

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Look, read this carefully—and for the price of less than \$2 it may save your life, or the life of your hunting companion. To face the monstrous facts: out of every 4,000 hunters who will go into the woods with a gun this fall, one is going to come back on a stretcher! Sure, some of them will have shot themselves accidentally, but the vast majority will be the targets of trigger-happy hunters, sometimes veterinarians, who thought that a man was a deer.

But I shouldn't say, "thought



they were deer" because these accidents aren't confined to the deer season. Many occur in mid-summer during squirrel and woodchuck season. Maybe it's because the back of a man's bare head at a distance may look like a squirrel or a woodchuck. At any rate, my argument is that a good many of these stretcher-cases could have been avoided if the "target" had worn the right clothes. But before we consider what the right clothes are, a course in protective hunting coloration is in order.

The first thing to be learned is this: popular beliefs to the contrary, no mammal below man and the monkeys can see in color except in shades of gray. Wave a green flag at a bull and his reaction will be exactly the same as waving a red flag.

The second thing to be learned is that ordinary red, the old standby of veteran hunters, is not the warning color its reputation would make it out to be. At a distance, in the shade, or to the side of one's vision, red looks like grey.

Blends Court Death
How do these facts affect the hunter—and perhaps save his life?

Sheriff's Deputies Leave for Mid-West

Sheriff's deputies Joe Walsh and Veryl Vanoose left last week for Pontiac, Mich., and Eldora, Iowa, where they will pick up prisoners for extradition to Jackson county.

In Michigan they will pick up Lawrence W. Pennell, 35, who is wanted here on a charge of writing a fictitious \$502 check for down payment on a car at Courtesy Chevrolet company. A Medford police department warrant was issued for his arrest.

In Iowa, the deputies will pick up Orvill L. Maifield, Eldora, Iowa, who is wanted here on a charge of non support.



JAILED—Cecil A. Mead, 38, of La Crescenta, Calif., State Medical Board investigator, was jailed at Burbank, Calif., for allegedly seeking a \$2500 bribe from a convicted abortionist. Police say Mead in return promised to exert influence in keeping the doctor's license from being revoked. He was arrested while allegedly waiting for the payoff near the Burbank police station.

NEW!
like home made



In the first place, hunters who wear clothing which blends with the background—browns and greens—are courting death. And they are doing it needlessly. It's movement—not the color which alerts deer, squirrel, bear and woodchuck. Hence, never wear background-blending colors when hunting.

As for red, it is all right as far as it goes. Many hunters feel that they are amply protected with a red hat. Besides

red's short-comings, a hat at a distance does not make a big enough "warning" spot. For a hunter who is on the prowl for deer and has prepared himself mentally to see a deer, will often react before the small red area—sometimes no bigger than a patch of red leaves—has impressed him that this thing which moves is no deer but a man.

Improving upon this, some hunters wear a red-plaid outfit. Good as far as it goes, but in some areas and under certain conditions of shade and overcast,

this is a poor protection.

Outside of staying home, away from the woods, what is the answer to the man who wants to go and get his deer?

Fluorescent Red

It's this: There is a day-glowing, fluorescent red on the market—a development of Joe and Bob Switzer of Cleveland which was perfected by them for the Army Signal Corps during World War II. I first saw it used effectively with troops in Alaska. This material is activated by ultra-violet light. And wherever a hunter is in shade, even during

twilight, early morning, overcast, or during snowfall—all the most accident-prone shooting times of the day—this material looks out like a house on fire.

It is fully four times brighter than the ordinary red—and besides, there is no color in the woods like it.

Now for less than \$2 any hunter can get himself a vest made of this daylight fluorescent material—and it is made by a host of manufacturers—which will provide a spotlight for all trigger-happy hunters. It makes accidents of mistaken identity

Sunday, October 14, 1935

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

almost impossible.

Besides vests, caps and hats are also available. But I would not recommend a jacket. The material which has a hard finish is too "noisy"—and that frightens away game.

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Free: By special arrangements with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to

the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letters to: Is That So, c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.



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