

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Number 11

## SOME TIPS ON DEER HUNTING

### IOWA SPORTSMEN TO BE QUERIED

By Lester Faber  
Superintendent of Federal Aid

Early in 1956, some Iowans will be questioned in a nationwide survey in an effort to determine just how much time, money and effort is being spent on outdoor recreation.

Last year the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, pointing out that little is known of the scope of our outdoor activities, urged the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor a survey of American sportsmen. The idea was adopted by the government and the project was assigned to a private firm: Crossley, S-D Surveys of New York. This national investigation will be financed out of the federal aid funds normally held by the Fish and Wildlife Service for administration of the federal aid program, and will cost \$134,000.

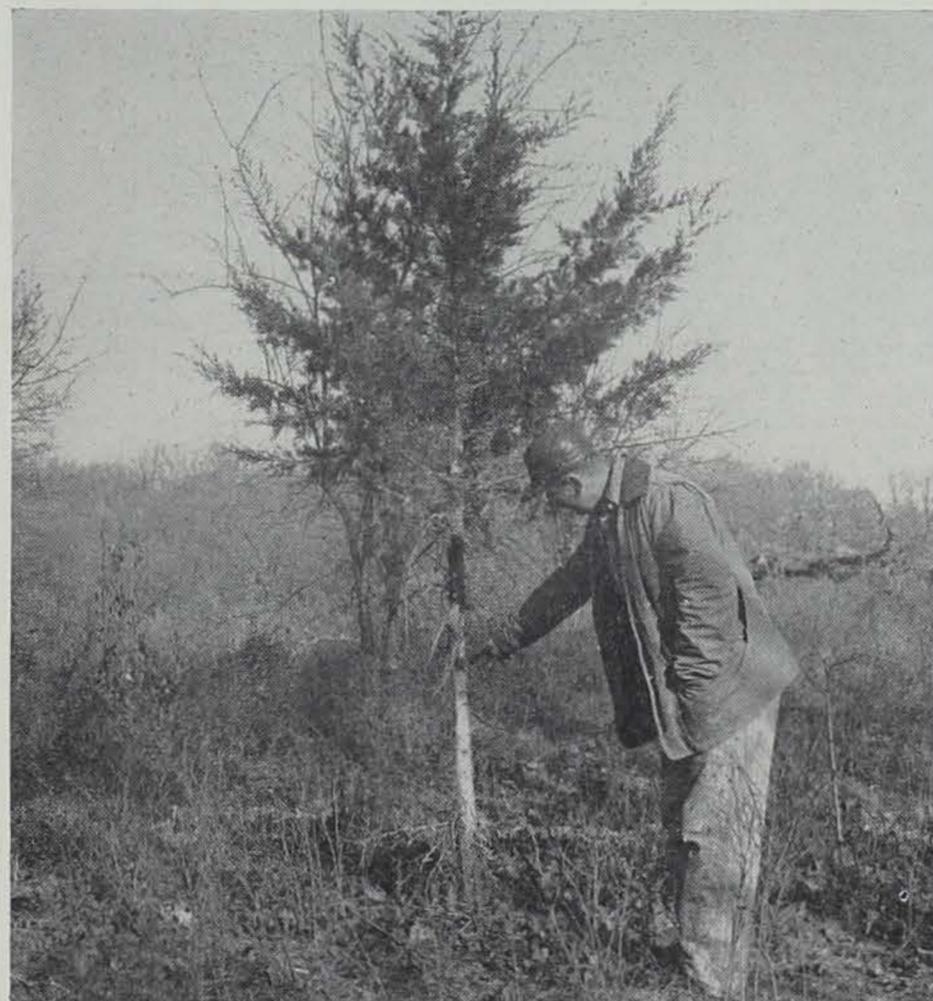
#### A State Survey

While information in the national survey is of interest to Iowans, it leaves some questions of state-wide importance unanswered, and the Iowa Conservation Commission has requested Crossley Surveys to make a concurrent survey for the use of Iowa alone. Since the material for Iowa's use will be gathered at the same time as the national information, the Iowa survey will cost \$17,000, far less than normal.

According to the Conservation Commission, our outdoor recreation has become big business, involving millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of Iowans of all ages. Like any big business, it is necessary to know something of the stock inventory and the activities of the customers.

Inventories of stock—our fish and game—are already kept by state biologists and conservation officers who observe trends in fish and game populations. But the actions of the customers—Iowa hunters and anglers—are somewhat hazy and are not accurately re-

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This battered young cedar, surrounded by trampled sod, is sure deer sign. Veteran hunters watch for such clues and often make pre-hunt surveys of an area to determine where the deer are and to learn the lay of the land.

### What Is A Good All-Around Shot?

What constitutes a good all-around shot? This complimentary title has been bestowed on many sportsmen, but too often the term has been carelessly or unthinkingly used.

To qualify as a really GOOD all-around shot, the gunner must be quite versatile in more shooting departments than the average person realizes. To be worthy of the distinction which the term GOOD all-around shot implies, the shooter must be proficient in the use of all types of sporting firearms and in all kinds of shooting.

A man may be a top-flight clay target shooter, both at the traps and skeet, but pretty much of a dud with a target rifle in his hands.

He may be a crack shot in the field, but unable to master the clay target sports. It is entirely possible, as experience has proved time and again, for him to be one of the leading shots in small bore rifle shooting competition and still lose his composure entirely at the flush of a covey of quail or the sight of a running deer. He can rank high with the shotgun and rifle and yet, figuratively speaking, be unable to hit a barn door with a hand gun. And so he could not qualify as a GOOD all-around shot.

So the next time you refer to some friend as "a GOOD all-around shot" it might be well to take another look-see or qualify

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By John Madson  
Education Assistant

When we first thought of writing this, we also thought of the Lansing Strong Man. If ever a poor deer hunter needed help, he did.

During the first deer season a car wheeled into the drive of the Lansing deer checking station. Draped over its fender was what appeared to be a Guernsey bull with a rocking chair on its head. The husky young driver got out and said "Boys, you can weigh this deer if you can get it off and put it back; I'm whipped!"

It seems that the hunter had jumped the 240-pound buck in a grassy swale back in the Allamakee Mountains. He killed it with his first shot and then hog-dressed it. He didn't consider dragging the deer and somehow hoisted the carcass up on his shoulders and lugged it over the steep hills for more than a mile.

Nothing is harder to handle than a fresh-killed deer; it's just plumb dead all over. With every step the buck's heavy head swung and prodded our hunter with 16 antler tines. He didn't dare put the deer down or he'd never have gotten started again, and he carried his gun by crooking two fingers through the trigger guard. By the time the young hunter reached the road he was almost as dead as the deer. He also ran the risk of being shot by another hunter, but he probably would have welcomed that.

A veteran deer hunter might have turned the animal on its back and extended the front legs forward. Then a stout 3-foot stick could be slipped beneath the head to support it and keep it from flopping. The front legs of the deer would be lashed firmly to the stick. The hunter could then back up to the deer, bend down, and straighten up with a good hold on the carrying stick and walk away, sliding the deer behind him. If there were two hunters, one for each end of the short drag stick, the deer could be easily skidded for miles, especially on snow.

But all of this comes later in the

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### DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

**OPEN SEASON:** For shotgun  
with rifled slugs only, from  
December 3 through Decem-  
ber 5.

**DAILY SHOOTING HOURS:**  
For gun hunting, from 9:00  
a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**LIMIT:** Daily bag limit one (1)  
deer; possession limit one (1)  
deer; season limit one (1)  
deer.

