

31 CONSERVATION BILLS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE

Of 80 bills affecting conservation introduced in the recent session of the Legislature, 31 passed and 15 have been signed by the Governor, and the most important measures have yet to receive the final action needed to make them law.

Only six of the 30 Senate bills on conservation matters reached the Governor's desk. Three that have been signed make December 1 to March 10 the only closed season for commercial fishing in Michigan waters of lower Detroit River and Lake Erie; classify fur-bearing animals as domestic animals; and authorize the conservation director to

appoint a deputy to serve for him on the stream control commission.

Awaiting the Governor's signature are three other Senate measures that would amend various sections of the state land office act; amend the general property tax law; and authorize drain commissioners to maintain normal levels of inland lakes.

Twenty-five of the 60 House bills affecting conservation passed, and of these 12 have been signed. These 12 provide, among other things, for: licensing private trout ponds; extending valley opening season in Lakes Huron and St. Clair; authorizing the opening of connecting waters; a \$50 license for non-resident fur dealers; retention by private agencies of five cents of each hunting license fee; assessment of benefited property owners to maintain inland lake levels; authorizing opening of some state parks to hunting; discretionary power to regulate close netting; bountying by counties of crows at 10 cents and starlings at three cents each.

Among the 13 House bills awaiting printing and signature are conservation department authority measures and the more significant changes in game and fish laws. House bills 19 and 24 both deal extensively with the game law, and since their provisions conflict, the department has indicated a preference for bill No. 24, which would give the governor's provisions will have precedence. Deer season details are among the points still uncertain.

Most of the remaining 35 bills died in House committees. Subjects they concerned included the water code, pollution, deer feeding, Sunday hunting, and topographic mapping.



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HYBRID GROUSE SEEN

In his investigation of sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken in Cusino state game area, George A. Ammann of the conservation department game division has observed one hybrid that had the long neck tufts and tail of a prairie chicken and the spotted breast of a sharp-tail.

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ALL ARE WELCOME

HAIR-RAISING EXPERIENCES

By VIC YARDMAN (Associated Newspapers) WNU Service.

"O. H. THERE'S been times," Jud Billings said, "when I've seen real hair-raising experiences. There's been times, and there still are."

He picked up his cigarette, and I held my breath. It seemed that at last my repeated efforts to get a story from Jud were to be rewarded. He is a congenial person but inclined to be reticent and modest. At times, in fact, he gives the impression of being annoyed at my constant questioning.

"It wasn't more dangerous back in the early days? Wasn't the job of being sheriff more exciting?" I asked him.

"A trifle," Jud admitted. "There's still as much danger as an inch-shootin' an' cattle stealin' an' crime in general going on right now, as there ever was. There always has been a war against rustlers in the West, and it looks like there always will be. 'Tody rustlin' is conducted on a scientific basis. Motor trucks and the like. We have to be a bit more careful about shootin' a man these days, but it's the same old job. In the early days we just shot 'em dead and wondered whether they were guilty or not afterward."

"You're collected once—musta been 20 years ago—when this here county was fair full with rustlers. Not a rancher but what was reportin' losses weekly. An' not a one either here or there held the job and didn't stop a bullet. I was plumb fed up with this rustlin' business."

"It was then that I was elected sheriff. I was just young enough to think I could hold the job and not stop a bullet. I was plumb fed up with this rustlin' business."

"That story I just told you," he said at last, "is good enough for any man. Take it or leave it. As for my personal hair-raising experiences, I've pulled 'em out of my eyes again and stretched out lazily—" "Gee maybe I ain't had so many. Men who have hair-raising adventures have 'em because of some foolish mistake they make, or because they overlook doing something plumb reasonable, an' a feller ain't overanxious to talk about them ippes."

Clouds, Like Misfortune, Taken Too Seriously

Jud and I were taking pictures, at least I was. Jud was furnishing the pictures. I complained about the arrangement of the clouds; they didn't just suit me.

Jud grinned a sort of puckerish grin, and said, "If you don't like the way the clouds are fixed, why don't you push them around?"

