

Out-of-Doors Stuff by LANS LENEVE

According to the reports reaching us from various hunters, this war-time ammunition allotted, or rather rationed, to duck hunters was not what it was cracked up to be. As yet, we have failed to hear any great bragging concerning it. One hunter told us that he might as well have fired blanks at ducks, as his rationed shells, for all the results he got. But as long as they give our Yanks real ammunition to bag "the yellow rats" with, we aren't kickin'.

The scarcity of ammunition didn't affect at least a couple of hunters that we know of. Late in November, my dad and I had decoys out in a field and some two hundred yards beyond us a couple of other hunters strung out some decoys. The ducks started flying soon as the heavy fog lifted and seemed in the mood to decoy. But they were never given the opportunity to do so. Every time a bird crossed the field, the two other hunters banged away at it. Range made no difference and the birds were fired at at a distance of at least 150 yards at times. One lone duck flying high, was opened up on to the extent of six shots. Dozens and dozens of shots were fired in this manner. The Lord only knows where these hunters obtained ammunition for such crazy shooting, but with half the duck hunters in the marshes with only a small supply of shells and seeking to be conservative with them, it fairly made a fellow shudder to see such wanton waste of shells; and also the poor sportsmanship shown—that of not wishing to give another hunter a chance, left a rather bad taste in our mouth. The sooner such hunters shoot away all their ammunition the better off other sportsmen will be.

Every so often there appears a newspaper item in various newspapers stating that some government trapper has trapped several stock-killing bears. It's a strange thing that when an ordinary trapper, or a hunter kills a bear, it is just a plain, harmless, carrion-eating old fellow, but when such an animal is trapped by a government hunter it is always a stock-killer. This looks good in print and is mighty fine propaganda for the U. S. Biological Survey to fire at the general public, most of whom, not being on familiar terms with poor old abused bruin, are gullible to such statements. But anyone well versed in wildlife will tell you that there are few stock-killing bears. If a bear gets started killing stock, we agree that he is, indeed, a ruthless rascal, but most of the bears that roam our woods are harmless to the extreme and feed upon old carrion—usually the kill of the cougar, or coyote, or of man—and upon skunk cabbage, roots, ants and clover, berries, etc.

However, if a sheep is killed in a district, not being satisfied with trapping the killer bear, every bear in that district is trapped and, believe us when we tell you, that many of the "stock killers" are trapped in old orchards where poor old bruin is wont to feed on apples in the late fall.

Many times a coyote does the killing and bruin scenting the kill, comes lumbering along and devours it, leaving his big tracks at the scene and the blame is placed on him for the killing. Bear are easily trapped and they look big in print and that is about the size of it.

During our career as a hunter-trapper, which was far from being brief, we encountered just two actual stock-killing bears. But perhaps this new crop of 1943 stream-lined bears are different than bears of past years, for today they are all listed as stock-killers. It is to laugh!

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U. S. Boys Get Cheer From Australians

Mrs. Ira Baumgartner sends us from Riverton the letter she received last month from a gentleman in Australia, A. E. Dean, at whose home her son, Robert, while stationed over there and before he was injured and brought back to the U. S., had visited one evening. It tells of the efforts the Australians are making to give the U. S. boys a home atmosphere when they can. The letter, written in November at Townsville, Queensland, Australia, reads:

Dear Mrs. Baumgartner,
Thank you very much for your kind thought in sending a copy of your magazine, "Better Homes and Gardens."

I think the American magazines are marvellously got up, especially the coloured plates and advertisements. They just make you wish you were in America so that you could go along and buy the stuff advertised.

Your son boasted that he had put on 11 lbs. when he started "baching" on his own, and I can quite imagine that he would if his efforts turned as well as those pictured in the magazine.

We were only too pleased to have your son with us for an evening. He only came once, but attended the Speaking Club several times.

How do you like rationing? We are getting used to it, but it still comes as a bit of a shock to find the butter practically gone and none due for a week. Needless to say fancy cooking has had its day and there has been a great turning out of old boxes for recipes of Grandma's day which require dripping or some other shortening.

Our Church holds a Social Hour for the soldiers after evening service each Sunday, and they are very well attended. While the boys are singing favourite hymns, the members of the Welfare Club prepare tea and coffee which is served with cakes and biscuits. Our ladies are very good at sending cake up to the Church, especially now that sugar and butter are rationed.