**WEAPONS:** 10-12-16-20 gauge  
shotguns with rifled slugs  
only.

**COUNTIES OPEN:** All Iowa  
counties open to deer hunting.

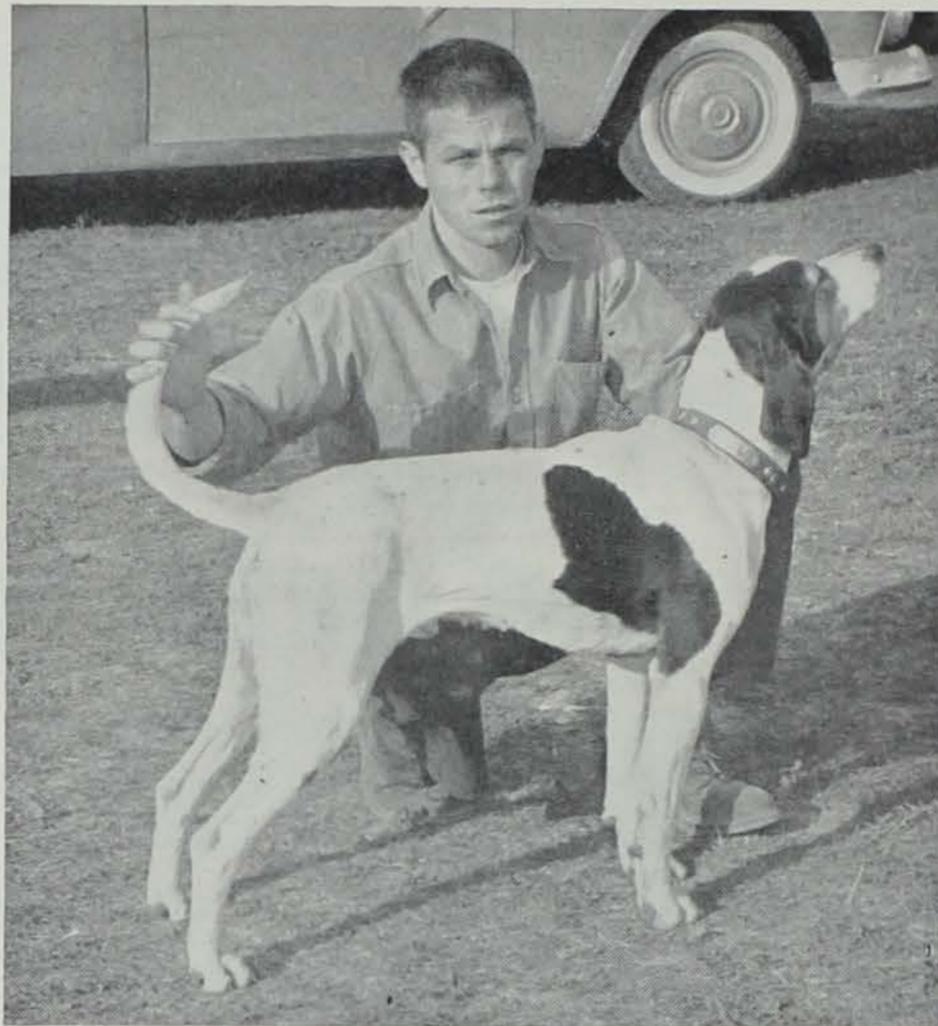
**SEX OF DEER:** Deer of any  
age or sex may be taken.

**LICENSE NUMBER AND IN-  
SIGNIA:** All hunters required  
to purchase licenses must pos-  
sess a 1955 deer license and  
wear a red license number  
and insignia provided when  
hunting deer.

**LICENSE NOT REQUIRED:**  
Owners or tenants of land and  
their children living on said  
land may hunt, kill and pos-  
sess one deer without a deer  
license—provided, it is not re-  
moved from said land, whole  
or in part, unless tagged with  
seal affixed to animal. These  
tags are available from all  
local conservation officers.

**LOCKING SEAL:** A metal  
locking seal bearing license  
number of licensee and year  
of issuance must be affixed to  
the carcass of each deer be-  
tween the tendon and bone of  
hind leg before carcass can be  
transported.

**DOGS, ETC.:** The use of dogs,  
domestic animals, automo-  
biles, aircraft, or any me-  
chanical conveyance, salt, or  
bait is prohibited.



Top field and bench honors were taken in the championship coon hunt by "Bawlie", a Walker hound owned by 24-year-old James Merchant of Grandchain, Illinois.

## NEW WORLD'S CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN IOWA

Last month saw two new cham-  
pionships set in Iowa and, ironical-  
ly, neither went to an Iowan.

On October 10 the Hawkeye  
State played host to the World's  
Championship Wild Coon Hunt at  
Bloomfield, and on October 2 to the  
World's Championship Goose Call-  
ing Contest at Missouri Valley.

Dogs from 25 states were pres-  
ent at the championship coon hunt,  
according to John Kyl of Bloom-  
field. Kyl writes that the hunting  
competition took place during three  
nights, for four-hour timed hunts  
each night.

The 'coon hunting contest was  
swept by Bawlie, a Walker hound  
owned by James Merchant of  
Grandchain, Illinois, who took top  
hunting and bench honors. Runner-  
up was Drum, a black and tan  
male owned by Bernard Hole of  
Darlington, Indiana. Third-place

winner was Rock, a redbone male  
hound belonging to W. P. (Billy)  
Meriwether of Jackson, Tennessee.

Other winners were:

**Sally**, a treeing Walker female  
owned by Glenn Bixler of Corning,  
Iowa.

**Sandy**, a black and tan male  
owned by Duane Ruckman of Co-  
lumbia City, Indiana, and tied with

**Speck**, a treeing Walker male  
owned by W. R. Hazel of Hodgen-  
ville, Kentucky.

Kyl reports that all breeds were  
represented, with several Plott  
hounds and several blueticks scor-  
ing high.

This was the first year, accord-  
ing to Kyl, that the contest has  
ever been held west of the Missis-  
sippi. It was held last year in  
Jackson, Tennessee, and this year's  
contestants reported southern  
Iowa's 'coon country as some of  
the finest they had ever hunted.

The hounds were judged by their  
ability to strike trail and tree the  
raccoons, and whether or not they  
completed the hunt or returned to  
their handlers prematurely. Dogs  
were severely penalized for molest-  
ing livestock or trailing other  
game. No raccoons are taken or  
killed in these major trials.

Judges for the championship  
hunt were local hunters who spent  
six months studying rules and all  
rule situations. Guides were local  
farmers.

A weather-beaten Louisiana  
hunter came up from the deep  
south to become the new world's

goose calling champion at Missouri  
Valley on October 2.

Clarence Faulk, 52, of Lake  
Charles, Louisiana, has hunted  
ducks and geese since he was 8,  
and his experience was apparent in  
his goose calling. Faulk, a duck  
and goose call manufacturer, is the  
father of the third place contest  
winner, Paul "Dud" Faulk, who  
won the international duck calling  
contest last year at Crowley, Lou-  
isiana.

An estimated crowd of 7,000  
watched Faulk take the crown  
from the 1954 champion, Frank  
Heidelberg of Ankeny. The senior  
Faulk received a \$1,000 U. S. Sav-  
ings Bond and the Jimmy Robinson  
Trophy for his feat. Upon receiv-  
ing his trophy, Faulk commented  
"Down home we pride ourselves on  
our southern hospitality, but it's  
no warmer than the courtesy and  
friendship that we've been shown  
here in Iowa."

An Iowan placed second in the  
contest, with Don Drustrup of Mis-  
souri Valley calling his way to a  
trophy and a 14-foot aluminum  
boat. Third place winner was  
"Dud" Faulk, son of the champion,  
who received a trophy and an auto-  
loading shotgun.

Other winners were:

4. Ralph Kohler, Tekamah, Ne-  
braska.

5. Harold Alger, Missouri Val-  
ley, Iowa.

6. Eugene Demko, Columbus,  
Nebraska.

7. Sam Strain, Logan, Iowa.

8. Calvin Collins, Logan, Iowa.

9. George Ray, Boone, Iowa.

10. Joe Christensen, Omaha, Ne-  
braska.

11. Vincent Reis, Laurens, Iowa.

12. Charles Frye, Independence,  
Missouri.

Judging of the contest was based  
on general excellence of calling,  
lack of false notes, volume and  
clarity. No public address system  
was used.

Judges were Milfred Smith, fed-  
eral refuge manager from Burt,  
Iowa; Vern Jacobsen of St. Paul,  
Nebraska, a member of the Ne-  
braska State Game Commission;  
and W. H. "Bill" Lemburg of  
Boelus, Nebraska, a commercial  
breeder of ducks and geese.

