

OUT-OF-DOORS STUFF

By Lana Leneve

Have received many favorable comments upon the bear story which Mr. Pook handed me not long ago and which was published in last week's issue. Hope Mr. Pook digs up another story soon.

Over in another county of this state it appears that some one reported seeing a coyote running a deer. A newspaper dispatch pertaining to this fact states that people of that district had purchased poison to rid that neighborhood of the coyote. In a way you can't blame the people, for does not the U. S. government sponsor the use of poison? Just like one dumb cluck said to me on one occasion, "Well the government agents use poison, so it has to be all right." Just as though the government couldn't blunder, or has never blundered. I suppose such an individual would maintain that the Depression was okay because the government was responsible for it.

But the poor misguided souls who purchased the poison to string out for a lone coyote probably never stopped to consider what they were doing, other than providing the means of erasing from this world a coyote. Because the government strings poison, well then anybody can. And right there is why the U. S. Biological Survey has been responsible for the poisoning, by private individuals, of hundreds of thousands of birds, furbearers and dogs, by stating the fact that furbearers were not killed by poison bait and that neither were birds. And because officials of the survey made these statements they caused poison to be spread by thousands who are not in the employment of the most murderous organization of wildlife in the world—the Biological Survey.

Wherever poison is spread, death stalks. Birds are murdered, good dogs are killed and furbearers

are done away with and in addition to this human lives are lost. Twenty-three persons killed in one group at a party in California, who partook of a dish concocted from poison grain that was mistaken for rolled oats and made into a porridge. In eastern Oregon two trapper poisoners got mixed concerning Epsom salts and coyote poison and took a dose of the latter. Both died. Incidentally, my sympathy does not go out to these latter two.

A Californian was telling me the other day of a poison episode that came near proving fatal to an uncle of his. This uncle, it seems, came to call upon relatives and found them away from home, with a note pinned to the door telling him to make himself at home until their return that evening.

The man was hungry, so he looked about for something to eat. He decided to make some biscuits to go with the bacon and spuds he intended cooking. He came across a sack which he thought contained flour, although it was rather off color. He made a batch of biscuits from this "flour." When he started eating them he only swallowed a few bites until he became convinced that the flour he had used was no good, so he tossed the biscuits out the back window to the chickens. Within a few minutes every chicken in the yard was dead and an old pet horse that was browsing nearby picked up a biscuit and ate it and within a few minutes it, too, was dead. About this time the man was stricken with terrible cramps in his stomach. He managed to get to the phone and called a doctor. His life was saved by the fact that he partook of too big a portion of the poison to kill him, but he was an awfully sick man. He had simply opened up a sack of poison compound used for the extermination of rodents and made biscuits out of it.

How many of you have noticed how fast the blue grouse (old Hooter)

is disappearing. I actually believe that this bird is decreasing in numbers faster than any game bird we have in this part of the country. I can recall the time when the "whoop, whoop" of the grouse could be heard from Dad's place in Coquille. I have seen grouse walking about our back yard. Years ago, on a trip from Coquille up into the Rink creek country dozens and dozens of grouse could be heard hooting during the spring of the year. And always, wherever one chanced to go during the early summer months, whole coveys of young grouse would be encountered. Today it is seldom that a flock of grouse are seen during a year's travelling through the woods. The question naturally arises as to just why this scarcity. There are several contributing factors. First, as is usually the case, man can be blamed for a large toll taken from the ranks of the birds. Poison bait being spread is another factor to consider. Predators play a part also and the domestic house cat that has gone wild plays one of the major parts in the drama. Hawks take a certain percentage, too.

I have had persons inquire as to why shouldn't quail also be on the decrease. Do they not have as many natural enemies as grouse? Yes, they have practically the same enemies as grouse, but on the other hand the quail were more numerous to start with than were the grouse and again they are far more wily than a grouse. It used to be that when a covey of grouse were encountered that the young birds would fly up onto the limbs of the first tree they came to and all the hunter had to do was shoot them out one at a time. They are simply dumb when compared to the intelligence of most any other game bird of this district—though the fool hen of other states are even dumber than a grouse.

