

THE COUGAR IS WARY ANIMAL EXTREMELY HARD TO KILL BY STILL HUNTING METHODS.

(Continued from page 6)

and claws for a moment, and then ran away. Another man I knew, a hunter named Ed Smith who had a small rough hair Heilm, was once charged by a wounded cougar, he received a couple of deep scratches but, was not seriously hurt.

Many old frontiersmen tell tales of the cougar occasionally itself making the attack, dogging to his death some unfortunate wayfarer. Many other laugh such tales to scorn. It is certain that if such attacks occur they are altogether exceptional, being indeed of such extreme rarity that they may be entirely disregarded in practice. I should have no more hesitation in sleeping out in a wood where there were cougars, or walking through it after nightfall, than I should have if the cougars were tomcats.

Men Sometimes Killed

Yet it is foolish to deny that in exceptional instances attacks may occur. Cougars vary wonderfully in size, and possess in temper. Indeed I think that by nature they are as cowardly and bloodthirsty as they are cowardly, and that their habit of sometimes dogging wayfarers for miles is due to a desire for bloodshed which they lack the courage to realize. In the old days, when all wild beasts were less shy than at present, there was more danger from the cougar, and this was especially true in the dark canebrakes of some of the Southern States, where the man a cougar was most likely to encounter was a nearly naked and unarmed negro. General Hampton tells me that near his Mississippi plantation, many years ago, a negro who was one of a gang engaged in building a railroad through low and wet ground was waylaid and killed late one night as he was walking alone through the swamp.

I knew two men in Missoula who were once attacked by cougars in a very curious manner. It was in January and they were walking home through the snow after a hunt, each carrying on his back the saddle, haunches, and hide of a deer he had slain. Just at dusk, as they were passing through a narrow ravine, the man in front heard his partner utter a sud-

den loud call for help. Turning, he was dumfounded to see the man lying on his face in the snow, with a cougar which had evidently just knocked him down standing over him, grasping the deer meat; while another cougar was galloping up to assist. Swinging his rifle round he shot the first one in the brain, and it dropped motionless. Whereat the second halted, wheeled, and bounded into the woods. His companion was not in the least hurt or even frightened. The cougars were not full grown, but young of the year.

Americans Released From Russian Prisons



Americans photographed at Reval upon their arrival from Soviet prisons. In the group are Russell P. Carter, John Fitch, W. B. Foster, Henri J. La... X. Kalamaitov.

Now in this case I do not believe the beasts had any real intention of attacking the men. They were young animals, bold, stupid and very hungry. The smell of the raw meat excited them beyond control, and they probably could not make out clearly what the men were, as they walked bent under their burdens, with the deer skins on their backs. Evidently the cougars were only trying to get at the venison.

Indian Met Death

In 1886 a cougar killed an Indian

near Flathead Lake. Two Indians were hunting on horseback when they came on the cougar. It fell at once to their shots, and they dismounted and ran toward it. Just as they reached it it came to, and seized one, killing him instantly with a couple of savage bites in the throat and chest, it then racing toward the other, and, as he sprung on his horse, struck him across the buttocks, inflicting a deep but not dangerous scratch. I saw this survivor a year later. He evinced great reluctance to talk of the event, and insisted that the thing which had slain his companion was not really a cougar at all, but a devil.

A she-cougar does not often attempt to avenge the loss of her young, but sometimes she does. A remarkable instance of this kind happened to my friend, Professor John Bach McMaster, in 1875. He was camped near the head of Green River, Wyoming. One afternoon he found a couple of cougar kittens, and took them into camp; they were clumsy, playful, friendly little creatures. The next afternoon he remained in camp with the cook. Happening to look up he suddenly spied the mother cougar running noiselessly down on them, her eyes glaring and tail twitching. Snatching up his rifle, he killed her when she was barely twenty yards distant.

A ranchman, named Treacott, who was at one time my neighbor, told me that while he was living on a sheep-farm in the Argentine, he found pumas very common, and killed many. They were very destructive to sheep and colts, but were singularly cowardly when dealing with men. Not only did they never attack human beings, under any stress of hunger, but they made no effective resistance when brought to bay, merely scratching and cuffing like a big cat, so that, if found in a cave, it was safe to creep in and shoot them with a revolver. Jaguars, on the contrary, were very dangerous antagonists.

