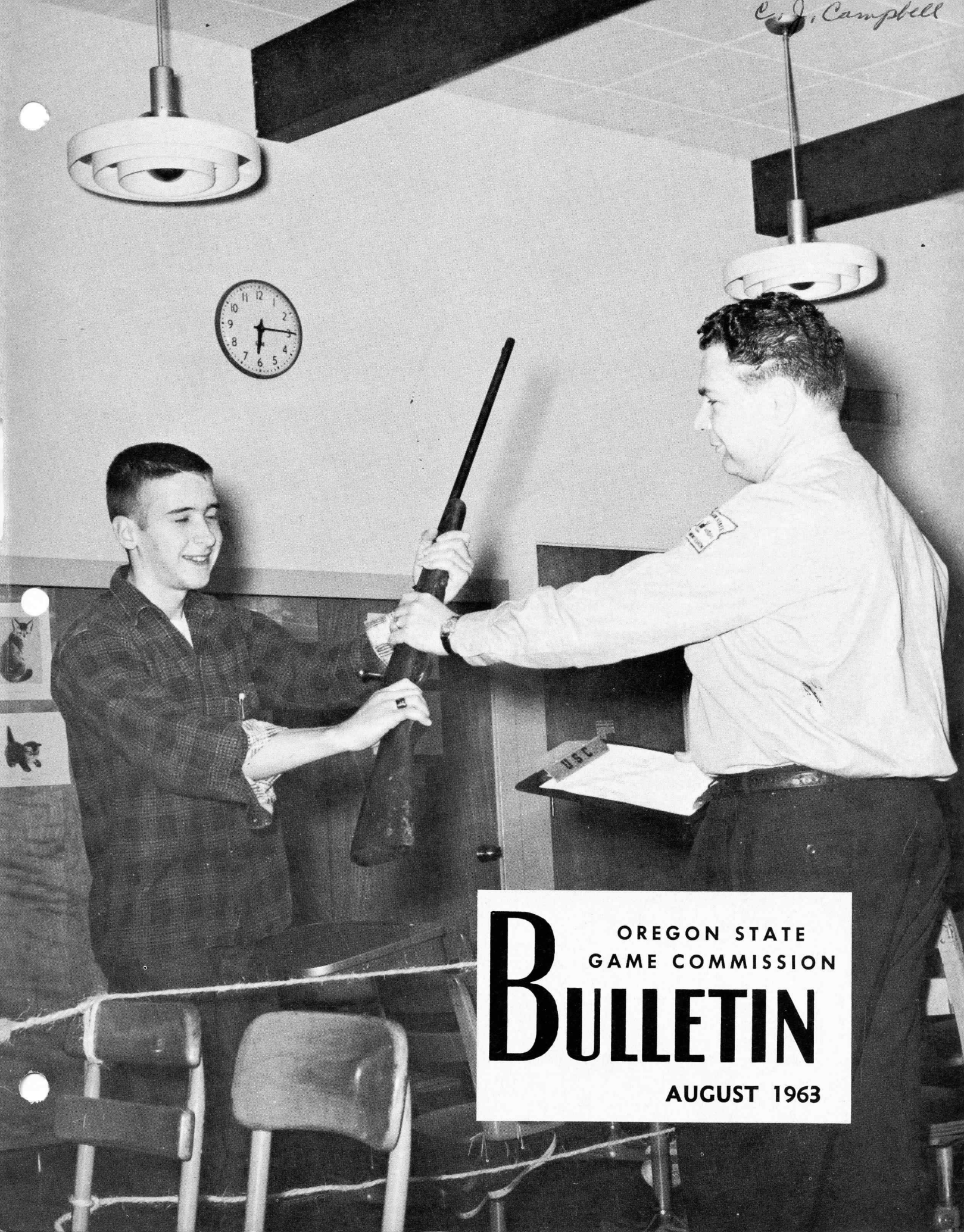


C. J. Campbell



OREGON STATE
GAME COMMISSION

BULLETIN

AUGUST 1963

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AUGUST, 1963
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The Cover

Ron Shay testing a television student in the practical handling of a firearm. The ropes represent a barbed-wire fence. (Photo by Milt Guymon)

BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of June	26
Total to Date	3,511

Students Trained

Month of June	540
Total to Date	56,445

Firearms Accidents Reported in 1963

Fatal	0
Nonfatal	6

September Game Seasons

To give upland game hunters as much notice as possible, the Game Commission at its July meeting announced the dates of seasons to be open in September this year. Final action will be taken at the August 20 hearing at which time regulations will also be considered for pheasants, quail, furbearers, and waterfowl. September seasons are as follows:

Dove and Pigeon

Open season—September 1 to 30.
Bag limits—10 doves a day and 20 in possession. 8 pigeons a day and in possession.