Earth and fish worms have no  
special senses such as that of  
hearing or sight, but they do re-  
spond to mechanical stimulus. A  
peculiarity of this response to me-  
chanical stimulus is that they will  
move away from it if it is inter-  
mittent, but if the stimulus is of  
a continuous nature they will leave  
their burrows and actually try to  
seek out the source of the dis-  
turbance. The reasons that so many  
worms are seen about during or  
after rain storms is that the gentle  
vibrations set up in the soil by the  
patter of the rain on the earth  
surface attracts the worms from  
their lairs rather than by drown-  
ing them out as is commonly be-  
lieved.—H.H.



A deadly duet is played by the world's  
goose calling champion, Clarence Faulk,  
and his son Paul. The younger Faulk placed  
third in the goose calling contest.



Antlers are the crowning glory of a buck deer, but the stag pays heavily for them in discomfort and danger. And, sooner or later, this regal rack will be eaten by rodents.

## HOW DOES YOUR TROPHY GROW?

By Robert Dunkeson

Missouri Conservation Commission

"It may be true, but I still don't believe it."

That's what I heard one wife tell her husband when he tried to explain how antlers had grown on the deer he brought home. I was—praise Allah!—only a bystander in this fuss, despite my sympathy with the husband. Of course, it isn't unusual for wives to doubt their husband's stories, but the growth of deer antlers is so unlikely that many people besides wives have trouble believing it.

It is true that male deer completely lose their antlers and grow a new pair each year. We don't understand how antlers sprout from a buck's head, grow to maturity, and then drop off, but what we do know is most interesting. The facts about antler growth are important in the regulation of deer hunting in Missouri, too. And the story may even smooth out some discussions between husbands and wives.

Wrong ideas about antlers aren't



Budding antlers are soft and tender. Nourished by a sensitive, blood-filled skin called "velvet," the young antlers soon become solid, heavy bone.

recent. One writer of a Natural History in 1758 assured his readers that antlers were composed of wood. "It is," he claimed, "a vegetable grafted upon the animal."

You'll find no such nonsense today. By now almost everyone knows that an antler is a true bone. As it grows out from the skull the antler is supplied with blood vessels and nerves, and is covered with skin like any other growing bone.

But no other bone grows with such amazing speed. For speed, the growth of a deer antler can only be compared with a malignant cancer. But, unlike the unrestrained spread of a cancer, both antlers normally arch forward in a marvel of symmetrical form. Slender points grow from both beams at equal intervals and each beam curves forward to mirror the other. Far from running wild, the form of an antler is carefully regulated in some unknown way.

When growth ends, the antler hardens into a massive structure that weighs more than the bones of the skull which support it. Mature antlers are actually three pounds or so of dead bone still firmly joined to the living skull.

So firmly are these antlers anchored to the skull that they withstand the shock of 200-pound bucks crashing together in fights for wives. But a few months later, the stout connection between antler and skull loosens so the antler simply drops off, like a dead leaf falls from an oak tree. Soon a new antler bud begins growth on the site of the old one, beginning the whole cycle again.

Says the skeptic: "I'm always looking for dropped antlers. If they fall off every year, why haven't I found any?"

Well, they're found but not often. You see, an antler is bone, built of

calcium, phosphorus and other minerals which make delicious eating for mice and other animals. Too, an antler is more porous and perhaps easier to gnaw; it's a kind of mineral cafeteria for small animals that quickly chew it away. Mr. Skeptic would find dropped antlers if he got there before the rodents.

When the antler begins growing it pulses with blood and feels soft and rubbery. Later the growing bone hardens, first at the base and then upward toward the tip so that each section is harder than the section above. The tip remains soft and easily broken as long as it grows. These growing antlers must be sensitive, because bucks use great care to protect them at this time.

How they maneuver their tender racks through the tough underbrush is a puzzle. There's evidence that some of them do have trouble. You'll find clues: a growing antler will repair a greenstick fracture or cuts and bruises, but the hardened antler carries a permanent record of the injury. Take a close look and you'll see the evidence in crooked, scarred antlers of many big bucks.

But bumps and scratches are just the beginning of a buck's troubles. Someone rightly named the sensitive, blood-filled skin on the growing antler "velvet," and insects and ticks are quick to take advantage of the soft tissue. Ticks burrow into the velvet at the base of the rack where a buck dares not try to dislodge them, and big horseflies cling stubbornly to the tip. In August, when swarms of inch-long horseflies descend, bucks run wildly through the woods to escape these pests. So when antlers finally harden, you can be certain that the deer has paid in discomfort for his crown.

About the time the leaves begin to fall, the velvet withers and cracks at the tip of the antler. Then a little rubbing by the buck husks it off. Velvet peels off quickly, sometimes within 24 hours, and slips off except for shreds clinging to the roughest parts. It's quite a sight to see a buck stripping velvet from his antlers.

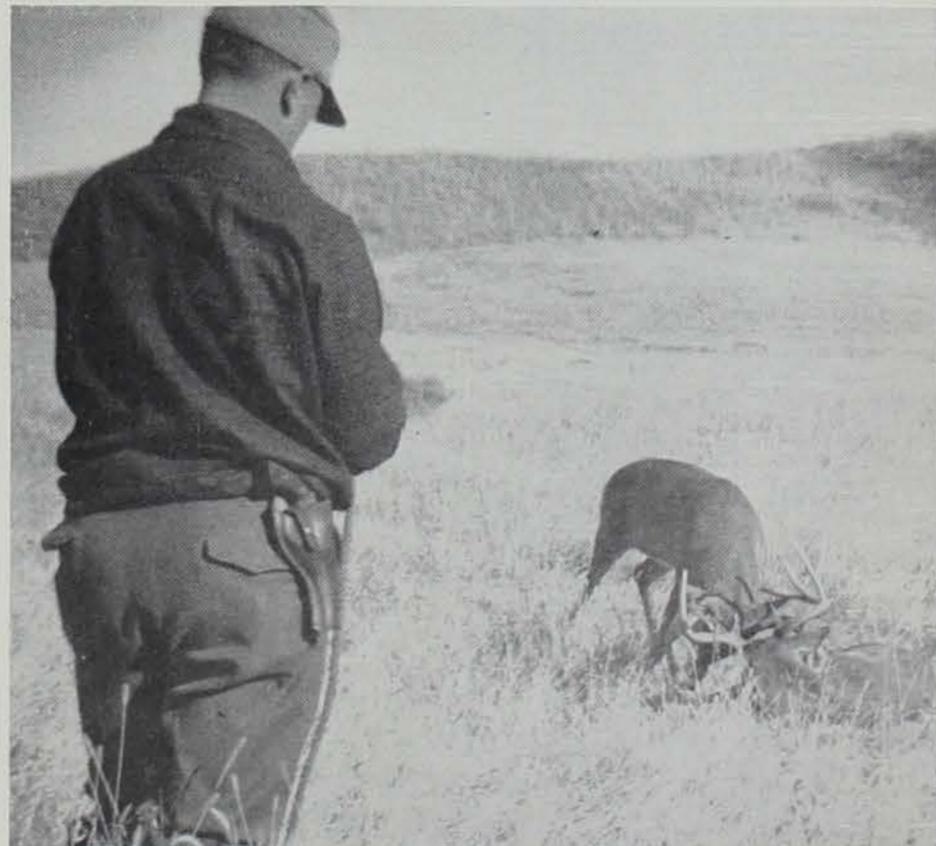
Bucks continue to rub their antlers against springy young trees during the mating season. Hunters who know this look for skinned saplings to locate the range of their trophy deer, arguing that the bucks are still rubbing off velvet; others say they are sharpening antlers. A glance at an antler will show you that both ideas are wrong.

You'll find flat places worn on the base of each antler by the incessant rubbing which is done long after the velvet is gone. You'll also find the antler smoothed by rubbing—not sharpened. When the velvet is first shed, points on the antler are actually dapper-sharp. Rubbing rounds off the points and removes the rough edges, like taking the wire edge off a knife. If you think a buck sharpens antlers by rubbing, try the same trick with a bone and a sapling and see how far you get.

