the same pond with beavers, although he can be found along streams and ditches. He likes lots of water too, but can do with less when he has to. His scientific name is *Onychia zibethica*. Size is small compared to that of the beaver, a full grown weighing about 4 pounds at a length of 14 inches plus a 9 inch tail. This tail is also a field mark as it is hairless, black, and flattened from side to side. This serves to distinguish it from a small beaver or nutria. The muskrat's fur is a rich brown also, with numerous black or very dark brown guard hairs. The underbody is silvery. The muskrat, too, used to live in characteristic houses. Nowadays, he will more often be found in burrows on the stream bank as he, like the beaver, has found his house can lead to his undoing by trappers.

The third rodent in our picture is a foreigner from Argentina and neighboring South American countries. He is the coypu, or nutria as he is known on the fur market and in this country. A get-rich-quick scheme of the 1950's involved selling breeding pairs of this animal at fantastic prices to unsuspecting people with exorbitant claims as to the value and demand for the fur of this animal. By the time the truth was known that this fur is far inferior to that of the muskrat or beaver and the demand for it was light, these breeding pairs had done their job well. The animals cost more to raise than could ever be realized from the sale of their pelts. So, thousands of them were allowed to escape. In Oregon and Louisiana these released animals have taken hold and thrived and compete with muskrat and waterfowl for the pondside feed. Where they have colonized adjacent to cultivated land their depredations on crops are large. They undermine banks and dikes and cause great damage and water loss. The nutria (zoologically *Myocastor coypus*) is about half the size of a full grown beaver. He has a 25 inch body plus a long round tail of 17 inches and the full grown animal will weigh about 18 pounds. The fur is a dull brownish color.

In the weasel family, there are two members who must have water for living in and around. These are the mink and the otter. These animals are built long and slender compared to our other water animals, the otter being more chunky than the mink. The wild mink is about 30 inches long including his tail. The rich brown color and durability of his pelt has made him a prime target for trappers for years. His vicious and blood-thirsty temperament sets him off from the otter. The otter is the playful member of the weasel clan. Mink are usually solitary except for the mother with kits. Otters live in family groups and, when they have satisfied their hunger, play and frolic and, in general, have a ball.

Locally, the beaver is the most evident of these animals. Lots of small creek valleys carry beaver dams every 50 to 100 feet along their course. The beavers on my creek leave it every summer to go I know not where. But with the first fall rains, their presence is again noticeable. They have become nocturnal exclusively, and they live in my back yard so to speak. You rarely see one, but the work done by them in prodigious, they insist on damming my spillways, flooding my meadow, blocking my culverts, and pushing out my fish screens. After every rainy night, there are all these things to remove

and repair. They never give up! They wait longer each time to rebuild, but rebuild they do. A family of muskrats and a solitary mink have moved in to one of these ponds. A nutria moved in to another. The nutria is gone to where all nutrias should go. But I protect the rights of the native animals to build their dams, cut their tunnels and forage and live in my ponds. And they in turn tolerate my clearings out of their excess workings as they create unnecessary flooding and washouts. My personal balance of Nature.

HOODLAND HOPPERS

Nov. 2	W	L
Alpine Hut	25	11
Shake Inn	19	17
Log Lodge	19	17
Post Electric	19	17
Washing Well	17 1/2	18 1/2
Chris' Phillips	66	16
Barlow Trail	12 1/2	23 1/2
High individual game, scratch		
-- Moma Hunt, 176.		
High series, scratch -- La		
Verne Winchester, 471.		

MIKE'S MITES

FINAL PREDICTION RECORD FOR WILCO LEAGUE 34-6, 850 Pts.

STATE PLAYOFFS PREDICTIONS

JESUIT (8-1) over BEND (9-0) ... The Crusaders, after an impressive 34-7 triumph over Parkrose for the league title, will use the running of Steve Wake and Tom Galluzzo plus the pin-point passing of Matty Christianson to end Bend's unbeaten string at nine straight. Jesuit's powerful backfield should punch holes through the state's toughest defensive team, and if the outcome has to be decided by a field goal Jesuit has Chris Rockwert who has scored 44 points by kicking and one field goal.

