

Hunter Firearm Accidents Reported Down In 1970

Oregon hunters chalked up a pretty good record last year in relation to firearm accidents, winding up the season with the lowest number of casualties in the past 14 years and matching the fewest number of deaths since record keeping began back in 1950.

The final tally for 1970, according to Cal Giesler, hunting safety supervisor for the Game Commission and official keeper of the records, shows that hunter-caused firearm casualties totaled 53, with three of these being fatal. The three fatal accidents was the lowest recorded since 1951.

We always dislike reporting on hunting accidents since the common reaction with some people is to blast this great, challenging sport as highly dangerous. The cold statistical facts presented, plus the customary blazing headlines, lead some people to believe that hunting is some form of suicidal recreation that for all good purposes should be abolished.

The truth is, hunting is one of the safest outdoor sports in which a person can participate. Statistics show that only a minute percentage of hunters that go afield are ever in danger. In Oregon last year only three individuals were mistaken for game, two for deer and one for elk, and one of these occurred when spotlights were illegally hunting deer at night. Three other accidents occurred when individuals were shooting protected wildlife or were poaching out of season. One death is still under investigation and it remains doubtful that it was actually a hunting accident.

In almost all instances the cause of injury or death can be laid directly to carelessness or ignorance in the safe handling of firearms. This carelessness resulted in 29 self-inflicted woundings, one resulting in death. As can be seen, the hunter is his own worst enemy, with danger to other individuals quite remote.

Of the 53 accidents, only nine can be classed as purely accidental. These accidents occurred when six victims were completely out of sight of the shooter -- in most instances the shooter did not know of the victim's presence -- and three victims were hit by ricocheting bullets.

Also following the pattern of past years, the vast majority of accidents occurred at very close range with 39 reported at distances of 25 yards or less and 35 of these within three yards or less of the firearm. One of the major causes of close-range accidents is the foolish practice of pulling loaded firearms from or placing them in vehicles and the act of shooting from vehicles. Thirteen accidents of this type were recorded last year.

Some accidents occurred while hunters were crossing fences, driving the back roads with loaded firearms in vehicles, dropping rifles or shotguns, or tripping or falling over obstacles. Revolvers and pistols (illegal for hunting game animals) were involved in 15 accidental shootings, all but one of which were self-inflicted. Several years ago a pistol-toter tried to quick-draw on a blue grouse and shot himself in the leg. Last year the same story was told, only the shooter's intended victim was a pine squirrel. If the truth will out, we'd probably find a few more pistol accidents which fall in the quick-draw category.

Twenty-three hunters either shot their hunting companion or some other hunter. Causes given include the six victims out of sight and the three hit by ricochets, three mistaken for game, several victims who stepped into line of fire, and the rest just accidental discharge. I think you can see that your chances of being shot by some other hunter are indeed mighty slim.

Although comprising only a small portion of the total number of hunters, we find juveniles involved in a disproportionate share of accidents with 26 youngsters from 6 to 19 years of age either shooting themselves, their hunting companion or some other hunter. Juvenile casualties also totaled 26. Thirteen of these were self-inflicted and only one was the result of adult carelessness. Horseplay led the list as the leading cause of juvenile accidents. Several youngsters were hunting without adult supervision, several more had no training in the safe handling of firearms, and two juvenile accidents resulted from hunting with faulty firearms.

