

OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

MARCH, 1956





SAVE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE is the slogan for National Wildlife Week from March 18 to 24, according to the National Wildlife Federation. Because today many of our once abundant wild animals are on the verge of extinction, this year's goal is to further conservation programs that will preserve these endangered species.

* * *

The 1955 license sales jumped to 498,074 licenses (incomplete returns), an increase of 14,552 licenses over 1954. The big increase was in resident hunting licenses (almost 10,000) and resident combination licenses (over 4,000). Total number of persons licensed to angle was 322,529 and to hunt, 274,160 (includes combination licenses).

* * *

Game department personnel participated in the annual national waterfowl inventory conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the first part of January. In Oregon 485,500 waterfowl were counted, the largest number of wintering birds tabulated in the state within the last 10 years. This is 27.30 per cent increase over the 1954 inventory. Count by species was:

	1954	1955	Increase
Ducks	305,274	368,952	20.9%
Geese	38,578	64,841	68.6
Brant	1,686	2,073	23.0
Coot	33,887	42,157	24.4
Swan	1,908	7,477	291.9
Total	381,333	485,500	27.3%

* * *

Success of fingerling trout plantings in East and Paulina lakes is demonstrated by the 1955 creel census returns. At East Lake 29,500 angler trips accounted for 72,000 trout weighing 37,700 pounds. Total harvest was the third highest on record in the ten-year study. At Paulina Lake 55,000 trout weighing 17,740 pounds were harvested in 16,500 angler trips.

COVER

New fishway over the South Umpqua Falls (Douglas county) which will provide miles of additional spawning grounds for migratory fish. Construction was completed last fall under contract let by the Game Commission. (Photo by Ron Shay)

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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At the present time the Bulletin is circulated free of charge to anyone forwarding a written request.

ANNUAL REPORT OF STATE POLICE

The 1955 annual report of the State Police covering enforcement of the game code shows a total of 2,780 arrests made for game law violations and 2,565 warnings issued. The most numerous violations were for angling or hunting by prohibited methods or in prohibited areas and hours, failure to have proper license, failure to tag game properly, hunting in closed season, and exceeding bag limits.

For convictions, sentences imposed totaled 15.62 years (10.64 years suspended) and fines assessed \$108,750.70 (\$13,675.50 remitted).

The officers also checked licenses and bag limits of 139,394 individuals and made 18,189 searches.

PET ELK TURNS TRAITOR

A popular resident of the Grande Ronde Valley recently met his doom because of a turn of temperament.

A familiar sight for about a year to the residents of La Grande has been a bull elk feeding with cattle in a pasture about three miles south of town.

