

Out-of-Doors Stuff

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With the OPA stepping into the picture, so far as raw furs are concerned the outlook is not so hot for a profitable fur season for trappers. Furs are now classed as a luxury and taxed as such. The OPA has also placed a ceiling price on just what the trapper may receive for his furs. Mink is leading in prices among the smaller fur-bearers with, of course, otter being higher, but about a thing of the past, but either commanding the prices of any past, good fur season. Muskrats are holding at a fair level but muskrat are very low. A general run of 'coon pelts will scarcely average the trapper a dollar apiece.

The trouble is the fact that trappers insist upon catching 'coon, owing to the fact that they are now more numerous than for several past years. Why cannot they realize the fact that they are cutting their own throats when they trap and hunt these animals when their fur is practically worthless or selling at a low figure? For example, say that ten 'coon are trapped and sell at one dollar per pelt this season. If these same animals were left alone to breed and propagate, within a period of three years the increase would amount to, being conservative, 40. And within three years, after the war is over, the price is bound to rise on all furs and the chances are that 'coon will then sell for around \$16.00 per pelt, as they did just a while before the war. That would mean that the forty 'coon would net a trapper

\$640.00. That the ten 'coon trapped this season alone would bring around \$10.00. This all goes to show how foolish it is to trap and hunt 'coon at the present price paid for their pelts.

In the past, 'coon have sold at high as \$25.00 per pelt and that was a few years following the first world war. Anyway, it's a cinch that the fur will not go any lower than at the present season and it behooves any trapper to refrain from trapping these animals at the present time.

Slaying mink for the sport of the thing, or for fur that brings only a small fraction of the sum that it would bring sell fur, is not looking beyond a person's nose. It is really waston waste.

Good jobs and high wages aren't going to last forever and there will come a time, when like the last depression, that thousands of men will depend upon a line of steel traps or 'coon dogs to eke out a living from the wilderness and it is then that an abundance of furbearers will come in mighty handy. And too, a sharp rise in fur prices after the duration will mean independent occupations for many returning war vets who, unfit for manual labor, can follow a trap-line.

So before you set a trap or sally forth with a dog in pursuit of 'coon this season, stop and ask yourself the question as to whether you are doing right, not only by your ownself, but by your fellow trapper, who is over there fighting your battle for you. Trapping low priced fur is a poor policy at any time. The animals if left alone will propagate and the value of their fur will never go lower and ninety-nine times out of a hundred it will go sky high within a few seasons. To trap them

now is like killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

It is our opinion that the season should be closed on animals such as 'coon which they command such a low price as the present season, but you may just assured that just as long as the present game commission is in power that worthless fur will be destroyed, worthless mink spoil by killing game animals during nutty seasons, etc. And it appears that so long as there is a herd of elk remaining in Coos county that they will be sold the hunters at \$5.00 per head.

We have watched game commissions come and go for years and years but we believe that we are perfectly safe in stating the fact that the present game commission is the worst that has ever been wished upon the sportmen of not only Oregon, but of any other state. It is, indeed, a pity with our fair state boasting of so much game that we cannot have a sensible game commission to control it. The game is a big asset to this state and its welfare should be placed in capable hands at all times.

They Wrestle Bears In California

Writing from Ferndale, Calif., where she spends the great part of each year, Mrs. Marcella Bognuda, who also says she will come up to her Arago ranch the last of February to spend the spring and summer, sends a clipping from the Ferndale Enterprise which tells how the state hunter in that section handles bears. She asks particularly that it be called to the attention of State Hunter "Kayo" Mullins, and the Sentinel refers it to our "Out-of-Doors Stuff" editor!

State Hunter Gus Landerger, of Pepperwood and Upper Mattole, had an exciting and dangerous hand-to-claw fight with a snarling female bear on the Roy Fulton range, recently. Fulton, who arrived just in time to kill the bear with his rifle, said the match was won by State Hunter Landerger with his bare hands when he threw the bear with an old wrestling trick, that of twisting its ears. He said it was the most exciting wrestling match he had ever witnessed, but didn't care to ever see another one. Landerger's dogs had tried the bear in a tall tree and a rifle shot had wounded her. She came down out of the tree while Landerger tied up his dogs and started out through the brush with Landerger following with a .22 pistol. When close, he fired several shots into her and the wounded bear turned and charged the hunter, tearing away one shoulder from his coat, then sinking her teeth in his forearm. At this time Landerger fired again, with the result only a click from the empty gun. Since there was no time to reload, he reached over with his free arm and secured a good grip on the bear's ear, turned on the pressure and hurled her out and down hill from him. She had scratch and torn his clothing but did not tear the flesh from his arm. The animal struggled to rise again, but before she could, Fulton arrived and shot her.

Youth Fellowship Group M. E. Church Installed Sunday

The officers of the Youth Fellowship group for the Methodist church were installed Sunday evening, with the following taking the chairs:

- Senior Fellowship Group**
 Vice-Pres.—Edward Stevenson.
 1st Commission Chairman—Gerry Oerding.
 2nd Commission Chairman—Eula McCracken.
 3rd Commission Chairman—Rose Marie Pearl.
 4th Commission Chairman—Laura Emily Ruble.
 Secretary—Joanne Savage.
 Treasurer—Bill Brown.
 Reporter—Mable Roberts.
- Intermediate Group**
 President—Joyce Taylor.
 Vice Pres.—Robin Griffith.
 Secretary—Evelyn Davis.
 Treasurer—Forrest Peterson.

Secretary State Urges Motorists To Apply For Licenses At Once

Approximately 17 per cent of the motor vehicle owners in Oregon have applied for their 1945 registrations, according to Robert S. Farrell, secretary of state, who today urged the remaining 83 per cent to apply at once in order to avoid last-minute delays.

With more than 400,000 vehicles registered in Oregon, slightly more than 70,000 applications now are on file in the secretary of state's office. While this is 21 per cent ahead of last year, there should be many more in the near future, if delays are to be avoided, Farrell said.

Mail congestion during the holiday season, and lack of manpower to process great numbers of applications in a short period make it im-

portant that applications come in early.

Windshield stickers now are being mailed from the state department and they may be attached to the windshield after December 15.

Coquille Baptist Young People Attend Skating Party At Bay

Many of the Baptist young people and some of their friends joined the young people of the other Coos Bay Baptist churches at the roller skating party out of Coos Bay last Monday. There were four trucks and three cars full in the Coquille contingent. These private parties are

held every second Monday of the month and are proving a very fine diversion and clean recreation. A good time was reported by all.

67 School Children Given Vaccine and Toxoid

Dr. Harold Erickson, Assistant State Health Officer, worked in Coos county schools last week. In the Coquille area, he administered vaccine to 67 children to protect them against smallpox and gave toxoid to prevent diphtheria to 50. The Riverston, Arago, Valley View, Coaldo, Roy, and Fairview schools were invited to participate.

Douglas county recently had some cases of diphtheria which resulted in two deaths. Dr. L. E. Gould, the county health officer, advises the parents of infants, and pre-school children to consult their family physicians with reference to protection against these diseases.

We carry a complete line of V. belts for all makes of Refrigerators, Washing Machines and other equipment. Washer Service Co. 365 W. Front, Coquille. Phone 17.

Norton's still have a very fine assortment of gifts from which to choose—but don't wait too long!



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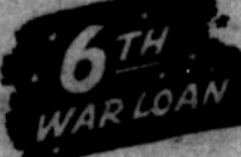
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