

COUGAR

AN ELEMENTARY science course of study written by some educators for an important city in the East says that the mountain lion and cougar disappeared from the nearby hills at about the same time. This might be elaborated to say that the mountain lion, cougar, painter, puma, panther, catamount, mountain devil, red tiger, mountain screamer, silver lion, purple panther, brown tiger, sneak cat, king cat and varmint also disappeared at the same time. They are all the same animal no matter what you call them nor where you find them. While some eight races have been recognized the animals are unquestionably all the same species, *Felix cougar*.

Originally the cougar ranged over practically all of the United States with a few specimens reported from Maine and along the southern border of Canada. They are still to be found rather regularly in southern British Colum-

bia and Alberta. The range extends south to Patagonia. Except for Florida, parts of Louisiana and southern Texas, these cats have probably been exterminated



Cougar
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in the United States east of the plains states.

A cougar may measure 9 feet with a 3-foot tail. The weight

Plywood Market V. P. Appointed

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 19.—Appointment of Charles E. Devlin as executive vice president and general manager of Northwest Door and Plywood Sales Incorporated was announced today by H. E. Tenzler, president of the company.

Devlin will establish his office at the company's headquarters in the Washington Building next Monday, Tenzler said. He will direct the operations of the sales company which markets the output of three large widely separated fir plywood factories. The manufacturing firms are: Northwest Door Company, long established Tacoma plywood and door manufacturer; Paragon Plywood Corporation of Crescent City, Calif., and Brookings Plywood Corporation of Brookings, Oregon. The sales company has regional offices in New York, Chicago, Memphis and San Francisco.

goes up to 200 pounds. The sexes are colored alike a uniformly yellow brown except that the under parts are lighter. The fur is short, close and uniform.

A cougar is a powerful animal capable of dragging a 900-pound moose 300 feet over snow. It can jump straight up for a distance of 15 feet and can leap safely down a distance of 60 feet. An individual usually claims a territory that may be 80 miles across and in a single night may travel 20 miles. While black bears are known to relish pigs, wolves are known to favor cattle. Similarly coyotes seem to enjoy killing sheep but the cougar definitely favors horses and deer. In the rarest of instances it has been known to attack man.

They may serve a useful function in keeping the multiplication of deer under control. The famous story of killing off the cougars of the Kaibab forest only to have the deer multiply so that they starved in the resulting competition for food is a standard story in all conservation programs. It illustrates definitely that predators, whether they are fish, birds, insects or mammals, serve a useful function in the economy of nature.

Cougars are usually hunted by dogs with the hunters following on horses. When possible a pursued puma takes to a tree to escape the dogs. There it is shot, photographed, lassoed or otherwise used to satisfy the whim of man.

Cougars pair possibly for life. The one to five spotted young may be born at any time of the year, usually 91 days after breeding took place. The young are blind for about nine days, crawl at seven weeks, eat their first meat at three months, are weaned at about four months, retain their spots to 18 months and remain with the mother from one to two years. With exceptional luck a cougar might live to a ripe old age of 20 years of age.

It would seem that these animals under ordinary circumstances should not be completed destroyed in a given area suitable to their needs. This may be questioned by some, of course. But even those who think of cougars only as varmints should recognize that men do get sport from hunting them and sport is quite important in the lives of many people.

Humboldt County Charges Pile Up Overloading

EUREKA, Calif.—The district attorney's office of Humboldt county, Calif., it is reported, is suffering from a headache. This ailment is caused by some 600 cases, against log truckers, for overloading which have been piled up in the office.

The story goes that whenever a logger in Humboldt county is cited into court on overload charges, he does not go to court, plead guilty, and pay a large fine. Instead he hires an attorney. The attorney enters a plea of "Not Guilty" for his client and then demands a jury trial. It is claimed that the records of these cases often show that the jury finds the logger "Not Guilty."

A volunteer statistician has figured it out that if all of the cases now pending in Humboldt county, against loggers for overloading, are tried before a jury that it shall take at least four years for the courts of that county to wade through this litigation. It is estimated that the costs to the county for court costs and jurors' fees shall amount to more than \$20,000. The district attorney is reported to have declared that if he

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devotes his time to the prosecution of these cases he shall have no time to do anything else.

Thus far nobody has come up with a solution to this problem.

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