# Elk is there, but hunting permits are needed

outdoors

Bill

Parker

HE ELK HERD in Michigan today was actually born in 1918 with the release of seven Rocky Mountain elk in Nunda Township in Cheboygan County. The release was an effort to restore the once native elk to the woodlands of Michigan. Today that herd, located primarily in the Pigeon River Country State Forex; is estimated to be 1,200 strong.

The Eastern elk was native to Michigan and a common sight to Lower Peninsula settlers prior to 1875. But due to unregulated huntile and settling practices these magnifi-

1875. But due to unregulated hunting and settling practices these magnificent animals disappeared from the state in the late 1800s.

After the planting efforts of 1918 the herd grew steadily, Records of the Department of Natural Resources indicate that the size of the herd increased to 200 by 1925, 309.

400 by 1933, 9001,000 by 1958 and 1,200-1,500 by the early '60s.

DURING THE EARLY '60s these the word primarily located in a 200-mile range in the northern Lower Peninsula. Due to this dense population problems soon occurred. Cropwildlife range, forests and tenessere all damaged by the herd. The DNR's Wildlife Division instituted a research program in 1963 to find a way to ease the elk pressure and reduce the damage. This research program set the stage for the first elk bunts in modern history They were held in 1964 and 1965.

A total of 600 permits were issued DURING THE EARLY '60s these

held in 1964 and 1965.
A total of 600 permits were issued in the two hunts and 452 elk were taken. At the same time poaching took an enormous increase and the herd was drastically reduced.
Gas and oil exploration in the elk habitat area during the early '70s

also took its toll on the herd. By 1975, after the highest confirmed poaching loss of 45 elk in 1974, the herd hit a threatening low of 200.

SINCE THEN, however, public

SINCE THEN, however, public concern, legislative action, course cases and administrative and corporate compromises have enabled the heard to again reach an excess of 1,000.

"We believe we have a herd of about 1,200 animals," said DNR wildlife biologist, Joe Vogt.

Over the past three years the DNR has held a special permit-only elk hunt in a special area surrounding and including the area of the Pigeon River Forest. They will hold the hunt again this year on Dec. 8-13.

In the past three hunts the DNR again this year on Dec. 8-13.

A total of 130 permits were received yissued by the control of 1972 hunt. The second of 1972 hunt. T buil or cow elk.

SEVERAL OBSERVER AND EC-CENTRIC area hunters were for-tunate enough to receive elk permits including Bernard Crandell of Bir-mingham, Ted Rieple of Formington Hills, Leon Hanson of Plymouth and Ron Gerrior and Larry Rand of Gar-den City.

den City.
For Crandell it will be his first elk
hunt after some 30 years of hunting
the elusive white tail deer in both
Michigan and Texas. He'll be accom-Panied by his son Bill.

"I feel pretty lucky," said Cran-

dell. "I've been putting in for the hunt for the past few years. I real-ized it was a longshot, but I wanted to try. It's a real privilege to draw a permit. I think the DNR is doing an

to try. It's a real privilege to draw permit. I shok the DNR is doing an excellent job managing the elk program and they should be congraturated. The control of the contro

The DNR is offering up to \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of people connected with an elk poaching incident last month in Cheboygan Coun-

line, operating 24-hours a day, at 1-800-298-7800 or the DNR Gaylord District office at (517) 732-5541.

Anyone convicted of lilegally shooting or possessing an elk may be fined up to \$1,000, may be sentenced up to 180 days in jail and may be

forced to pay restitution of up to \$1,500 per cile.
A \$1,000 per cile.

A "Deer Hunter Information Cen-ter" will be operated by the DNR at the Department of Transportation's John C. Mackie Welcome Center and

Rest Area on U.S. 27 at Clare on Nov. 12-14.

DNR law enforcement officers and wildlife biologists will be manning the station providing hunters with deer data and deer hunting literature and answering questions on hunting regulations, places to hunt even places to set up carm.

DNR director Dr. Gordon E. Guyer will be at the station from non to 2 pm. on Staturday, Nov. 14.

The Deer Hunter Information Stotion will be open from non to 8 pm. on Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 s m. to 8 pm. on Thursday, Nov. 13, and 10 s m. to 8 pm. on Saturday, Nov. 14.

