



NUTRIA, an imported South American rodent, once raised in this country for fur purposes, has become established as a crop-damaging pest in many areas of the United States as a result of liberations by fur farmers when pelts failed to justify the keeping of the animals. These animals are quite common in most of the areas of the county where water is abundant. This animal was photographed in the Deer Island area. — Walrod Photo

Nutria Explosion in County, State Threatens Agriculture

Nutria, large aquatic rodents, are having a population explosion in Columbia county and Western Oregon and threaten to become a real menace to agriculture and wildlife, according to Con Coin Walrod, county extension agent.

The clumsy-looking nutria gobble up a wide variety of succulent green plants. They especially like corn, alfalfa and have a taste for sweet potatoes, cabbage, clover, carrots and most other root crops.

In addition, nutria are feared for their burrowing activities and their competition with native wild life habitats have thus often been altered and waterfowl marshes destroyed.

This rugged rodent produces offspring prolifically, has few natural enemies, and is surprisingly resistant to control methods, says Lee Kuhn, associate professor of fisheries and wildlife at Oregon State University. Few poisons

seem to affect nutria. They apparently thrive on strychnine. Most effective poison control at present is a carrot zinc phosphide bait exposed on floating platforms anchored away from the shoreline, but in all likelihood, traps will be used in conjunction with other methods. County trapper Robert Walker is currently having moderate success in trapping these rodents and results are improving as habits of the animals are found out.

In 1959, the Oregon State Game Commission warned that the stage was set in Oregon for a great increase in nutria if the animals found conditions along streams suitable.

Damage complaints from farmers and sportsmen this past year indicate the nutria's population explosion has occurred and that the state has a huge and expanding population of nutria in western

Oregon, primarily in the Willamette Valley counties. Only an occasional animal has been reported from any eastern Oregon county except Hood River, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports.

Nutria were dispersed throughout the river systems of the entire Willamette River drainage by the December 1964 floods. They apparently found the sloughs and slow backwaters of the Willamette to their liking because they have increased greatly this year.

Nutria have been described as having a head like a beaver, whiskers like a walrus, front feet like a monkey, hind feet like a duck, a body like a badger, teeth like a parrot's beak, and a tail like a rat. They sometimes reach a weight of 30 pounds.

They are often confused with a beaver since they are good swimmers and can girdle and destroy trees that are near their watery home. Nutria like to burrow into stream banks to make their homes, and such damage is apparent in Columbia county, says Walrod.

Nutria are sometimes called South American beaver. As far back as 1849, nutria were abundant in Argentina. Raising nutria in cap-

tivity in South America for furs started in 1922. Germany, Switzerland and France imported the rodent for fur farming ventures and the U. S., Canada, Russia and other European countries soon followed. The earliest record of nutria imported to the U. S. was in 1899.

Nutria fur farms were established in Quebec, Canada in 1931, the Green River area of Washington in 1932 and in Louisiana in 1937. Nutria have existed in Oregon since the 1930's.

In most of these areas, nutria either escaped or were released illegally into the wild by disillusioned fur farmers. In Louisiana, nutria reproduced with amazing speed. Trappers in that state reported the catch rose from a little over 400 in 1943 to almost 1 1/2 million in the early 1960's.

Nutria fur farms were once established in all sections of the U. S. Unfortunately, nutria furs did not take the market by storm and almost all profit came by promoters of breeding stock. Oregon trappers report that 1,749 nutria were trapped in 1964 bringing an average price per pelt of only \$1.22. Only larger pelts are useable.

Youth Rally Plans Changed

The Community Christian Youth Rally group, which last week announced plans for a banquet, this week announced that the date for the event had been changed to April 16.

For the March rally, set for March 19, the young people will journey to Portland to attend a Youth for Christ rally at which Miss America of 1965 will be present to give her testimony.

Time of departure for the rally and travel arrangements will be announced at the various church youth groups.

Restrictions on nutria importation now exist in many states as wildlife experts recognize the lurking danger of the animal's population explosion. Efforts are now being made to exterminate nutria colonies in the wild and to see that precautions are taken to prevent escape of nutria from zoos or private breeding farms.

Vernonia Eagle

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966 7

Timber Route Unit to Learn Care of Machines

The Timber Route Extension Unit will meet March 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the West Oregon Electric building.

