

Outdoor Notes

By Jim O'Donahue



THE BALD HORNET

By JIM O'DONAHUE

It is not always the big bull elk or buck deer with hatrack antlers that attracts the attention of the man outdoors. Especially is this true if the man happens to be of a breed that likes to sit on the bank of a small stream or in the shade of a pine on a south slope and watch the small life so numerous down close to the earth.

Through the years 1931 to 1935 I lived in the area known as Rancheria. Here Clark's Creek, Fourbit Creek, Rancheria Creek and many springs joined to form the headwaters of Big Butte Creek. And here nature had lavished grassy meadows, rich soil, abundance of clear, pure water, grass, trees and brush to create a natural mountain meadow. In turn, food, water and protection were the gift of Wakan Tonka to the creatures of the wild.

Among the more abundant creatures of the low, green meadow were yellow jackets. The quiet beauty of Rancheria had done nothing at all to cool the vicious tempers of the black and yellow stingers. Day after day the jackets and I waged unrelenting war. They claimed complete and sole possession of the area and attacked without warning any intruder. Peaceful intent and quiet contemplation meant nothing to the yellow horde. Their motto was "get out or get stung!"

It seemed I was losing a hopeless battle. One human against countless demons! The hypodermic shots were telling. And then it happened! I found a friend!

I had caught a few small fish from Fourbit Creek and sat on the bank to clean them. At once, it seemed, the odor of fish heads attracted the yellow jackets. They came to eat and gorge on the bounty I had provided. I wondered why I should be selected to provide food for my most violent adversary. And then—out of the clear air above dropped a living dive bomber! A bald hornet had located his prey. He landed squarely on the back of a yellow jacket and with one power bite at the base of the head killed instantly my unwanted guest. With the dead body clasped securely in his legs the hornet flew to a large paper nest hanging in an alder. I gave silent thanks to the God of nature who had not forsaken me but had provided a friend.

Many times afterward I watched this drama of nature and came to realize the bald hornet is not just an overpowering coward. Here he attacked an insect well armed and nearly his match in size and strength. Often he had a fierce battle on his hands. If he failed on the first stoop to land squarely on the back of the victim, he was immediately attacked by the jacket. A fight of tremendous proportions followed. Locked in a death struggle, the adversaries whirled. Tiny clouds of dust arose from the flailing wings. Stingers and jaws probed and slashed. Always the result was the same. The hornet prevailed, the jacket died and one of nature's laws was fulfilled. And I thanked Wakan Tonka.

Efficient Feeding

For purposes of this column the primary use of salt on the farm is salt for the livestock. Mixed in the rations and fed free choice salt serves to assure efficient production of meat, milk, wool and work.

Adequate salt, or its two elements, sodium and chlorine, are vital to the health, growth and reproduction of all classes of livestock. Indeed, some animals will die if denied supplemental salt for lengthy periods. This was dramatically demonstrated in research with dairy cattle at Cornell University within the last few years.

Countless research projects have shown that the various classes of livestock suffer retarded growth, poor reproduction and losses from generally poor health when denied salt in their rations. For instance a study at Purdue University showed that salt-fed pigs gained two-and-a-half times as fast as pigs fed identical rations but denied salt.

Besides its vital role in animal nutrition salt serves many purposes in livestock management and general farm use.

Salt becomes a labor saver on rangelands where, mixed with protein supplement, it controls the daily supplement intake to the desired levels for self-fed cattle and sheep. The feed may be put out once a week or even less often, in contrast with daily feeding required when salt is not used as a "regulator."

Since livestock will consume a remarkably constant amount of

No Live Sawflies Have Been Found

By UNITED PRESS

The annual California survey and treatment program for a serious grain killer insect, the wheat sawfly, is almost completed and no live sawflies have been found.

Prior to the survey and eradication program started in 1954, an attack of the pest almost completely destroyed wheat in the Cuyama Valley.

Spraying of up to 39,000 acres in that valley of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties has been completed for the year. Surveys are continuing in the neighboring counties of Fresno, Kern, Tulare and Kings.

State entomologist Stewart Lockwood says complete eradication of the wheat sawfly from California is beyond hope at this point. He says the main object now is to hold the infestation to the Cuyama Valley.