Bend can also counter with the running of Brian Metke, Jerry Pullman and Jim Winter. Also the passing of Gary Nehland. Bob Riley is also a fine receiver.

HILLSBORO (9-0) over Lincoln (7-1-1) ...

The Spartans, who beat out a fine David Douglas team for the title, is given a slight edge over the once beaten and once-tied Cardinals, who also beat out a team for the PIL crown in Grant. In the Spartan backfield are the likes of Steve Halstead, who shared the Metro league's scoring leadership with Larry Watson of David Douglas; Dave Schilling, as hard running a fullback as they come, Gary Nell is also a fine quarterback. Jeff Kolberg and Greg Stevens are the sparkplugs in the Cardinal backfield scoring 167 points between them. Kolberg also boots extra points. Hillsboro also has a very capable kicker in Pat Arnold, who has scored 38 points by kicking, with three field goals.

SOUTH SALEM (9-0) over McMinnville (8-1) ...

The number one rated Saxons should have an easier time than any other of the three winners with the Grizzlies. The Saxons boast such stalwarts as fullback Bruce Dunn, halfback Lee Watson and quarterback Gary Edmonds. They also have a fine receiver in Gary Kline. McMinnville is paced by quarterback Jan Baisack, fullback Greg Colvin, second in the TVV in scoring; halfback Dennis Draper, halfback Gary Lane and kicker John Buller, who has also booted a field goal and 21 extra points.

NORTH EUGENE (8-1) over Medford (7-1) ...

North Eugene, although upset by South Eugene last week, gets my nod anyway over highly rated Medford. Medford was rated first in the coach's poll for a few weeks before being knocked off by Roseburg. North is spurred by a fine all around squad. While Medford is sparked by a powerhouse rushing attack led by Tom Jackson, Andy Jones, Doug Johanson, Dick Orr and quarterback Dick Atwood.

SUGGESTION FOR FREEZING

Store frozen food at home no longer than the maximum time recommended for both the food and storage equipment used. (If food is to be stored for more than a few days, temperature should be zero,

Wy'East's 45 - 7 Triumph Ends Poor Pioneer Season

By Mike Hite

Pete Higgins rambled for 190 yards on 12 carries and three touchdowns in leading the Wy'East Golden Eagles to an easy 45-7 victory over Sandy Friday.

Higgins tallied on runs of 17, 56 and 51 yards all in the first half giving Wy'East 32-7 half-time lead.

After the Pioneers had scored their only point early in the second period on Jim Sliger's 12 yard run and a pass from Sliger to Ron Williams for the extra point, Mike Nastasi brought the fans to their feet as he took the kick-off on his own 15 and raced 85 yards for a

touchdown, the third time this year that a Sandy opponent has returned a kick-off for the distance. Jim Bailey, The Dalles, brought back the opening kick-off 85 yards in the third game of the year; Bob Woodward, Reynolds, who returned the opening kick-off 69 yards for the score the preceding game and Nastasi.

Barry Sheer of the Eagles helped pile up the score as he grabbed off two touchdowns passes, one from Tony Weseman for 49 yards and the other, a 5 yarder from Mick Swyers. Dave Cochran finished out the scoring with a 1 yard plunge into pay-

dirt.

SANDY 0 7 0 0-- 7
WY'EAST 13 19 13 0-- 45
WY -- Higgins 17 run (kick failed)
WY -- Higgins 56 run (Thomas kick)
SA -- Sliger 1 run, Williams pass from Sliger
WY -- Nastasi 85 kick off return, (kick failed)
WY -- Higgins 51 run, (kick failed)
WY -- Sheer 49 pass from Weseman, (Cochran kick)
WY -- Sheer 5 pass from Swyers, (Cochran kick)
WY -- Cochran 1 run, (kick failed)

BOWLING

SANDY BUSINESS MENS

11-6	W	L
Sportsmen	24	12
Clackamas	22	14
Cty. Bank	21	15
Brewster's	21	15
Richardson's	20	16
Glos Ford	17	19
Smith Motor	16 1/2	19 1/2
Rexall Drug	15 1/2	20 1/2
Thriftyway	8	28

High individual game and series -- Gerry Barker, 226 and Gene Madison, 588.
High team game and series -- Rexall Drug, 978 and Clackamas County Bank, 2806.

