

Fewer hunters, more deer

The joy of hunting

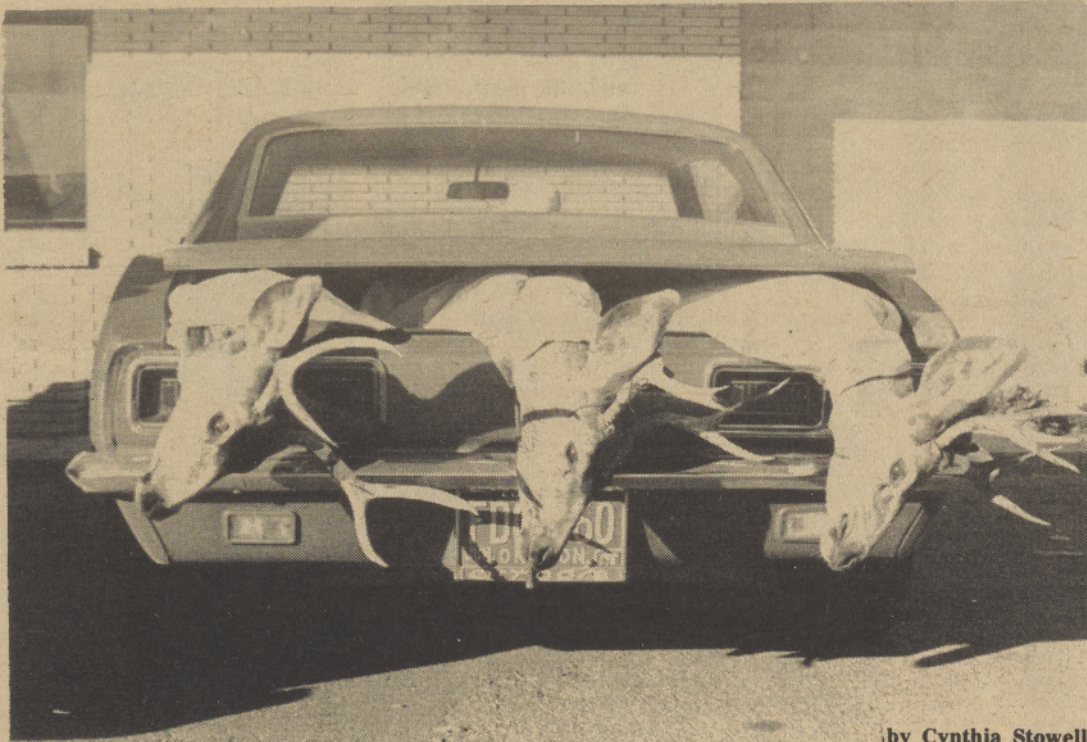
by Cynthia D. Stowell

The campers and pick-ups with loaded gun racks descended upon us the first of October. Their optimistic occupants roamed the woods for a period of time, dodging each other's bullets. Twelve days later the stream of traffic reversed itself, but, look closely... radiator grills featured trophy heads blindly pointing the way home, roof racks were festooned with antlers, and trunks revealed furry tails wagging one last time in the wind. Onlookers like myself gazed in wonder as the ritual of deer hunting season played itself out.

Perhaps the romantic dies a sudden death once a taste for venison is cultivated. With no great fondness for deer meat, this reporter attempted a cold hard look at the facts surrounding central Oregon's 1976 deer season.

Generally the numbers of hunters were down this season but the deer population was up and the hunters' success rate was higher through central Oregon. For example, according to Brian Ferry, Assistant to the Game Biologists in the Prineville office of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, hunters on the first weekend in the Ochoco Unit were down 8 percent from last year, the harvest was up 100 percent and success was up 128 percent. Similar figures exist for the other game units in the area just east of the mountains.

Paul Bonn, District Wildlife Biologist in the Bend office speculated on the reasons for



THIS WAS A common sight on the highways of central Oregon on the opening days of hunting season. Hunter Randy Shepherd of Corvallis,

owner of this car, remarked, "The woods were lousy with hunters. We just lucked out I guess. The deer kept crossing our path."

by Cynthia Stowell

these trends. Because of better fawn survival, the number of yearling bucks was higher this year. An unusually wet August provided better forage and might account for the more even distribution of deer.

