

After everything is said deer hunting is still just work!

by Dennis Dobson

Someday I'd like to meet the man that first called deer hunting a sport. From my end of the barrel, at least, it still looks like work.

Along with nearly 200,000 other lost souls I trudged into the full face of an Oregon autumn last weekend to do timeless, honored battle with a buck of the woods.

In the company of my good friend Jim Magmer, of Portland, I engaged in what proved to be a wholly fruitless weekend of 'Deer Work'. We stand-hunted, sitting miserably hunched against a truly unforgiving rain storm, for hours. We walked the hidden trails, 'runways' as I call them. We hiked through miles of exasperating clear-cut and we layed in ambush, like assassins in the night, near favorite orchards, waiting for a legal buck to pass within rifle range. In short, we hunted everywhere the deer were not.

There is some comfort though in reports we've received from other hunters so far; although I'm sure there were many successful hunters last weekend, to date we know of only one buck taken this season opener, and it ended up in the freezer through one of those fluke accidents we all dream of but never have happen to us. It seems this fellow, from Aloha, was walking down a secluded game trail somewhere near Rodger's Park Saturday morning when he literally stumbled onto a bedded down buck. The deer, a respectable three pointer,

caught its rack on overhanging branches (naturally, since this is happening to someone else) delaying himself just long enough for this nimrod to get off a shot. Our lucky hunter didn't even have to drag his kill the two miles back to his rig. Just

you might even ask yourself, that these same frustrations and general circumstances often produce the best hunts?

The answer might very well lie in what might be called a 'Quality Hunting Experience'. A gentle

hunter, or worker, determines what they will get out of each hunt. Perhaps it is that simple truth that makes it all worthwhile. Let's hope that is the reason we keep on going out, full of new hope and untarnished expectations, each time we go afield. If it isn't it means my wife is probably right. She says behavior like this indicates a definite character defect.

Next Week:

"Wake Me When It's Over"

WIC changes may affect you

The special supplemental food program for Women, Infants and Children, (WIC) has recently undergone some federal and state-wide changes which affect eligibility for WIC clients locally.

Beginning July 1, 1981 all new participants must not exceed the federally established income guideline. The gross family income and the family size are considered to determine if a client is income-eligible to participate in the WIC program. However, low income does not make an individual automatically eligible.

My Neck Of The Woods

by Dennis Dobson

as he finished gutting the animal two other hunters happened along and were prevailed upon to lend a hand. My kind of luck the hunters would have been game officers and they would have cheerfully informed me that I had wandered just inches over the line into a controlled hunt area. Oh well, it's other people's triumphs that make our own frustrations bearable.

Back to my original premise, that hunting is simply thinly disguised work. It's also interesting to note that hunting always seems to be uphill, never downhill. Here we have an interesting corollary; that hunting is uphill work. Or, restated, that hunting tends to be a tortuous climb against truly overwhelming odds in the quarry's favor. What then, your wife might ask, is the point to it? What, she might mutter under her breath, drives this grown child to stay out in the rain when he'd really rather be at home watching a ball game and drinking beer? Why is it,

euphemism for not finding anything other than does and fawns. Jim grew tired of hearing about it. At one point, in a fit of uncontrolled frustration, Jim barked at me, "The hell with quality, how about some QUANTITY!"

A lot of diverse things go into a quality hunt, not the least among them being choosing your partner. There is, after all, something to be said for solitary hunting.

The question of a partner aside, a host of other ingredients go into making one hunt better or more memorable than another. Weather, location, pre-season scouting and your own expectations all add up to the final result. There are some who say that simply being out in the woods is enough. Others will settle for nothing less than complete success in the hunt while others are perfectly satisfied settling for something in between the two extremes. In the final analysis each

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