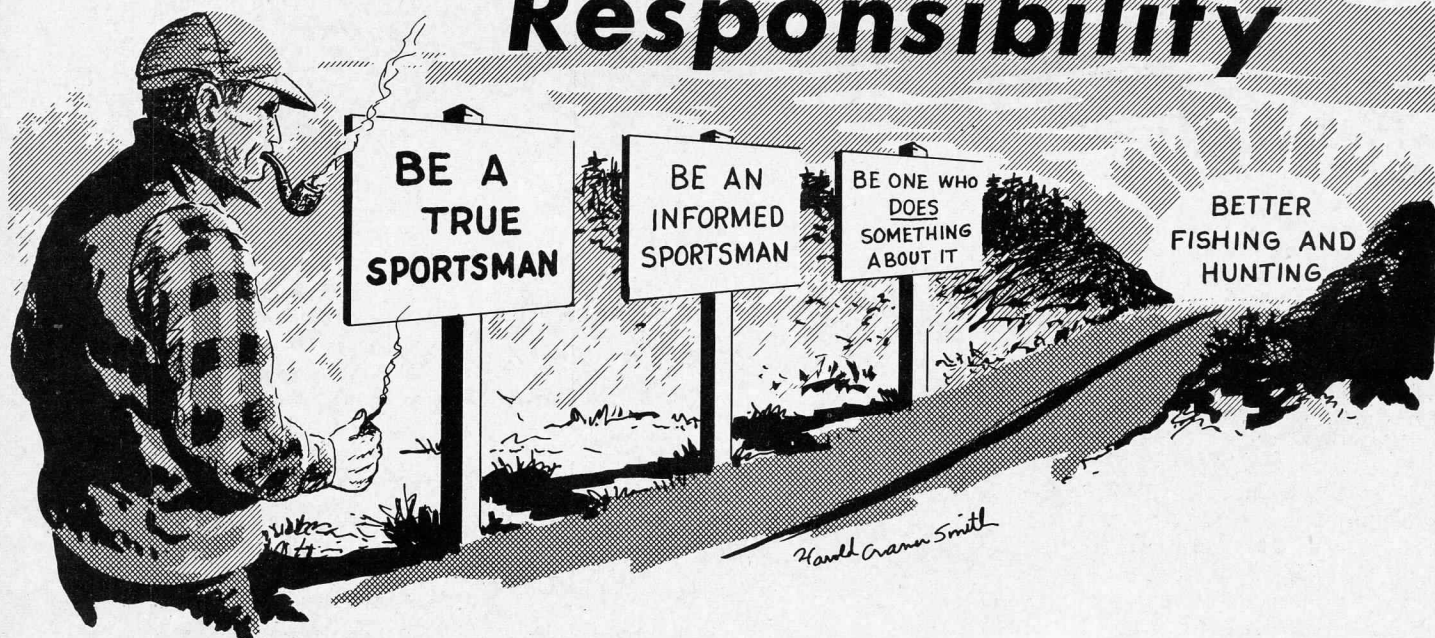
The landowner was happy to see him there until one day the elk attacked a cow and seriously gored her with his spike antlers. Game Commission personnel had to kill the elk and the meat was sent to the state institutions.

Many of the folks of the valley may miss their pet elk but the end to the story is very similar to that of many others when wildlife and civilization clash.



Fin-clipping fingerling silver salmon at the Alsea Hatchery. Returns of marked fish provide important information. Anglers catching such fish are urged to report to the Game Commission date and place of catch, species of fish and kind of mark.

A Sportsman's Responsibility



By R. C. HOLLOWAY, Chief
Information & Education

THE future of fishing and hunting in Oregon rests with you, Mr. Sportsman. What can you as an individual or as a member of an organized group do to assist in assuring perpetuation of the right and opportunity to fish and hunt? Before attempting to answer that question, it might be well to outline some facts as to the magnitude of participation in this type of outdoor recreation and the variety of opportunities available.

Last year close to 500,000 licenses to fish or hunt were issued. In addition, thousands of children less than fourteen years of age fish and hunt without a license. It is probable that at least one-third of the population of this state either hunts or fishes, or does both. Few participant sports attract as many people. The number of participants is growing each year and will continue to grow in proportion to or even faster than the anticipated annual population increase. It could well be that within ten years there will be in excess of 600,000 licensed fishermen and hunters. There is no question about the magnitude of the demand now and in the future.

Oregon is blessed with a variety of fish and game animals which few states can match. Thousands of miles of streams, hundreds of lakes, huge areas of public domain in forests and range lands and an incomparable coastline provide the background for a multimillion dollar outdoor recreation industry. From the Pacific

Ocean to the alpine peaks of the Wallawas opportunities to fish and hunt are many and diversified. There is no question about the opportunities now, but unlike the demand, there is a question about the opportunities of the future. Whether or not the question is resolved satisfactorily is largely up to you.

As fishermen and hunters, you have a responsibility to these resources. This responsibility does not begin or end merely with harvesting the fish and game. As a matter of fact the success of your harvest in the future will depend to a great extent on the interest you take and the effort you make in their conservation. The magnitude of the task is such that no public agency or group of agencies can accomplish it alone.

As a sportsman, your interest in fishing or hunting may be occasional, or it may be intense. You may spend a few dollars or several hundred dollars annually on these sports. Regardless of the degree of your participation, the obligation exists and you must assume that obligation.

So, back to the original question, what can you do to help? As an individual, you can help by being a true sportsman and not one who masquerades under that title. The recent Red Hat Day program was designed to encourage more sportsmanlike conduct on the part of fishermen and hunters. Misconduct in the nature of game law violations, vandalism, trespass,

and carelessness with fire has resulted in the closure of much land to public entry and places a stigma on all who fish and hunt.