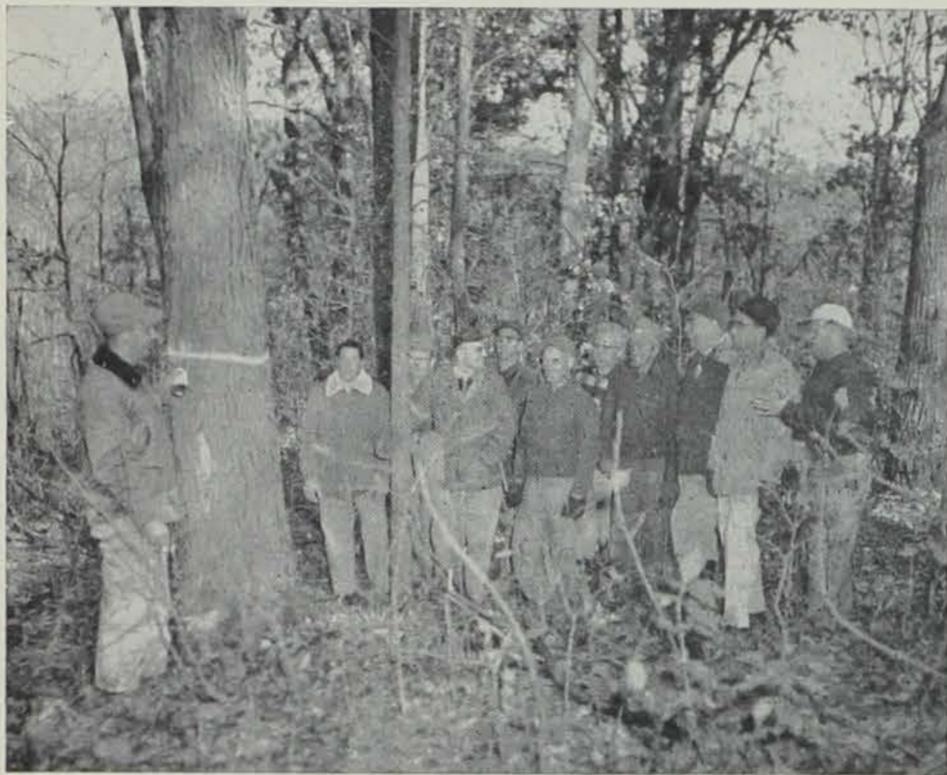
All of this adds up to a buck's crown of glory—smooth ivory points curving out from a dark, massive beam.

But this crown—like the crowns of kings—is his fatal beauty and his downfall. Antlers have been a prized trophy since long before the days of Robin Hood. Most modern hunters would rather bring to earth a big buck with a massive rack than down smaller, more edible deer. Watch men crowd around to congratulate the hunter who brought in a big, old buck that

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Fighting bucks may lock antlers and die of broken necks or starvation. The grounded buck shown here was already dead, but Conservation Officer Dick Jacobson freed the survivor.



Gadgets have invaded the forest, and Allan Allyn demonstrates the use of a "paint bomb" for marking harvestable trees. From left, foresters Duane Stoppel, Gene Hertel, Don Campbell, Carl Anderson, woodsman Ken Lamb, Iowa State College extension forester Dick Campbell, woodsman Bill Thomas, forester Milo Peterson, Mans Ellerhoff, and Sylvan Runkle of the Soil Conservation Service.

### GREATER LOVE HATH NO WOMAN—

By Warren Reed

Right here in Cherokee we have—believe it or not—a woman who will get up at 3:00 in the morning, fix breakfast, then go into the bedroom and gently awaken her husband with these words: "Come on now, Jim, the bacon and eggs are ready, and if you're going duck hunting, you better get up."

To other sportsmen this perhaps seems like someone's pipe dream. There are many, however, who will swear to the truth of the statement.

So that all may know who this wonderful woman is, we made a thorough check of the story, verifying the facts as given us "over the coffee". She is Mrs. Jim Bleakly of 626 Park in Cherokee. Jim of Champion Electric, sat with Carl Schleaf and Frank Collings in a coffee session Tuesday morning. We listened as Carl let the first hint of the story drop. He told how he had gone to Jim's house to get

him early one morning last year, so that the two of them could go out hunting. As Jim came toward the car, his wife came running out after him with a lunch box he had forgotten.

"What in the world is your wife doing up at this time?" Carl asked.

"Why, she had to get up to get my breakfast", Jim casually answered.

Jim says she has always done this . . . all he has to do is set the alarm when he goes to bed, and when he is awakened, everything is ready. "She is just one of those women who believes her husband should fish and hunt," he said. When asked just what you had to do to get a woman to do this he said, "Well maybe you should marry a rancher's daughter."

Carl had another idea . . . he said it would probably take dynamite.

And Frank had his own ideas on the subject too. He thought that perhaps Mrs. Bleakly was the only woman in the city, or county for that matter, that would do such a nice thing for her husband.

In talking with other sportsmen, we have yet to find one who has ever had this happen to him. For that matter, most of them claim that for the nine or ten or eleven "fantastic years" of their married life, there have been few mornings that they have had breakfast with their wife.

Most of them will stand up and tell how wonderful their wife is . . . a good housekeeper, good cook, has lunch and dinner ready on time, a good mother . . . but for some strange reason they just don't get up and get breakfast for a fellow when he's going hunting or fishing

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### FORESTERS FALL, BUCK AND SKID UNDER DURING OCTOBER MEETING

By John Madson  
Education Assistant

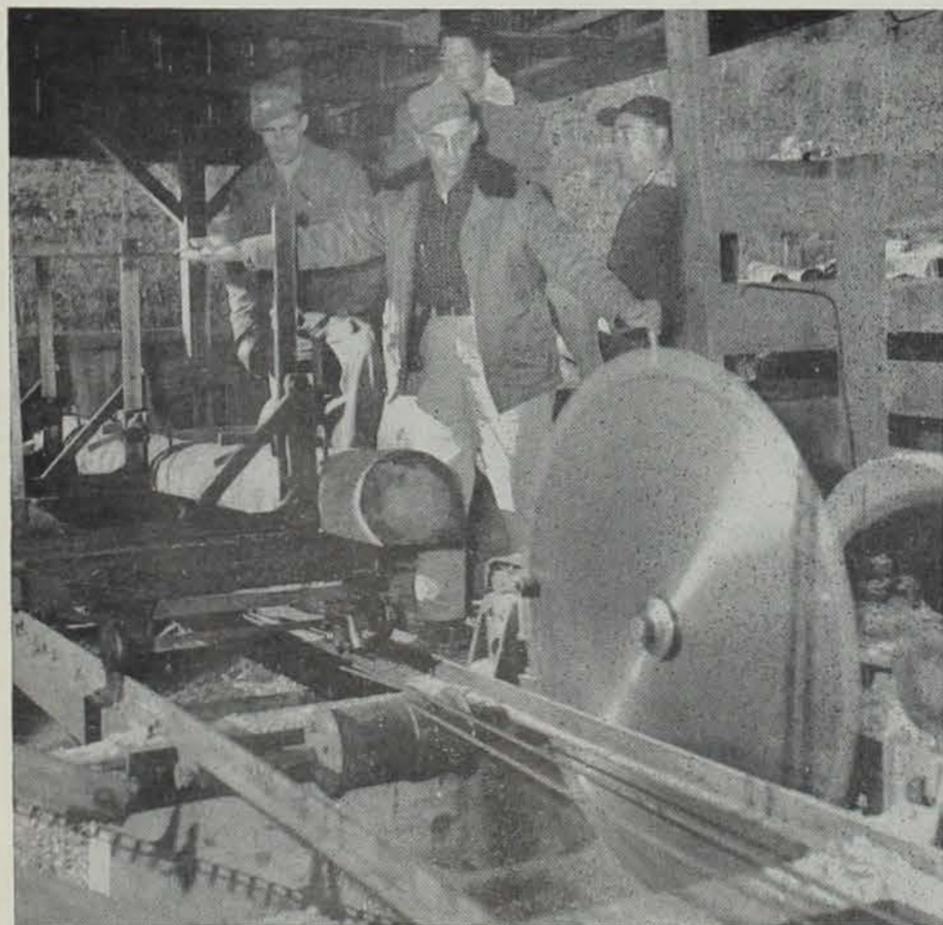
Don't let that title throw you. Iowa foresters aren't having St. Vitus dance. *Fall* simply means cutting down a tree; *bucking* is working it up into logs; and *skidding under* involves hauling the logs to the sawmill.