Before the advent of man with his powder and gun there were no doubt untold millions of all sorts of game birds. It has always been a battle whereas the survival of the fittest carried on. Each animal preys on one of lesser strength and intelligence and man, the arch predator, preys on all animals of the lower orders. It was man who first unbalanced Nature—man who created the first alarming decrease in the ranks of game animals and birds and not the natural enemies of the forests, fields and swamps that did so. If it were not for man, today the elk would roam the forests by the hundreds of thousands, there would be millions of deer; ducks and geese would darken the entire sky in flight; the shaggy buffalo would roam the plains by the millions; grouse, quail and in fact every living creature of the outdoors would be in abundance. So you may talk of this and of that as being the contributing factor in the decrease of our wildlife, but the main factor, the one who has wrought more havoc than all the other factors put together is Man. To him may be given the credit—not the honor—of depleting the ranks of our wildlife to the pitiful stage that it has reached today. Not only with his gun has he depleted them, but by taking over natural feeding grounds and converting wild creatures' habitats of the forest into homes and play grounds and sheep pastures, he has wrecked terrible havoc and exacted heavy toll from the ranks of every creature that walks the forests and each bird that flies the air.

For the third straight year, Frank Troeh, of Portland, has won a place on the All American Trap Shooting team. First, he won three high averages on the coast this year. From the 16 yard line he won the high average for the year. He won the Pacific coast handicap and also the doubles. He broke 199 out of 200 to win the Oregon Championship, the largest state shoot of the season. This made Troeh's sixteenth championship (state)—a record. He broke 515 straight; was high on all targets at six major shoots out of nine that he attended on the coast; lost but two targets in his first 600 last year; won the Grand American Pacific International Championship with 199 out of 200 and his average of .926 led all A. T. A. runners in high average divisions. This is, indeed, an impressive record and we are glad to see the honors go to an Oregonian.

A new rifle makes its appearance. It is a Winchester Model 71 and what's more it is a lever action gun.

It is plenty of gun, no doubt about that. For real big game hunting it should be all that a hunter craves, but in my opinion it is too much gun or too much power for Oregon game.

New Supervisor Speaks

On Rural Sanitation

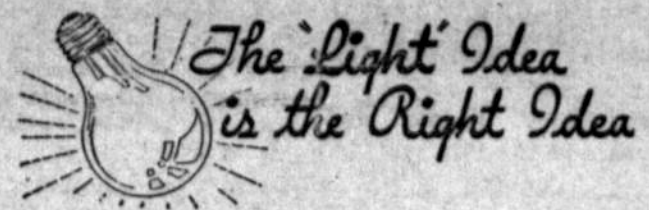
The Coos County Community Sanitation program is well under way at this time, says D. V. Yeoman, county supervisor. It is a WPA project and comprises or consists of the building of sanitary outbuildings in the rural districts where modern facilities are not available. Farmers and the rural school districts are very much interested in this project and find that the cost is low compared to the actual value received.

All labor costs and supervision are furnished by the government, provided the owner or school district furnishes the material or pays the material cost. In doing this, a very economical building can be secured and one that meets the United States Public Health Service standards.

The buildings under this plan are absolutely fly-proof and odorless. They are of conservative design and thoroughly practicable and modern in every respect. These units are of such construction that the continued rebuilding of such structures in whole or in part will be negligible.

Mr. Yeoman has found all parties whom he has contacted very much interested and has secured many orders which attest the desire of residents of the rural localities to assist in the efforts to check typhoid fever and the many other epidemics which are encouraged by poor sanitation. Particularly active in this campaign are the school district directors. Their commendable actions speak for their interest in the welfare of the school children of the rural districts.

To Lana Leneve goes the credit for starting this project in Coos county. Every day people whom he had contacted and sold the service of health are encountered by the new supervisor. This service lost a good worker when Lana resigned to accept work he was more interested in.



For home study —

the kiddies should have expert counsel about the lighting they use. Youthful eyes should be guarded and youthful future protected. Don't let the children strain their eyes under a too bright or too dim light. That little sightmeter tells just where the light should be and what wattage should be used. Home study would amount to nothing if precious eyes were ruined in the effort.



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"Superstitious Mountain"

The Indians in the region of "Superstitious Mountain" in Arizona believed that if they touched this mountain they would die. Once there was a bloody massacre there, by the Apaches, so frightful that it made the mountain taboo. Indian maidens of great beauty were thought to inhabit the mountain top. Other superstitions are coupled with it.

Franklin on Taxes

Taxes were a problem even in Benjamin Franklin's time. Concerning this burden he once said: "Taxes are indeed very heavy and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them; but we have many others. We are taxed twice as much by the time we waste, three times as much by our pride and four times as much by our folly."