The Red Hat Day pledge: TO OBEY THE LAWS, TO RESPECT THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS, TO BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE AND FIREARMS, is one that no real sportsman can ignore. Just this simple contribution would bring about an amazing improvement in hunting and fishing opportunities.

As an individual sportsman you should keep yourself informed on local and national matters, particularly legislative, affecting natural resources. You can always express your feelings to your legislators or to your delegation in Congress.

When an issue comes to your attention that could adversely affect your fishing or hunting, let the proper people know how you feel about it. As an individual you can first be a true sportsman; second, an informed one; and finally, one who does something about it.

Individual action can be effective but group action is much more so. Organized sportsmen can exert tremendous influence on matters dealing with natural resources. Disorganized sportsmen frequently fail to obtain their objectives. This has been demonstrated time and time again.

Are the sportsmen of this state organ-

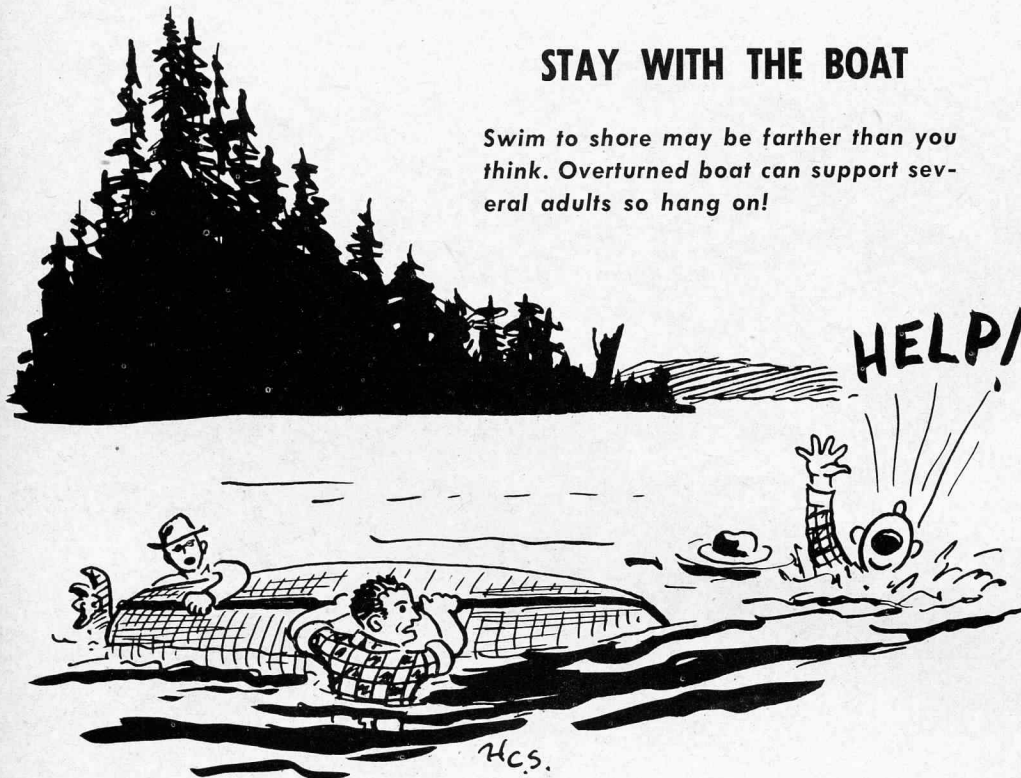
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BOAT



STAY WITH THE BOAT

Swim to shore may be farther than you think. Overturned boat can support several adults so hang on!



BOATING is gaining in popularity each season there are a number of rules.

In Oregon, the law requires a careful and prudent manner and at the expense of another or the life or limb of another.

A good dose of "Common Sense" from the Outboard Boating Club of America, with cartoons at the bottom of the page. Most cases the real cause turned out in the boat; (2) failure to keep a sharp place.