In a late October meeting in the Yellow River State Forest near McGregor, 10 Iowa foresters took to the woods and felled, bucked and skidded under for five days. Called

by Mans Ellerhoff, the Conservation Commission's Superintendent of Forestry, the meeting was a refresher school in timber management methods. During the 5-day school, the men cruised timber, selected harvestable trees, estimated the board feet they contained, felled them, and hauled the logs to the Paint Creek sawmill. The trees were there transformed into lumber and the foresters had a chance to check their early estimates against the board feet in the final product.

The course involved the latest in milling, marketing and timber management methods, which will be taken home by Conservation Commission farm foresters for use in their local programs. These foresters are specialists working closely with farmers and advising them on correct timber harvest, cutting, and marketing practices.

The meeting also served as an outdoor seminar of shortcuts and special methods that have been worked out by the individual foresters.



Farm forester Allan Allyn tries his hand at the Paint Creek sawmill. Part of the farm forester's job is advising farmers how to get the most marketable or usable lumber out of a log.



Milo Peterson (left), Yellow River Forester, and Carl Anderson, Burlington Ordnance Plant Forester, scale a fresh plank. They had already estimated total board feet in the tree, and measured finished lumber to see if they were right. They were.

## Wardens Tales

Shop Talk from the Field

Late last summer, long before the pheasant season took off, Conservation Officers Ben Davis and Guy Krall were patrolling an area in northern Iowa.

When they heard a gunshot in a nearby section of land, they drove over to investigate, and found a car parked in a hayfield. The officers parked their car beside the vehicle and walked ahead to consult the shooter, who was seen in the distance returning to his car.

Although the man vehemently denied that he was pheasant hunting, Davis had a hunch that he had seen the gunner drop something beside a distant fence line. Just to be certain the officer hiked down the fence line and eventually found a freshly-killed pheasant.

In the meantime the hunter, cleared of all but the faintest suspicion, had sprinted to his car. The engine roared to life as the hunter wheeled his car in a circle and headed for the road and escape. At that exact moment the car ran out of gas.

When Davis and Krall reached the car the violator was slumped over the wheel, almost in tears.

*Moral: Next to being honest, having plenty of gas is the best policy.*



A clear case of housebreaking, but Officer Jim Becker turned the culprit loose.

Jim Becker, Conservation Officer for Buchanan and Delaware counties, was called in recently on a weird case of housebreaking.

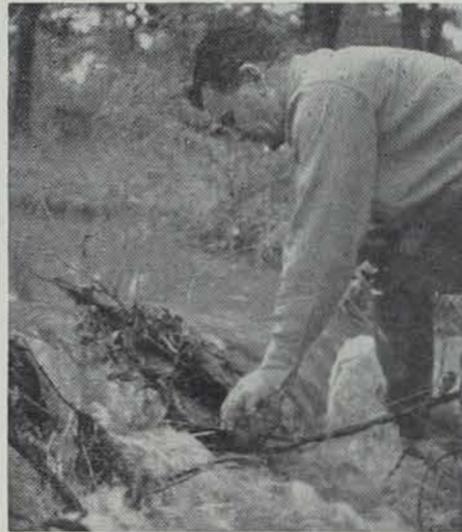
An Independence housewife, Mrs. Robert Titworth, heard noises in her home like something banging against a wall.

Several trips to the basement failed to reveal anything, but each time she returned upstairs the noises began again. Then one of her children ran downstairs and reported a "pigeon on the sleeping porch." That pigeon turned out to be a hen pheasant.

The bird had entered the porch by flying into a screen window with such force that it pulled the

nails out of the frame. After landing on the porch the bird couldn't find its way out because the screen had fallen back against the frame.

Becker was notified, and found that the bird had only a few scratches around its head. He caught the pheasant, released it on the outskirts of Independence, and restored peace to the Titworth household.



Ashby reported that some of the stones in the beaver dam weighed over 20 pounds.

Wes Ashby, Conservation Officer at Fayette, writes:

"In this game of conservation, we are continually learning something new about the habits and activities of the creatures of the wild, and frequently some of the things they do and the resourcefulness they display borders on human ranges of intelligence.

"Recently, while patrolling the upper reaches of the Volga River, I came upon a new beaver dam about three feet high and 50 feet long. In this particular area there are plenty of hardwoods—oak, ash, hackberry and hickory—but a scarcity of cottonwood, willow and soft maple. Beavers do not usually use hardwoods to any extent for construction and scarcely at all for food.

"So these beavers had become stonemasons and used stones for approximately one-third of their dam, securing their masonry with mud and sticks for mortar. Some of the limestone rocks used must weigh 20 to 30 pounds and are placed two feet above the stream bed.

"I have seen dozens of beaver dams before but have never seen or heard of rocks being used in the construction. The stone slabs in this dam were in plentiful supply in the river bed, but some certainly had to be moved several feet. Local residents have since told me that they have seen similar dams in this area."

The food of the crayfish consists mostly of the flesh of dead animals lying on the bottom. In addition they prey upon any live animal that they can catch and hold. These may include snails, tadpoles, insects, and even small fish. Neither are they adverse to eating one another.—H.H.

## BRE'R TOAD'S SECRET WEAPON

John Madson  
Education Assistant

An old hop toad isn't a very mean customer. He doesn't have much in the way of muscles, almost nothing in the tooth and claw line, and isn't very bright. Except for being the ugliest thing in sight, he doesn't bother anything but bugs.

He never looks for trouble, but when it comes he has several ways of handling it. One: he can puff up with air in order to prevent being swallowed by certain toad-eating snakes. But this doesn't always help much, since some reptiles like the hog-nosed snakes have special teeth that can prick Bre'r Toad's balloon and deflate him to swallowing size.

He can also feign death, playing possum with the best of them. This isn't so good either, for many critters like dead things to eat, including dead toads. Or, the toad may eject urine, but some of the mammals that are supposed to be offended don't really mind much.

So, when things look blackest and everything else fails, he still has his secret weapon in the warts that stud his back and sides.

These warts are actually small poison glands. When a toad's in trouble he can contract the muscle fibres in these small glands and exude a milky venom that is liquid fire to the mucus membranes of

the mouths and eyes of most creatures, including man. We can't feel its effects on our skin, but don't ever pick a toad up in your mouth!

This poison, contained in the largest quantity in the big parotoid glands just behind the head, can cause temporary blindness in the eyes of man and animal. But it can't cause warts. Warts are correlated with many conditions, including dietary deficiencies, but never with a toad's skin.

Our most common toad, the American toad or *Bufo americanus*, is of fairly small size and has only a small amount of this poison at its command. Even so, a garden toad can cause a small dog or other animal to froth at the mouth or even vomit. Down Mexico way there is a giant toad, *Bufo marinus*, that may measure 8½ inches from stem to stern, and it's poison. It has been known to kill and paralyze dogs. Even men handle it with great care.