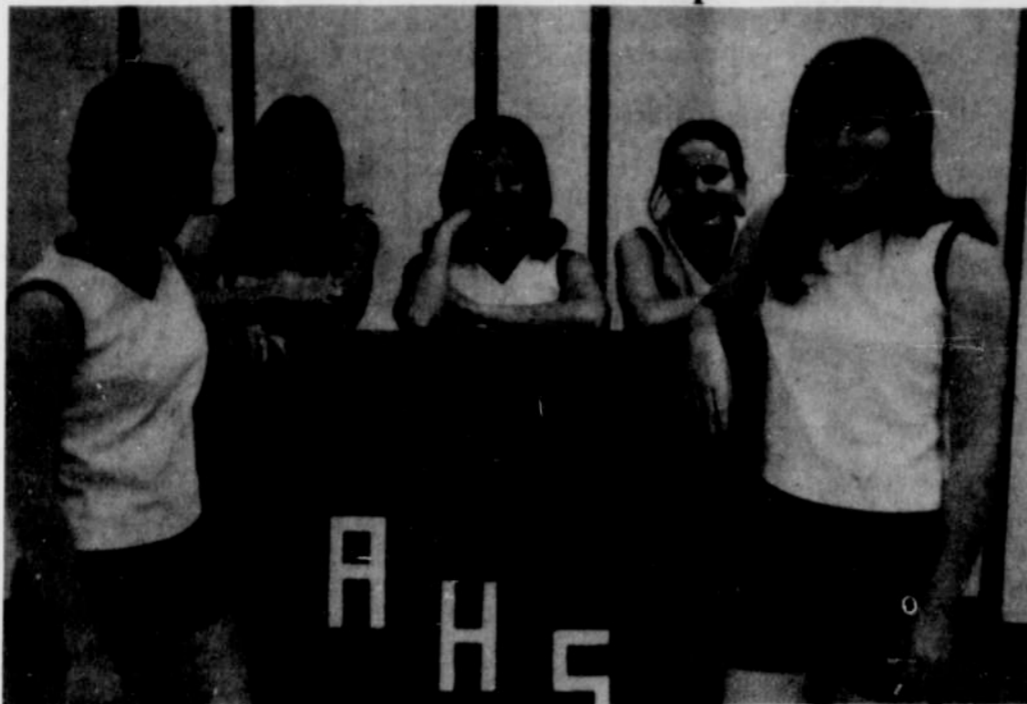
Now, we have a few cold facts. We could make them even more dramatic by recounting how some of the accidents happened, such as the youngster wounding two companions with a single shot. Or it might be the young fellow who shot himself while illegally hunting quail on his parents' farm. It could be the pistol-toter who deliberately aimed at his partner and pulled the trigger -- the classic answer to this one was, "I didn't know it was loaded." Or how about the adult sitting in the back seat of a moving vehicle working the action of his loaded shotgun while his finger was on the trigger and the muzzle resting on his left foot?

But we'll spare you the details of these foolish acts because we still make the claim that hunting is one of the safest of all sports. It ranks near the bottom of the list compared with other accident categories including all types of outdoor recreation. Actually, a person is safer out hunting than he is taking a bath in his own home.

Since 1954 when a uniform hunter casualty reporting system was established, the number of hunter-caused firearm accidents has fluctuated up and down from a low of 35 including 7 deaths in 1957 to a high of 94 including 14 deaths in 1967. In the same period the number of hunters in the field has climbed dramatically by almost 100,000 persons from the 259,000 licensed hunters in 1954.

So, when you stop to consider that almost 350,000 hunters with rifles and shotguns spent over 3 1/2 million man-days afield in 1970 in pursuit of the various game animals, yet had only 53 accidents with firearms, it all adds up to a minute percentage figure with very little risk to the individual hunter. Records (except firearm accidents) are not kept on the many hunters in pursuit of the nongame species such as rabbits, crows, and others but a conservative estimate places this popular hunting pastime at another million man-days in the field.

AHS Tumblers Place In Competition



The girls above are on the AHS Tumbling team that placed in the gymnastic competition last Thursday night at Adrian. There were seven schools that participated in this. They are from left to right: Roberta Asumendi, first in mat tumbling, and

second in the trampoline division; Loretta Woodland, third in the balance beam; Sue Olsen third in the trampoline division; Mary Looney, third in mat tumbling; and Sheila Pratt, second in Free X.

AHS NEWS

by Sue Olsen

QUEEN OF HEARTS

The 1971 tip-off queen was Vikki Shenk. She was crowned at the Adrian vs. Melba game on February 13. Vikki is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schenk of Route 1 Homedale.

AHS BASKETBALL

Last week end Adrian played Nampa Christian and Wilder in their last two games of the season. Adrian traveling to Nampa Friday night, found that the victory bell was not to be sounded for them as they lost to the Trojans.

Saturday night found the AHS team on the road again. This time to Wilder to battle the Wildcats. After a very close game Adrian came in second, 3 points behind, losing their last game of the season. Yes, this was a bad year for the Adrian teams, both in football and basketball. Nobody knows this better than football coach Grant Joki and basketball coach Beck, and of course, the players. Next year holds new challenges and new games and above all new hopes.

BAND

This Thursday night is the annual Pep Band-Stage Band Concert. Starting at 7:30 p.m. with Stage Band.

8TH GRADE BEATS VALLIVUE, 32 - 29

The Nyssa 8th grade basketball team edged past Vallivue last Friday in a home game. Close all the way, the half-time score was 13-13, and only in the last few seconds Nyssa gained a 3-point advantage and went on to win 32-29.

Top scorer was Chris Lords with 9 points. Kevin Adams scored 7, Roy Mosqueda 7, Paul Short 4, Ted Joyce 2, Sam Hartley 2, and Joe Martinez 1.

Next week Nyssa will be competing with Emmett for the SRV Championship in 8th grade competition.

