

HUNTING PREDATORY ANIMALS IN EASTERN OREGON DESCRIBED BY ALBERT PETERSON WHO DID NOT LEARN THE FACTS FROM BOOKS

Ukiah Man Has Enviably Record as Government Hunter.

One of the most successful hunters and trappers in the employ of the U. S. Biological Survey in Eastern Oregon is Albert Peterson of Ukiah. As a boy and later as a young man he has hunted continuously since he was seven years old, and in addition to the skill that was his from experience, he has gained much information in his studies of the subject of trapping and hunting. He was under the direction of E. F. Averill for a time in the predatory animal work and has established an excellent record during his period of service.

Mr. Peterson's views of the subject of how to work most effectively in exterminating predatory animals, which every year exact a heavy toll from the livestock men, is given in the following thesis. Mr. Peterson is president of the Camas Prairie Cowboys' convention, a big old west show held every year at Ukiah, July 4. The thesis follows:

My idea of predatory animal control is as follows:

First, more good competent, industrious predatory animal inspectors seem to be needed. After securing a competent inspector next comes a good hunter, qualified in all ways. He must have as his qualifications a good moral character, a thorough understanding of hunting and trapping and a favorable social standing. A hunter must be industrious and experienced in his line of work. He must have a fair knowledge of the country in which he is to work and should be enlisted in the service between the ages of 18 and 25 years.

The animals against which I think the work should be directed and which I consider true predatory are coyotes, wolves, bob cats, Canadian lynx and cougar.

While the wolves are rapidly decreasing from the Eastern United States, as a result of the work of U. S. hunters, many are yet to be found in the western part of the country. These animals prey mostly upon cattle, colts, and deer. They kill by running up to the animal and cutting its ham strings with its teeth.

Coyotes are very plentiful throughout the United States both in timbered and prairie localities. Coyotes are today the most difficult animal to get under control. They live almost entirely upon sheep. They separate one from the band and cut its throat with their teeth. Not infrequently they slaughter large numbers of sheep and leave them on the ground unused. Calves, poultry, and deer are also a prey of the coyote. I have seen as many as five deer within a distance of one fourth mile along a frozen



A Pendleton Home.

stream that had been run on the ice and killed by coyotes.

The cat family is very cunning in its depredations but yet very bold in finding its prey. A bob cat will come into the door yard or corral at night and obtain its victims from flocks of sheep or poultry, while the cougar chooses the calves or colts. Large numbers of deer are destroyed annually by the dexterous spring of the cougar, as the deer are the main source of subsistence for the cougar during the winter months.

The Canadian lynx is found most generally upon high mountain ranges, consequently the game birds afford their source of food.

I believe that the work of predatory wild animal control comes in four distinct lines. Therefore, I shall explain my ideas in Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

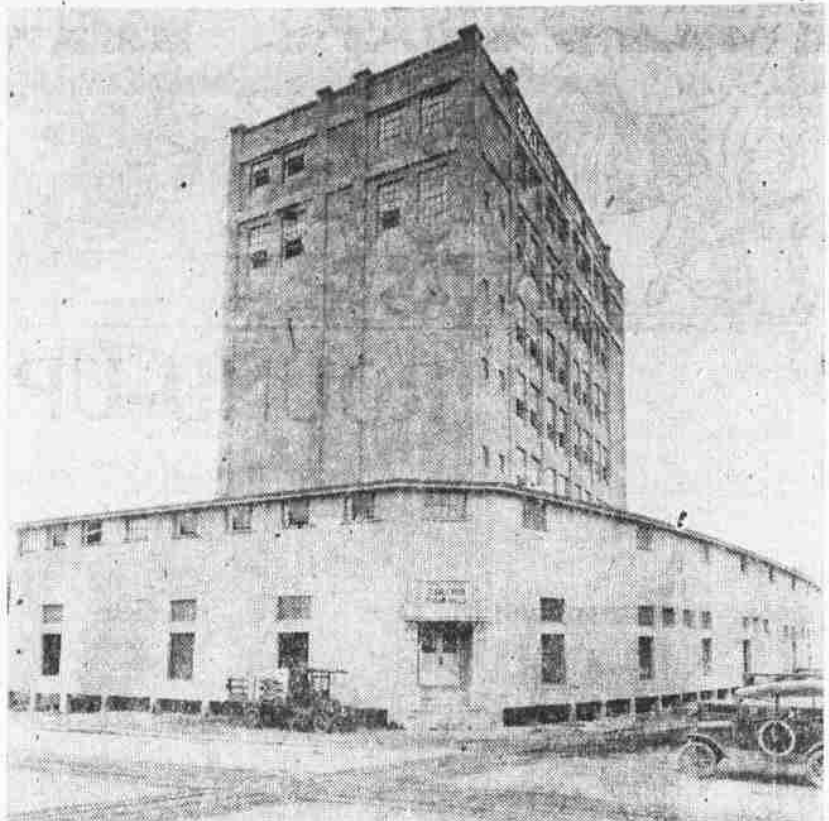
Part 1. First part, I consider that plenty of traps, properly set and covering sufficient mileage the year around, the best way to conduct predatory animal control. I think any hunter who is qualified for the position can run 149 miles of trap line for at least 9 months of the best part of the year, which would be from March 1st, to December 1st. For this 149 miles of trap line the following equipment is necessary: 280 No. 3 New House traps, set one-half mile apart, 3 good saddle horses, 1 riding saddle, 2 pack outfits, 2 tents will do as camp- ing and sheep camps can be reached