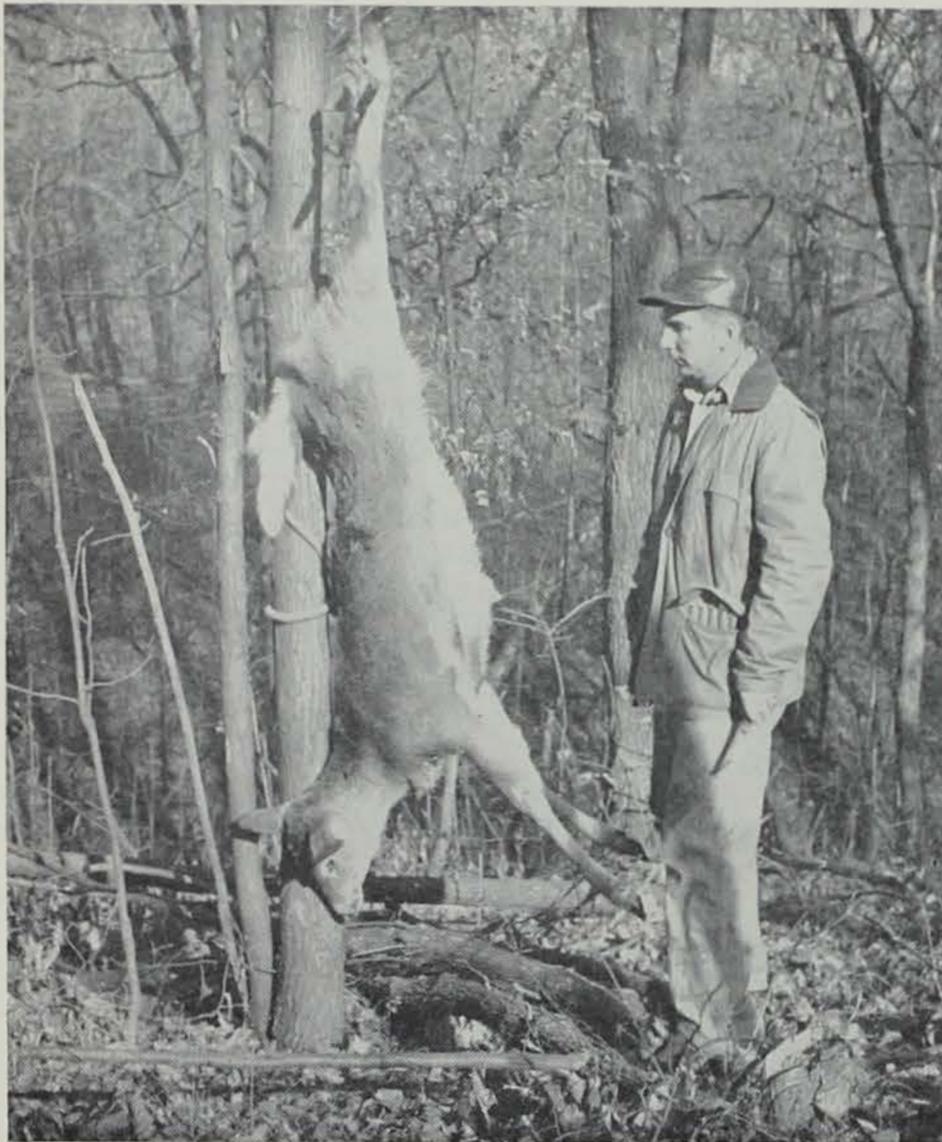
The venom of this enormous toad has been used for centuries by South American Indians as poison for arrow tips. Two Johns Hopkins University scientists in 1912 knew of this deadliness as arrow poison, but were even more interested in various drug properties of the toad venom.

Toad skins have long been used by the Chinese for various diseases, and as long ago as 1672 powdered toad was recommended by European druggists for nosebleeds, dropsy and other ailments.

The two Johns Hopkins scientists

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Prompt field dressing can mean the difference between prime venison and tainted deer meat. Once opened, the body cavity of a deer should be cooled quickly, and a carcass should never ride on a car fender near a hot engine.

## Deer Hunting . . .

(Continued from page 177)

hunt. Before you drag a deer anywhere, you should probably kill it—

### Know Hunting Grounds

Before next month's hunt, even in heavily settled Iowa, it might be a good idea to consult a contour map or a detailed plat map of your hunting area. Plat maps of counties are available from the Highway Commission at Ames at low cost and often come in handy. They show every small stream and branch, as well as back country roads. Since some of our best deer hunting is along stream bottoms and bottomland fields it's well to know the watercourses.

Get well acquainted with your prospective deer hunting area. If



A still hunter, screened by trees and with a good view of the valley, waits for moving hunters to stir up the deer.

possible, visit the area a few times before the season to get the lay of the land, talk to landowners and conservation officers. Scout for deer signs such as nibbled twigs, bruised trees where bucks have been polishing their antlers, and tracks on sandbars and deer crossings. If there's any snow late this month your job will be greatly simplified. And look over your home county before going too far afield. There are some deer in every Iowa county and all are open to hunting this year. Several hunts near home in familiar country may be much more productive than one or two maximum effort hunts in a "deer county" where you're a stranger.

### Trailing Tips

The actual hunt should be one of great caution and patience. Deer can detect a moving man far easier than a man can see a moving deer. Good deerhunters often still-hunt; sometimes sitting for hours until deer are stirred up by moving hunters who never see them. Try it. Take a vantage point where you control the terrain and just stay put, constantly vigilant.

The experts claim that while walk-hunting, you should move slowly and hunt deliberately. Some old Indian once said (we presume it was an old Indian) that "If you move at all, you go too fast." Walk with painful slowness, stopping frequently and for long periods to carefully study the landscape. You're not really looking for a deer; you're seeking a patch of

gray, a leg, an antler tine, or the curve of a hunch. Something like squirrel hunting, when you may watch for a fluff of orange tail or two ears and the top of a head. Hunt with infinite care and don't be misled by opinions that Iowa deer are as tame as calves. They aren't. Not during the hunting season.

Deer often circle when jumped, and rarely hold to a straight course. While tracking a deer in snow, some experienced hunters advise keeping to one side of his trail—hunting in wide loops and cutting back to the trail to see if you're still following it. By hunting such a parallel course a hundred yards or so to the side of the deer trail and stopping to look ahead, to the sides, and behind you, you may beat the deer at his own game. You may even catch him doubling back.

Trailing deer is an art, and can only be learned by long experience. We don't know much about it, except that it's not good to walk directly in a fresh trail. Even a running deer will halt to check his back trail, and can easily see a hunter following him.

### The Shooting

If you never have before, check your shotgun's performance with rifled slugs before going hunting. Do it on paper, firing at least a dozen rounds to see how your gun handles this unusual fodder. Your whole hunt will hinge on your weapon's performance, so know what it's going to do and how it places rifled slugs.

Rifled slugs are not rifle-accurate, and shooting at over 100 yards is being a little optimistic. And although a rifled slug has tremendous killing power, a wide shot placed too far back in a deer will probably mean a crippled animal. A wild deer has great vitality and shots should be kept forward if at all possible. A rifled slug in the "boiler room" or chest cavity of a

deer will have a lightning effect, but a wound in the paunch may just spur the animal to greater effort. Aim at a specific spot in the deer's chest region, and not just at the entire animal.

If you do wound the deer, take it easy and wait at least 15 minutes before trailing him. If not pressed too closely, the deer will usually lie down and stiffen up. On snow the trail will be easily followed but this may be tough on bare ground. Some expert deer hunters say that if you lose the trail of a wounded deer, and that if everything else fails, wait a while and then head for the nearest water. There's a chance that the deer did too.