Unfortunately, there probably always will be a few hunting accidents, caused by a few low-powered minds handling high-powered rifles and shotguns. But the Game Commission's excellent training program for juveniles in the safe handling of firearms -- as well as for adults -- will in the long haul tend to reduce even these small odds.

Nonetheless, when it comes to living a long as well as enjoyable life, hunting is really the best health insurance a person can have. And to this old ridge-runner who spends about as much time out in the boon-docks as he does at home, there is little doubt that his health is always at its best in the field.

WATER SUPPLY FORECAST

"Excellent water supplies will be available in Malheur county to water users having access to stored water," said S. Duane Town, Soil Conservation Service District Conservationist at Vale. Due to rainfall and warm temperatures streams which normally run off during the next three months flowed heavily in January. Users dependent on this later runoff will observe some shortages. The snowpack is practically all gone now except at the highest elevations where it is normal or above. Watershed soils are saturated and streams should respond well to any precipitation that comes from now on. Reservoirs stored much of the January runoff and are almost twice as full as usual.

"Eldorado Pass had a snow depth of 19 inches with a 5.3 inch water content as of Jan. 29," Town reported. This is quite a bit more than the average water content of 2.5 inches for this snow course. Snow shoes were not needed to get over the snow as it was crusted and frozen so hard that a horse could have easily walked on top.

Flow in streams and rivers was 2 to 2 1/2 times the normal during the month. A few areas produced heavier flows, such as the inflow into Owyhee reservoir which was seven and one-half times the January average. Some of the runoff was from melting snow which normally would have contributed to later streamflow in March and April. Streamflow forecast have been adjusted downward to account for this factor.

Prospective April-September streamflow for some representative streams are as follows:

Stream	Forecast (As % of '53-'67 Ave.)
Owyhee net inflow	119
Malheur near Drewsey	138
Silvies near Burns	138
John Day, Middle Fork near Ritter	134

Soil moisture on the Malheur River Basin is 114% of the average; and on the Owyhee River Basin it is 100% of average. At present the reservoirs are storing water as follows: Owyhee 683,980 acre feet; Warm Springs 137,625 acre feet; Beulah 41,130 acre feet; and Bully Creek 20,700 acre feet.

THE 56TH LEGISLATURE

By Robert F. Smith, Speaker of the House and Sen. Anthony Yturri

The major property tax relief measure of the 1971 Legislature--and one which should generate broad bipartisan support--has been proposed by Republican members of the Senate and House.

The program, as designed by its GOP sponsors, addresses itself directly to the problem of providing significant property tax relief for those citizens whose need is greatest. The progressive nature of the Republican proposal is unique among property tax relief plans which have been discussed in previous years.

Also unique is the fact that this measure would not be dependent upon the enactment of a new tax or a broad-based increase in existing taxes. This total program will be financed in the greatest part through cuts in proposed budgets for state agencies and departments and through a re-alignment of budget priorities as recommended by Gov. Tom McCall.

With all of its features considered, the plan would provide direct tax relief of \$33 million during the coming two years. Recipients of this significant relief will be Oregon homeowners, who should realize a property tax reduction of 10 percent on a statewide average.

The major feature of the Home Preservation Plan, as it has been labeled by its sponsors, is an exemption from property taxation of \$1,500 in the

assessed value of all owner-occupied residences. The State Department of Revenue estimates that this will provide \$28 million in direct tax relief to some 375,000 Oregon homeowners in the coming two years.

The proposal is expected to exempt some \$561 million of residential property from property taxation. Another major portion of the plan would free Oregon's senior citizens from the threat of losing their homes through confiscatory property taxes.

Under the plan, property taxes would be frozen at their present level for all Oregonians age 65 or older. In the future when an Oregonian reaches age 65, his property taxes will be frozen at that level, never to increase again.

This should provide our senior citizens with an opportunity to live in dignity and security and to have the guarantee that their savings and income will not be gobbled-up by further property tax increases.

This freeze will provide Oregon's senior citizens with a minimum of \$2.4 million tax relief during the coming two years.

The third leg of the plan would encourage home improvements by allowing a \$500 annual income tax deduction for money spent on home improvements. In the past, Oregon tax laws, have discouraged home improvements because they increase the assessed valuation of the property and this results in higher taxation.

This home improvement exemption will result in direct tax relief of \$4 million in the next biennium.

Republicans, in proposing this taxpayer assistance, have emphasized that it is a minimum

Nyssa Beats Payette, 63-51

The Nyssa Bulldogs won their 12th game of the season Friday night with a 63-51 win over the Payette Pirates at Payette.