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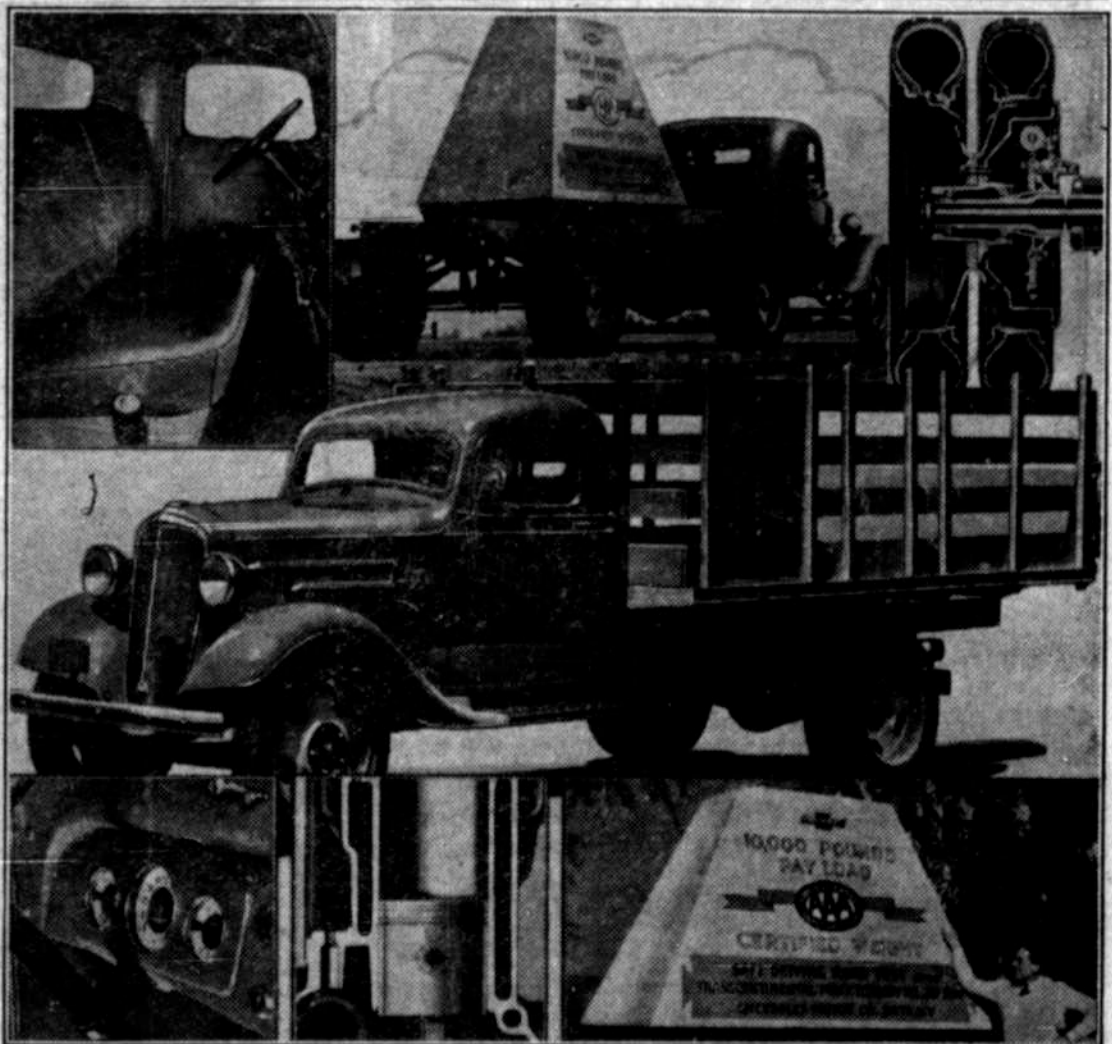
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Coquille Valley Sentinel

New Chevrolet Truck on Economy-Safety Run



Carrying a 10,000-lb. cement block from Los Angeles to New York, a 1 1/4-ton Chevrolet truck—one of the new 1936 models just introduced—demonstrated that safe driving means economy. Speed limits were observed in every community, with 35 m.p.h. the maximum on the open road. The 3511.4 miles were completed on two quarts of oil and 308.6 gallons of gasoline, at a cost of 41.6 cents per mile, or one-third of a cent per ton mile. The entire run was completed without any mechanical failure, repairs, or even a scratched fender. The illustrations show the test truck and features of the new 1936 models. Coupe type cabs with solid steel roof, full-floating rear axle, and full-length water jackets, are some of the improvements. In the lower right, Harry Harts, who drove the cross-continent test, is seen beside the 10,000-lb. block. The test was officially observed by the American Automobile Association.

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