At the same time fewer hunters made their way into central Oregon. This is thought to be due to the new split tag regulation this year. Hunters could purchase only one tag

for either black-tailed deer (west of the mountains) or mule deer (east of the mountains). Many might have chosen to hunt on the west side because that season is 25 days longer.

Violations appeared to be less numerous this season, according to State Policeman Russell Wymore. Tagging violations, which are the most common, were down, as were

hunting at night, false applications and killing spikes. Wymore suggested that violations are less likely when it's easy to get a buck legally. However, the killing or injuring of doe was more frequent.

Bonn noted that road hunting in Deschutes County was still a problem. What many people don't realize, he said, is that hunters do better on foot, as evidenced by the success

rate this year in areas where extensive road closure was in effect.

On the reservation, deer hunting increased dramatically with the opening of the state season, even though the season here is virtually year-round. Director of Natural Resources Gene Greene said that 80 percent of the deer hunting on the reservation takes place during this period and tag sales in October (60 so far), bear this out.

Regulations remained about the same this year: hunting is open to tribal members only and a limit of one deer per family per month is in effect, with bucks being off-season from November to February and doe and fawns off-limits May-August. Tribal members may obtain free state licenses for hunting in ceded areas.

The hunting pressure, harvest and success rate won't be known until tags are returned in at the end of the month. Greene expected that the deer population had grown since the adoption of Ordinance 50, in 1971, with its family limits and other restrictions, and with improved logging and reseeded practices.

Greene looks forward to intensifying the reservation's wildlife management effort by the use of a plan in patrolling, the hiring of a wildlife biologist and the formalizing and streamlining of counting techniques. It is hoped that management of the McQuinn Strip can be transferred fully to the Tribe in 1982.

Now after the city folk have completed their trek to central Oregon, deer hunting continues on the reservation and a rumored big buck contest should keep hunters active until the end of buck season.

Please send any venison samples to the Spilyay office. I could learn to like it yet.

OFFICERS ELECTED

The Madras High School Native American Indian club held their first meeting for this school year on the evening of Oct. 7, 1976, starting at 8:00 p.m.

New officers were elected for this year and they are; Chairmen Charlie Mitchell, Matt Wewa Vice chairman, Nancy Sooksoit Secretary, Jackie Estimo Treasurer, and George Clements Sgt. at Arms, the Club advisor is Mike Clements.

It was stated that the goals and objectives are to form an association of a Northwest Indian Club, (NWIC), which would include the four States, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Another meeting set for the evening of Oct. 14, 1976, and it was stressed that more leadership and organization be practiced and developed which will create workshops and other training methods in the future.

Parent participation and help would be appreciated for the students that are in the club, for chaperones, transportation to various club activities.

The Lions International

Members of the Lions International, from near by communities were here at Warm Springs community center on the evening of Oct. 5, 1976. The meeting was to familiarize the local interested men, and give an insite to the organization

contribution to society throughout the world.

Representatives from Madras, Prineville, Hood River, Redmond, Cascade Locks and the State Secretary from Eugene, Or., were present to acquaint themselves with the local men that attended the meeting.

The Lions International is the worlds largest service organization and the first ever to have achieved one million

members. A Lions Club is a group of community-minded men who attend meetings to determine how they can best aid their communities, and are active in a broad scope of humanitarian services.

The service programs Lions undertake have been classified into ten activities and they are, sight conservation and work for the blind, hearing conservation and work for the deaf, citizenship services, educational services, environmental services, health services, international understanding and cooperation and youth exchange, public services, recreational services and social services, as each one of these activities is evident in any area of the world. The Lions Clubs help individuals as well as families when in need.

With this in mind it was decided by the local men present that another meeting be scheduled for Oct. 26, 1976, at the Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge.

The local men expressed their desire to form a club here at Warm Springs and may prove beneficial to the local and reservation people and hope many more men become involved.

The requirements for membership is that a male adult and interested in community functions is all that is necessary.



LION CLUB meeting at the Community Center.