It was an idea. It couldn't be done so far as picture-taking was concerned, but it might be possible in a lot of other matters.

"Some of our days are made dark by clouds of misfortune, trouble and doubt and those are the kind of clouds that can be pushed around. It isn't particularly difficult to push them aside and let the sunshine in, and even though it may rain there is often a rainbow, a rainbow of hope for the future."

We take clouds too seriously; both kinds of clouds, those in the sky and those that darken our lives. The kind is permanent. They are here today and gone tomorrow, and those which darken our lives can be pushed around.

"Clouds have their values, too. It is more than likely that the warmth and light of the sun would be little appreciated if it wasn't for the clouds. Anyway, they furnish a contrast, and if one doesn't like them, they can follow the advice of the old Negro melody. "Push dem clouds away."

Meat Rich in Vitamins

Biggest health news in years is that meat is so generously rich in vitamins.

Vitamins naturally have been in meat all the time, health authorities admit, but it's only through the realization that the public that the public learns how much vitamin protection there is in meat, particularly the vitamin B group, including vitamin B-1 (known as thiamine) which promotes growth, helps the body to use carbohydrates, and stimulates the appetite.

Two other "hidden virtues" of meat are a growth stimulating and a blood purifier which protect against nervous disorders, and the pellagra-preventive vitamin which is another of the vitamin B's.

In a dispute in Cornwall, England, over the ownership of Jenny, a heifer, C. H. Stolman, one of the claimants, called Jenny as a witness.

"When it saw its old cowman, Fred Jewell, five six weeks it had once demonstrated its affection by putting its forelegs over his shoulders. The judge said the cow had been the case. He had never seen a cow do a trick like that before."



"First I visited every rancher in the county who had been losin' stock, and explained what I intended to do."

up with this rustlin' business, I had having lost more than 50 steers my one day in this here county had been lamed up with a rustler's bullet.

"I was plumb determined to exterminate them cow thieves once an' for all. More than once I was fixin' to shoot 'em. But I was plumb collecting evidence an' information regarding the thieves."

"After awhile I picked up enough facts to pin the leadership of the rustlin' on one Danny Kilroy. Danny was a desperado of the worst sort, greased lightning on the draw, and a crack shot."

"And then a little later I learned that the main hangout of Danny and his gang was a place called Trail's End, which wasn't nothin' more or less than a cluster of miserable shacks stuck on the desert. The rustlers drove their stolen stock to Trail's End where they were transferred to a bunch of drivers, who herded the cattle over the line and sold them in Mexico."

"I got all the facts, then began to make plans. First I visited every rancher in the county who had been losin' stock, and explained what I intended to do. I was plumb determined to exterminate 'em but what was willing and eager to fall in with my proposition."

"We gathered one night out at my dad's ranch, which place was located at the southern end of the county, nearest to Trail's End. There were 20 of us, not including myself and dad. Personally I carried two holstered guns and one in my waistband. I also had a Winchester rifle in a saddle holster. The others were equally well armed."

"We started out about midnight, rain' for vengeance. It was the big thing of our lives. There I was with a younger, ridin' at the head of a band of men, some of whom had dangled me from their knees. It was conquest. The way they had accepted me as their leader, looked to me for orders, an' obeyed 'em without a question."

"On the day previous the rustlers had made off with the herd of stolen cattle, an' it was this herd we was trailin'. We came up with it just before daylight. Bedded down they were, with half a dozen riders camped nearby."

"Instead of attacking at once we surrounded the camp, and waited. At the first flush of dawn I peeked from behind a boulder and saw the riders get up an' getting ready to start. I threw down on one of 'em with my rifle and pulled trigger. It was the signal for the others. There was a general confusion. I was plumb no more was needed. The entire set of rustlers was dead before they had time to grab a gun."

"We didn't wait to bury 'em. Two of our boys headed the herd

back home an' the rest of us rode toward Trail's End. It must have been about 6 a. m. when we arrived. We started at the head of the street and rode to the other end an' shootin' us we rode. Then we turned an' rode back again, shootin' some more."