Silver Gray Squirrel

Open season—September 1 to October 31 in Southwest area; entire year in Northwest area.

Bag limit—4 daily and in possession in Southwest area. No limit in Northwest area.

METKE APPOINTED TO GAME COMMISSION

J. Pat Metke of Bend was appointed by Governor Hatfield to a five-year term on the Game Commission, effective July 20. He is an insurance agent in Bend and a former state representative.

Mr. Metke succeeds Rollin E. Bowles as member at large. Of the other four members of the Commission, two represent the area east of the Cascades and two west of the Cascades.

ELK PERMIT APPLICATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 3

Holders of regular elk tags wanting to file for an antlerless elk permit must have their applications in the Portland office of the Game Commission by 5 p.m. on September 3. Application must be made on the form that is furnished with the regular elk tag. Party applications are limited to two persons. Persons receiving an antlerless elk permit in 1961 or 1962 may not apply for one this year.

A total of 3,475 antlerless elk permits are being issued for 14 eastern Oregon management units. The drawing for these will be held at 10 a.m. September 10.

Those successful in obtaining a 1963 antlerless elk permit are not eligible to apply for the next five succeeding years but may apply again in 1969.

Permits will be issued also for bull elk in four western Oregon units, Clatsop, Dixon, Trask, and Wilson. The same application procedure applies as for antlerless elk.

Detailed information on elk regulations is provided in the 1963 hunting synopsis.

Blue and Ruffed Grouse

Open season—September 7 to 15 in western Oregon; September 7 to 22 in eastern Oregon.

Bag limit—3 daily in the aggregate and 6 in possession.

Sage Grouse

Open season—September 7 to 15 in Harney County and in that part of Malheur County south of U. S. Highway 20.

Bag limit—2 daily and in possession.

Chukar and Hungarian Partridge

Season opens September 7. Closing date to be set at August 20 meeting of the Game Commission when more information on this year's production will be available.

Bag limit—8 daily in the aggregate and 16 in possession.

JULY MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

Bids. Accepted low bids for log jam removal on West Fork Canyon Creek and Quartz Creek, and for installation of cableway to fish ladder at Illinois Falls. Rejected bids for Oak Springs Hatchery brood pond and for wall at Rock Creek Hatchery. Authorized call for bids for Butte Falls Hatchery intake and for loafing shed at Sauvie Island.

Right of Way. Sold an easement through the Camas Swale Management Area to El Paso Natural Gas Company.

McKenzie Highway Relocation. Deeded to Highway Commission small tract of land required in relocating highway.

S. 1720. Endorsed in principle S. 1720 or other similar legislation before Congress to provide for increased payments to counties when lands for federal refuges are acquired.

Cedar Creek Access (Sandy River). Though sympathetic to the program of the Retarded Childrens, Inc., the Commission did not grant its request for permission to build permanent camp building on the Cedar Creek access site. As the property was acquired with dedicated fish and game funds, the Commission felt it did not have the right to make part of the land available for other use as long as the land was not considered surplus to its fish and game program. Investigation of possible sites on lands of other agencies geared to handle operations of this type was suggested.

An estimated 20,896 spring chinook had passed over the fish ladder at Oregon City falls up to June 8.



CARELESS HUNTERS!

By CAL GIESLER, Hunter Safety Supervisor

FIREARMS ACCIDENTS, from the activity of hunting, left 15 dead and 47 injured in Oregon at the end of 1962. Woven into each casualty reported is the thread of carelessness. We well realize that no person is going to deliberately shoot his hunting companion or himself just for the sheer sport of it. Yet, one split second of carelessness can cause death or untold physical suffering and a lifetime of regret.

Deer hunters had 27 accidents among their ranks. This is not completely unexpected since there were more than 264,000 persons hunting for deer in 1962. Thirteen of the 27 shot themselves. Off-season hunters chalked up 18 accidents, while those hunting for migratory birds and elk had six accidents each. Upland bird hunters accounted for the other five casualties. In only 20 of the 62 accidents were there more than 25 yards between the gun and the person who was shot.

Young hunters, 19 years of age or younger, caused fewer casualties than they had in the past five years. They still caused 37 per cent of all firearms hunting accidents reported, however.

Oregon law requires every youngster, 17 years of age or younger, who is in the field hunting with firearms off of his own property for any kind of wild bird or animal, to first complete a minimum four-hour course of instruction in firearms safety training. Boys and girls are required to carry the certificate they receive at the successful completion of the course of instruction whenever they are in the field hunting with firearms.

Despite this, five of the 8 juvenile shooters in fatal and six of the 15 juvenile shooters in nonfatal accidents had not met this requirement.