Nyssa led throughout the battle by 15-11 after a quarter of play, 30-22 at halftime, and 45-37 going into the final period.

Both squads were cold from the floor with Nyssa at 29% and Payette shooting 26%. The Bulldogs scored 21 points from the foul line to the Pirate's 19.

Greg Blanch was high for Nyssa with 18, followed by Ron Moffis 13, Felipe Martinez 8, Steve Ross 7, Keith Oldemeyer 4, Dan Nichols 4, Scott Engstrom 3, Paul Trost 2, Jack Moore 2 and Dave Manley 2. Sherer scored 14 for Payette, followed by Seaward 10, Todd 8, Fales 5, Daniels 4, Browning 4, Sherich 4, McCallum 2.

The Junior Varsity Bulldogs continued their winning ways with a 68-47 victory over Payette JV's in the preliminary. Rod Lewis was high with 21 points, followed by Geren Manley with 14, Lowell Williams 12, Jerry Wilson 5, Pat Ross 4, Nico Hopman 4, Kevin Engstrom 2, John Bernal 2, Tim Lopez 2, and Mike Fitzsimmons 2.

SACHIO HORI WINS IN JUDO TOURNAY

Nyssa had one winner at the Ore-Ida Invitational Judo Tournament at Ontario Saturday. Sachio Hori, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kiyomaro Hori, won second place in the 112-year old middleweight division.

Observers said that this tournament was the largest that they have seen of several held in the Northwest.

Scout Organizes Street Cleanup

Billy Jacobs, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Jacobs, 750 S.E. Fourth Street, Ontario, holds the rank of a Life Scout. On Saturday, February 20, he commenced a special project which when completed will be one of the requirements which will eventually lead him to scouting's highest rank--that of an Eagle. Billy is going to organize and supervise a trash cleanup of one mile of street and/or park area in Ontario. This will be accomplished by the aid of other scouts who will also be working on Conservation Merit Badges.

This whole project got its start last year when Ore-Ida Foods purchased a mile of cleanup offered by the Boy Scouts at the 1970 Fundy Auction in Boise. Adult supervision for this project is being given by Glen Green, manager-developmental engineering, Ore-Ida Foods, Inc., in Ontario. The entire scouting organization hopes that this demonstration of city beautification might encourage others to discontinue harmful littering practices and also have the desire to clean-up unsightly trash that has been thrown in parks and along the highways and streets in all of our cities.

Oregon Eagles Show Membership Gain

Oregon Eagle Lodges have joined the ranks of the Bell Ranger States having had a fantastic membership year, announced Herman Schmidt, State President.

The state membership to date has been excellent, having reported 10.5 per cent in new members since last June 1. The monthly state bulletin is edited by State Membership Director W.M. Loy. In leadership programs, support of Grand Aerie programs and in state projects, Oregon has been exemplary.

The state has long been famed for its program of providing hearing aids to needy children with hearing problems.

program, and a beginning only. We intend to continue with our efforts to identify additional state funds which can be cut from proposed budgets and applied to property tax relief.

We believe this is a responsible approach to a vexing problem, and we are optimistic that support for this program in the Legislature will be broad-based in nature.

Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

What kind of a session is the 1971 meeting of the 56th Legislative Assembly?

With only six weeks of the session completed, it's pretty early to characterize and categorize. Nevertheless, speculation and conjecture are part of the "scene" at Salem.

Pre-session guesstimates went something like this: There will be a record number of bills. The session will be a long one, possibly a record-setter. No new tax programs will evolve to provide long-sought property tax relief. The environment and consumer movements will occupy the bulk of news space and time devoted to the session. And a sagging economy -- coupled with a lack of carry-over surplus from the last biennium, will produce an austerity budget for all concerned.

Whether or not these predictions come true, Oregon lawmakers already have upset the prognosticators. Prior to January 11, for instance, who was predicting Portland's John Burns would emerge as Senate President?

And despite repeated pledges to the contrary, House Republicans have submitted a proposal that would provide property tax relief to senior citizens, all homeowners generally and a bonus for those who make improvements to their homes. Although some might argue whether the property tax relief package involves new taxation, cigarette smokers likely will pay an extra nickel-a-pack to support their habit if the GOP program prevails.

Meanwhile, it appears the number of bills introduced could set a new record at the Statehouse. A third of the way into the session, lawmakers have introduced two-thirds of the total number of bills introduced in 1969. Some observers predict total bills will come close to 2,000 in this session--compared with 1,554 in '69.