"The town was taken completely by surprise. During those first two hours we shot and killed at least 10 men and wounded half a dozen more. After that we dismounted and went through every miserable building in sight. The rustlers put up a game fight, but we hunted 'em in less than an hour there wasn't a man left as far as we could see. An' so we set fire to the town and drew off to watch the dang place burn."

"Personally I had the pleasure of shootin' Danny Kilroy. Him an' me in the barroom of the town's only saloon just before the boys set fire to the place. Sure, I was scared! Danny had a reputation for being the fastest jigger with a gun in the country. It was just luck I saw him first and hit him before he could get a word out. I sat for a moment or two studyin' the under part of his face. At last I said, "Jud, you're a damn hero!"

"I just was on his feet in an instant, eyes ablaze."

"Liar! You callin' me a liar! Say, that's a lighnin' word out here! If you were at a good end of mine I'd—"

"Sit down and cool off," I interrupted calmly. "You're not scaring me a bit. That story isn't true, and you know it. You're just trying to be entertaining."

"Jud grinned sheepishly and eased back into his chair."

"I'm ready to admit," I continued, grinning myself, "that you've experienced a good many adventures, probably more thrilling than the one you just concocted for my benefit. But why not stick to the truth? Certainly in 20 years as sheriff you must have had some hair-raising experiences?"

Jud looked at me, squinted out into Welles's main street, sighed, rolled himself a cigarette and lit it. Plainly the mood for story telling had passed.

"That story I just told you," he said at last, "is good enough for any man. Take it or leave it. As for my personal hair-raising experiences, I've pulled 'em out of my eyes again and stretched out lazily—" "Gee maybe I ain't had so many. Men who have hair-raising adventures have 'em because of some foolish mistake they make, or because they overlook doing something plumb reasonable, an' a feller ain't overanxious to talk about them ippes."

TENTS SPRING UP AT FORT CUSTER FOR ROTC CADETS

Scores of tents springing up at Fort Custer mark the impending arrival of 669 R.O.T.C. cadets and their instructors from universities and colleges throughout Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Bringing 90 horses and most of their equipment with them, the future officers will enter six weeks of intensive summer training, beginning June 19. Troops for instruction will be drawn from the 5th Division, following its return to Fort Custer in July. Arms of the service to be covered by the R.O.T.C. school will be infantry, cavalry, engineering corps, and signal corps.

Commanding the construction will be Francis M. Brannan, who has been on R.O.T.C. duty at the University of Michigan, and Lieut. Col. Bryant E. Moore, who has been on similar duty at the University of Illinois, have arrived already to supervise preparations for the camp.

In line with the training of selectees to man an expanding Army, the R.O.T.C. school for future officers to be held at Fort Custer is a vital step in the fulfillment of the new national defense program and the building of an efficient national Army.

GAS WELLS WORK IN REVERSE—GAS GOES DOWN

Usual methods of handling natural gas are operating in reverse in Austin township, Mecosta county, where gas is now being pumped down into the ground instead of being taken from it.

To prevent pressure abandonment of gas wells in Austin township, surplus gas produced in summer from wells in Lincoln township, Clare county, is being piped to Lansing and stored underground for use during high peak loads in winter months. Twenty million cubic feet of gas was put down in the first month of operations.

Lack of pressure makes it difficult to supply Muskegon and Big Rapids with enough gas from Austin fields in winter when the demand is at peak, making necessary the storage of gas in Lincoln township.

Plans have been made to pipe gas later from other parts of Michigan and from Texas to this pool for storage during summer months. Texas gas could be brought here by extending pipelines from Detroit to the Panhandle state. The additional supply of gas would relieve pressure of the winter peak demand and allow gas to be supplied by Michigan wells to other cities in the state not now receiving it.

An innovation in Michigan, the storing of gas in natural reservoirs is a well established practice in other parts of the United States. Lee S. Miller of the conservation department's geology division explained today.

Seized Illegal Nets Put To Use by U. S. Army

The U. S. Army has use for illegal nets seized by the Michigan department of conservation in its enforcement of commercial fishing regulations in Great Lakes waters. Woven with branches and other materials, some of these nets now serve to camouflage guns and military weapons.