"Common Sense" pointers recommend:
 Don't overload your boat's
 Don't overpower your boat
 Don't "show-off"
 Don't go out in bad weather
 Always carry a buoyant preserver

Particular caution should be exercised in the sport fishery in recent years. Many boat owners have had experience different, and the occurrence of some accidents has shown the need for safety education.

The right kind of boat is of importance. A boat on a quiet lake is not at all suitable for a river such as the Columbia or the Umpqua.

To be sure of an unmarred fishing trip, check the boat and equipment. Then check the weather and familiarize yourself with the area. You can stay clear of the hazardous spots by observing all the safety rules, you will enjoyable boating as well as good fishing.



KNOW YOUR BOAT

Every boat has its limitations. Learn what you can expect from your boat.

DON'T OVERLOAD

Seats do not indicate capacity. Two or three adults may be a full load under many conditions.



BALANCE YOUR LOAD

Distribute weight evenly in the boat—from side to side and from bow to stern.

KEEP LOW

And step in the center when boarding the boat or changing seats.



SAFETY

each year and as with other outdoor sports, of accidents because of failure to follow the

motor boat to be navigated at all times "in a high rate of speed as not to endanger the property person."

Afloat" is suggested for all boat owners by the no compiled the safety rules depicted in the their study of boating mishaps reveals that in to be one of the following: (1) too many people p lookout; (3) speeding at the wrong time or

amended are:
weight capacity

erver or cushion for each passenger

rcised in Oregon's coastal waters where devel- years has increased the use of pleasure boats. ce only on inland waters, where conditions are e serious accidents along the coast points up

ortance. The small boat you use for angling or fishing in the ocean or near the mouth of pqua where strong tides and currents prevail. g trip, first make sure you have an adequate weather conditions (consult the Weather Bu- area where you intend to fish so that you consult the Coast Guard). Thus prepared and nd your family can be assured of safe and hing up and down Oregon's wonderful coast.

BE COURTEOUS

Considerate of others, a good boatsman avoids racing near fishermen, swimmers, anchored boats or sailboats.



WATCH THE WEATHER

Head for shore before a storm breaks. If caught out, seat passengers on floor.

HEAD INTO THE WAVES

If waves are high, head your boat at an angle towards the waves at slow speed.



USE THE RIGHT MOTOR

Too much power can damage your boat—may even swamp it. Look for OBC recommended horsepower plate.

AVOID SHARP TURNS

Fast, sharp turns are hard on equipment—and sometimes on people. Take it easy.





Good landowner-sportsmen relations can be maintained by proper cooperation. Here representatives of Forest Grove Izaak Walton League, Game Commission and local farmer get together and discuss plans for the hunting season. Landowner has agreed to post his land with signs furnished by Commission reading "Hunting by Permission." Pheasants are released on the land prior to opening of the season.

A Sportsman's Responsibility

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ized to do an effective job of conservation? Let's take a look at the picture. There are approximately 135 clubs in the state whose membership is composed primarily of fishermen and hunters. The majority of these are not affiliated presently with a state organization.

There are two state-wide sportsmen's organizations which are in turn affiliated with national organizations. They are the Oregon Wildlife Federation and the Oregon Division of the Izaak Walton League. There are 25 clubs now affiliated with the Wildlife Federation. They have a total membership of around 4,200. The Izaak Walton League has 32 chapters in this state at present, with a total membership of about 2,000. The two state-wide organizations have, then, a combined membership of approximately 6,200. Individual unaffiliated clubs have a total membership of perhaps 10,000, bringing the state total to around 16,000 now. Compare this with the number of licensed fishermen and hunters. Yes—less than three per cent of licensed fishermen and hunters are members of sportsmen's organizations. Perhaps it can be said with justification that the sportsmen in this state are not organized, that they are relatively ineffectual, and that they are not doing the job they should be doing.

It is surprising, nonetheless, how ef-

fective a small nucleus of organized sportsmen can be. That this is so has been demonstrated on numerous occasions in recent years. Visualize achievements if a majority of the sportsmen were organized, united, and articulate.

This is not a remote possibility either—there are encouraging signs that the organized sportsmen's movement is growing in this state. Recently the two state-wide organizations formed an inter-locking committee. Through this committee greater coordination of effort will be obtained and a more unified front presented on conservation issues.