SAN RO ESTA JUNIORS

	W	L	
Wipe Outs	20	8	Hy
Square Balls	17	11	St
Gutter Dusters	10	18	Ar
Eight Balls	8	20	
High game and series, boys			74
Mike Rowley, 164 and 413.			
High game and series, girls			21
Bonnie Lewis, 141 and 402.			
High team game and series			En
Wipe Outs, 738 and 2214.			Ve
SUNDAY NITE			

SUNDAY NITE MIXED DOUBLES

Richardson's Chev	21	15
Sandy Shell	21	15
Dew Drop Inn	20	16
Team #8	18	18
Shorty's Corner	18	18
Chuck Baker Realty	18	18
Jay's Tavern	17	19
Rainbow Co.	11	25
High game and series men, Butch Espersen, 213 and Lou Langlois, 573.		
High game and series wom- en -- Darlene Dickensen, 188 Jo Lewis, 508.		
High team game and series Team #8, 716 and Jay's Tav- ern, 2005.		

TOWN & COUNTRY

Nov. 1	W	L
Gateway Inn	26	10

Curt & Dels

20	16
Meier Dairy	18
Mt. Hood Properties	18
Sportsmen's Club	18
Brightwood Oil	15
Sandy Auto Wreckers	15
Mt. Hood Cleaners	14
High team series and game	
-- Gateway Inn, 2444 and 914.	
High individual game and series -- Gary Woodcock, 204 and 525.	

ESTACADA HOUSEWIVES

Nov. 3	W	L
Ryming Rexall	22	10
Sportsmen's Club	20	12
Phillip's Elec.	17	15
Alaska Lockshop	17	15
Coffield's Motel	16	16
Hy-Way Motel	14	18
Steinman Bros.	13	19
Ames Flowers	11	21
High team game -- Rexall, 748.		
High team series -- Rexall, 2122.		
High individual series -- Emma Woodcock, 501.		
High individual game -- Vesta Jones, 185.		

MT. HOODERS

Nov. 3	W	L
Pioneer Real	24	12
Estate	24	12
Dea's In & Out	23	13
All Coast	22 1/2	13 1/2
Whistle	19	17
Stop	19	17
Ning's	16 1/2	19 1/2
Fireside	16 1/2	19 1/2
Dew Drop Inn	14 1/2	21 1/2
Oja Lumber Co	14 1/2	21 1/2
Williams	10	26
Thriftyway	10	26
High team series and game -- Oja Lumber, 2611 and 959.		
High series and game -- Ruby Langlois, 558 and 242.		

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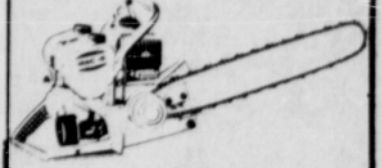
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A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

By KEN BATEMAN

Ask any three people you know (politicians included) to define a political concept and you will get three different interpretations. Peculiar notions are formed as each one flexes his thinking. And who can say the one man is wrong, the other is right? For example, a friend sent us these definitions. Read them—

-SOCIALISM: "You have two cows and give one to your neighbor." ... COMMUNISM: "You have two cows; the government takes both and gives you the milk." ... FACISM: "You have two cows; the government takes both and sells you the milk." ... NAZISM: "You have two cows; the government takes both and shoots you." ... CAPITALISM: "You have two cows; you sell one and buy a bull." ... And finally, THE GREAT SOCIETY: "You have two cows; the government tells you to shoot one and milk the other, and then tells you to throw the milk away."

Sounds humorous? Maybe so, but there is a memorable familiarity in each one of them. ... **BATEMAN FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 520 W. Powell Blvd., Gresham.

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