OUTDOORS

Michigan hare hunt offers challenge, fun



Maybe it was the irresistible smell of fresh, hot pasties that overwhelmed my senses and redirected my internal compass. Yup! That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

There had to

Bill PARKER bad be a good reason to was headed the wrong way, especially considering the fact that I was in the midst of a thick cedar swamp in the Upper Peninsula's Marquette County — a bad place to lace your direction.

While enjoying a snowshot hare hunt with a group of fellow scribes during a recent meeting of the Michigan Outdoor Writer's Association, I decided to head south and try to intercept the

south and try to intercept the

rest of the group.

Now I'm a stickler about carry-Now I'm a sticklor about carrying a compass when vonturing into the outdoors, especially places I've never before visited. In fact, I usually carry two—one for direction, the other for confirmation. I had two compasses with me on this outing, but I was so sure of my direction despite the sunless gray sky I hadn't bothered to check either one.

Hare and the dogs

Hare and the dogs
Under the direction of guide
Ray Woodring and his competent
hengles Lucky, Daisy, Muttsy
and Ernie six of us booted up
snowshoes and broke tracks into
a thick cedar swamp on the outskirts of the town of Carlshend.
At the onset of our adventure
movement was slow. The bows of
cedar and fir were so thick they
seamed waven trachter.

cedar and hr were so thick they seemed woven together. Although it was excellent winter habitat for bunnies it was work for a green snowshoer like me. As I wiped the sweat from my

brow I wondered if we were venturing into uncharted territory.
Fortunately, the dense growth quickly gave way to benutiful pockets of huntable acreage. It wasn't long before the sound of music crupted from the beagles up shead.

We entered the north side of the swamp and were headed south as the dogs picked up a cold trail and broke to the southeast. After spreading out through the area we waiting the through the area we waiting the latter of the the season of the tour way. Instead, the new! of the hounds faded into the distance until only the soft whistle of a gentle north breeze was audible.

the soft whistle of a gentle north breeze was audible.

As the rest of the hunters fol-lowed the dogs, I lagged behind a little just in case the chase cir-cled back. If not, I'd head south and intercept the rest of the hunting party in a few minutes.

A little bit of luck

A little bit of luck

Luck was on my side. In a couple moments I heard a faint how of a lone dog headed back in my direction. The chase had split.

Lucky, Muttay and Ernie had continued south on one trail, but Daisy, the eldest female of Woodring's quartet, had turned a second hare back to the north.

As the barking drew near a snowy shadow appeared out ahead of the dog as a young hare offered a quick opportunity for a shot. Daisy was hot on the trail and reached the fallen hare about the same time I did. After admiring our harvest together we headed back to the south fully expecting to catch up with the rest of the hunting party.

It was then I saw Donnis Knickerbocker, editor of Michigan-Out-Of-Doors magazine, moving through the swamp to my right. I thought he had lagged behind, too, but when I caught up with him and asked, Knickerbocker told me he was backtracking because he had

dropped something.

"Backtracking," I questioned.

"You mean you're headed north?"

I was completely turned around.

Getting back on track

Upon checking my compass(cs) I realized my error. I was just 100 yards from the truck. It must have been those warm, aro-

must have been those warm, aromatic pasties.

We got back on track and minutes later Daisy set out on another hot trail. After a short chase she brought the bunny back around, but I was too far off the track this time and never raised my shotyun.

Woodring and the rest of the party picked up Daisy on her next swing around as they too were headed for the truck and the simmering lunch that awaited.

the simmering tenter that ed.

"Like a lot of animals, rabbits and hares are cyclic and they are at the top of the cycle up here right now." Woodring said.
"We're having a great season this year. There are a lot of snowshoes right now."

Just remember to check your commass.

A perfect ending

A perfect ending
When we arrived at the truck
a cooler full of hot pasties awaited. It may have been the exertion of the hunt, or maybe the
antispation of lunch, but I have
to admit the pasties we enjoyedfrom Jean Ray Pasties of Marquette- were some of the best
I've ever eaten. I stopped on my
way out of town and picked up a
box of them.
There are thousands of acres
of prime hunting land in the
Upper Peninsula. Rabbit and
hare numbers are up across the
region and the seasen runs
through March 31.
If you're interests
ing time afield, give Woodring a
call at (906) 942-7818.

BASKETBALL

HISAA DISTRICT YOURNAMENT BOYS BACKETBALL DRAWS

BOTS BAIRATIBAL DIRAWS
CLASS
AT PLYMOUTH CANTON
Mosdey, March St. (A) Pymouth Centon vs.
(B) Livonia Churchill, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March St. (Rothville vs. Nov.,
S30 p.m.: Pymouth Salem vs. A-S winner, 7

1:30 p.m.; Phmouth Saleth vs. no mann.

.m.