There remains, however, a long uphill battle to build up membership to the point where it should be to attain the necessary objectives. To build up membership, organized sportsmen must have something to offer, something to retain the interest of individual fishermen and hunters. An occasional trapshoot, an annual potluck dinner, or a big buck contest are not the kinds of inducement that will attract a working membership. On the other hand, such activities are part and parcel of a sportsmen's organization and I don't wish to minimize their importance. They do not, however, relate to the basic conservation issues with which sportsmen should be concerned. Social activities should share the stage with some well-planned conservation activities.

Another thing to remember is that although conservation begins at home,

it doesn't end there. Naturally as an individual sportsman or as a single club, you will be most interested in matters close to home. Don't let this interest hide the fact that state, regional and national conservation issues also are deserving of your attention. You are interested in, and rightly so, how many fish are to be planted in your favorite stream, or how many birds were released in the county but the answers to such questions are not the kind that solve any problems. What about national legislation that would restrict your use of public lands? What about river development projects and their impact on fish and wildlife? What about the drainage of marshlands and the effect on waterfowl? What about the regulation of water use to provide an adequate flow for recreational purposes? These are but a few of the issues that are more basic and which can influence fishing and hunting far more than the number of fish and birds planted in your locality.

Sportsmen's organizations, both local and state-wide, must have strong programs to attract membership. I know of many clubs which have such a program of activities. The two state organizations have sound conservation programs but many features of the program fail to filter down to member clubs or if they do, they are not acted upon.

There are many projects that have been suggested for sportsmen's organizations to undertake, not a few of which are impractical when it comes to getting the job done. All too frequently a few key members do all the work. Providing assistance in planting fish, releasing birds, or in the chemical treatment of lakes is helpful and is interesting to those who participate. Such projects are of short duration, however, and are not the kind in which all or most of the membership can participate for any length of time.

As many members as possible should be given something to do. This means committees. The most successful sportsmen's clubs have good committee organizations. Each committee should be expected to develop projects in which the club membership can engage, or should bring to the attention of the club problems or issues on which the club should take a stand. Committees should be required to make periodic progress reports, preferably written reports.

Every club should have a committee on legislation. This committee would have the responsibility of studying state and national legislation concerning natural resources and should advise the membership on a course of action which the

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	Self-Inflicted		Mistaken for Game		Accidental Gun Discharge		In Line of Fire and Ricochet		Loaded Gun in Boat or Car		Unknown & Other	
1954	1	3	2	5	3	8	1	2	4	3	1	2
1955	4	17	2	1	7	29	0	13	1	8	6	2

1955 Hunting Accidents

THE year 1955 was a record year in Oregon in many ways. One of the records set was in hunting accidents.

The records show 10 hunters dead and 47 wounded, the largest number ever recorded in the state. This marks the second year that fairly complete records have been obtained. These records include only those accidents where firearms were involved and do not include heart attacks and drownings. The number of casualties was relatively low in the early part of the hunting season, carelessness increasing as the seasons progressed.

As far as the death record is concerned it is an improvement, but the number of reported woundings jumped from 37 in 1954 to 47 in 1955.

True, some of the wounds were only minor, but maybe next year fate may have the hunter standing a foot or so to one side and the bullet will hit the heart instead of the arm. Every accident is a potential death, since it is usually by chance that an accident is fatal or non-fatal.

Excellent cooperation was received from the state police and county sheriffs in filling out report forms. It is hoped that by obtaining as much information as possible on each accident, there will be more possibility of reducing hunting casualties in the future.

The pattern runs much the same as in past years. The old story of accidents taking place when persons shoot at long distances and are not sure of the target does not hold true. Only three of the 57 accidents were in the mistaken for game category. This is an indication that hunters may have been more careful while actually hunting.

What does cause the majority of them? One big word looms up in most reports . . . CARELESSNESS!!

Actually, the hunter in the woods is his own worst enemy. Over two-thirds of the accidents happened at a distance of less than 25 yards and approximately one-half of them were self-inflicted.

