

Madera County Judge Opposes Slaughter Of 'Defenseless Does'

Editors: Second in a series of three. Superior Judge Stanley Murray of Madera County tells why he is opposed to managing California's deer herds by allowing hunting of either sex, as proposed by Madera County Superior Judge.

MADERA (UP)—The Department of Fish and Game, in adopting the idea of managing and controlling the deer population by licensing certain numbers of hunters each year to shoot down the defenseless doe, is ill advised, and this can well portend the end of wildlife in California.

Nature, from time immemorial, has had a way of controlling the reproduction of the species. As far as the deer family is concerned, the coyote, wolf, mountain lion and other wild animals, as well as diseases, have served to control too much of an increase.

There is no evidence that the predatory animals have failed in their job, if the absence of assistance from the Fish and Game Commission, to such an extent as

ORDER LIFTED
MANILA, (AP)—Defense Secretary Sotero Cabang has lifted an order which had grounded Philippine air force P-51 Mustang fighter planes for the past week. Investigators reported four recent accidents were caused by pilot error.

to give the commission a right to license hunters to promiscuously kill antlerless deer.

The commission and its experts could far better be occupied in working out ways and means to preserve the deer population, rather than to cooperate in depleting it.

There is a tremendous increase of people who want to hunt during the hunting season. The citizens of California have a right to the preservation of the female deer so enough bucks can be born that a hunter may have a chance, once in a while, to kill one.

I believe it is not an overpopulation of antlerless deer that is at the bottom of this inexcusable slaughter of the mother deer. It is the fact that it is harder, because of the increase in the number of hunters to kill a buck. There are so many does that too much pres-

sure is brought to bear for an opportunity to kill a doe occasionally.

The overpopulation is used as an excuse to license hunters to kill the does—especially those who have not been able to kill a buck. I am unable to forgive the authorities who feel that the way to control our wildlife, and particularly the deer of the forests, is to allow a buckless hunter to shoot down the defenseless doe.

When the cruel and relentless hunter aims his deadly rifle and fires the shot that destroys her life, he also destroys the life of uncounted four-point bucks that would bless future generations of hunters.

If it is necessary to license hunters to kill female deer to deplete the population, why is it that the deer population did not over-run the mountains of California in

the first part of the 19th century. In those days there were not enough people to keep the deer population down if every one of them hunted. Yet, when the deer was worth only what its hide would bring and only the Digger Indian hunted the buck—or the doe, if you please—it was not necessary to go out and kill a lot of does to keep nature in balance.

I was raised in the Sierra Nevada and, from first hand information, am able to testify that, in the areas where the deer browse and feed, nature is still able to keep things in balance, without the aid of an army of hunters killing does and leaving little fawns to starve.

Wildlife in California is fast disappearing and those agencies created at the expense of the people for its protection should be vigilant at all times in this regard. Such agencies should pay serious consideration to information furnished by those on the local scene who, from their many years of experience, can speak with authority.

They should eliminate any guesswork or politics from the formulation of long range policies, or the pressure of "would-be sportsmen" who are not satisfied with our present laws to secure their game order to do so.

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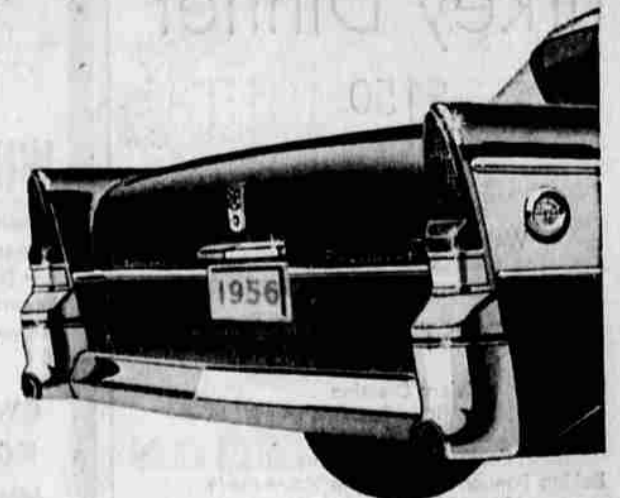
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