#### outdoors calendar

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

Nov. 1-30 — Shining or the use of artificial light for locating wild-life is illegal throughout the state. Shining is illegal from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. from Dec. 1 to 0et. 31 only.
 Nov. 10 — Mink season opens

Nov. 10 - Mink season opens tresidents only? Zone 3.

Nov. 11 - Canada geese season closes 7.

Nov. 11 - Canada geese season closes 1.

Nov. 11 - Duck season closes 1.

Nov. 15 - Duck and geese seasons closes 1.

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OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

Autumn's Applefest, a nature

program in which participants will discuss the origins, varieties and uses of the apple, will be held at 1 pm. Saturday at Independence Oaks. Pre-registration is mandatory and there is a 35 fee for the program. For more information, contact the sort at 655,6573 park at 625-6473.

Full Moon Walk, a naturalist led hike in search of creatures of the night, will be held at 7 p.m. tonight

night, will be held at 7 pm. tonight at Kensington.
Saturday Morning Stuff, as nonthly nature program for chidren ages six to 12, will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday at Stony Crees.
Nature for Tots, a nature program for chidren ages four and five about how animals prepare for the winter, will be offered at 12.30 pm. Deer Through the seasons, a photographic display of deer at Kensington will be held at 2 p.m.

## Shamrock gridders gear for big defensive struggle

By Brad Emons

staff writer

If good old-fashioned rock'em, sockem football is your cup of the sockem football is your cup of the sockem football is your cup of the socked fashion football in the state of the socked fashion football in the state Class A playoffs, CC foolds a 2-0 lead.

This Region IV first-round matchup promises to be a hard-hit ing, defensive struggle.

"CC is an exceptional team that could win the whole tournament," said Fordson coach Charlie Jestice, who has guided the Tractors to the playoffs of of the past 9 years, including three state Class A finals. "The playoffs of the past 9 years, including three state Class A finals." The country of the socked fashion for the socked fashion for the socked fashion for the socked fashion for the socked fashion fashion

BOTH TEAMS have similiar

BOTH TEANS have simillar styles.

"It's hard to predict a game like this because both are running teams playing against good defenses," said CC coach Tom Mach, who beat Fordson in 1979 en route to the state title. "This is going to be similiar to the first Fordson team we played in 1979, in 1985 they had (Mike) laquaniello at quarterback and they liked to pass a lot more."

CC's vaunted defense, which shut out five of its nine opponents during the regular season, must stop Fordson's talented running due of Fouad

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Walker" Zaban, a 5-foot-5, 148-bound senior, and Mo Berry, a 5-10,

"Walker Zazawa and Mo Berry, a 5-10, 172-pound senior, and Mo Berry, a 5-10, 172-pound senior. "Their backs are resilient and they don't go down easy," said Mach. "They get those extra yards after you hit them. They're good backs. "CC's strong defensive inchered by 5-2, 250-pound Pari Manuth and 6-3, 220-pound Pari Manuth and Ma

"THAT LINE (Fordson's) has been

"THAT LINE (Fordson's) has been together for two years and they're an experienced line," said Mach. Fordson, like CG, does not throw much, but junior quarterback Scott Szalkowski wili throw on occasion for the Tractors. "I think their quarterback might be better than people believe," Mach said. "We saw them during the passings segment in a four-way serimmage and they can throw well. We're going to have to work on defense against the pass as well."

Jestice is convinced the better running team, not passing team, will

running team, not passing team, will

running team, not passing team, will win this encounter.

If that is the case, CC will need good production out its trio of backs, led by senior Chris Kowath, along with juniors Lee Krueger and Chris Johnston. They will be running behind a mammoth offensive line led 6-6, 26-0-pound Toby Heaton, a major college prospect.

"THIS IS GOING to be a battle where both teams emphasize defen-sive power and the power game on offense," said the CC coach. "But we

might have to use a few tricks if the running game isn't going."

There could be a few gimmicks, but it sounds like this confrotation will be nothing less than knockdown, drag-out affair.

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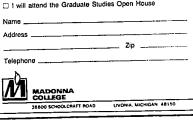
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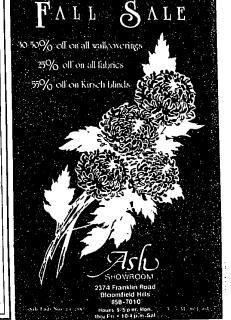
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