More than 3,000 adults volunteered their services to be sure each young person had an opportunity to receive the required training. Hunter safety classes were held in every community in the state prior to the 1962 hunting season.

The Game Commission presented a course over the Oregon Educational Television Network. Ten half hour programs were prepared and presented. More than 1,400 inquiries were received and 1,115 students registered for the course. At the completion of the series 901 registrants took the examination. A second series resulted in 334 registrants, with only 10 not taking the examination.

News releases were made periodically by the Game Commission to encourage students to take the course when it was offered in their community. These releases as well as local news releases by instructors were carried in every newspaper in Oregon. Radio and television stations also gave excellent state-wide coverage.

In spite of such efforts to avoid a late rush, the instructors were deluged in early September with youngsters wanting the course of instruction immediately. A great majority of the "Johnny-come-latelines" were 15, 16, and 17-year-olds who wanted to take only the test because they already had been hunting and "knew all about safe gun handling practices."

If you are 21 years of age or older

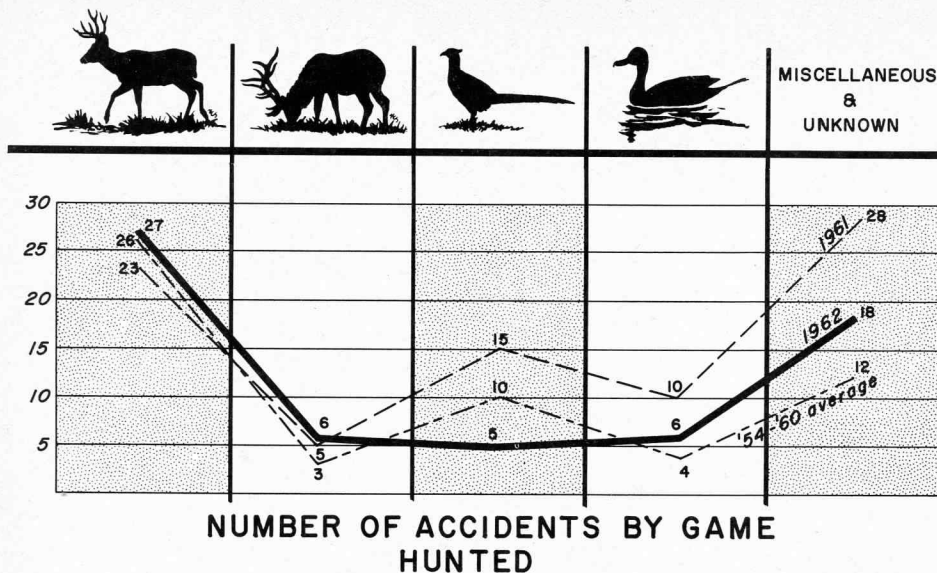
and interested in promoting firearms safety and sportsmanship among youngsters in your area, why not become a Hunter Safety Instructor? The job is challenging and instructors are always needed. For further information send your request to any of the Game Commission offices. All addresses are listed inside the cover of the Bulletin.

Do you have a youngster who should have the course of instruction? If so, please have him enroll as soon as possible. Lists of instructors in your area have been sent to each license agent, State Police Game Officer, and District Game Agent. Any of these will help you locate an instructor for your son or daughter.

(Continued on Page 4)



Cal Giesler and Ron Shay demonstrate on television that powder burns. A piece of colored glass was used to prevent damage to equipment.



Careless Hunters

(Continued from Page 3)

Although instructors are not paid for their time and effort in providing instruction, they have trained more than 56,000 persons. For the most part these graduates will be safer hunters and better sportsmen afield. Some will not.

An example of the latter was the 17-year-old hunter who had completed a course just one month prior to going elk hunting with a 17-year-old friend. The two boys were hunting in a bull elk area — the elk had to have antlers longer than its ears to be legal game. The shooter was on a stand and saw something running and jumping about 60 yards away. He thought it was an elk and fired. Upon investigation he found he had shot and killed his hunting companion. This casualty was the direct result of carelessness and emotion.

Another casualty involved a trained 15-year-old who was pigeon hunting. The young man had dropped a bird and as he ran to where the bird fell, he re-

loaded his single-shot shotgun. The bird started to flutter and without thinking, the lad started to pound the bird's head with the butt of the gun. The gun discharged and scalped the boy. He later recovered.

One lad killed himself as he pulled a loaded shotgun from a boat by the barrel. Some obstruction caught the trigger as the muzzle of the gun was pointing toward his head.

You are probably asking yourself, "Why? If these youngsters were trained why did these casualties occur?" The shooter was careless. He just didn't think of the consequences of his actions before he acted. Some adult hunters are as guilty or more so than the youngsters mentioned. For example, a 37-year-old hunter, with 20 years hunting experience, was attempting to unload a .357 Ruger pistol while riding in the back seat of a moving vehicle. The gun discharged with the muzzle pointed into the back of the front seat. A companion was seriously injured.

