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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Cut Thirty Years Too Late

Trees, like other crops, can become overripe. Old trees are easy prey for insects and disease. Wood lost to decay is lost to use. It’s good forestry and good business to harvest trees before they become overripe. That’s Tree Farming.

M. D. "6" ANDREWS

POLES • FENCE POSTS • CROSS-TIES • PULPWOOD
Cattle Raising
CHIEFLAND, FLORIDA
Florida's Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, as it now operates, was created by a constitutional amendment which the voters approved in 1942. The aim in making this change instead of a statutory act was to keep it as free as possible of political influence while bids its job of protecting and restoring the fish and diminishing wealth of game and fresh water supply is in the hands of employees or others reflecting on its efficiency.

These officials came to a head in the last session of the Legislature, in a resolution that would have abolished the Commission and set up in its place a regulatory board much as the older Board of Game Commissioners had been.

The resolution was easily beaten down—one of many evidences that the Commission in less than 10 years of trial as a Constitutional agency has made a place for itself in the thinking of many Floridians, including most Legislators. It has won confidence by doing the job for which it was created.

Volusia County sportsmen and outdoor advocates of wildlife conservation now will have a chance to see at close hand an example of a program which the Commission has been carrying forward all over Florida.

This past more than 100,000 acres of privately owned land will be placed under the Commission's game management plan. Hunting is to be allowed on the tracts, but only on certain days and under close supervision of the Commission's agents, under the strict rules that have been successfully enforced in the Ocala National Forest and other lands thus managed by the Commission.

An Editorial

By FRED BOOTH

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Daytona Beach News-Journal

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FOR MORE WILD WEALTH

Experienced sportsmen who hunt every year and who know the woods, and who know, too, the difficulty of enforcing game laws without adequate organization and manpower, will tell you, too, that the management method set up by the Commission is possible to prevent hunting out of season—even in the breeding season. They will tell you, too, that what the Commission set out to accomplish by establishing game management areas is coming to pass.

They will tell you, too, that what the Commission set out to accomplish by establishing game management areas is coming to pass.

Three years ago Florida was in danger of being literally hunted out of wild game—deer, turkey, quail. Today the supply is increasing in the areas placed under Commission management. So, too, is the stock of game fish in the fresh water lakes and streams.

Professional management, in which biologists are paid to do the job, is a practical outdoor sportsmen play a leading part. So is paying dividends to all Floridians. Conservation no longer has a negative meaning. Game, no longer merely protected from outlaw poaching, re-stocking is an important part of management in all wildlife, not merely game animals and birds, comes under the protection of the Commission.

Hunters and sports fishermen are paying all for the cost of the program, which makes it in the best interests of all sport and fish, the more sportsmen there who will pay the costs of continued and expanded management.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission seems to have lifted its burden on Florida's natural resources.

Sports fishermen who long have advocated placing more water under control of a similarly constituted agency can point with pride to the same management program as support of their position. Sometime this program seems to be needed in Indian River, Lagoon and other inland water bodies, and for the protection of trampling—F. B.

Conservation

ISN'T NEW!

By ALICE S. BURR

Conservation is no new thing in Florida. As early as 1828, laws were being enacted aimed to conserve wildlife resources. The first one of which we have any record prohibited fishing west of the Suwannee River. This prohibition was later extended to include the entire Territory of Florida and became effective November 22, 1838.

In 1832 a law prohibiting the damming of navigable streams so as to prevent the passage of fish upstream for more than 24 hours was enacted.

In 1851 a law regulating camp hunting in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties went into effect. Sunday hunting was prohibited in 1854 and in 1866 what could be termed one of the first trespass laws went into effect. This law required that a person be in possession of a permit before he could hunt on the land of another.

A non-resident hunting license of $25.50 became effective as early as 1875.

Plumage birds, their nests, eggs and young, were protected in 1877 and the permit was made necessary for either or both hunting and fishing on the property of another. This year also saw the first deer hunting season provided to extend from September 1 to April 1.

In 1895 a bag limit on turkey was established. Florida was the first State in the Union to have such a law. Sale of venison outside the county in which killed was prohibited, and setting, stop-setting, guilt-setting, or netting of any kind, signaling, dynamiting, taking of fish by set devices prohibited.

In 1891 the hunting of seines or nets in fresh waters between May 1 and November 1 was prohibited, and in 1899 employment of County Game Wardens was authorized.

In 1901 the sale of venison or the hides of deer was prohibited.

It was not until 1913 that the first Game Department came into being. Mr. E. Z. Jones was appointed by Governor Park Trammell as Commissioner to head the new Department. The law creating the new Department provided an open season (Continued on Page 42)
Santa BRINGS SAILFISHING

By ERNEST LYONS

His SLEIGH is a charter cruiser with wake as white as snow. His reins are arching rods and singing reels attached to leaping sailfish. Old Santa in a visored cap with sunbrow cream upon his nose is swooping down again on Stuart, bringing this little East Coast town superb sailfishing for the Christmas holidays.


