

Winter Recreation Program for City To Start Jan. 5

The winter recreation program of the Medford park and recreation department is scheduled to begin Saturday, Jan. 5, according to Robert L. Haworth, park and recreation director.

Recreation activities will be centered in Howard, Wilson, Lone Pine, Jackson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Hoover, Washington and Jefferson elementary schools. The centers will be open at 10 a.m. each Saturday and will remain open through the noon hour. They will close at 2 p.m.

A variety of activities such as gymnastics, tumbling, trampolines, and table tennis will be offered to boys and girls of elementary school age. Adult recreation leaders will supervise activities at the centers, Haworth said.

Youngsters interested in the Saturday program should register Jan. 5 at the school nearest their homes, Haworth advised.

In addition to the elementary recreation centers, Medford high school gymnasium will be open to boys only of high school age who are interested in participating in a basketball league.

A schedule is being prepared by school officials for this activity. Interested boys should contact Glenn Schirman at the high school, Haworth said.

Programs at all locations will continue through Saturday, March 30, according to the park and recreation director.

McLaughlin Junior High school will not be used during the Christmas holidays, nor will it be used on Saturdays during the winter program.

19 Truckloads of Trash Are Collected

Nineteen truckloads of trash were picked up along five county roads last week, according to County Commissioner Edwin Taylor.

Taylor said the trash including old cans and bottles along Table Rock, Old Stage, Kirtland, Gibbon and Wilson roads, and were gathered by welfare crews. They ranged as far north as Gold Hill.

- GENERAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Cleaning Disinfectants
Heavy Duty Cleaners, Soaps
- COMPLETE WASHROOM SANITATION
Liquid Soaps and Equipment
Deodorants and Deodorizing Appliances
Paper Towels
Washroom Sanitary Service

WEST CHEMICAL PRODUCTS INC.
1017 No. Central Call 773-7761

Game Commission Discusses Balance Between Number of Deer and Rangeland

By MILT GUYMON
Oregon State Game Commission

Some hunters have failed to grasp or understand the fact that to maintain deer herds from one year to the next as well as having them present in Oregon 20 or 30 years in the future there must be a biological balance achieved between deer numbers and food supplies.

There is little doubt that the mass of controversial opinions relating to deer management, all generated by the hunting of either-sex deer coupled with what hunters feel a poor season just past, has set the iron kettle on the fire to brew.

Neck deep in this boiling kettle is the Oregon game commission which maintains that to save the big game range—the factory that produces the deer for tomorrow—is far more important than having a deer behind every bush today.

Compare Deer Herds

Many hunters compare the deer herds and the hunting today with that of 20 and 30 years ago and refer to this era as the "good old days." It may have been good from a hunter pressure standpoint since the 60 to 100 thousand hunters in the field then was considerably less than the 200 to 250 thousand hunters in the field for the past 8 to 10 years.

But the hunting itself was far from better. Anyone who thinks differently is letting the doe shooting sentiment rule over fact and logic. During the 30's and 40's it was exceptional if hunter success reached the 25 per cent mark and most hunters had to work a lot harder and cover a lot more ground to do it.

It wasn't until the 1950's when antlerless hunts were allowed on a rapidly mushrooming deer population that hunter success began to increase, reaching a peak of 62 per cent in 1961.

Buck Kill of Past

The buck kill in the good old days barely reached 35 to 40 thousand animals. The total deer kill in 1953, the second year of either-sex hunting, topped 100,000 animals of which more than 67,000 were bucks. Also, 1953 was the first year where hunter success reached the 50 per cent mark; and it has not

dropped below that point since, nor has the deer kill dropped below the 100,000 mark.

Many hunters have failed to grasp the fact of biological balance of game and food. The "balance" is fine—just as long as there's plenty of deer. But let the deer herds decline even slightly and sentiment immediately rules over logic.

For the past 12 years, the game commission has been informing hunters that the winter ranges of eastern Oregon were carrying far more deer than they were capable of supporting.

Has Advised Hunters

For the past dozen years the game commission has advised hunters—and feared—that heavy mortality would occur if the area was hit by a hard winter.

For at least 10 years the game commission has been attempting through liberal either-sex seasons to reduce the herds down to the carrying capacity to avert a starvation disaster. It helped, but the mild winters for the past 10 years allowed deer numbers to pull through without normal winter losses and the herds remained high.

Last year eastern Oregon experienced what is considered a normal winter and as predicted by game managers it took its toll of game. The poorest ranges or ranges with high populations of deer suffered the heaviest starvation mortality. The Snake river breaks with its light hunting pressure and high deer numbers, the Minam river hunted only on a pack show basis, the Mahogany mountains in the Owyhee country, a lot of which is inaccessible to the hunter, and other ranges of Malheur and Harney counties all suffered heavy starvation losses. Few of the eastern Oregon winter game ranges

escaped the starvation losses as a result of normal winter weather.