Another adult killed himself while go-

ing through a barbed wire fence with a loaded shotgun. He had previously had more than 35 years hunting experience.

A 26-year-old with 12 years experience in the use of firearms fired one round of ammunition and knew the bullet had not cleared the barrel of his .300 Savage rifle. Instead of getting a ramrod, he attempted to shoot it out. The rifle exploded. He has fully recovered from critical hand and facial injuries.

In checking with instructors to find out what their problems have been, it is interesting to note that some parents seem to be apathetic or even hostile toward the training program. Most parents, however, want their children to have the training.

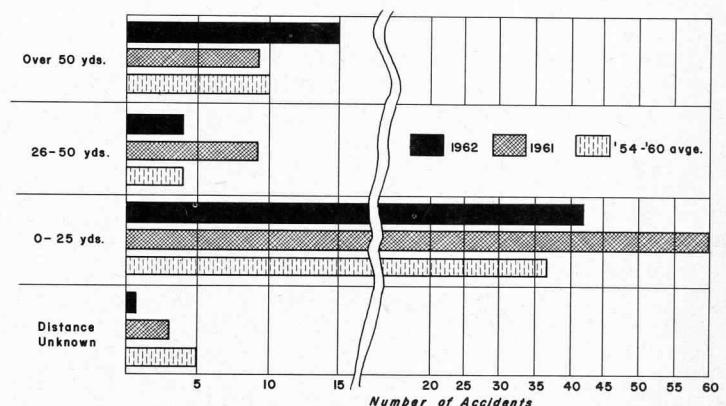
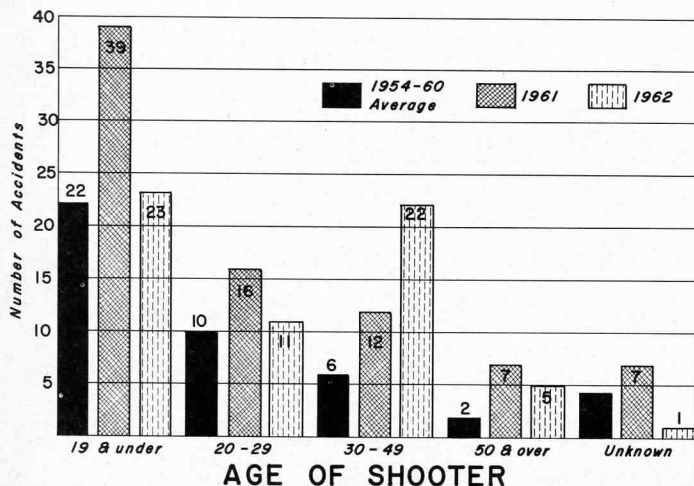
Some parents become upset if the instructor fails to pass a child even though the boy or girl has demonstrated inability to understand even the basic concepts of safety. An instructor is duty bound not to certify a youngster he feels would be unsafe in the field.







Older students, who feel they know it all, have given many instructors a bad time. For the most part instructors have solved this problem by not certifying the trouble makers or asking them to leave and get their instruction from someone else. In one instance officers had to remove a very offensive lad from an instructor's home. Please remember, instructors are voluntarily trying to help, not hinder a child.

Carelessness on the part of some sportsmen, including juveniles, is not confined to firearms. It can also result in damage to forest and range lands by fire; in hundreds of acres of privately owned land being closed to sportsmen entry through littering; and in needless suffering of wild birds and animals due to long or poorly placed shots.

Mention of the previous acts has not been directed toward or meant to include

(Continued on Page 5)



	 Self-Inflicted	 Mistaken for Game	 Carelessness & Accidental Gun Discharge	 Loaded Gun in Boat or Car	 In Line of Fire and Ricochet	 ? Unknown & Other
1962	32	8	44	17	9	1
1961	45	6	46	17	15	14
'54-'60 Average	21	7	29	9	11	5

REASON FOR ACCIDENT

Careless Hunters

(Continued from Page 4)

the vandalistic punks who go under the guise of hunters, or toward the deliberate game law violators, who don't know and don't want to know the basic meaning of the word sportsmanship. These individuals have no place in the hunting and fishing fraternity.

Already in 1963 seven persons have been injured while hunting through careless handling of firearms. Three of the shooters were juveniles. Two of them had completed a safety course, the third had not.

In a few short weeks hunting seasons will begin and hunters by the thousands will be in the field. The great majority of these folks will return home happy in the knowledge they have been able to go on a trip even though they may not have been successful. These are the men, women, boys, and girls who will have earned and deserved the title of "Sportsman." They will know they were careful with firearms, fires, respected private property, and had permission to be there. They will be content in the knowledge they have left their camping area clean and will be welcome to use the same area some other time.

