

# Pacific Fisher Introduced To Western Klamath County

Portland—Mission "Fisher" accomplished. Months of planning for the reintroduction of the fisher into the state bore fruit recently when the game commission released 11 of these beautiful and valuable furbearing animals in Klamath county in south central Oregon. The new home for these transplanted wilderness animals encompasses the vast expanses of the Mountain Lakes Wild area, located to the west of Klamath lake.

Five males and six females form the nucleus fisher population, with more than half young animals no more than a year or so in age giving promise for excellent reproduction to take place.

The transplant of fisher was not accomplished without the cooperation from many sources. The U. S. forest service lent valuable financial assistance. Trappers in British Columbia cooperated with the British Columbia Department of Fish and Game in capturing and holding the animals. And the U. S. Air Force made sure the animals reached their new home by helicopter service from Klamath Falls to the snowbound mountain wild area.

Here they were held at a game farm until enough were captured to make the initial plant a successful one.

When word was received, Chet Kebbe, who heads the game commission's furbearing animal program, assisted by Bob Mace, chief of the upland game bird section, made the long drive to Kamloops by pickup truck to get the fisher and bring them back into Oregon.

**Air Force Helps**

At Kamloops the animals were sexed, aged, and tagged and transferred to individual cages for the journey south. The Air Force took over at Klamath Falls and in two trips by helicopter to the release site, the Pacific fisher once again became a living part of Oregon's wilderness wildlife scene.

According to Kebbe, the fisher, up to 10 pounds in weight and 2 to 3 feet in length, is probably the quickest and most ferocious animal for its size he has ever attempted to handle. And he brought back proof of his statement in the form of one well-lacerated finger, received during the aging and tagging process.

The Pacific fisher is a large member of the weasel family. It has the sharp, alert face characteristic of the entire group, long, slender body, and bushy tail. It is primarily a wilderness animal, preferring the solitudes away from human habitation. Squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, and other members of the rodent family form the major part of its diet. It is one of the few animals that will attack and kill porcupines without injury to itself.

fisher must leave her blind, helpless youngsters and hurry off to find a mate for her next set of young while she is still occupied with the present set. Not Bloodthirsty

Opportunists, the fisher will attack almost any animal near its size and even the bobcat and lynx are no match for its blinding speed. However, the fisher is not a bloodthirsty

killer such as the weasel and takes only what it needs to live, storing surplus food which it invariably goes back to eat.

The soft, silky fur of the fisher has always brought a good price with prime pelts bringing as much as \$125 on the open market. In Oregon, trapping has been prohibited since 1936, at which time trappers reported taking 11 animals.

Plans on the reintroduction of the fisher into Oregon call for the live trapping and release of 20 or more animals to form the nucleus population.



**FURBEARING FISHER RELEASED**—The Pacific fisher, transplanted from British Columbia, has been reintroduced in Oregon in a state commission project. Eleven of the animals were released recently in the Mountain Lakes Wild area west of Klamath lake. Here a fisher is released by Lt. Michael Langford of the U. S. Air Force which provided helicopter service to the release site.

All 11 fisher scurried to the safety of the timber in a high loping gate characteristic of the animal. The inset picture, upper right, gives a closer view of a fisher. Fisher were once fairly abundant in Oregon. It is thought that poison stations for predators and heavy trapping reduced the population to near extinction.

**Enemy of Porcupine**

Initial planning to reintroduce the fisher, thought to be extinct in the state or almost so, began in mid-summer when the game commission and the U. S. forest service worked out a cooperative program. Weyerhaeuser Timber company also showed considerable interest and offered its assistance if it were needed.

Primary reason for the reintroduction was to allow this valuable furbearer, once native to the state, to regain its place among Oregon's wildlife. The fisher is also an enemy of the porcupine and it is hoped the big furbearer will prove a valuable adjunct in the control of these waddling tree destroyers.

As soon as the winter season opened, trappers of British Columbia began their part in the reintroduction by capturing the animals alive and transporting them to the British Columbia department of fish and game at Kamloops.

**Name Misnomer**

Its name is certainly a misnomer for the fisher does not fish. It prefers to catch its food among the tree tops and does so with ease, for it is the fastest tree-traveler of any mammal. It is as much or more at home among the trees as it is on the ground.

Color of the fisher is dark brown to nearly black, with white-tipped hairs giving the animal a frosty appearance, especially around the head and shoulders. Its legs are dark, almost black, and so is its 16-inch fox-like tail. Weights run to 10 pounds with large animals of 18 pounds recorded.