Length of session is up for grabs. After a two-week Senate organizational delay, Ways & Means is really just beginning the struggle of balancing the budget. It still looks like an austerity instrument. But revenue estimates by gubernatorial advisors are holding up so far and there's a faint note of optimism among those who determine how the state will spend its money.

With the economy still sluggish, however, the session's length (always dependent upon Ways & Means deliberations) probably won't be estimated accurately until State Income Taxes are collected and added up some time after April 15.

SOLV Launches Campaign For A Cleaner Oregon

This week SOLV, INC., (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) is launching the first phase of its three-phase 1971 program for a cleaner Oregon. A program predicated on participation by every man, woman and child in Oregon, it already is the envy of many other states in the nation.

Phase I of the 1971 program is called Design for a Cleaner Oregon. All public and private schools students in Oregon, grades 1 through 12, are being asked to participate in the design of an emblem (button) for SOLV. What SOLV needs and wants is a readily recognizable trademark. To get it they have gone to the schools seeking help from Oregon's nearly half-million school youngsters. And it is quite a carrot they've held out to promote participation by these young citizens. First prize is a \$500 Meier and Frank Co. gift certificate.

The design for a Cleaner Oregon contest ends midnight March 19, with winners to be announced at a breakfast March 27.

Phase II, Action for a Cleaner Oregon, follows closely after the approval of the new trademark: April 3, a clean-up day throughout Oregon. Official activities are being planned in 30 of Oregon's 36 counties where SOLV local chairmen have been preparing for months to zero in on clean-up activities in cooperation with other groups.

The establishment of the local county organizations is a measure of SOLV's state wide success. "We must have total involvement to do a credible job," SOLV officials say. The response has been, we think, exceptional.

Following closely after Phase II is the final emphasis of activities that will last through the year, and the most important.

Phase III is the fund cam-

When it comes to the environment and consumer movements, total numbers of bills regarding these subjects so far are misleading. Quite a number of bills involving both subjects have been introduced and more will follow. But quality doesn't always portend quantity legislation.

Fully half the bills introduced each session of the Oregon Legislature never get out of committee. And the most substantial changes in state law likely could evolve from a mere handful of bills.

There are these types of "substantive" bills in abundance this session because of unprecedented interim committee activity. One such bill is SB 40, which would revise the Oregon Criminal Code. Another is SB 20, revising statewide election laws.

On the environmental and consumer "fronts," the action is interesting from two particular standpoints. First, there's a scramble of sorts by Legislators to be associated with these popular causes. And, second, there's a whole new lobby on the jobs in behalf of both--drawn largely from the ranks of housewives and students.

The popularity scramble so far has produced some expected confusion. Duplicating measures are commonplace. The Attorney General and consumer interests have competition. Deceptive Trade Practices Acts, for instance. Consumer protection advocates have introduced a batch of bills, each aimed at righting a specific single alleged wrongful practice. Business, on the other hand, has countered with one comprehensive measure that would cure most of the ills and still make it attractive for merchants to keep their doors open.

Environmental bills are more complicated. Attracting most of the public attention will be anti-litter bills involving taxes or deposits on beverage bottles and cans and shipping containers. Less glamorous environmental bills involve strong new powers for enforcement of existing anti-pollution laws and placing the state's environmental watchdogs on an expanded, fulltime paid basis.

So far most of the big headlines have concentrated on granting 18-year-olds the right to vote, control of explosives, field burning and disposition of Camp Adair.

February's a lousy time to guess what the Oregon Legislature will be doing in May. But by May it should be relatively simple to talk about what will happen in June.

campaign to finance SOLV programs. "Nickels and dimes from youngsters mean commitment," Kel Kellner SOLV finance chairman says. "We must have a commitment from everyone. Our \$100,000 budget must be supported broadly across the state to operate a successful program."

What does SOLV do with the funds? How does it help Oregon to be a better place in which to live and visit?

In just this way. By example, SOLV officials say, they intend to show that good citizenship is the most important factor in litter clean up. Everyone must do his part. We help to show that part by education, by film showings throughout Oregon schools, by assisting all organizations who want to do their thing to prevent litter and vandalism, by making everyone in Oregon aware that there is something he can do individually.

We look forward to seeing SOLV's new emblem trademark. We look forward to the action for cleaner Oregon in April, and we pledge ourselves to make a contribution to buy our share in a cleaner Oregon.

From now on SOLV's success is dependent upon what we can do to support this organization that has received nation-wide acclaim.

Riding Club To Have Pancake Feed

Members of the Owyhee Riding Club will meet Friday, February 26, at the Oregon Trail hall with the business meeting following the pancake feed at 7 p.m.

Each year the men of the club prepare and serve the women members at a pancake supper. A short program will be presented.

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