Piday, March 12: Champlonship final, 7

.m. (Winner advances to the Birmingham

Grover regional semilinal vs. Detroit Mumford

district champlon.)

se REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL

March 8: (Al Livonis Stevenson

at REDFORD CATFORDS CENTRAL
Monday, March B: (A) Livrois Stevenson
vs. (B) Southfield, 0 p.m.; (C) Detroit Henry
Ford vs. (D) Redford Catholic Central, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9: Detroit Redford vs. Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10: A-B winner vs. C-D

Wednesdey, March 10: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m. .
Friday, March 12: Championchip final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Obsrborn regional semilinal vs. Detroit Cody district champion.)

p.m., (Winner advances to the Observor p.m., (Winner advances to the Observor regional seminal vs. Detroit Cody district chemidon.)

at CELLEVILLE

Menday, March 81, (A) Belleville vs. (B)
Unords Frosell, CDD pd. (C) Westland John Claim (C) Dy John (C) Westland John Claim (C) Westland John Claim (C) Westland John Claim, (E) Dy John (C) Westland John (C) Vol. (C) Westland John (C) Westland (C) Vol. (C) Westland (C) Vol. (C) Westland (C) We

et REDECION SIMILOP BORDERS
Mondey, March & (14) Livrol. Gerencewise
vs. (8) Southfield Christian, 7 p.m.
Tuesdey, March & (C) Livrheran High Westland vs. (10) Cearborn St. Alphonsus, 5 p.m.;
(1) Rective I blinch, Glorges vs. (7) Petrolit
WestMarch & (1) Cearborn St. Alphonsus, 5 p.m.;
WestMarch & (1) Cearborn St. Alphonsus, 6 p.m.;
Friday, March & (1) Cettori Benedictine
Vivines Alphonsus, 5 p.m.; Co winere vs. Et winer,
7:30 p.m.
Friday, March & (2): Chemplonahip final, 7
p.m. (Winner advances to the PetersburgFriday, March & (1): Chemplonahip final,
p.m. (Winner advances to the PetersburgLake district Chemplon).

CLASS D

at ALAKSON BAPTET

nd in the abbit and across the son runs from runs from runs for an excit-foodring a better from the fr

Raiders from page D1

ter and 20-15 at halftime as Dawood and Dewar scored seven

ter and 20-15 at halftime as Dawood and Dewar scored seven points apiece in the first half, Mitchell six.

North held Western to two points in the first 5:15 of the third period and took its only lead of the game when Medunjanin, who shot 3-6-f in that quarter, made a three for a 24-22 score.

Score.

That was typical North Farmington defense, Stanczak said.

"They did that to everyone all year long. You don't think a team that plays zone would be that good offensively, but they are."

Mitchell scored on a fast break after a North turnover and Dewar on a pithack to put West-ern back on tap at the end of the third quarter, 28-24. Dawood made a three to start the fourth, and Hargan scored his baskets for a seven-point lead.

lead.
Bridges put the Raiders within four, 39-35, with 1% minutes

remaining. The Warriors committed a turnovor, but North missed a pair of free throws. Mitchell made a three-point play with 31 seconds to play and added an insurance free throw before Medunjanin scored the final points. Western's championship is not only its first in the WLAA but the first in school history. "It's been an unbellevable year," Stanczak said. We knew we'd be a pretty good team. We had no idea this would happen to us.

had no uses also were us.

"For a school to be open 30 years and this be the first league championship is a great feeling. The kids have worked so hard for ma."

The kins have worked so have for me."
Western shot 17-of-41 (.416) from the floor and North 18-of-38 (.421). The Warriors made four f1 3 threes and five of seven free throws; the Raiders made three of 12 threes and two of six free throws.

Basketball from page D1

line up and shake hands and show respect for each other."
Harrison led 16-11 after one quarter on Canton's floor. The Chiefs trimmed the margin to 27-25 by halftime, and the Hawks pushed their lead back to 42-38 entering the final quarter of regulation.
"We had a chance to win," Young said. "And, hopefully, we'll have an opportunity to win (in the district).
"That's a very, very good team

"That's a very, very good team Harrison has. We played hard; we played to win. We just came up short."

up anort.

FARMINATON 60, STEVENSON 34:
The Felcons held the Spartans to just
17 points through the first three periods
to win their eight game of the season
Thursday. It was the wrapup game to
the WLAA tournament.
C.J. Whittfield feld hiree Felcons in
double figures with a 13-point night.
Chad Seaborn had 11, Matt Milkel 10
and Charille Avery eight to help hast
Farmington relse its record to 8-12.
Stevenson (5-55) got 10 points from
Martin Kennody and nine from Kestan
McChristion. The Spartans made 10 of
their 13 free throws.
Farmington, which sank seven of 15
free throws, led 28-14 at halttime and

48-17 efter three quarters.
LIGOETT 65, CLARRACEVILLE 82:
Soel Penrott busted loose for 40 points
Thursday, powering Bresso Pointe
Liggett (6-13, 4-12) to the Metro Con-ference win over vietling Livonia
Ciarenceville (6-12, 5-9), first Bursch
led the Trojans with 14 points.
DET. CERTAL 78, REP 10- 21, points

DET. CENTRAL 78, REDPORD CC 731.

Withchael Barnett tossed in 21 points Thursday, propolling betroit Central to a non-league triumph over host Redford Catholic Central.

Nick Moore fed CC and all scorers with 22 points, Both Iteams are 14-6 on the season.

SALEM 89, GLENN 49: Plymouth Salem played the kind of basketball coach Bob Brodie likes to see his team play — hard-nood and aggressive, with a belanced scoring stack.

Also winning.

The Rocks (16-4) everaged on derlier three-point loss to Westland John Clern by taking it to the Rockets in the WLA porosolation final Priday, pulling sway to a 65-94 triumph at Livonia Franklin.

The Rocks to relied 15-14 star one quarter but took at fine-point advantage to the control of the contr

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