

The Herald and News

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Coot Count

By BILL JENKINS

A couple of weeks ago in this column I was stirring up the animals a bit with a piece about coots and allowing as how they were taking over the world.

Since then I have run into quite a considerable volume of fresh information. Most of it interesting and all of it significant.

According to the 1958 Status Report of Waterfowl, published by the Fish and Wildlife Service last August, coots in the Pacific Flyway for the period January 1957 to January 1958 are down by 16 percent. At the same time in Canada they are up by a huge 159 percent. And that is in the one province of British Columbia.

Despite this drop in coot numbers they are still above the average line in the charts. Not by a whole lot, but still better than holding their own. Over the nine year period covered by the survey we have had about all kinds of weather and feed conditions so it would appear that the sturdy little chaps are going to be around for quite a while.

I mentioned in the last column on this subject that it might be an idea to put a longer season on the coot. I still feel that this would serve an adequate purpose, but the thinking is a lot easier than the doing. The coot, no matter what you think of him, is listed as a migratory waterfowl and as such is included in the waterfowl treaties with both Canada and Mexico. To open a special season, other than a predator classification, would require a change in the treaty itself. No small task. But, nevertheless, one that could be accomplished if enough pressure were brought to bear.

I cannot see that management and enforcement problems connected with such a change would be insurmountable. After all, we are facing new problems every day and are apparently willing to patrol all of Europe and the Middle East, so why not spend a little to patrol our marshes and ditches and give the home folks some benefits out of the spending besides an international headache?

Be that as it may, any change would be a long time in the future. In the meantime we still have to figure out something to do about the coots.

If you are worried, that is. If you aren't then there is no cause for you to lose sleep.

Or to read this. But if you are worried about it, and you do want to do something and you don't like to waste meat or game then there are steps to take.

Tom Garratt came in the other day with a flock of recipes for cooking coots. He also tells me that a coot, drawn in the field, can be readied for the pan with three motions and requires no picking, skinning or other fooling around.

You'll have to ask him about that. Or I will and try to describe the process at a later date. But I am willing to send along a few of the recipes for coot and hope they will prove tasty. I shall include one today and follow with others.

Wishing to stay along simple lines we shall start this educational series with plain old fried coot. This will require two to four coots, salt, pepper, paprika, one third cup flour, two tablespoons fat, two tablespoons water, one tablespoon chopped onion, half cup of coot stock and a half cup of rich milk, or sour cream if you prefer.

First you quarter your coots. Season, dredge with flour and brown in hot fat. Add water, cover tightly and bake in a slow oven (300-325) until tender — young birds 35 to 40 minutes, old birds an hour and a quarter. Turn pieces and add water if needed. Remove pieces and keep hot. Prepare gravy by browning the onion and two tablespoons flour in drippings in pan. Add stock and milk, stirring until smooth and thickened. Season gravy to taste. One to two tablespoons sour cream will improve flavor. Arrange pieces on heated platter and garnish with parsley sprigs and fried toast points. Serve with parmesan potatoes, broccoli, corn fritters, green salad, currant jelly and hot biscuits.

There you have it. If you make your biscuits sourdough and serve a good wine, red or white, with the meal, it should taste good. I shall try it and let you know later.

Bluffing

By FLOYD WYNNE

The situation in the Formosa Straits demands additional clarification, or rather attempts to clarify it.

It seems incredible that we should have picked two tiny islands such as Quemoy and Matsu to make a stand from which we are going to find it difficult to be away.

than that we should send troops into Lebanon to stabilize a beleaguered country.

However, both spots I feel were well chosen and carefully selected for the purpose for which we are now using them.

In Lebanon we found ourselves with a diplomatic policy which was being circumvented by the Communist method of infiltration and subversion.

When we moved troops into Lebanon we found ourselves in a situation where the Russian influence was on the verge of sweeping all the Middle East into the Communist orbit. Iraq had fallen victim to a coup and a revolt in both Jordan and Lebanon threatened to follow.

If we had not moved when we did the Middle East might have been lost to the Communists.

As it turned out the move was a gigantic bluff. We even went so far as to flow a special atomic unit into Turkey where it was within a few hours flying time of Moscow.

The Russians backed away from the challenge. The end result has been that the Middle East picture has not only been stabilized, but I feel the move has launched the Arabs on a path that will permit them to run their own show without Russian domination.

Best assurance of a peaceful Middle East is to build up a huge Arab state or society which can stand as a buffer area, and can be strong enough to run its own show without domination by either the West or Russia.

Nasser is as of now the dominant figure in the Arab world, but if in the long run the Arab countries band together, they may or may not let Nasser be top man.

At any rate, moving our forces into Lebanon prevented utter chaos from developing and kept the Russians out of the Middle East. We should soon be able to withdraw our forces from Lebanon satisfied that the Russians will not rush into the vacuum.