if traps are properly arranged, gun, dog, cooking utensils, axe, flash light, compass, forest map, and a good bed. Wire for securing traps will be indispensable in the equipment. Rations should be obtained while in town to last until more supplies are available. Waterproof clothing will add greatly to the hunter's comfort while out on the line.

Camps should be arranged so that they can be reached at night after a 25 mile ride, as this is only a days work for man and horse after the line is once established, provided the horse is well fed and cared for. Grain to feed saddle horses should be provided in the equipment where there is not ample vegetation for such purposes. Horses should be stationed so that a change every other day is available. In stringing traps, they should be carried by pack horse and dropped where your set is expected to be made. If in thick timber, a trail should be blazed one of two days before setting trap line. If on prairie, stakes should be set if you are not familiar with the country. This eliminates the loss of numbers of traps. I think this trap line should be changed to a different course at least every two months, as the territory is worked out on the line you are running.

No. 2 New House traps are preferable because they have much more gripping power and are far more durable. If a cow, horse, or elk tramples upon them the weight does not spring them

as readily as does the lighter traps. While the New House is heavier to carry they can be depended upon to hold the same when caught. I think that every five or six days is often enough for a hunter to make the complete round of his trap line.



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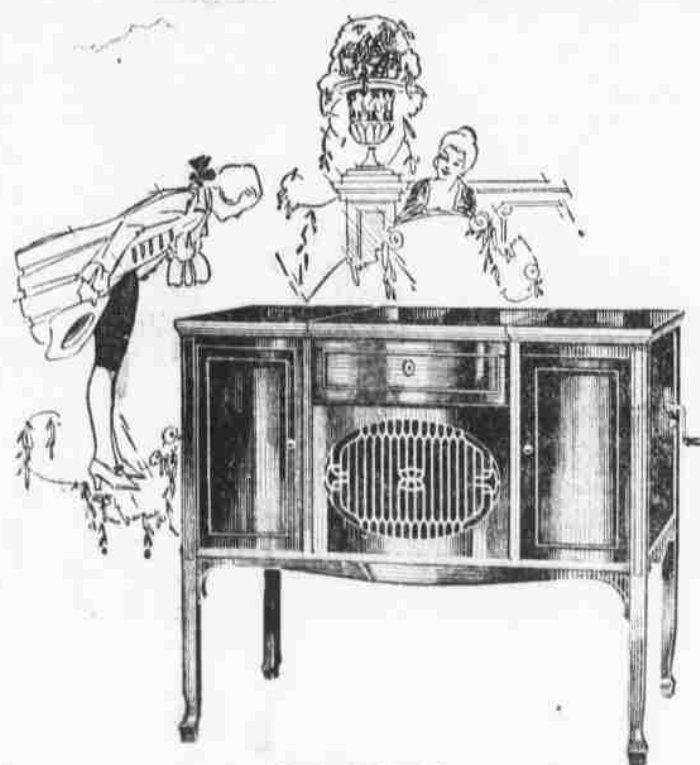
COLLINS FLOUR MILLS

PENDLETON, OREGON

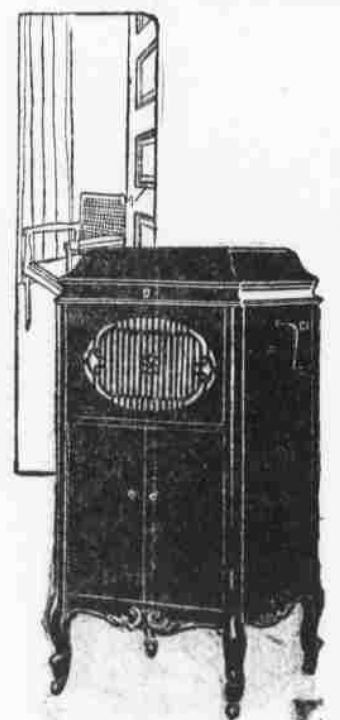
The location to make trap sets, if the animals have or will frequent, The first thing in making your set is to wire your trap chains securely. Excavate so that when the trap is placed and covered it will be just even with the ground. Traps should be covered well but not too deeply, leaving as little disturbance as possible from the surrounding natural order. While this precaution is not necessary for all animals, one should insure his set against the craft of others. The

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(Continued on page 3.)



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