



Any Peles in the crowd? This group of prospective Portland Timbers is part of the Sandy Community Recreation Program

July the top month for boating mishaps

If you plan on doing any recreational boating in the next month or so, it may be wise to use extra caution. The month of July is historically a bad time for boating accidents.

U.S. Coast Guard figures for 1977 list 13 reported boat accidents in Oregon, causing 23 deaths, 22 injuries and \$96,000 in property damage. And that's only the tip of the iceberg. The actual number of injuries and amount of property damage is much greater because only 10 percent of such accidents are reported.

A boating safety check could greatly reduce the number of accidents on the water this year. Some basic suggestions are: check exhaust and intake pipes for blockages and clean them thoroughly; be sure all fuel and electrical connections are tight; check lines and steering cables for wear and fraying and clean and lubricate all working parts

and check their housing and supports.

A Courtesy Marine Examination (CME) of your recreational boat is available upon request by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Boats meeting the safety standards are awarded the CME decal "Seal of Safety."

Another safety tip concerns flotation devices. Since most boating fatalities are caused by drowning associated with capsizing, it is a good idea to have flotation devices along on boating expeditions. These will insure that a boat will stay afloat if it does capsize. If a boat does turn over, the passengers should stay with it; they can stay afloat and they will be much easier to spot by receivers.

Most boating accidents are caused by the ineptness of the skipper rather than by weather conditions. A majority of the accidents reported in 1977 were on vessels sailing on calm

water, with light winds and good visibility. Accidents caused by improper lookout outnumber those caused by poor visibility by a 30-1 margin.

Vessel load capacities should be observed whether measured in pounds or number of people. If an owner is uncertain of his boat's capacity, he can contact the manufacturer or retailer, or his local Coast Guard Auxiliary for advice.

A wide variety of free boating safety courses are offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The courses are taught by experienced boatmen and vary in length from 13 lessons to a short one-lesson starter course.

A home study program entitled "The Skipper's Course" is available for a small fee. Order No. 050-012-0050-06, superintendent of documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401.

Mosquitos more than just a nuisance



by Ken Durbin

Do you have a constant whining in your ears? See small spots moving before your eyes? Itch all over? Well, you can take comfort in the fact that lots of other Oregonians do, too, when they visit mosquito country.

When we are surrounded by hundreds of the little beasts bent on making pin cushions of us, it is little comfort to know they are also important links in both aquatic and terrestrial food chains. There are about 2,500 species of mosquitos in the world and more than 100 in the U.S.

In this country mosquitos are still a major health threat in some countries, spreading malaria, yellow fever, filariasis, and other diseases. Some regions of the world are uninhabitable because of mosquito abundance.

Mosquitos breed and are most prevalent around moist places. Marshes, swamps, pond margins, and the edges of larger, permanent bodies

of water are bound to have their share. But they are known to breed in hollow stumps. Some of the worst infestations in Oregon occur in alpine zones shortly after snow melt. They apparently breed in the moist areas near the receding snow line.

There are species adapted to Arctic regions and others that thrive at elevations as high as 14,000 feet. They have been found breeding in salty and brackish ponds. In Uganda one species breeds in hot alkaline volcanic pools near Lake Edward. And in India a species was found breeding in a factory tank of hydrochloric acid! Most live out their lives within a mile of their breeding place but some species can fly as far as 75 miles for a meal of blood.

Little wonder, then, that mosquitos continue to exist in spite of effective local efforts at control. Even though they don't look it, mosquitos are related to the common housefly. The name, in fact, comes from the Spanish word *mosca* which means "fly."

Chavinnistic as it sounds, we need only be concerned about the female mosquito. She feeds on blood after she mates to provide a rich food which helps mature her eggs. The blood also provides vitamins and minerals. The male mosquito feeds on the juices of plants.

Some species need human blood but others require the blood of certain birds, horses, cows, and dogs. Scientists have discovered mosquitos have very sophisticated systems for finding and obtaining their blood meal.

Mosquitos apparently have very poor eyes and can see only vague shapes. They find us by sensing an increase in carbon dioxide which we emit when we breathe. We could stop breathing, but they also have the ability to sense small amounts of moisture and minute increases of temperature in the air. The mosquitos follow the increasing moisture and temperature gradients and what do they find at the end? You!