BARNYARD BUDDIES — "Mares eat oats, and does eat oats . . ." and so, it seems, do rabbits. Chilli, a horse belonging to Mrs. Charles T. Quinn, of Old Westbury, N.Y., has a couple of long-eared pals he shares his meals with. Chilli has become so attached to Captain Midnight, left, and Captain Hook, he won't eat unless they eat with him.

College Graduates This Year Will Have Limited Job Pick

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Even though industry is "retrenching" during the recession, 1958 college graduates will find a job, but most will settle for something less than first choice, an Oregon State College survey shows.

OSC placement officials also say that because Oregon lacks the research-type industries, a majority of the technically-trained graduates head to California for jobs.

A chemistry professor said job possibilities are "not as good" this year as the past three years. But, he added, "the last three years were not normal — they were phenomenal."

Best bet is for the Ph.D. graduate, especially in mathematics, physics, chemistry and related fields. Starting pay is from \$8,000 to \$11,000 a year in industry and about \$6,000 for college teaching or research.

In spite of the temporary lag, engineering starting salaries are up \$10 to \$15 a month — from the \$460 average of last year to \$475 this year. Civil engineers find the most job choices because of the federal highway program.

Jobs are tighter in education. Turnover in the elementary and high school teaching ranks has slowed and many persons who left schoolwork are coming back. Starting pay for OSC education

graduates this year will vary from \$3,800 to \$5,650.

Shortage fields in education are girls physical education, elementary education taught by young men, English, and special education for teaching mentally retarded and handicapped children. Greatest need: qualified librarians for high schools.

Hardest hit in the science fields is geology. This country's oil inventory is high, coupled with foreign reserves. Oil companies have curtailed exploration. Pay-for those hired runs \$485 to \$500 a month. The forestry school has the least number of jobs listed since nine years ago. Paradoxically, the June graduates are committed to jobs earlier this year. Knowing that things were "tighter" the students sought out jobs. Starting pay is \$1,800.

Demand for pharmacists is high. Most graduates go into drug store work with starting pay at \$5,200. Job prospects for home economics graduates are excellent. A need for college and high school teachers, dietitians and food service administrators is reported.

In business and technology, the shortage field is sales. Average starting salary for the business graduate is \$375. Most of the larger companies pay \$400 a month, except in banking and merchandising where pay is less.



MILKMAIDS—There's no need to give young ladies a seat—they all have one at Kempton, Germany. The girls have their one-legged milking stools already attached as they prepare to compete for the title of fastest Bavarian milkmaid.

Question: Is there any feed value in thistles?

Answer: Yes, there is considerable feed value in thistles, as there is in a good many other weeds provided they are harvested or fed at a relatively young stage of growth. Weeds, at times, do not differ greatly in their composition from ordinary forage crops such as the grasses. About the best way of making use of weeds is to ensile them, and they are regularly ensiled right along with a corn or hay crop.

BLIND VENDORS

BOSTON (UP)—Thirty-two blind persons have been assisted by the state in establishing vending stand businesses in Massachusetts. They are now doing a total business of about \$380,000 a year, says Director John F. Mungovan of the Massachusetts Division of the Blind. Total net earnings rose from \$38,108 to \$76,090 last year.

FIRST PHONE LECTURE

SALEM, Mass. (UP)—The first public lecture about the telephone was delivered here February 12, 1877. It was sponsored by the Essex Institute, which since 1821 has promoted matters of historical interest.

TIME TO PLANT LAWNS
Call Lakeshore Gardens Nursery
879 Lakeshore Dr. Phone 4-4286
For Lawns, Sprinkling Systems and General Landscaping. Shade and Fruit Trees, Lovely Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens and Roses.
We deliver, plant and guarantee our trees and shrubs to grow.
GET FLOWERS FOR DECORATION DAY
Order early to secure choice varieties and best blooms. Beautiful Oregon Rainbow Flagstone.
Lakeshore Gardens Nursery-Ph. 4-4286
25 Years Serving The Klamath Basin

Gunite Construction!

Swimming Pools Retaining Walls Waterproofing
Sandblasting Curb and Sidewalk Repair

MONOLITHIC HOMES

Gun Mix Concrete Co.

J. F. (Jim) SMITH
833 East Main Phone TU 2-4774