Not the Only State

Oregon is not the only western state where game agencies have been put in the stew pot to boil. In Idaho where hunters have never had anything but a straight either-sex deer season, the cry is long and loud over the poor results of the season just past. Washington hunters found slimmer pickings this fall as did the hunters in Utah and California. The grumblings

are being heard as far east as Montana.

Arizona hunters—a state which is probably the most sensitive in the west in regards to balancing herds with food supplies since the mass starvation of about 60,000 head of deer in the Kiabab—are beating the opposition drums to the hunting of does, all stemming from a season a little poorer than the last one.

And here's the way an Arizona writer puts it as he titles his column "Vension Stew," which we have taken the lib-



NOBODY FOOLED—The safety jacket Marcia Henderson, 15, of Vincennes, Ind., is wearing reads "Don't Shoot—I'm a Man," but the young huntress would find it hard to fool anyone with the sign. Most hunters know a "deer" when they see one. (UPI)

erty to quote because it fits the Oregon picture.

"When you start talking about going out and getting a deer for venison stew these days you're likely to wind up in some kind of a stew right off the bat. Giving the people the opportunity to go out and get deer is the job of the game and fish commission, and that opportunity—in the form of deer season regulations—is provided on the basis of biological facts.

"These facts, though frequently run about of sentiment, which is almost as important as meat when you're making a venison stew. Sentiment, in fact, seems to be the major ingredient of the venison stew. . . . And it's easy to understand the sentiment when some of our deer ranges don't have the numbers of deer they did last year.

"And it may be that they don't have as many deer because the fish and game commission has been attempting to hold the number down to protect the range. On a number of ranges last winter, starvation losses may have accomplished the job where hunting pressures have failed. This is the case where sentiment and biology have locked horns, so to speak, and started the stew to bubbling. The commission insists the ranges must be saved, and the hunters—some of them, anyway—insist just as strongly that there ought to be more deer in the woods.

Sentiment Understandable

"The sentiment is certainly understandable. Deer hunting is a proud part of our heritage, and for thousands of deer hunters the deer season is the year's biggest event.

"When you stop to think about it, the same general sentiment is responsible for both opinions. Everyone involved wants good deer

hunting. They just haven't agreed on the best way to obtain it. The commission approaches the situation with determination to still have deer 20 years in the future by protecting the range now. The other side demands to see more deer in the woods right away with little regard for the condition of the range now or for the production of deer in the future.

"The game commission feels that in critical areas the situation has boiled down to a choice: either stop shooting the deer now and let them increase until they eat themselves out of house and home, or hold them in check with hunting pressure and save the factory that produces them.

Prefers The Latter

"The commission prefers the latter, and this means that some antlerless animals must be taken. And this is where the bulk of the disagreement occurs."

The Oregon game commission agrees with this premise. It would be easy to allow the deer herds to build up even beyond the high levels of the past several years. But over the long haul this would undoubtedly lead to a greater disaster than Oregon hunters have ever seen.

Few hunters remember the mass starvation which took on the Murderers Creek range,

or the near catastrophe on the Keating range some 20 or more years ago. There is nothing pretty about deer dying from malnutrition, a sight that most hunters seldom witness.

Or we can hold them in check through adequate harvesting and maintain the ranges which produce the animals in the first place. And this means taking some antlerless deer.

JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE for Your Holiday Toasting

Greet your friends—Enjoy our fine foods and pleasant surroundings at

ROGUE RIVER LODGE

Just 25 Minutes N.E. of Medford on Crater Lake Hwy. 62

Open 4-12 Daily, 4-2:30 Sat. Closed Thurs.

JUBILEE CLUB and RESTAURANT

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY

Complete Turkey or Ham Dinner **\$150**

California St. Jacksonville Phone 899-8068

GREETINGS

As Christmas draws near it is only natural that our thoughts turn to those who have played such a big part in our success . . . our friends, our customers. Our best way of wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year is to assure you of continued high quality and courteous service in the year and years to come.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

North's Chuck Wagon

1016 N. Riverside

Dan Marmo and the Staff at HOTEL MEDFORD Extends Christmas Greetings To Everyone Everywhere

After Dinner, Dance to the Versatile Music of GLEN TOMLINSON and His Band Playing All Your Favorite Christmas Melodies.

DINING ROOM 7 a.m. till 4 p.m. CANDLE ROOM open 4 to Midnite

COMPLETE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Children Always Welcome

BIGGEST REACH

99 Million Consumers Read a Daily Newspaper Each Weekday

These readers make up the largest audience available to any advertiser in any medium. A recent study* of this national newspaper audience shows that it includes 80 per cent of all men and women over 21 . . . and 72 per cent of all teenagers, age 15 and over. This huge and consistent readership can be depended upon by advertisers because the daily newspaper is a habit with most people . . . an established part of their everyday lives. For the national advertiser, this amounts to almost the total market for any product. For the local advertiser, this massive readership symbolizes the local reach of his own local newspaper—into almost 9 out of 10 homes every day. No matter what the product or service an advertiser wants to sell, more people can read about it in the pages of the daily newspaper.

*"The Daily Newspaper And Its Reading Public," Audits and Surveys Co., Inc.