Now, we face a threat from another angle . . . the Far East. We have virtually committed ourselves to a policy of force in the event Red China decides to launch an actual invasion try against Quemoy or Matsu.

This comes about because a year or so ago the Red Chinese got up to force Chiang to withdraw from another set of islands when the Red Chinese threatened war to get them.

They had every right to believe we would do the same thing again the moment they made a show of force.

When we didn't, it caught them on something of a limb. Further, when we made a commitment to defend the two islands, we put ourselves on something of a limb also.

To back up the Red Chinese in this bluffing game, the Russians warned the United States to get out, that they would back Red China all the way.

When Ike threw that warning back in Khrushchev's face, it became apparent that we were determined not to step backward.

It also becomes apparent that Ike and Dulles are certain that in the end Red China will back down. But, they have also left a loophole through which Red China can not only back down gracefully, but can get possession of the offshore islands in the process.

While they haven't said so in so many words because they couldn't, the implication has been clear that if the Reds will renounce their claim to Formosa, we in turn will have Chiang renounce his right to the offshore

islands and withdraw from them. This would clear the way, as I stated before, for a "live and let live" policy between the two Chinas.

It also has become clear that our foreign policy has shifted from one of negotiation and compromise to one of a firm stand of "this and no more."

Certainly there is no American who wants to go to war over two tiny islands that are of no earthly use except as military bases. However, I think almost to the man that Americans are tired of the long weary continuous retreat that has permitted the Communists to gobble up over half of the world.

It has reached the point where it was national sport abroad to belittle and humiliate the Americans. The Lebanon and now the Formosa Strait moves have clearly warned other nations of the world that while America may be indulging in the policy of "turning the other cheek," we also have just about reached the end of our patience.

Any use of military force, or show of military strength in just such a situation as Quemoy and Matsu is a calculated risk. However, I feel it is a risk that was undertaken by the administration both because it was a military necessity, and even more important, because it had every chance of not only being successful, but of settling a long standing threat to world peace.

Only time will tell whether such military bluffs pay off.

Wasted Effort

By FLORENCE JENKINS

Economy in government is a popular plank in any platform during an election year.

There is now disseminated from various state departments to newspapers a whole raft of material which is not used. It is nearly always extraneous material and in many cases highly inaccurate.

One cumbersome department which seems to be spending the taxpayers' money on trivia and worse is the extension service at Corvallis.

Regularly, newspapers receive "Market Information for Consumers," put out as cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics by Oregon State College and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

The September 24 issue of the three-page mimeographed bulletin called "Spotlight on Food" devotes two pages to "Food Advertising . . . Good or Bad?"

Ostensibly, the bulletin presents food and market facts to be published by the newspapers of the state.

In our opinion, the authors have digressed this time to the point of absurdity to term they use in talking about advertisers attempting to create a desire to buy on the part of the consumer.

Spotlight warns: "Use truthful statements of the properties and values of the products."

The regulations set up by the federal Pure Food and Drug Act are probably older than the authors who wrote the foregoing sentence.

It further warns to watch for advertising which is "free of deceptive terms and connotations." Newspaper publishers associations and advertising groups across the nation have spent millions of dollars in establishing "truth in advertising" precepts throughout the advertising fraternity.

Add to all that the fact that a newspaper would look pretty silly to start warning its readers to beware of advertising.

Spotlight's authors may have di-

plomies in hornmaking but why should the people of Oregon contribute to their salaries to propound such foolishness?

We suggest to the authors of Spotlight the old adage: "Shoemaker, stock to your last."

Genealogy

By NELSON REED

Received a most interesting offer in the mail the other day from Reed Genealogical Society, no less—4,000 word history of the Reed family, including its place among nobility. Now ain't that something! And all for \$5 and a coat of arms to hang on the wall, or put on my car, they suggest. Man, wouldn't that make all these government labeled cars look sick!

Could I tell them something about us Reeds? Back in the days before we got snooty, our name was plain old Red, because of the colored noses and faces we had — weather and wassall, no doubt. Just a color name, like Black, White, Green and Brown, only they weren't smart enough to change theirs.

Ancestors got run out of England, Scotland and Ireland for refusing to cut the toenails off their deer hounds which they used for poaching on the king's domain. Came to Pennsylvania to kill Indians for William Penn, who was a Quaker and a little squeamish about it. Ancestors weren't.

Folger offers to locate lost relations. Good gosh, who wants to? Mostly want to lose them. Might work in reverse too; again it.

Blank on the bottom of the folder—dinger Says: "Father's name, if known." Now ain't that nice, if known? Somebody like that a chance to join us exclusive Reeds. What some people won't do for \$5.

