

Bellamy sponsors bill to punish 'slob hunters'

By Rep. Bill Bellamy

Every year in the fall, particularly in the month of October, a caravan of campers and four wheel drive vehicles head out of Portland and the urban centers of the

Willamette Valley—their destination—the wilds of Eastern and Western Oregon, prime hunting grounds for everything from mule to deer to wild turkey. Every year

during these fall months the farmers and ranchers of Western and Eastern Oregon suffer from destruction of property and in at least one extreme case, a threat to life and limb. This session we see several bills affecting the Fish and Wildlife Commission in

the areas of increasing penalties for violations of game ordinances. I am sponsoring HB 2565 which increases the penalties for criminal trespass. A person who had a license, tag or permit revoked for the first time will be unable to obtain

another license, tag or permit for an increased period of 24 months, whereas before the period was 18 months. A second violation will limit the person from hunting or fishing for three years. A third violation shall constitute a five year waiting period. One of

the motivations behind these increased penalties stems from an incident which occurred last fall to a rancher in Eastern Oregon. The rancher found two men with rifles trespassing on his land and asked them to leave. The men reacted by knocking

the rancher down, kicking him in the stomach, beating him with his own rifle until it broke, and kidnapping a 17 year old boy at gun point. The rancher spent 16 days in the hospital. This rancher has received several phone calls from complete strangers indi-

ating that his is not an isolated case. I urge people who support these increased penalties for trespass to testify on the bill when it comes up for hearing.

I am sponsoring HB 2566, which removes killing of livestock from its listing as a cruelty to animal violation. This bill raises killing of livestock to a Class C felony punishable by a fine of \$250 or 30 days in a county jail. This bill is an outgrowth from the numerous cases of livestock killed each year by misguided hunters.

Fish and Wildlife violation fines will increase in three categories, also. Aiding a violator will cost as much as it does for the person directly creating the offense. Illegal sale or possession of wildlife parts, such as salmon eggs, will be \$500. And unlawful possession of sport fish, in many cases, will be \$500.

More rigid penalties in these areas are needed until outdoor enthusiasts begin to respect property owners' rights and realize that the right to fish and hunt within our diminishing resource base is not a privilege to be abused.

Local Viets vets could lose education benefits

Approximately 11,000 Vietnam Era veterans in Oregon will lose their entitlement to GI Bill educational benefits during the next year.

The figure represents the total number of veterans who will have reached the tenth anniversary of their separation from military service, according to Mrs. Donna M. Arndt, director of the Veterans Administration regional office in Portland.

The law provides veterans with a ten-year limit to use educational and training benefits.

Mrs. Arndt said while some 53 per cent of Oregon veterans have used some or all of their GI Bill rights, there are thousands who can still make at least partial use of their remaining time.

VA estimates on a nationwide basis more than half the number of veterans who have GI Bill eligibility today will lose it by 1984. "What we're emphasizing," Mrs. Arndt explained, "is the time factor. To make maximum use of GI Bill rights a veteran must be aware of the ten-year limit and get started well before times runs out."

A typical Vietnam Era veteran, for example, might have left the service in 1973 having earned maximum training or educational entitlement. If that same veteran were to embark on a full-time, four-year college program, it should be started this year so it can be completed by 1983 when the veteran's eligibility expires. In any event, benefits would be payable only until the veteran reached the time limit no matter how far along the program was.

"There are so many ways the GI Bill can be adapted to individual needs and circumstances," Mrs. Arndt said. "I wouldn't want anyone to lose their rights to this program simply because they let time slip by."

She urged Oregon veterans who believe they may be eligible to call the Portland VA office. Toll-free lines throughout the state are listed in community telephone directories.

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for PASSOVER

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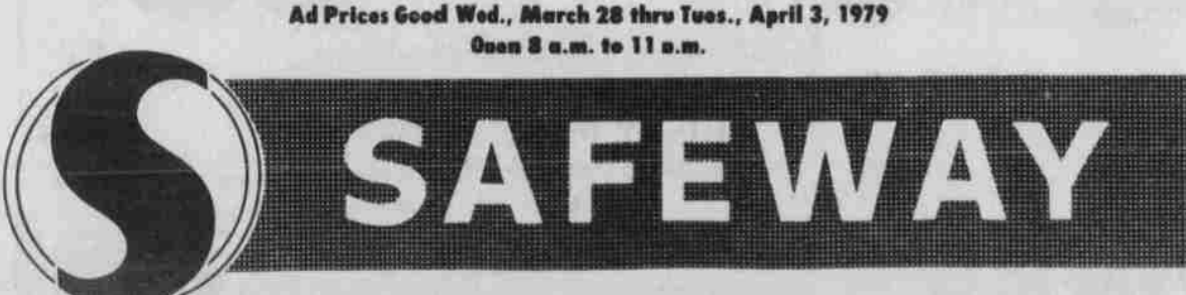
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Foods and family gatherings go hand in hand with the 8-day observance of the Passover holiday. We have gathered a wide selection of foods for this special time. Come and choose the ones your family prefers. You'll like our array and the low prices that will help you stretch food dollars.

PASSOVER A day celebration begins April 3rd

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