Once a female mosquito lands on you and finds a soft spot, she begins to bite with a very complicated set of mouth parts. The "stinger" is made up of six lancets enclosed in a sheath called a proboscis. Each lancet is sharper than a needle, finer than a hair, lined with a tiny saw-like teeth.

The lancets move independently, sawing their way beneath your skin. Once the lancets have sliced under your skin, they begin to probe around, turning this way and that (as much as 90 degrees) until they find a capillary or tiny blood vessel. The six lancets then fit together to form a tube.

Through one lancet the mosquito injects a little saliva (an anticoagulant to keep the blood from clotting). We humans are allergic to mosquito saliva and that is what causes the swelling and itching associated with mosquito bites. With a pumping action in her throat the mosquito then sucks blood into her stomach through the tube made by her lancets.

If you don't gain the small satisfaction of slapping her before she completes her meal, she will eventually fill her stomach, withdraw mouth parts, and fly away.

Scientists have learned other things about mosquitos. We can't stop breathing, emitting moisture, or giving off heat. But there are some things we can do to reduce our attractiveness to mosquitos. Research has found, for example, that mosquitos have a preference for dark clothing. So wear light-colored clothes when you go afield in mosquito country.

There are, of course, a variety of mosquito repellents. But some are better than others. Pick the liquid, spray, or cream with the most DEET (Diethylmetatolamide) or ethyl hexanediol in it. This is the active ingredient that mosquitos don't like.

Externally applied repellents can sweat away or

be rubbed off and must be renewed periodically. Another disadvantage worth knowing about is that some repellents can harm plastic or other synthetic finishes like those found on fly lines, gun stocks, and lots of other outdoor equipment.

Recently an internal mosquito repellent has become available. It is taken in table form several hours before going afield and supposedly lasts for six hours or more. The tables cause your skin to emit a vapor undetectable to humans but offensive to mosquitos. The ingredient is apparently a form of vitamin and, although I haven't tried it yet, I've heard it is effective.

Clothing that leaves a minimum of exposed skin will help protect against mosquitos. But some species can bite through thick animal skin and even the tough scaly skin of a snake! Thick cotton like chambray cloth will stop most mosquitos.



TWO FUTURE NBA STARS attended the sixth annual summer basketball camp at Fort Lewis College in Colorado June 11-16. Matt Bair (left) and his brother Jeff from Boring attended the week-long camp for boys aged 10-18.

Rec trip dates set

The City of Sandy Recreation Department is sponsoring a series of outdoor activities this summer for children ages 7-13.

The activities will be on Tuesday beginning July 11, with times to be arranged weekly. A fee for each trip will be charged to cover the cost of transportation.

July 11
Fishing at Small Fry Lake bring bag lunch and fishing poles (if available)
Worms will be provided; no license is necessary

July 18
Guided trail tour of Alpine-Timberline trail
Bring bag lunch

July 25
Tour of Hydro-Electric Plant at Northfork Dam
Bring bag lunch

Aug. 1
Oaks Park Carnival bring bag lunch and money for rides

Aug. 8
Sand casting at the Columbia River
bring bag lunch; fee for plaster of Paris.

Blazers hold camp

The Portland Trail Blazers opened their annual rookie-free-agent camp Monday, but the main attraction was missing.

Mychal Thompson, the first player chosen in this year's collegiate draft, is not participating in the two-day drills because he hasn't signed a contract. The 6-10 Thompson is from the University of Minnesota.

Practices for the prospective Blazers have been closed to the public. However, their final practice of the week, and 8 p.m. scrimmage on Thursday, will be open to the public. Doors will be open to the Coliseum at about 8 p.m.

Despite Thompson's absence, drills went smoothly for Coach Jack Ramsey's players. The standout at the drills thus far has been the 6-4 guard from Arkansas Ron Brewer.

Brewer was the Blazers second first-round pick and the seventh player chosen in the overall draft. Drafted for his ball-handling ability and defensive process, Brewer has also shown he can put the ball in the hoop, shooting .573 from the field in his senior year at Arkansas.

Brewer hasn't signed a contract but has verbally agreed to terms with Blazer management.

Following Thursday's scrimmage, which concludes this year's camp, seven or eight players will be chosen to play on Portland's team in the Los Angeles summer pro league.

Have a Fabulous Fourth!

Fourth of July-Independence Day celebrates the birthday of freedom for Americans.

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