Mating takes place in April and is unique in the weasel family for it takes place only a few days following birth of the young. The young are born almost a full year from the time mating takes place. This long gestation period results from what is called "dis-

## Johnson Given Key to City

Physical, mental and spiritual training and the attribute of honesty needed if one is to become a champion were stressed yesterday morning by Rafer Johnson, 1960 Olympic decathlon champion and world record holder, at a public breakfast at Rogue Valley Country club.

Johnson, world's greatest athlete who carried this nation's flag in the Olympic procession at Rome, was given a standing ovation when he stood up to address the large audience. Medford Mayor John Snider presented the UCLA graduate a key to the city.

Pointing out the importance of athletics in our society, Johnson declared, "Here is an area where barriers are bro-

ken . . . I don't think athletes part as enemies."

**Friends Made**

There are always friends made in athletic competition, the star athlete said. He said the most important value from athletics to him has been the friends he's made. Friendships made under pressure are lasting, Johnson asserted. He valued the exchange of ideas with athletes of other nations.

Johnson brought out that athletics are an area in which there is very little compromise. "If a man wants to be a champion, he's going to have to work and concentrate," he stated. "Hours of preparation are required."

Shot Putter Parry O'Brien, 400-meter man Otis Davis and sprinter Wilma Rudolph were given as examples of applica-

tion to physical training, and hurdler Glenn Davis and vaulter Don Bragg as examples of mental preparation.

**Spiritual Quality**

The spiritual quality, exemplified by the Rev. Bob Richards and Bobby Morrow, Johnson said, is something that can be taken on when athletic days are over and can be lasting into any walk of life. Athletes everywhere have prayed, realizing that they have been given physical and mental qualities by someone bigger than they are, the athlete stated.

Winning is the most important thing about athletics, according to Johnson, who said that the idea of winning has made the American society as great as it is.

Johnson was brought here for a Presbyterian Youth fellowship dinner Friday night. Arrival delayed

A cancelled flight, a fog-bound airport, and a late take-off couldn't stop the incomparable Johnson from coming. With the Los Angeles airport fogged in, Rafer's first flight was cancelled until 2:30 p.m. A flight was rescheduled for 10:30 a.m. but Rafer could not be found. He did make the afternoon time but this would have put him in Medford at 7:10 p.m., after the event was over.

To hurry things along, Dr. D. K. West, pastor of First Presbyterian church, chartered a private plane to get Rafer at San Francisco.

The best athlete in the world proved he was as good a crowd pleaser as a decathlon champion at the dinner. He spoke there also of the need for readiness, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Of spiritual readiness, Rafer said, "Here is someone that won't let you down."

He also went on to tell the group that before each competition he prayed, prayed not that he would win, but that he and his fellow competitors would do their best on the field that day.

He tried to impart to those in attendance that only when all senses are in working condition is a champion born.

**COS Nicks SO Jayvees**

Weed, Calif. — College of the Siskiyou shattered a Southern Oregon college junior varsity basketball winning streak at 11 games Friday night when it nipped the Oregon club 68 to 65.

SOC was in front 32 to 28 at the midway point of the seesaw scramble.

Larry Hink was the top point-getter with 30 for the night for the Jayvees. Smith had 17 points for COS and Belcastro 15.

The loss left the Raider JV with a 12-2 season mark.

**LINEUPS:**

66 COS	SOC JV 65
F 19 Hawkins	Adams 5
F 15 Belcastro	DeFore 10
F 17 Smith	Graham 7
C 11 Beckham	Hink 20
G 7 Zettner	Funderburg 6
Substitutions—For COS, Tirard 4, Jordan 2, for SOC, Munyon 6, Cook 1.	

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## Lifting of Segregation Barriers May Be Asked

Tampa, Fla. — UPI — The NAACP will ask all major league baseball clubs training in Florida to break down segregation barriers against their Negro players, it was announced here.

The manager of Miami's Biscayne Terrace hotel said the Chicago White Sox team, which includes five Negroes, will stay at the hotel April 1-2 when it is scheduled to play exhibition games in Miami.

Hotel Manager Randy Kippel said he had "mullied it over in my mind for three or four weeks and in my opinion it is just a matter of time before these things are bound to happen in Miami."

State NAACP President A. Leon Lowry of Tampa said Thursday:

"We are calling the attention of all major league ball clubs to the fact that in every city in Florida where teams practice Negro players are discriminated against in hous-

## Snowmen Call Monday Session

Since this is the active time of the year for snow skiers, the Rogue Snowmen have called a meeting for Monday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Red Cross building, 60 Hawthorne ave.

Regular business scheduled will be in connection with the dry land ski school Snowmen conduct on Wednesday evenings, progress of the development at Mt. Ashland and possible use of their portable rope tow this year.

Special feature of the evening will be a movie of the 1960 Winter Olympics by Ski Patrolman Jim Johns of Southern Oregon college.

Prospective members are welcomed by the Snowmen.

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