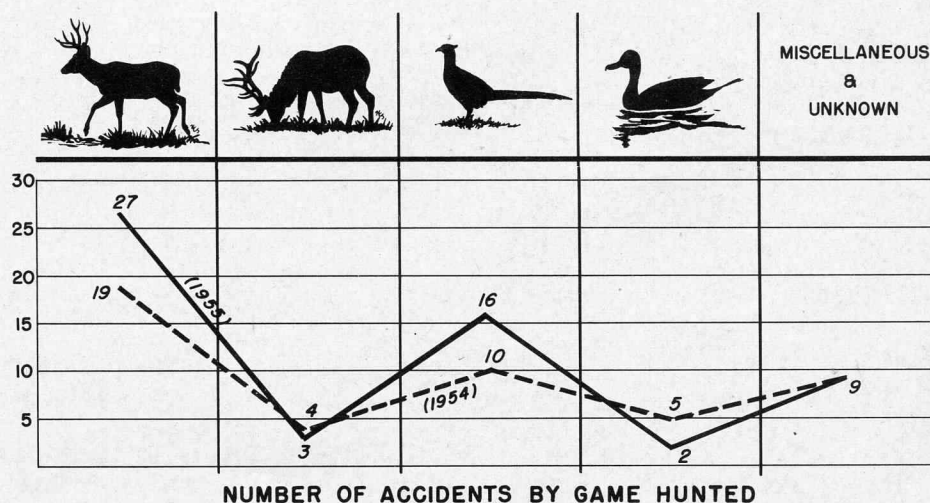
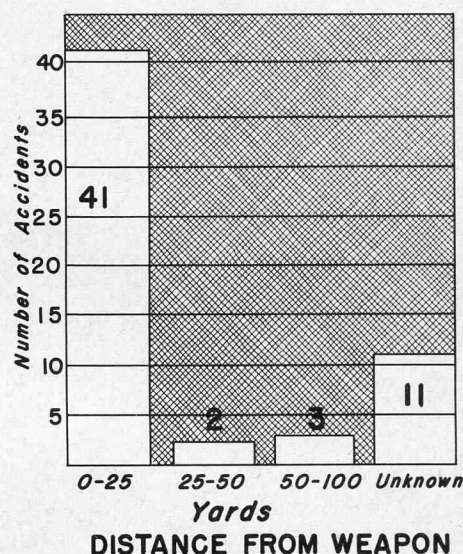
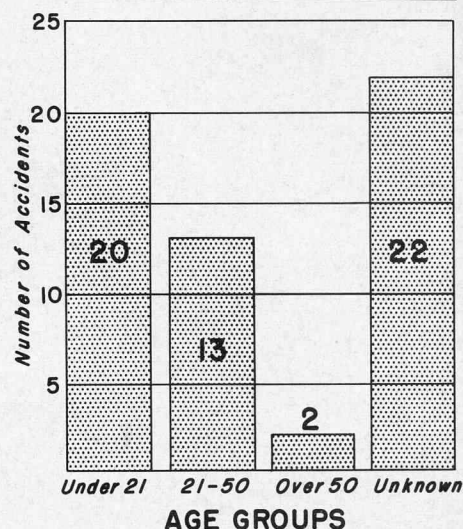
This past year Oregon began to fit into the national pattern more as far as the age of the shooters is concerned. Twenty were under 21 years of age and 13 between 21 and 50 years of age. Ages of shooters were not recorded on some reports.