### Handling Your Deer

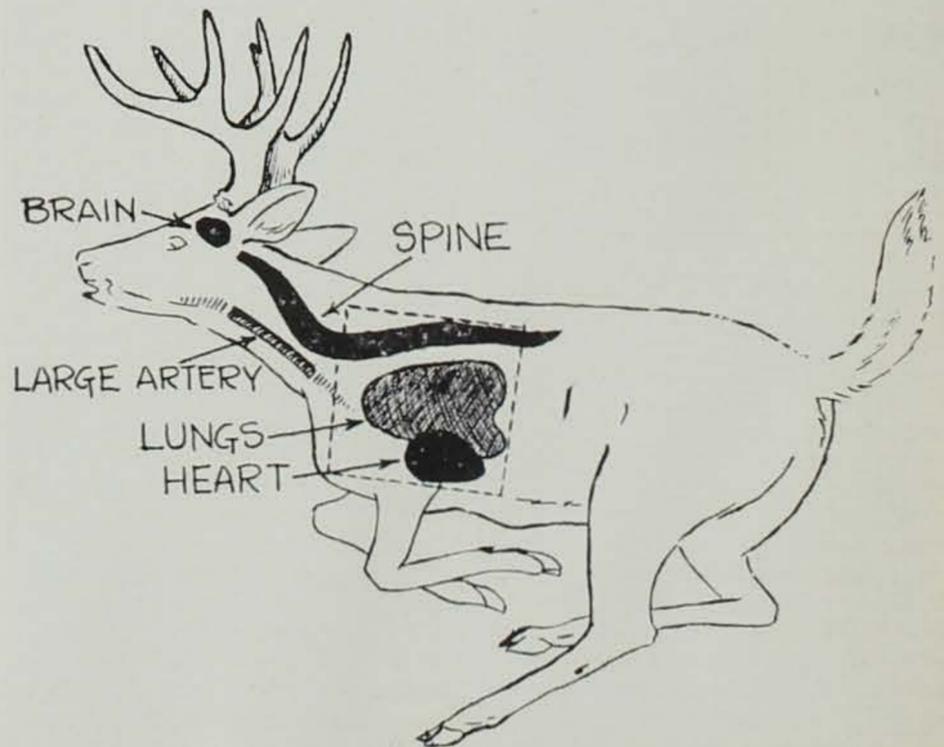
It isn't necessary to "stick" a deer and bleed it if you plan to field-dress the animal. To hog-dress a deer you can either turn it over on its back, head up-hill, or hang it in a tree with one of those little block and tackles made for the purpose. Make an incision from the back of the breastbone to the crotch. Be careful not to cut into the innards. With the belly opened, carefully free the stomach and cut it off at both ends. Some hunters completely cut out the anus in the field; others do it later. Lungs may be removed by cutting the trachea, slitting the diaphragm, and pulling the lungs out of the chest cavity. Always remove the genitals of a buck deer as soon as possible.

Save the liver and heart; fresh deer liver is delicious.

Two hunters camped near McGregor last season cooked a slice of liver a couple of hours after killing their young buck. One slice of liver led to another. They ate the entire liver at one sitting and when last seen were in Lansing trying to cadge more from other hunters.

After field-dressing, body heat should be gotten out of the carcass quickly. Some hunters prop the

(Continued on page 184)



The vital areas of a deer. Most hunters prefer to shoot for the chest cavity, here enclosed by dotted line, and often referred to as the "boiler room".

After Encyclopedia of Hunting.



Jim Sherman Photo.

According to the survey, a man can't qualify as a good all-around shot unless he can handle the short gun. With his revolver score of 91, Conservation Officer Lloyd Huff qualifies.

**All-Around Shot . . .**

(Continued from page 177)

your remarks by adding with a shotgun and/or rifle, etc., if you want to be absolutely correct.

Recently a number of sportsmen were interviewed on what constitutes a really GOOD all-around shot. These men had wide experience in every phase of the shooting sports, and it was surprising to find that several did not consider themselves capable of meeting the requirements they themselves suggested as qualifications for the term. Known deficiency in at least one phase of shooting caused them to eliminate themselves from consideration, yet all were pretty well in accord when it came to outlining what constitutes a GOOD all-around shot.

The consensus of opinion of this group was that if a man can consistently make the following scores, he is well qualified to be called a GOOD all-around shot at targets:

- Traps (16 yards)..... 46x 50
- Skeet (all bore, 12, 16 and 20).... 46x 50
- Skeet (28 or 410 gauge)..... 42x 50
- Rifle:**
- Small bore (Dewar course, prone, 20 shots at 50 yards, 20 shots at 100 yards).....390x400
- 30 Caliber:**
- Off hand at 200 yards..... 44x 50
- Rapid fire at 200 yards (standing to sitting) ..... 46x 50
- Pistol:**
- Slow fire at 50 yards..... 81x100
- Time fire at 25 yards..... 92x100
- Rapid fire at 25 yards..... 88x100

This is a pretty good-sized order, but then we are talking about a GOOD all-around shot, at targets.

When it comes to upland game and waterfowl shooting, there is no definite yardstick for scoring. With the exception of duck and goose shooting, the gunner is seldom set and every shot is different. However, this group of experienced field shooters were in general agreement on the following percentages for the GOOD all-around field shot:

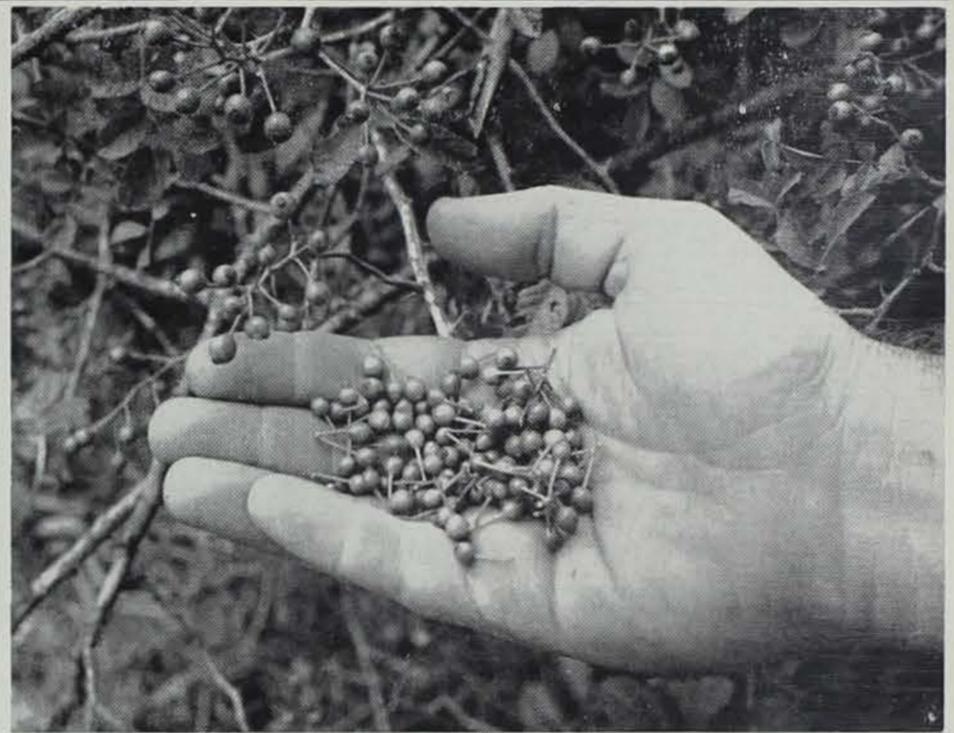
- At quail .....50%
- At pheasants .....70%
- At grouse .....35%
- At woodcock .....50%
- At ducks (on pass or over tall timber).....50%
- (over decoys or jump shooting) .....75%

No effort was made to arrive at percentages in woodchuck, other varmint or deer shooting. It was believed that the rifle shooter who could qualify as outlined above could get his share of both small and large four-footed game. If the gunner could qualify with the above scores and percentages, this



Jim Sherman Photo.

If you don't measure up to wing-shooting requirements, sharpen your shooting eye on crows—tough, smart, tricky targets.



Jim Sherman Photo

Multiflora rose hips are a fine wildlife food in winter, a time when other foods may be scarce. The stockproof hedges also furnish wildlife cover and escape from weather and enemies.

**GROWING YOUR OWN FARM FENCE**

**Paul Leaverton**  
Superintendent of Game

group expressed itself as willing to doff their hats and call him a GOOD all-around shot.

The fellow who rates this classification is a really versatile gunner. He is not likely to win many target shooting championships, except perhaps in the Class title events and when the hot shots fall down. But he will have no need to be ashamed of his shooting in any company, will be able to make it interesting for the best of them, and it's a safe bet that he'll get his fair share of game in the field. Rate yourself and see if you stack up as a GOOD all-around shot.—*Remington Arms Company.*

Because of the many advantages over ordinary wire fences, multiflora rose for living farm fence is growing in popularity among Iowa farmers. Rose seedlings, when planted 6 to 8 inches apart, grow to become a dense, thorny hedge fence 6 to 8 feet tall and impervious to livestock.