How will you return home this year?

Satisfied that you are a sportsman or secretly knowing you are another of Oregon's Careless Hunters?

Never, never let your gun pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross,
though of time it cause a loss,
from your gun the cartridge take
for the greater safety sake.

Stops and beaters oft unseen
lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be,
never shoot when you can't see.

Take your place and silent be,
for game can hear and game can see.
Let this maxim ere be thine
follow not across the line.

You may kill and you may miss,
but at all times think of this:
For all the pheasants ever bred
won't repay for one man dead.

—Taken from SHOOTING HOMILIES
by Colonel Beaufoy

(Read by Sir John Cordle, member of British Parliament, at a meeting in Salem, Oregon, April, 1963.)

Hunter safety instructor, Albert Tauscher, with one group of his students at the Multnomah Athletic Club.



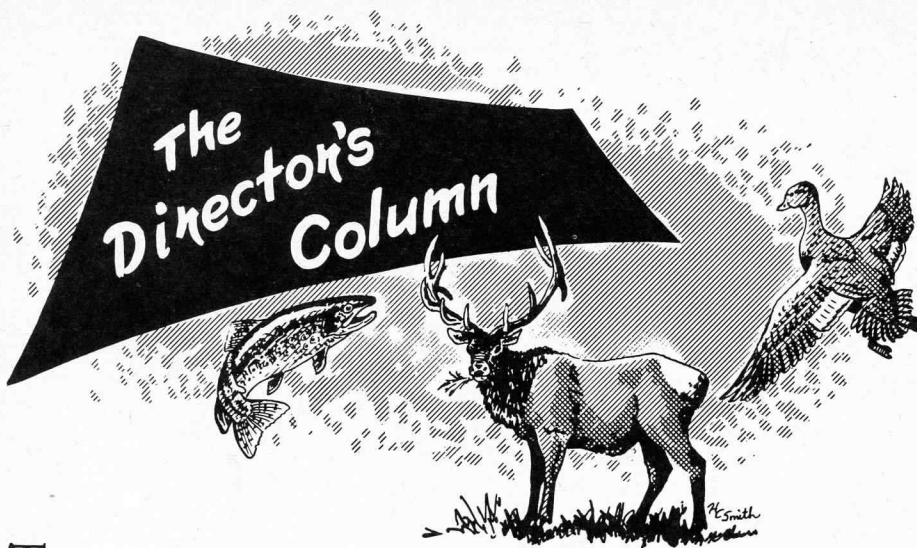
Excellent runs of spring chinook salmon have been recorded in both the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers this year. By mid-July the count of 10,475 spring chinook at Winchester already exceeded the count for any previous year (since counting station was established in 1946). Up to the same date on the Rogue River over 38,622 spring salmon had been tallied at Gold Ray Dam, which was more than double the total calculated parent run.

The Game Commission recently acquired a 23-acre tract on the Rogue River, part of the estate of Kenneth Martin, former member of the Game Commission. This will provide public access to a popular section of the river near Grants Pass.

Shortage in the rainbow egg-take at East Lake this year resulted in ordering a supplemental supply of eggs from New Zealand, which received some of its original rainbow stocks from Oregon many years ago. Importation of rainbows by the Auckland Society in 1883 is thought to be the first successful plant of that species in New Zealand whose lakes and streams originally had no trout or salmon.

The first big game hunt of the year gets under way when 650 antelope tag holders go out from August 17-21 looking for one of the valued trophy animals. The hunters will be distributed in seven areas in southeastern Oregon. A drawing on July 30 determined the successful applicants for tags.

Closing date for accepting deer permit applications (unit hunts for antlerless deer and early and extended deer hunts) was August 5. Drawings are scheduled for August 14 for those hunts oversubscribed. Applicants for undersubscribed areas will be issued permits, and applications received thereafter will be filled in the order received.



THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION of Game and Fish Commissioners held its 43rd annual conference in Tucson, Arizona, on June 9-12. The Association represents the official fish and game management agencies of the 13 western states (includes Alaska and Hawaii) and the province of British Columbia. Several related agencies of the federal government and a number of citizens and private conservation organizations likewise participate in the discussions of numerous subjects of mutual interest. The formal program covered a wide range of subjects of technical, operational, and policy nature.

The transactions are published and copies may be secured by purchase from the secretary of the Association.

The Association's views upon certain contemporary matters are reflected by formal resolutions. A digest of these follows.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Opposed one aspect of a federal funding legislation which would require land use fees on undeveloped public lands for the purpose of hunting or fishing. (Proposed legislation would authorize federal land managing agencies to collect user or entrance fees for recreational use of public lands.)

