

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

May we take this occasion to wish each reader of this bulletin a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. It is an old wish, 'tis true; modern times have brought forth many new phrases and verses in which to express this age-old wish, but after all, sifting them down there is none that expresses that wish more eloquently than saying it the way our forebears did—just simply "Happy New Year." For uttered from the heart, it conveys a world of meaning and happy thought. It is with this thought in mind that we greet you with that old salutation—Happy New Year! And may we add that we appreciate your interest in this column, an interest that has kept it alive through the passing of many years.

So, here's hoping that you may find things to interest you during its publication for yet another year; that you new rookies in the realm of sports of the Great Out of Doors may be helped by our past experiences and that you prove worthy sportsmen at all times. And that you old timers may find certain enjoyment from various articles, stories, etc., appearing. That they may serve to bring to you golden memories of past hunts and fishing trips. Good hunting to all you fellas for not only this season, but for all seasons that follow.

According to a recent article in The Sentinel—an article sent in by a lady from California—it appears that the bear hunters are plenty rough down there and toss enraged mother bears around by their ears when they come to grips with them.

It is a known fact that a bear's most tender spot is his nose. A good solid punch on the nose is really severe punishment to mete out to old bruiser. But when they can be tossed 'round by their ears, why poke 'em on the nose?

Several times during our hunting career we have been at close quarters with enraged bear. On one occasion, not wishing to kill the bear in order that he might later be trapped for a sheep-killer, we gave the big brute a good stiff left hook to the nose. He sat right down upon his haunches and started crying and while his eyes were flooded with tears and he could no longer see us, we silently withdrew from the scene.

We still claim that Oregonians have the best method of subduing enraged bear, or even capturing them. Experienced hunters up here hunt the big brutes with boxing gloves, while in our neighboring state they throw them around by the ears, then finally, according to the story published, shoot them dead. The Oregon method is so much more humane. Just one good poke on the nose and old bruiser may be eluded, or led weeping into a cage, whichever whim happens to suit the hunter. California has stolen our apples, cashed in on our scenery and sunshine, but darned if we are going to let them outdo us on the capturing of bear.

A sportsman remarked to me the other day, "What we need is a strong organization of sportsmen and one that can present our views to the State Game Commission in order to secure sensible game laws."

There is much meat in the above statement. If there were an organization of sportsmen formed throughout the state and each county had a good representation, but the whole membership functioning as one body, there is a possibility that we might receive some sort of recognition. But it would take a lot of pressure to bring the present commission 'round to the general viewpoint of the sportsmen. This was clearly demonstrated when the elk season was opened in Coos county with the voices of practically every sportsman raised against it and with various chambers of commerce backing the sportsmen. Even a delegation sent from this county was turned down in the matter. But with an united front from each county in the state, formed under a sportsmen's club, if some views were brought to the attention of the commission they might possibly lend an ear. However our personal opinion in the matter is for the thousands of dissatisfied sportsmen throughout the state to band together and petition the governor to fire every member of the present commission.

We believe that game commissioners should be nominated and elected at state elections, just the same as any other officeholder and that there should be one representative elected to the commission from each district in the state.

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Washington, D. C., Dec. 23—Shortly after the new congress meets in January there will be a highly controversial bill for the house military affairs committee to handle. This is a proposed plan to require compulsory military training. Andrew Jackson May of Kentucky, chairman of the committee, will call the members together soon after the committee members, some of whom are still abroad looking over actual battle conditions in Europe, have returned to Washington. The army wants a stringent military training law for all able-bodied youths of 18 years. The army wants material that can be called to arms instantly; an army ready to fight. Organizations of veterans have expressed a similar idea. Opposed are a substantial group of churches which swing considerable influence. Between the pressure by these contending forces congressmen will have a hard time until the matter is settled one way or the other.

It is the opinion of Washington observers that if a compulsory military training law is enacted it must be accomplished before the end of the war, while the people are still war conscious. After the war such a proposal would not get to first base, for there will be millions of people who have lost relatives in this war and who will be thoroughly fed up on war.