Most of these fences have been started from seedlings purchased from the State Forest Nursery; small plants that were started from seed gathered from established farm fences and planted in October or November.

Since multiflora rose fences are well established and growing in every county, it's an easy matter to gather a few seeds for your own living farm fence.

Multiflora rose fruit turns red around the first of October. Each red berry, or hip, contains about a dozen seeds and a few handfuls of these berries may produce several thousand seeds. A gallon of hips may yield up to a pound of seed, and there are 70,000 seeds in a pound.

There are several methods of separating seeds from pulp. If only a few seeds are required you can rub them out on a screen. The best way to extract the seeds is to soak the berries in water for about 24 hours. Drain off most of the water and mash the fruits with a blunt stick until most of the seeds have separated from the pulp. Add more water and drain off the top. The good seeds settle to the bottom of the container and may then be removed, dried and planted in the fall. The seeds must over-winter in the ground in order to insure proper germination.

**The Seed Bed**

For each thousand seeds, prepare a bed 3 feet wide and 10 feet long.

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## Questions . . .

(Continued from page 177)

flected in license sales alone. The Iowa part of the survey is being conducted to find out, statistically, just what our sportsmen are doing. With such information available the Conservation Commission can better evaluate its programs and keep the customers happier.

The survey will cover the calendar year of 1955 and will probably be taken from next January through April or May. The final results should be analyzed, tabulated and ready for release by June.

### Questioning

Questions will be asked of randomly-selected Iowans and estimates will be made of our total hunting, fishing and outdoor activities. These questions may cover sums spent on equipment, what species of fish and game were pursued, and where and how.

Husbands won't be put on the spot during the survey since they won't be queried in the presence of their wives. The specific questions to be used will be held confidential by the company and will not become public until results are published.

Crossley Surveys has already held test sampling on a national basis and is "very gratified" at the results. Nationally, the survey is expected to be within 5 per cent accurate and to within 10 per cent accurate on a state level. The variation in accuracy is due to the larger sample in the national survey.

For the first time, a full-scale attempt is being made to learn something of the activities and expenditures of sportsmen, and the results may be staggering. Hawk-eye sportsmen are urged to give careful, considered answers, and to be completely honest even when the questions get around to fishing success.

## Trophy . . .

(Continued from page 179)

would cook up so tough you couldn't stick a fork in the gravy. Who believes tender venison is the main object of a deer hunt nowadays?

We need to make a point here. While it's generally true that older bucks grow larger antlers, it's also true that *better-fed* bucks grow larger antlers.

By now you've guessed that the number of points on an antler does not tell a buck's age. In fact, we know that young bucks commonly grow 6 to 8 points on their first set of antlers, and a few even produce 10 or 12. Dean Murphy, Missouri Conservation Commission biologist, examined the records from deer-checking stations and came up with the evidence that 63 per cent of yearling deer have three points or more on their first set of antlers.

Young animals grow excellent antlers, and this means more trophy deer for hunters—so long as the deer are well-fed. So one



Jim Sherman Photo.

One of our ugliest animals, the common toad is also one of the most harmless and beneficial. Will be recruited in man's fight against disease?

aim of deer hunting regulations is to keep the herd small enough to keep it well-fed.

Some hunters, in their zest for trophies, judge their deer hunt a complete failure if a wise buck escapes them. Well, a mounted head does make a proud trophy, yet a big buck gives the woods a glamour and mystery which is lost when he is gone. Let him go and there's always the promise of another hunt; another set of antlers will begin to grow next spring; the new trophy may be even larger.—*Missouri Conservationist*.

## Farm Fence . . .

(Continued from page 183)

There are 1,000 seeds in a level tablespoonful.

Plant in rows 9 inches apart and about 40 seeds per foot. Cover with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch of soil or  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of sand. Sand does not pack or bake. Add 6 inches of straw mulch, which will prevent the seeds from coming up too early in the spring and protect them from a late freeze.

Next spring, lift the straw mulch occasionally. As soon as young plants begin pushing through the soil remove most of the mulch, leaving only a thin layer that the plants can penetrate without smothering. Keep the plants free from weeds all summer.

Allow them to remain in the seed bed all winter, and the following spring transplant them to a permanent site.

In transplanting, cut the tops back 4 inches above the ground and fertilize with a complete fertilizer at the rate of 300 pounds per acre. Protect the young fence from weeds and livestock for two years. By the third year the fence should turn back livestock and within 5 years it will be well established.

Local conservation officers and soil conservationists can direct you to rose fences in your area from which you can obtain seed. This method of growing your own multi-flora rose fence may take a little time but it's worth it. It will beautify your farm, provide protection and nesting cover for song birds and game and serve as an efficient fence.

## Secret Weapon . . .

(Continued from page 181)

tists, John Abel and David Macht, began working with excretions of the giant toad and isolated two important principles. One was a drug similar to those once used to stop bleeding and treat shock. The other was "bufagin", a substance whose properties were similar to those of digitalis, a drug long used for treating heart and other disorders.

Modern workers with the National Heart Institute have continued these old investigations of toad venom with newer and better equipment. According to Dr. Charles Bogert, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians of the American Museum of Natural History, these new investigations have uncovered still another valuable substance in toad venom. It is a substance identical to *serotonin*, a material only recently found to be in human blood.

This substance is evidently involved in the mechanism that controls bleeding in the human body. Before discovering the material in toad venom, only tiny quantities of serotonin had been isolated from hundreds of tons of beef blood. Bogert states that "in human beings it is held captive in the colorless discs in the blood called 'platelets', but when injury ruptures the platelets this serotonin is released in minute quantities and causes the walls of the blood vessels to contract."

For the first time, serotonin is being made available in large quantities from venom of the giant toad, and is being used with radioactive substances to determine if it is involved in body processes that are upset when human disease occurs.

In spite of his ugliness, the toad has always been an ally in man's fight against insects. But it's startling to consider that his milky venom—the A-Bomb of the toad world—may someday be used in man's fight against disease.

Crayfish are more active at night than during daylight.—H.H.

## Deer Hunting . . .

(Continued from page 182)

body cavity open to cool it and no experienced hunter will transport a fresh carcass on a car fender next to the hot engine. Putting the deer into a car trunk isn't bad in cold weather, but a cartop carrier is best of all. Cover the carcass with a tarp to keep it clean. Most hunters also agree that venison should be hung for several days before it is frozen or processed, and that it is not at its best when fresh. It may be hung in a closed garage, away from kids and pets, or in any cool, protected place. (And speaking of processing—if you have your deer handled in a locker, try getting some of the venison chipped and cured, like chipped beef. It's out of this world.)

One other minor point. We're told that the boys in the traditional deer states follow a definite custom in claiming ownership of a deer. The law of the woods in these areas is that the last man to put a slug in a deer, regardless of who jumped it and shot first, is the man who claims the deer. Even though it may be a wounded deer that someone is trailing, the man who finally drops it is the man who keeps it. Right or wrong, that's the way they do it in many localities.

Well, this has been a sort of skimpy treatment, but we hope it's of some help. Don't forget the checking stations; the biologists would like to check your deer's age and weight for their records. Wear plenty of red, ask the farmer first, and be careful of those rifled slugs.

Good hunting.

## Greater Love . . .

(Continued from page 180)

at 3:30 or 4:00 in the morning.

Jim was a bit afraid that maybe it should all be kept quiet . . . that if something were said about his good fortune it might upset the arrangement.

"No," said the others, "That woman should be given some credit . . . you can't hardly find them no more."

So, fellows, you might clip this little article out and take it home with you . . . just to prove that such a thing can happen . . . and does happen right here in Cherokee.—*Cherokee Courier*.

The ideal winter storage location for your boat is a well-ventilated garage or other shelter. If you store in a too-dry place, damage can result.

Never store a boat in a confined furnace room or in your basement close to the furnace. If the basement seems your best bet, pick out the best ventilated spot with the least dryness or dampness and store away from any heat or water sources.—*The Fisherman*.

Wolves may have as many as 12 young at a time, while its smaller cousin, the coyotes, often has 14 young at one birth.—H.H.