Tourist Tax

Butte Falls (To the Editor) — Just last night I read, in the Medford Mail Tribune, in the "In the Day's News" by Frank Jenkins of the Klamath Falls Herald and News, that Oregon's tourist advertising money comes out of the gasoline tax. As Mr. Jenkins stated, "Perhaps as a taxpayer (anyone who drives an automobile or truck is by necessity a taxpayer) you may resent that. You shouldn't."

Here is one Irishman who will do — fast take exception to that statement. What do those crooked politicians in office think we pay taxes for? In the event it can apply I'll be only too glad to apply the term to the members of the Legislature.

How many of our people here in Oregon, percentage-wise, get anything out of the tourists? If anyone should pay for tourist advertising, it should be limited to those who benefit from the tourist, motels, trailer parks, hotels, restaurants, and other so-called tourist attractions. It is my opinion that gasoline taxes, license fees, PUC taxes on trucks and all other taxes, resulting from the operation of the automobile should be used on our road system.

I regard it a dishonest act to use these funds for any other purpose. Oregon, as a whole, has some of the worst roads of any section of the country. If a motorist says anything to the proper officials about it or asks that remedial steps be taken on a particular portion of a road, we hear the complaint: "We just haven't the money." Well, if the politicians would use the money as it should we'd have money left over.

I told one official last spring, County Judge Rodney Keating of Jackson County, to be very specific, that in fourteen years in California I had never seen a road as bad as those in use right here in Southern Oregon, and the above quoted complaint was one he used to "explain" the situation. Yet in none of the California counties where I lived were there any payments from O and C lands or from forest service timber sales. When I spent time in San Joaquin County, California, within the past five years, I was told there were no roads in the county without oil or concrete surface. And there are no moneys there from timber sales as in Oregon. It all comes from the taxpayer's pocket.

I hope this dishonest, disgusting, irregular state of affairs can be terminated soon. Rest assured I'll do all I can to speed the day when we have to pay out our gasoline tax dollars to get tourists to come to Oregon.

Floyd R. McCabe

QUOTES—

United Press International MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — First Lt. Clifford McClure, of Anderson, S.C., on his planned 20-mile-high flight in an Air Force balloon: "There's no wind in a balloon. You move with it. That's what makes it so quiet. You don't even know the wind exists."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Four Establishments Qualify For Honors

Four of the seven establishments which earned "outstanding citizenship" awards in last year's United Fund-Red Cross drive have definitely qualified for the same awards again, it was announced Friday by Paul Cruikshank, associate chairman of the drive.

Cruikshank said at Friday's drive report luncheon, held at the Pelican Cafe, that Peyton and Company, Medo-Land Creamery, Riverside School and J. W. Kerns had now qualified for the award, which is given to firms whose employees meet exacting standards of giving. It has previously been announced that two establishments, which had not previously won such awards, had qualified during the present drive: the Safeway store

located at Eighth and Pine streets, and Big Y Market, 4710 South Sixth Street.

Cruikshank said that with six establishments already qualified, there was good reason to hope that last year's total of seven such qualifications will be exceeded this year.

Thayne W. Cole, the drive's other associate chairman, conducted Friday's meeting at which pledges of \$9,542.35 were tallied—a good showing after the very modest one of Thursday. Madelyn Swaney and of Thursday, Madelyn Swaney and Jim Maguire, chairmen respectively of the Residential and Commercial divisions, were heroes of the day, and shared the honor of having the gold star placed before them. Mrs. Swaney reported pledges of \$1,675.85 from her division, and Maguire reported \$2,513.70 from his.

Cruikshank awarded the Oscars of the day. Those to whom they were presented, and the establishments represented were Mrs. Martha McLaughlin, Ponderosa School; W. R. Stautler, Montgomery Ward and Company; Bob Scholl, Rickys Jewelers; Duncan A. Stewart, Don Potter Machinery Company; Mrs. Lelah Faulkner, Flowers by Bill and Rita; Virginia Peterson and Leo Molatore, Kenneth Lambie and Company; and

Motor Bike Wins Contest

STUTTGART, Germany (AP)—Two-wheeled vehicles have proved faster than cars in a novel race through Stuttgart's traffic.

A motorcycle, a motor bike, a motor scooter, a small European car and a big American car competed in the event, staged Friday by a German manufacturing firm.

They were turned loose at 5 p.m. to drive 4½ miles through the center of town at the rush hour. A motorcycle cop was assigned to each contestant to make sure he obeyed all traffic regulations.

First to reach the finish was the motor bike. It took 24 minutes to make the trip.

Just a few seconds later the motorcycle cleared the finish line. A minute later came the motor scooter.

The small car made it in 38 minutes. The American car, dead last, took 40 minutes.

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Attractive Nab Made By Angler

POPULAR BLUFF, Mo. (AP)—Fisherman John Treadwell, running his trotline on the Black River, found he had made an unusual catch — an attractive housewife.

Mrs. Vera Brown, her finger caught on one of the hooks, explained to the startled fisherman that her husband had gone for a knife to free her.



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