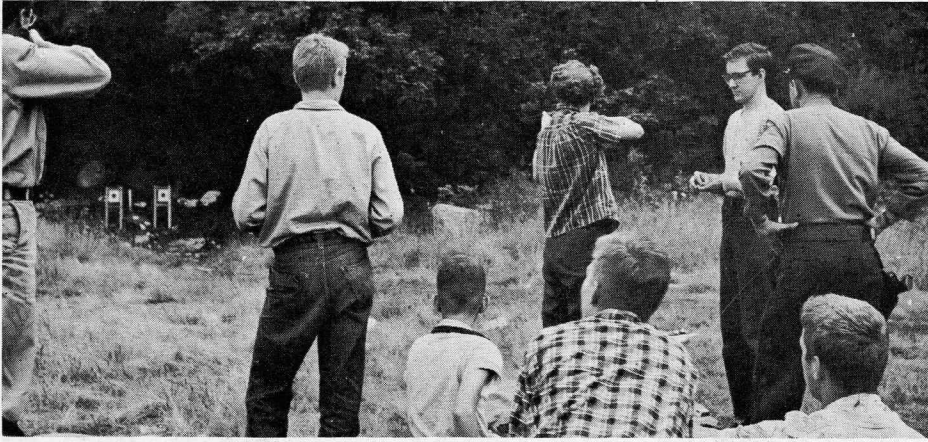
Already this year the toll has begun. On January 2nd the first hunting accident in 1956 occurred. The cause was a common one—accidental discharge of a loaded gun in a car. The bullet from a 25-20 rifle split when going through the seat and hit the victim in two spinal vertebrae.

It isn't necessary to analyze further the accidents. The accompanying charts and graphs show how they happened. In some categories the totals are not equal to the total number of accidents because of incomplete information.

From the figures compiled and statistics analyzed there are two main things that stand out. First, hunters are their own worst enemies afield, and secondly, in almost all of the accidents carelessness was involved.

It gets back to one final thought . . . if every hunter afield treated his weapons with the respect they deserve, hunting accidents could be virtually eliminated!!





Interesting youth groups in hunting safety and proper use of firearms is a worthy project for a club.

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club might follow. In this connection there are sources from which information on federal natural resources legislation and issues can be obtained. For example, the National Wildlife Federation at 232 Carroll Street, Northwest, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., issues periodic reports on legislation under the title of "Conservation Report." That organization also publishes a newsletter on conservation matters entitled "Conservation News." The Wildlife Management Institute, 709 Wire Building, Washington 5, D.C., publishes a conservation newsletter entitled "Outdoor News Bulletin." The Sport Fishing Institute, 413 Bond Building, Washington 5, D.C., issues a monthly bulletin dealing with national and state matters pertaining to sport fishing management. The Izaak Walton League of America issues a monthly bulletin on conservation matters and provides state divisions and chapters with information letters periodically.

Other important committees would include conservation education, landowner-sportsmen relations, game, fish, water resource, and land use. The fish and game committees should be concerned primarily with the manner in which the club can assist in improving conditions for fish and game. Through such committees a club could bring to the attention of the Game Commission knowledge of conditions about which the Commission might otherwise not hear.

There is great need for improved land-

owner-sportsmen relations; no club should be without a committee assigned the task of working with local landowners in improving this situation.

Another committee that could develop an active, participating type of program is one concerned with fostering firearms safety and possibly, boating safety. Clubs are loaded with members who could qualify as instructors. Clubs could and should sponsor courses of instruction and should provide the leadership and materials necessary.

The conservation education committee could work toward inclusion of more conservation education training in the public schools. A juvenile conservation club could be organized. The club could sponsor one or more teachers to attend a workshop on conservation education.

These are but a few of the possibilities for club activities. Strong, working committees appear to be the key to getting things done. Add to this the necessity for good leadership qualities in the club officers. Remember—it isn't necessarily the club with the largest membership that does the most effective job, but rather the club with the most active membership. Another thing to remember is that a club usually won't thrive too long on controversy, although some controversy is good for an organization. Clubs that have attempted to do so have usually failed or have become ineffective.

Meetings should be held periodically on a scheduled basis and not at the whim of the president or board of directors. More time should be devoted to discussions within the club on natural resource matters. Discussions could follow committee reports. It isn't necessary to have an outside speaker or movie at each meeting. Speakers and movies are available, however, from all agencies dealing with natural resources.

Sportsmen, organized and unified, have proven to be and will continue to prove to be an influential group. Frequently labeled as obstructionists they have led the way in protecting the public interest in wise use of all natural resources. It is only within fairly recent years that the voice of organized sportsmen has been heard; it will continue to be heard in greater volume as time goes on. Unity of effort will assure continuation of the right and of the opportunities to fish and hunt.



This sign was put up several years ago by the local sportsmen's group to promote protection of game birds.

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