Now, argue the army, is the time to strike. President Roosevelt favors the idea that youths of the 18-year class should contribute one year to the service of their country, but the president has not come out openly for compulsory military training. He has discussed the matter, but he has also inquired what military training consists of; and from his own statements military training might include anything from learning to cook to squads right.

There is also a nebulous idea as to how the eighteeners might be selected—whether by a selective service, with draft boards, volunteers, or just scoop in everyone regardless of physical condition. That a year of military training would teach the youngsters discipline and give them time to mature before they go to college and so enable them to make up their minds what they wish to do in later life (few college students have a definite objective for the first two years) is generally conceded. On the other hand, opponents to military training assert that it would place the youth of America in the same class as the youth of Germany inculcating warlike thoughts.

Between 11,000 and 14,000 American service men who have married Australian girls include an undetermined number who are under 21 years. Under existing naturalization laws the children of such marriages, if born abroad and whose father is a minor, are not American citizens and cannot enter the United States except on a quota basis. These factors were brought out on the floor of the house in considering a bill, the purpose of which is to amend the naturalization laws so that children of such minors may have the full rights of citizenship. Strangely enough, the only house member to object to passage of the bill was Congressman Sumner (unmarried) of Illinois, who believed the right solution is a law to prevent these underage service men from marrying while in a foreign country. Male members of congress were quick to resent this suggested interference with a natural right and the bill was read a third time and passed without further argument.

Occasion for passage of the measure is a queer provision of the naturalization laws which requires that in order to transmit citizenship to his child born abroad the father must have resided in the United States ten years, five of which must be after his sixteenth birthday. It would not be possible, of course, for a boy under 21 at the time of his marriage abroad to have complied with this provision.

Plea of Senator Langer of North Dakota for support of his bill to prohibit the Federal Farm Loan bank from refusing to make loans to North Dakota farmers met with little success in the final days of the 78th congress. Refusal of the bank to make such loans was attributed to the fact that North Dakota has a law forbidding the taking of deficiency judgments when property sold under foreclosure does not bring enough to repay the loan and costs. North

Dakota was said to be the only state where this situation exists. In defense of the Farm Loan bank policy it was explained that other conditions existed in North Dakota which contribute to the insecurity of farm loans in that state. Discussion gave Senator Langer an opportunity to pay tribute to the operations of the state-owned bank of North Dakota, but it won no support for his bill.

Today Is Seabees' Anniversary

The following letter was received this week from Wayne Jacobsen, MMI/c, a Coquille boy, who is with the Seabees somewhere in the Pacific:

Dear Editor: As one of the home town men now serving with the Seabees overseas, I hope you will be interested in printing the little news item below which was prepared by one of our fellows in commemoration of our birthday, December 28. It will give us and our families back home a great deal of satisfaction to know that the Seabees are being remembered:

"The third anniversary of the 'workingest, fightingest bunch of men' in the nation's armed forces, the Navy Seabees, will be observed on December 28 by 240,000 officers and men of the United States Naval Construction battalions.

"Born just three weeks after the Pearl Harbor disaster, with an authorized strength of 3000, the Seabees won their spurs at Guadalcanal and have been with the assault troops in every major American amphibious operation. They can now boast that they built the network of air and naval bases in the Pacific that pushed the Japs back 3000 miles; that they developed amphibious equipment and technique that helped carry the day on the African, Sicilian, Italian and Normandy beachheads.

"Every commissioned Construction Battalion is either currently overseas or has completed a tour of duty; many battalions are on their second tours. Seventy-six per cent of the Seabees are now outside continental limits of the United States; only 9000 essential men have never seen foreign service.

"As General Douglas MacArthur wrote in a letter to Seabee Chief Vice-Armiral Ben Moreell, 'the only trouble with your Seabees is that you don't have enough of them!'"

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