Twine turned over to the army is of a mesh that is illegal in Michigan waters, and so cannot be sold at auction like other confiscated gear, which has been seized only because it was fished illegally.

Many of the small mesh nets are taken from Michigan waters near the state boundary where they have been set illegally by fishermen from states in which such nets are legal.

Last boxes of illegal mesh nets given to the army were sent to Fort Custer.

Fire Fighters Too Efficient For Ranger

CCC forest fire suppression crews of Camp Superior are just a little too efficient for Bernard McTiver, superintendent of Lake Superior state forest.

Fearing frost would damage his sweet garden corn, beans and potatoes, McTiver one night dared recently set fire to some piles of stumps about the garden to keep the frost away. CCC boys across the lake saw the blazes, came over and put them out.

Fire Finally Sighted

A forest fire which burned over 32 acres near Gwinn recently was spotted from a conservation department fire tower located more than 70 miles away. Accurate location of the fire was determined by spot shots from two other towers, each 50 miles distant.

EXTENSIVE LAND STUDY STARTED IN NORTH MICHIGAN

Measuring the usefulness of two to three million acres of grass-and-brush wild land of northern Michigan for grazing by milch cows, beef cattle or sheep is a five-year task which Dee L. Weaver, research assistant at Michigan State College, has mapped after one year's preliminary work in the field.

Weaver is working in cooperation with the state conservation department in the study. Some of the northern lands involved are abandoned farms, but most are pine and hardwood cut-over lands which were so severely or repeatedly burned by forest fires before fire protection became general that grasses and shrubs moved in and now tend to persist in these semi-open areas.

Besides checking on the carrying capacity of the wild grass-lands by observing them for five successive seasons under differing conditions and different methods of grazing, Weaver plans to observe the effects domestic cattle grazing of these lands will have upon deer, grouse and other wildlife.

EERIE NOISES AT LAKE PROVE TO BE "THUNDER-PUMPER"

The mystery of Crawford county's Shupac lake has been exploded.

For several years strange noises have been heard in the marshy area at the southeast end of the lake. Residents of the region around Lovell's reported the eerie sounds. Old timers explained there was seepage from Shupac lake to the lower level of the North Branch of the Au Sable river, and that when the wind was of a certain velocity and the water ran at a certain level, suction in an underground channel made the resonant sounds.

Word of the mystery reached Conservation Officer Lew Dorman, of Grayling, who took the opportunity offered by a creek-channel patrol along the North Branch one evening to investigate. With one of the mystified local residents to identify the sound, he went cautiously to the shore of the lake.

Officer Dorman recognized the sound at its first occurrence but to convince his companion he rowed their boat quietly through the reeds toward the pumping noise. When within a few yards of it, they stood up, saw a long-legged marsh bird, the bittern, bobbing its head up and down as it extended its neck in convulsive jerks to make the noise that gives it the name of "thunder-pumper" and started strange theories about Shupac lake drainage.

Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia, now has its modern water supply that provides sufficient pure water for all purposes.

160 DEER KILLED IN MONTH

Conservation officers of Schoolcraft, Mackinac and Alger counties report more than 160 deer killed in a period of one month. Officers Julius Thorsen of Munising and Alex McLean of Engadine each disposed of 60 dead deer, while Officer Burt Furst of Senece buried 40 carcasses.

The deer is not always the only victim, as at least one deer-car collision this spring—near Grayling, in lower Michigan—is known to have resulted in the death of the motorist also.

RARE LOON CAUGHT

A red-breasted loon caught on a set hook in a period of one month, Officer J. H. Weaver, of the University of Michigan museum at Ann Arbor for mounting. Conservation department ornithologists rate this species of loon a rare transient here. It is an occasional winter visitor in Michigan.

BULL MOOSE SIGHTED

The first moose seen in the conservation department's Escanaba River tract in more than two years was observed recently by a department volunteer. A bull, the animal is believed to be one of the lot released in this game area a few years ago, after being brought from Isle Royale.

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