Hunting on Federal Refuges. Recommended greater cooperative effort between the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and state game agencies in management of federal refuges to provide maximum access for hunting and fishing which such areas can sustain without harmful effect to wildlife.

Federal Land Conversion Program. Recommended that the new U. S. Dept. of Agriculture program to convert crop lands to other uses encourage conversion of suitable lands for benefit of wildlife.

Stream Damage by Earth Moving

Equipment. Invited principal manufacturers of heavy earth-moving equipment to help reduce damage to stream habitat by careless use of such equipment by informing their customers of the value of the fish resources at stake and by educating them in methods of damage prevention through information programs utilizing established channels of communication within the trade.

Foreign Game Introduction Program. Commended Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for its program of introducing exotic game birds and recommended that since species from the Mediterranean and Middle East show the most promise in the western United States, renewed effort be directed toward acquiring game birds from those areas.

Introduction of Exotic Mammals. Questioned the stocking of exotic game mammals until adequate ecological studies have been made of the mammal in its natural habitat and studies of enclosed mammals completed within the release area.

Disposition of Public Lands. Asked that H. R. 5498 and any similar legislation for disposal of certain public lands be amended to assure the retention in public ownership of lands of specific value for recreational purposes.

Federal Excess Personal Property. Urged Congress to enact H. R. 4705 authorizing General Services to make excess personal property of the United States available to state agencies managing fish and wildlife resources as now may be done with other state natural resources agencies.

Retention of Access Rights to Public Lands. Supported the retention in the name of the public of easements to adjacent public lands where applicable whenever the states or federal government convey title to the public lands to private interests.

Big Game Management on National Parks: Requested Congress to enact legislation which will

1. Clearly place the responsibility for managing all big game in the individual states, whose experience in this field indicates that they are the best qualified to accomplish this task.
2. Assure the various states that there will be no further raids upon the hunting and fishing opportunities within any state by the expansion of the national park system.

Salmon River Sanctuary. Endorsed the provisions of S. 1043 for maintaining the Salmon River as an unobstructed spawning and nursery area for a major portion of the Columbia River salmon and steelhead resource and urged early enactment of the bill by Congress.

Highway Act Amendment. Endorsed principles of S. 468, which measure proposes to amend the Highway Act by requiring that the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with state authorities, approve Federal Aid highway surveys, plans, specifications, and estimates, so as to protect fish, wildlife, and recreation resources, and access thereto.

Wilderness Preservation Bill. Urged that the Wilderness Preservation Bill, S. 4, passed by the Senate and now pending in the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, be reported out of Committee to give the House a chance to debate and vote on it.

Federal Pesticides Legislation. Endorsed provisions of H. R. 2857 requiring federal agencies to consult wildlife management agencies before initiating major pesticide programs; and further endorsed provisions of H. R. 4487 requiring more stringent labeling of these materials with respect to their effects on wildlife.

Forest Service Access Regulations. Commended the Secretary of Agriculture for adopting in the public interest regulations concerning facilitating the obtaining of road right-of-way to national forest lands.

Research on Fish Toxicants. Requested U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accelerate research directed at developing effective and inexpensive fish toxicants for control of undesirable species of fish to make it possible to utilize highly productive fishing waters at their utmost capacity.

Assistance to Commercial Fish Research. Supported early enactment of S. 627 so that fishery research and development may be vigorously pursued.
P. W. Schneider

