

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

Entered as second-class matter, at the postoffice at Brookings, Ore., March 7, 1946, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

DEWEY AKERS, Editor and Publisher
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year, in Curry County \$3.00
One Year, outside Curry County \$3.50

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NEW PHONES SYSTEM COMING

Cut-over to the 4-digit dial phones for this area is due before the end of the month. The Pilot was informed late last week, when Mr. McBride, Coos Bay, district manager, when he asked that the Pilot print the new Brookings phone numbers to serve for thirty days or more, until the new telephone phone directories were out.

The new phones are a real improvement over the old 3-digit system. Take for instance on a 10-party line, only two phones will ring. If the phone number ends in an odd number, the ring will be one; even numbers are two rings.

Noted, too, on the new phone numbers will be the number '2' in front of the former 3-digit number. Most of the phones in the area have the same line, and number, so that will cause little confusion. These new cards will be delivered sometime this week, and probably a number already have been given out.

Fur Seal

Greed and waste—which have robbed the world of many birds and animals — almost put Fur Seals out of existence. But reckless men were halted in time to



©National Wildlife Federation
Fur Seal

save the amazing creatures. There were no more than 150,000 of the seals left, some forty years ago, and they were fast disappearing. At last a treaty was made which forbade killing the seals while they were migrating in the ocean. It was also agreed that only a limited number of the seals might be taken each year under the supervision of the United States government. Thanks to this protection, Fur Seals have increased in number. The National Wildlife Federation reports that there are now between two and three millions of them.

Only when they spend a few months of the spring and summer on land does the government permit between 90,000 and 100,000 to be killed. Eskimos do the hunting, and they take nothing but young male seals—never females.

At the same time this hunting goes on, the seals are living on the cold, rocky Pribilof Islands

in the north Pacific Ocean. The males arrive there early in May, and the females come in June.

Soon after the females waddle ashore, their young pups are born. The babies weigh 10 to 12 lbs. apiece. They are black at first, but later turn grey. Though they all look alike, and spend their time together, the pups cannot fool their mothers. The mothers can pick their own pups out of the pack without any trouble.

Along in October and November, the herds begin to flop off their rocky islands. They plunge into the waters of the Pacific and head southward. From then until spring, they stay in the water.

Traveling in groups, the Fur Seals swim hundreds of miles to the south, sometimes going as far down as California. But they never get closer than a hundred miles off the shore. Only a sick or crippled seal tries to find land during the long winter migration.

At the end of the winter, the packs make their return journey to the Pribilofs. Always they keep a sharp lookout for their worst enemy, the killer whale, and for their favorite food, small fish.

The males are specially anxious to eat well, because they go without food from May to August. The females fare better in the spring and summer, often leaving land to get something to eat.

Nevertheless, the males are the giants of the herd. By the time they are fully grown, at the age of seven, they weigh from 400 to 500 pounds each. They are black or dark brown. The females are lighter in color and smaller, weighing an average of 80 or more pounds.

Though awkward on land, Fur Seals are powerful swimmers. With their flippers, they gracefully cut through the water and cover many miles without stopping. They are also skillful at leaping into the air and diving under the waves.

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