Practical Cape



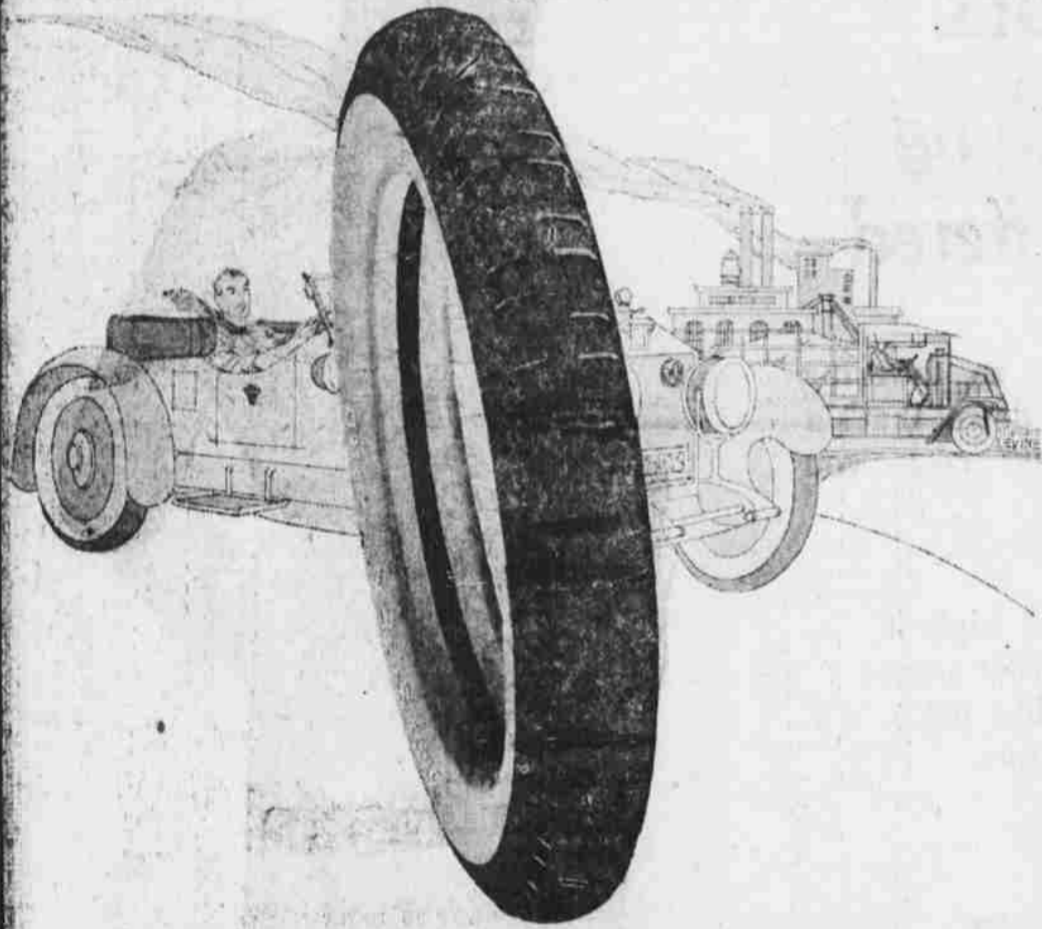
This smart sport costume which is also extremely practical is of the ported English tweed. The cape is of plain mauve tweed lined with plaid wool. It has a broad collar fastened with ties. The skirt is of mauve tints. A soft velvet hat is worn with this costume which is a warm it insures its wearer absolute discomforts of inclement weather.

HEART ON THE WRONG SIDE

BERLIN, Sept. 22.—(L. N. S.)—An extraordinary discovery was made by a surgeon at the Pankow Hospital, near Berlin, when operating on a patient for appendicitis. When the patient was cut open it was found that his heart was on the right side of the body and the appendix on the left.

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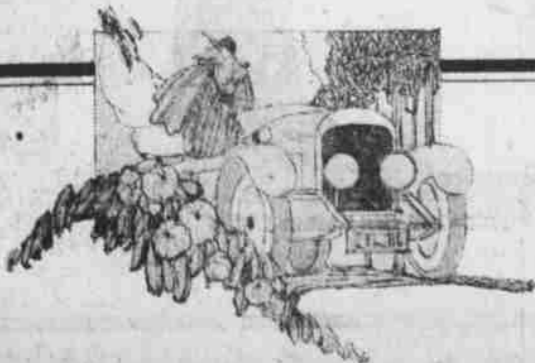
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