FUR CATCH REPORT

1962-63 TRAPPING SEASON

GAME BULLETIN

COUNTY AND NUMBER OF TRAPPERS/ REPORTS	OTTER Av. Price \$19.63	MINK Av. Price \$7.68	MUSKRAT Av. Price \$0.95	*BEAVER Av. Price \$10.24	RACCOON Av. Price \$2.08	SKUNK Av. Price \$0.77	CIVET CAT Av. Price \$0.83	WEASEL Av. Price \$0.52	WILDCAT Av. Price \$4.57	†FOX No.	†MISC. LANEUS	TOTAL VALUE
Baker	17	16	323	39	5	10	20	1	1	22	1870	1,369.41
Benton	18	16	109	295	65	135.20	1	1	1	75.40	1870	3,496.16
Clackamas	30	195	293	422	39	81.12	7	2	9.14	9	121.57	5,809.26
Clatsop	41	91	762	448	211	438.88	1	4	77.69	17	88.20	7,915.99
Columbia	22	36	329	306	14	313.44	1	4	18.28	4	30.60	4,063.77
Coos	24	22	594	290	18	37.44	1	1	1	1	1.31	4,013.77
Crook	9	1	33	147	17	1,505.28	1	1	4.57	1	45.00	1,545.62
Curry	6	9	118	52	17	33.36	1	1	63.98	1	74.68	1,093.08
Deschutes	20	102	557	32	7	14.56	9	1	54.84	6	54.59	1,853.10
Douglas	51	166	467	583	151	314.08	7	1	1	1	1	8,559.37
Gilliam	3	11	467	28	3	6.24	1	1	1	1	1.31	428.78
Grant	10	68	341	232	27	56.16	1	1	86.83	1	11.83	3,386.76
Harney	8	27	28	68	9	18.72	1	1	109.68	1	40.76	1,099.44
Hood River	4	12	128	36	4	8.32	1	1	54.84	11	67.51	590.72
Jackson	18	58	1,033	138	129	268.32	20	1	1	1	1	3,284.47
Jefferson	2	30	58	9	6	12.48	1	1	4.57	1	10.52	390.91
Josephine	11	9	268	42	6	126.88	1	1	105.11	1	91.77	1,329.20
Klamath	32	190	1,459.20	337	135.20	1	1	1	27.42	1	132.89	18,379.53
Lake	7	16	568	192	10	20.80	1	1	59.41	11	17.47	2,810.19
Lane	98	303	1,724	1,181	271	563.68	20	4	137.10	1	452.08	17,868.97
Lincoln	30	137	265	318	184	382.72	18	6	1	1	20.88	5,649.80
Linn	27	38	179	329	88	183.04	1	1	237.64	11	85.93	4,219.71
Malheur	19	5	5,252	91	45.76	1	1	1	1	1	2.63	6,336.97
Morrow	29	47	436	183	55	114.40	3	1	1	28	176.17	2,978.81
Marion	2	4	55	37	378.88	1	1	1	18.28	1	30.26	2,665.68
Multnomah	19	31	872	143	19	39.52	3	3	100.54	23	52.36	2,436.36
Polk	15	40	52	158	19	104.00	1	1	1	1	235.52	235.52
Sherman	1	23	23	23	197.60	1	1	1	41.13	1	10.65	4,192.18
Tillamook	28	101	761	206	95	179.60	23	3	9.14	1	2.63	3,897.62
Umatilla	24	69	1,516	182	13	35.36	1	1	36.56	1	2,201.53	2,201.53
Union	18	33	895	101	17	1,034.24	1	1	191.94	1	1,706.66	2,870.92
Walla	18	126	865	75	47	97.76	8	4	1	1	1	1,706.66
Wasco	8	32	59	124	25	52.00	1	1	22.85	10	77.10	2,785.96
Washington	16	48	335	161	82	170.56	4	1	1	1	1	673.28
Wheeler	3	7	7	65	114	237.12	1	1	4.57	1	140.33	4,064.94
Yamhill	13	27	168	310	114	237.12	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	701	272	32,785	7,383	1,923	\$3,999.84	129	38	\$1,480.68	136	\$261.97	\$136,666.29

Table compiled from reports of 701 of 743 (94%) licensed trappers.

*Catch of beaver compiled from beaver report cards.

†Includes 83 gray foxes @ \$0.80 and 53 red foxes @ \$3.69.

‡Includes 59 martens @ \$5.89; 6 badgers @ \$1.31; 20 ringtail cats @ \$8.80; 246 opossums @ \$2.90; 145 coyotes @ \$2.63; and 1,196 nutrias @ \$8.50.

Licensed Trappers Decline in Numbers

TRAPPERS during the winter of 1962-63 again found fur animals on their trap lines plentiful but pelt values low. As a result of continued low fur prices, the number of licensed trappers in the state continued to decline. Only 743 residents purchased licenses last winter as compared with a recent high of 2,257 in 1951.

Reports from 701 of the 743 trappers indicated they caught 46,961 animals of 17 species, whose pelts sold for \$136,666.29. Average prices paid per pelt by fur buyers ranged from a low of 29c for opossum skins to a high of \$19.63 for otter.

The accompanying table shows the number of animals trapped by county and the amount of revenue derived from the sale of their pelts. Over 70 per cent of the furs taken were muskrats while 55 per cent of the trappers' income was derived from the sale of beaver pelts. A heavy take of muskrats in Klamath County and a large number of beavers from Lane County rated these two as the top fur producing counties in the state.

A change in fashions toward the use of long-haired furs on women's garments has caused a slight improvement in the market for such pelts as coyote, fox, and raccoon. The increased demand for these skins has not been great enough, however, to substantially increase trapping pressure on these long-neglected species.

Opossum and nutria, two illegally introduced animals, continue to increase and extend their range.

Opossums are now abundant in most of the northwest counties where they spread from pre-World War II introductions at Warrenton and Troutdale. Since their fur is of little value they are lightly trapped. Few trappers will even skin those accidentally taken in sets made for more valuable species. As a result the 246 opossums reported taken represent only a small part of the actual catch or of the population. Only 132 were reported caught in 1962.

