

# California Game Official Explains His Stand On Either Sex Deer Season

(Editors: Should California keep its deer population in bounds by allowing hunters to shoot female animals? United Press has asked two prominent men from opposing schools of opinion for their views. Seth Gordon, director of the Department of Fish and Game, today discusses his department's policy of favoring the shooting of does where deer are overpopulated. Next, Superior Judge Stanley Murray of Madera County, an outspoken opponent of the shooting of female deer, gives his views. Finally, United Press Sports Writer Ed Capps, who killed both a buck and a doe this season, sums up the arguments, plus some other points.)

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**By SETH GORDON**  
Director of Fish and Game

SACRAMENTO (UP)—It would be possible for California hunters to take at least 200,000 deer annually, instead of 75,000 or less, without harm to the herds, and to the benefit of deer ranges and hunters alike.

Problems of deer management in California can best be typified by two conflicting statements: California has the largest deer

herd of any state, with about 1,200,000 head; it also has the lowest hunter success percentage of any of the Western states.

The answer to this seeming paradox is a sensible harvest of the annual crop of animals of both sexes consistent with good range management practices and maintenance of an adequate breeding stock.

There are too many deer in California for existing ranges to support. Symptoms of this condition are increasing crop damage by deer on agricultural lands, damage to range plants through overbrowsing and periodic die-offs of deer from malnutrition and other associated causes.

In 1954, more than 400,000 Californians bought deer tags, but there were only about 76,602 deer taken during the regular season. All of them were bucks, forked-horn or better, and in one district the minimum requirement was three points or better.

By taking bucks only, the Cal-

ifornia hunter had only one chance in six of getting a deer. Yet in other Western states where either sex hunting is legal, the chances of success range from 30 per cent in Arizona to more than 70 per cent in Utah.

If either sex hunting produces such good results, why isn't it put into practice in California?

Two factors have made difficult and sometimes fruitless any attempts to institute better management plans for the California deer herds. One is the inflexibility of present laws relating to seasons and bag limits, and the other is the unwillingness of many people to break away from the tradition of bucks-only hunting. Some are willing to concede that deer management is good for herds in other areas, but not for deer in their own backyards.

Under present law it is necessary to set up either sex hunts on a piecemeal basis, but these are the only regulations which allow the Fish and Game Commission to control the number of animals to be killed.

Should public feeling become unified enough to bring changes in the law, real deer management could be accomplished by a few simple changes in the fish and game code.

Major among these would be a change allowing the commission to set kill or permit quotas for antlerless deer under the regulatory powers section, so that either-sex seasons could be set without involving the complicated procedures now required for special hunts. The simplest and least complicated method of regulating deer hunting, both antlered and antlerless, is to establish seasons for all areas except those involving special problems at the time regular seasons are established in May by the commission.

With these changes made, it would be possible for California hunters to take at least 200,000

deer annually. That would mean that one out of every two hunters afield would get his deer. Compare that with the present ratio of only one of every six who is successful.

**Over The Garden Gate**  
TULELAKE  
By Mrs. Carl Jensen

Mrs. Charles Thurman, president of the Klamath District of Garden Clubs made her annual visit to the Tulalake Garden Club at the home of Mrs. Ted Fish on November 15. The meeting was convened at 10 a.m. Mrs. Earl McFall was co-hostess.

During workshop hours corsages were made to be sold at the Tulalake Garden Club, holiday show on December 9.

Mrs. McFall presided at the business meeting that opened at 2 p.m. Mrs. Thurman urged members of the Tulalake Club to attend the district workshop to be held in Klamath Falls at the Altamont Junior High School on December 2. Memoirs will attend free on presentation of membership cards. The public is invited. Non-members pay a \$1 fee.

The workshop for making Christmas decorations of all kinds will be under the instruction of Mrs. Francis Nehammer of Mercer Island, Washington. Special instruction will be given locally on arrangements to be entered in the Tulalake show.

Registration will start for the district workshop at 9:30 a.m. Instruction will begin at 10 a.m.

The schedule for the holiday show was explained by Mrs. Fish and Mrs. E. C. Schweitzer.

The next meeting of the Tulalake Club will be at the home of Mrs. Gevin McCracken on November 29, starting at 10 a.m. for another workshop.

Mrs. Merton Brown was appointed chairman of the annual Christmas lighting contest. Her assistants and the dates for the contest will be announced. Theme of this year's contest will be "Glitter Way."

Mrs. Eugene Smith won the hostess prize.



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**4-H News**

**LINDLEY ELECTRONIC SPARKS**  
We held our first meeting at the home of Mrs. Billings, our leader. We selected a name for our club, which is "Lindley Electronic Sparks." We elected our officers: Richard Colson, president; Roy Billings, vice president; James Scapple, secretary; Don Owens, news reporter; and Roy Billings, games and yell leader.  
Don Owens  
News Reporter

**THE KENO HOMEMAKERS**  
The Keno Homemakers met at the home of Mrs. Lorraine Anderson, Monday, November 14th. The meeting was called to order by president, Donna Freer. The secretary, Bonnie Pierce, read the roll call and the minutes of the last meeting. Girls present were: Janell Cooper, Sandy Sohrakoff, Iris Sloan, Sharon Owen, Sharon Meyers, Loreta Sanders, Margaret Shellhorn, Helen Hurlbut, Bonnie Pierce, Donna Freer, Mary Green, Cheryl Thurman, Margie James, Judy Parker and Bonnie Jackson.  
Sandy Sohrakoff won the door prize. It was an apron.  
Mrs. Anderson showed us how to make wall plaques out of coffee can lids. Refreshments of cake and kool-aid were served.  
Kathleen DeGrande  
News Reporter

**JOLLY STITCHERS CLUB**  
The members of the former Jolly Stitchers Club met at the home of their leader, Mrs. John Heyden, for the first meeting of the year on November 11th. It was decided that we would change our name this year and suggestions are to be brought to the next meeting.  
The following officers were elected: Carol Baker, president; Sandy Spear, vice president; Lucille Waters, secretary; Linda Heyden, news reporter; Charlotte Heyden, party chairman; Margaret Heyden, song leader.  
Achievement Day was set for November 16th at Joan's Kitchen for the Altamont and Shasta 4-H Clubs, at which time awards, ribbons and pins will be awarded. Carol Baker and Necla Musselman will take cookies for the Achievement Day.

**Lost River Group Meets**  
MERRILL — Despite ice and snow, 12 members attended last Wednesday's meeting of Lost River Auxiliary No. 4056. President Pat Duncan appointed committees and completed details for serving the Lions Club appreciation dinner tonight.  
Hospital Chairman Margaret Loper reported two shirts have been purchased and mailed to the auxiliary's "adopted man," Arthur S. Hill, at Camp White for his birthday anniversary. Gifts for the Camp White Christmas project will be purchased, individually wrapped and mailed before December 1. The committee in charge of this project is Ida Fleck, Margaret Loper and Mary Lou Swisher.  
Donations have been made to the VFW national home Christmas fund and the national home Christmas stamps, it was reported.  
Veterans of Post 4056 have asked the auxiliary to take over the entire furnishing of the kitchen in the new building. The responsibility has been accepted by the auxiliary.  
Plans were discussed for the annual family Christmas party to be held for members of the VFW post and the auxiliary in the recreation hall. Date will be announced later.  
Alta Thompson of Klamath Falls, district president, will attend the auxiliary meeting on December 7. All members are urged to attend, the annual Christmas gift exchange will be held.

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