

Coquille Valley Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON

JANUARY 1, 1948.

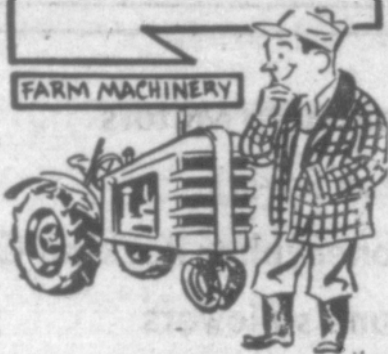


1947 with its joys and sorrows
will soon be part of the past,
and 1948 will soon be here!
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the old year and ring in the new,
and now voice the hope that 1948 will be
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Out Door STUFF...

By
Lans Leneve
of
Remote, Oregon

Many sportsmen shoot blue-jays on sight. They are looked upon as a predatory bird by many and they really boast of a very unsavory reputation. They are classified by many naturalists as a nest robber, robbing our songsters nests and especially that of robin red-breast.

To us, the cocky blue-jay is a loveable bird—the clown of the woods and a bird that mimics practically every bird of the forest. We have heard them render an excellent imitation of the blue (hooter) grouse, the scream of the red-band tailed hawk, the cooing of the band tailed pigeon.

At one time we were treated to an especial concert by one of these cocky birds. We had been deer hunting and stopped to rest in the big green timber. A bluejay flitted about amongst the branches of a small cedar. Finally he seated himself upon a limb, threw back his head and burst forth into the song of a gold finch (wild canary).

While employed by the State Highway Commission we had our trailer house parked in a Myrtle grove near Gaylord. We had four "banty" chickens and a rooster that we carted around with us on the job. Nests were made for the hens and they were soon laying. We made it a point to feed several bluejays along with the chickens each day. We were finally rewarded for our efforts by the jays sitting upon the branches of the myrtles and proceeding to give an excellent imitation of our crowing rooster and our cackling hens.

At the present time here at Remote, there is a large covey of California quail near the store and also several bluejays frequent the premises. The call of the California valley quail sounds exactly like "Chee-co-go." And now the jays are doing it—you can't tell the two birds apart so far as their call is concerned.

It is rarely that bluejays damage orchards, and seldom if ever that they take strawberries from your garden. On the other hand, our songsters, and especially robins are forever making havoc on cherry and strawberry crops. There are still plenty of such songsters left, so what is the difference if the bluejays does rob their nests occasionally—we ask you? Let the gay, colorful bluejay live—give him a break, for he is unlike any other bird of our forests. We are all for him!

We cultivate the friendship of several bluejays while on our ranch in the Fairview country and finally induced them to feed upon the bird racks where we fed the sparrows, brush thrushes and towhees, Alaskan thrushes and juncos (snow birds). If the feed rack happened to be empty when the jays showed up they would start to scowl and scold and jabber until food was brought them.

These same jays would sit upon the limbs of the myrtles and sound off exactly like our neighbor's guinea hens, the adjoining neighbors turkeys and our domestic fowl. They were a constant source of entertainment and we learned to love that cocky, blue robed, crested headed clown of the forest. Fact of the matter we would much sooner slay one of our so called songsters than we would a bluejay. They are tops in our estimation.

It is a known fact that whenever any specie of a predator is entirely eliminated from the picture, be it bird or beast, some other predator takes over. You simply cannot unbalance Nature and profit by the deal. The depredations of the bluejay no doubt keeps down the number of other protected birds that would raise havoc with crops by a marked increase in numbers if friend bluejay was totally exterminated. For instance, a district where coyotes are very numerous will be taken over by jackrabbits, moles and gophers when the coyote is exterminated from such an area.

When cougar, bobcats and coyotes are completely killed off in a game country it is not long until the game animals such as deer develop diseases such as scours. When predators were numerous they preyed on such strick-



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as the first victim.

A racoon is really an intelligent animal. He is too smart for the novice trapper and his uncanny sense in locating a baited trap is something to marvel at. Often the coon proves himself much smarter than the average trapper, so far as stepping in the latter's sets is concerned.

See "Spike" Leslie for insurance of all kinds, phone 5 or 95-1.

Away For Holiday—Miss Irene Burr spent Christmas in Bend, Ore., at the home of her sister, Mrs. Oscar Day. From Bend, Miss Burr went on to Portland to spend a few days.

Dinner Guests—Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Burr on Christmas day were Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Benham and two children, Joanne and Dean, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leach.



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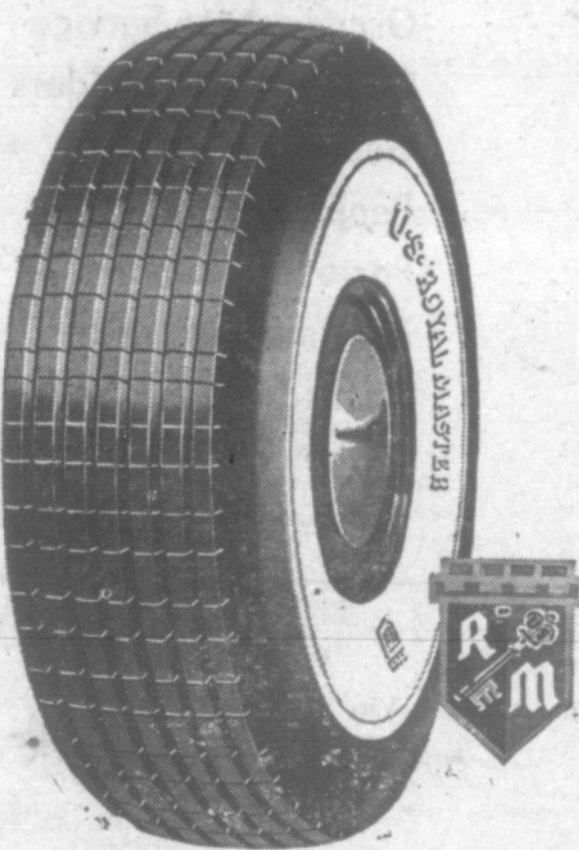


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To All

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