Nutrias have spread through all of the major waterways in western Oregon from many illegal releases. They now pose a serious threat to agricultural crops and wildlife. Very few of the animals are intentionally taken by commercial trappers due to their low fur value. In spite of this lack of trapping effort, trappers reported a catch of 1,196 nutrias, a substantial increase over the 492 reported in 1962 and 36 in 1957.

1963 Game Code Changes

INTRODUCED IN THE 1963 legislative session were some 35 bills relating to fishing and hunting or to the management of the game fish and wildlife resource. The number of bills of this nature was the smallest in many sessions. Of the bills introduced less than a third will become law. Only three measures were introduced at the request of the Commission and all three were enacted into law without substantial change.

Disappointing to the Commission was the failure to enact a revised schedule of license and tag fees. A projection of management needs for the next ten years and beyond had convinced the Commission that additional revenue was necessary to maintain the resource at a point to assure a continuation of existing fishing and hunting opportunities. The Commission will continue to operate on the license fee schedule adopted in 1949 at a time when the cost per unit of operation and management problems were considerably less than at present.

Adding further to the Commission's financial problems was action which will divert a substantial portion of the salmon-steelhead license revenue. In this biennium, \$148,000 will be unavailable for Commission use, and in succeeding bienniums 50 per cent of the fees collected from this source will be unavailable to the Commission. This will mean a direct loss in revenue of approximately two hundred thousand dollars a biennium. The inescapable fact is that the Commission will have less money on which to operate in this biennium than was available to it in the last biennium.

Perhaps the bill which received the most publicity was House Bill 1458, the so-called "deer bill." This measure, calling for extreme restrictions on big game harvest and for other changes in the big game management program, failed to get out of committee. It did result in interesting many people in the program.

An interim committee to study the management of the wildlife resources was authorized and \$25,000 has been appropriated from the Game Fund to defray committee expenses.

The Commission was granted authority to issue separate Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain elk tags. Starting in 1964, elk hunters must decide in advance of purchasing an elk tag which species they

wish to hunt. Experience has proven that the majority of hunters prefer to hunt for Rocky Mountain elk. For at least the next several years this should automatically reduce the excessive pressure on the vulnerable coastal Roosevelt elk areas.

Angling regulations will be established in November or December from now on rather than in January as the law has specified. This will allow the Commission to place the regulations on a truly calendar year basis and will permit circulation of a printed synopsis at a much earlier date than is now possible.

Of interest to servicemen is a change in the law that will limit the issuance of licenses and tags at resident rates to Armed Forces personnel assigned to permanent duty status in Oregon. At the present time, any person in the Armed Services may purchase an angling or hunting license at resident rates. This change in the law will prohibit nonresident service personnel from purchasing licenses at resident rates. They will be required to pay the same fee for licenses and tags as any other nonresident. A man assigned to permanent duty status at the Portland Air Base or other military installation in Oregon will be able to purchase both licenses and tags at resident rates.

For the first time in many years residents of states adjacent to Oregon may act as hunting or fishing guides here on a reciprocal fee basis. For example, if Idaho allows an Oregon resident to guide for a fee of \$100, Oregon will reciprocate for an Idaho resident. Nonresident guides will be required to meet the same qualifications established for Oregon residents.

Another law change will permit hunting on abandoned railroad rights of way, many of which provide excellent upland game hunting opportunities.

Although there were disappointments, it is worthy to note that the majority of the bills which appeared not to be in the best interest of sound fish and game management failed to pass.

Of the fish and game legislation enacted, all but the Commission's budget, the interim study measure, and the measure diverting salmon and steelhead angling license revenue will become effective 90 days after the session ended. This date is September 2.



BIGHORN SHEEP CENSUS

During the June census of the Hart Mountain sheep herd, 53 bighorns were seen by five Game Commission field men who hiked through the 1,000-acre sheep pen on the mountain and adjacent rim-rocks. The number counted included 28 ewes, 21 lambs, and 4 adult rams. The low number of big rams is a good indication that not all the sheep were seen—the rough terrain provided some excellent hiding places.

Since 20 bighorns from British Columbia were released in the area in 1954, the herd has increased steadily. In 1960 and 1961 some of the sheep were taken to the Steens Mountains. Although bighorns have been seen in that area, no formal count has been made, but a census may be attempted later this year. Also, if present plans work out, additional sheep will be transplanted to the Steens area from Hart Mountain.

HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATION HEARING

At 10 a.m. August 20 the Game Commission will hold a hearing to consider hunting regulations for pheasants and quail and trapping regulations for furbearers. At the same time the Commission will also make its selection of waterfowl season dates and bag limits from the framework set by the federal government.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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