My daughter types the above for me. Since she handed it to me, I notice I omitted to ask her to mention the post cards which your son sent to me, not long after he got away from here. There were some very interesting ones among them, and I took them (as also the magazine you sent) to the Speaking Club. The members were very pleased with them, and gratified that he should have remembered the Club and sent a message.

We have had the privilege of having several U.S.A. lads out to our home from time to time—but of course, more of our own Australian lads from various parts of the Commonwealth. These contacts give a good opportunity of understanding something of the divergent views in some things, as well as points of similarity; and with the same sort of thing happening in many other homes, it must tend to a more complete understanding and cementing of relationships between our two countries after the war.

One of the U.S.A. lads we had out, taught us a card game we had not previously known—"Casino." Some time later, one of our own Padres blew in on his way back from the New Guinea front. We wanted to teach him the new game; but he said, "My grandfather taught me that when I was a kid!"

Only a few more weeks now to Christmas! No Christmas cards in the shops. Practically no toys for the children; nearly every day there are adverts in the daily paper by people wanting to buy second hand toys. Not much of anything else, if you want to give presents to adults. In fact, about the only thing we will be able to give for Christmas will be good wishes. But at any rate, they will be sincere.

And now, with some of those same good wishes to yourself, in which Mrs. Dean joins with me, I sign myself, Yours sincerely, A. E. Dean.

Marilyn Sage On Honor Roll At The University

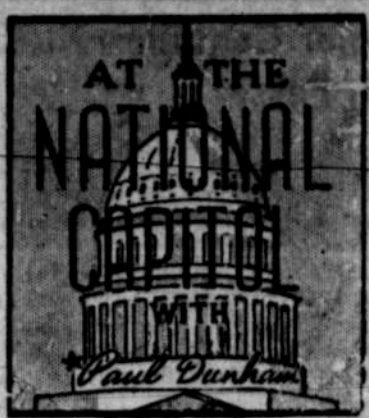
Among the 82 students named late last week by the assistant registrar as having made the honor roll was Marilyn Sage, Coquille, freshman in journalism. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Sage of this city.

Students making an average of 3.5, half A's and half B's, or over, are given honor roll standing. Of the 82 students on honor roll for last term's grades, 10 made straight A's, as compared to 15 fall term a year ago.

Enrollment dropped 41 per cent this fall term—1738 civilian students registered this fall as compared to 2958 last fall.

See Schroeder's Jewelry Store in Coquille for Diamonds and Watch Straps.

Harbison's myrtlewood for Christmas gifts.



Washington, D. C., Jan. 6—In September the war department, navy department, war shipping administration and the maritime commission had unexpended balances of appropriations totaling 186 billion dollars. Of this sum 92 billion dollars were unobligated balances, which means there had not been any orders placed, contracts awarded, services performed or any other transaction charged against these funds. This is the allegation of the committee on reduction of nonessential federal expenditures.

Senator Byrd, chairman of this committee, intends asking for an investigation of these huge unexpended balances to determine whether additional appropriations will be needed until such time as all the outstanding balances have been encumbered. It is the purpose of the committee to turn these unobligated balances of 92 billion dollars back to the treasury, if possible, in the event that the appropriations committee thinks it cannot appropriate the balances for other purposes.

Believe it or not, the Byrd committee has been the cause of congress saving in excess of two billion dollars by the liquidation of non-war agencies and the reduction of other appropriations where war activity would not be interfered with. Senator Byrd is an all-out economist and is having a field day in saving government money. As governor of Virginia he made a reputation for the economical way in which he administered taxpayer funds, and since coming to the senate he has been plugging away at the same idea, but only in the past year have his efforts borne fruit.

A Democrat, but anti-Roosevelt, Byrd was suggested as the man to lead a new party in the south by Senator Bailey, with a second-the-motion from Senator "Cotton" Ed Smith. In the 1932 nominating convention Byrd was an aspirant but was swept aside by the steam roller of Jim Farley, who was promoting the then governor of New York for presidency—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Declaring that it is the business of congress to arrange for the disposal of government owned surplus goods after the war, Representative Patman has introduced a bill providing for the creation of a committee to be composed of the chairman of the board of directors of Defense Supplies Corp., the secretaries of war, navy and treasury and three experienced business men to be appointed by the president, who shall have supervision of the sales of all such surpluses, with RFC as the selling agency. The need of a centralized authority for this purpose is apparent from the chaotic condition which prevails at the present time with a dozen different government groups endeavoring to find solutions of the surplus goods situation.