This lesson will be Know Your Sewing Machine—Use and Care. Election of officers will be held at this time, also.

Pot luck lunch will be served at noon. Members are urged to bring their neighbor.

Girl Scout Week Theme Is Promise in Action

Girl Scout Week is March 5-12. The national theme this year is "Promise in Action."

The vital part of the "Promise in Action" is giving service to others in the home, neighborhood, school, community, state, or in the national or international scene. There are various ways in which the Girl Scouts can fulfill the theme in their own neighborhoods.

Announcing the Addition of many more

HORSE AND PET SUPPLIES



NOW IN STOCK TRI-WORMER

for Dogs and Puppies. Unlike others, this will remove all parasites — Pinworms, roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms.

In Capsule form for Convenience..... **\$1.00**

Franklin's Phenothiazine

to control and remove intestinal parasites in animals. An excellent all-purpose control. For cattle, horses, hogs, sheep.

Dosage Varies— **\$1.09**
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Cleaners - Soaps - Powders



CINCH extra high potency HORSE CONDITIONER

for peak performance and vitality. Gets more bloom — more vitality — more performance — Provides Vitamin A, Vitamin D, B Complex and other vitamins and minerals.

5-POUND PLASTIC JAR— **\$5.50**
Nearly Two Months Supply.
Essential in the Spring.....

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virtually 100% effective for bot control. Simply mix into grain ration, either dry or with water.

5-GRAM PACKAGE — **75¢**
Enough for 250 pound of horse. Literature Available.....

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INJECTABLE PENICILLIN

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10cc and 100cc



LODGE AND CLUB NOTICES

VERNONIA LIONS CLUB
MEETS FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY EACH MONTH 6:30 P.M., FIRE HALL
Charley Hickman, President
David Banta, Secretary 3-66

A. F. & A. M.
Vernonia Lodge No. 184
A. F. & A. M. meets at Masonic Temple. Stated Communication third Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m.
Frank Serafin, W. M.
Walter E. Linn, Sec'y. 1-67

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
Harding Lodge No. 116
Vernonia, Oregon

I.O.O.F. Hall
Second Monday of Each Month
Jack Bergerson, Chancellor
Commander
E. E. Garner, Secretary
PYTHIAN SISTERS
Vernonia Temple No. 61
Meetings: I.O.O.F. Hall
Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month
Martha Brady, M.E.C.
Cora Lange, Secretary 2-65

Vernonia Lodge No. 246 I.O.O.F.
First and Third Tuesday 8 P.M.
P. E. "Jim" Markham, Noble Grand
Harry Culbertson, Sec. 1-67

MT. HEART REBEKAH LODGE NO. 243
Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month in the I.O.O.F. hall.
Marie Elliott, Noble Grand
Dorothy Sandon, Secretary 3-66

VERNONIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board of Directors report to members quarterly. Board meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:00 p.m., at West Oregon Electric office. Visitors invited.
Ralph Bergerson, President
Mrs. Evelyn Heath, Secy. 7-66

NEHALEM VALLEY COIN CLUB
Meets last Thursday every month West Oregon Electric Auditorium, 7:30 P.M.
Ruth Steers, President
George Laws, Vice-president
Stanley Enevoldsen, Secretary
Ralph Bergerson, Treasurer
VISITORS WELCOME 10-66

Vernonia Barracks Veterans of World War I
Meets 4th Monday each month at the IOOF hall, 1 p.m.
H. L. Russell, Commander
Marcus Haines, Adjutant

AUXILIARY
Meets 4th Mon., IOOF hall 1 p.m.
Rose Valpiani, President
Cora Lange, Secretary 7-66

3-14 IWA Local
Meets First and Third Thursdays 7:30 P.M.

A.F.L. — C.I.O.
Business Agent is at the hall, North and Washington Sts., third Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 4-66

Order of Eastern Star
Nehalem Chapter 153, O. E. S.
Regular communication first and third Wed. of each month at Masonic Temple. All visiting sisters and brothers welcome.
Mrs. Farrell West, W. M.
Mrs. Paul Gordon, Sec. 1-67

AMERICAN LEGION
Meets First and Third Mondays of each month.
VERNONIA POST 119
Thomas Hall, Commander
Harry Culbertson, Adjutant
AUXILIARY
First and Third Tuesdays
Gertrude Schalock, President
Lona Weidman, Secretary 1-66