Already the navy is selling some of its surplus directly to bidders. The army is selling some goods direct and others are being turned over to the treasury department which so far has been unable to evolve a satisfactory plan for their disposal. Some of the government officials, for example, want to sell army trucks direct to the public; others believe the sales should be handled through dealers. Dealers, who are virtually without trucks, are eager to buy the surplus, but first they are told they will not be permitted to bid on them and later they are told that they will have to compete against individual bidders. There is a big demand from farmers to buy army jeeps after the war but at present there is no channel through which such purchases can be made.

The purpose of the Patman bill is to assemble, classify and arrange for the sale of all such surplus goods without disruption of markets and to the best advantage for the government. It is realized that as soon as the war ends there will be a vast amount of goods for which the army and navy will have no further use and speculators are in the field attempting to shape affairs so they can grab as much as they want and re-sell to the public at handsome profit. Under the Patman plan this would not be permitted, but influential lobbies are at work and there is no assurance that this or any similar measure will finally be adopted.

Additional nurses are needed for the armed forces and every available channel is being combed to obtain more Angels of Mercy. Dr. Thomas Parron, surgeon general, is starting a campaign to enlist approx-

imately 7,500 young women for the spring classes to enroll in the army schools of nursing. The government will pay the tuition of those registering for the course and will also pay a monthly salary to each enrollee while in training. Several hospitals in the northwest have been designated as training centers. The first classes will start training about March 1, and other classes will commence April and May 1. The surgeon general's office believes an aggressive campaign for enrollees will bring about the desired result.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30—Explanation of Gen. Behron Somervell that he ordered the Canol investment of \$130,000,000 in the oil field at Fort Norman and the building of a pipeline and refinery to prepare for the third war does not satisfy Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior and petroleum administrator. General Somervell did not consult Ickes nor the war production board on this use of war department funds, he testified, and this makes both WPA and Ickes peeved at being by-passed. They regard Somervell as acting too high-handed. No other official has gone ahead on his own initiative for such a vast sum of money, but Somervell is like that and he, it should be remembered, is a buddy of President Roosevelt's closest friend, Harry Hopkins.

Secretary Ickes says the United States has furnished 95 per cent of all the aviation gas that has been used by the allies in this global war. Others of the United Nations have large supplies but which hitherto have been inaccessible because of war conditions. This means that only five per cent of the gas for the international fliers has been furnished by the British and the Russians. After the war, Ickes says, the United States should protect its supply of gasoline and should assist American citizens in efforts to develop oil fields in other parts of the world than the United States. He estimates that there is a supply of oil that should serve this country some 20 years but that the demand for fuel oil, motor gasoline and aviation gas will be so tremendous that the wise thing for Uncle Sam to do is to begin looking everywhere for new fields.

Mr. Ickes is still protesting that the war department declined to open oil wells in Alaska instead of going to Canada, the Alaska fields according to government reports being far superior to the pool in the Fort Normal district. Originally, Somervell explained that the Japanese threat of invasion caused him to direct the Canol deal, but later he qualified this statement and announced that the Canadian enterprise was also designed to meet a possible situation in world war No. 3. This still does not

realize that they have lost this asset (very important in certain northern states) and they are insisting that a federal law covering soldier absentee voting would violate state rights. Present laws in Washington and Oregon provide for absentee voting, but the administration's argument is that provisions of the state laws could not be complied with in time to permit the absentee votes being returned and counted.

The administration forces are very anxious to enact legislation which will enable soldiers to vote in the primary and general elections, whether they are in Australia (Washington and Oregon federalized national guardsmen), in Italy, India, Sicily or anywhere else on the globe, as well as at home. President Roosevelt, back from Cairo and Teheran, has expressed himself as being in favor of these absentee voters. As most of the Republicans and many of the southern Democrats see the picture the administration hopes to capture the soldier vote, and they are insisting that state laws should govern elections and the absentee balloting.

Southern Democrats, for example, argue that if a federal law governing the election is enacted the poll tax qualification will be ignored and this would enable thousands of voters (many of them colored) to vote who never have paid a poll tax and who, if they were in their native state, would not vote, for they would not be sufficiently interested in voting to pay the tax.

In the past the southern Democrats have been apprehensive that if the colored people voted they would support the Republican ticket and this would make the Democrats a minority in the south. Now they are concerned lest the colored citizens vote for Mr. Roosevelt for a fourth term, and many of the southern Democrats are fed up on Mr. Roosevelt, and say no in no uncertain terms.

Republicans, who once could count on the colored vote where the colored people were permitted to vote,

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