A million dollar Christmas gift for a little town with a heart!

Ten thousand fishermen will come from all parts of the world — we had them from Turkey, England, China, France and Cuba last winter — to participate in the unparalleled sailfishing offered by Stuart, America's Acapulco. The majority, the records show, will be from New York and Illinois, but every State will be represented in the sailfishing influx from mid-December through May. If each sailfisherman spends as little as $100 on his trip, Stuart (pop. 2,900) figures that $1,000,000 in hard cash will be left with its charter boat fleets, resort owners, hotels and apartments, and general business.

An industry without a smokestack.

No wonder that Stuart pioneered to conserve the prince of Gulf Stream fishes.

This winter more than three-fourths of the thousands of sailfish that will be caught by our fellows will be released alive.

Stuart's sailfish conservation story began just before Christmas eleven years ago. In one week 1,000 sailfish were boated and brought into port. Hooked were piled high with sailfish.

(Continued on Page 26)
By BILL SNYDER

THIS is a story about a man's hobby that eventually wound up in a full-time business that involves the 15-hour-a-day attention of two people—plenty of heartbreaks—a moderate income—along with national as well as international fame.

Almost 33 years ago, M. N. Gist, of McIntosh, Florida, started collecting a moderate number of game birds for breeding purposes strictly as a hobby. Today, his bird family numbers 1,000 feathered friends representing 82 species, and he sells game birds for breeding purposes in every state in the Union as well as in England, Holland, Belgium, South America and even South Africa.

During a recent visit at Gist's Black Swan Park, home of the 1,000 game birds, Mrs. Gist quickly gave me her evaluation of her husband's hobby.

"It's his hobby and MY job," she told me. While I talked with her she dipped grain from a bucket and tossed it into various bird pens in a down-pouring rain. In defense of her husband, I must tell you that at the same moment he was performing a similar duty in another portion of the bird farm.

What eventually developed into an enormous hobby for Gist actually started out as a small business venture.

When he returned to McIntosh after serving in World War I, Gist purchased several dozen mallards, pintails, and English call-ducks. In those days, you'll remember, there was no law prohibiting the use of live duck decoys. And, that's exactly what prompted Gist to enter the game bird business. He bought a number of boats, built portable blinds, and fashioned harnesses for the ducks. As a result, he was able to rent the complete "props" for successful duck hunting.

"I rented the hunters everything except the guns and ammunition to kill the ducks," Gist explains.

To make a long story short, Gist and his wife started selling live with the ducks they had purchased, and as a result, they began buying other breeds along with a smattering of rare and strange foreign birds.

"We kept 'em in pens behind our home in McIntosh," Gist recalls, "and then suddenly one day I discovered that my flock actually numbered 300. Then and there I decided that keeping that many birds at my home was actually taking advantage of my neighbors' good disposition."

As a direct result of this decision, Gist purchased some acreage at the edge of town, constructed pens, and eventually moved his bird family to enlarged quarters. His operation is conducted from the same location today. The vast enclosed area is known as "Black Swan Park." Black swans are natives of Australia and the park was named in their honor due to the fact that Gist had succeeded in breeding them in captivity and likely has a larger flock than any other living man.

In those earlier days, he had a partner and operated under the firm name of Davis & Gist. Despite the fact that Mr. Davis died many years ago, the firm name still continues.

"My wife is 'Mr. Davis' to me," Gist revealed with a tone of affection as he glanced toward his better-half.

Telephone calls and mail directed to Davis, even today, are handled by Mrs. Gist herself!

Game birds, I learned from Gist, conduct their lives quite differently than we humans. This is particularly true when it comes to the matter of dress. Men generally don a cheap pair of pants, a sport shirt, and a second-rate pair of shoes and still feel that he is well dressed. However, our women don't go for simple adornments. They are unable to strut unless they have a swank hat, a fancy blouse with suit to match, along with a pair of $30 two-tone shoes. In addition she likely isn't fully satisfied until she puts on a pair of ear-rings, dabs her face with rouge and her mouth with crimson lip-stick. But things are different with the game bird family. Father is adorned with all the

(Continued on Page 28)

Oscar, Australian black swan, valiantly guards his mother, an Asian white silky chicken.
DAMP, cool morning met us as we walked down to the city pier in Kissimmee on October 11. Dawn was still in the making and nowhere in sight as we carried our baggage to the "Venture", one of the large cruisers docked at the pier. This was to be our home port for the Second Annual Boat-A-Cade, a four-day, 227-mile trip into the picturesque tropical territory known as the Kissimmee River Valley.

Aimed at acquainting Floridians and visitors alike with the unexplored fishing in this huge, wild and almost forgotten section of the State, the Boat-A-Cade was scheduled to cruise through all the inland waterways—four lakes, three canals and the Kissimmee River—from Camp Mack to Lake Okeechobee in four days and three nights of "vouching it." The sight of many boats, big and small, straining at their lines eager to be off on the journey met us at the dock prior to the takeoff. All hardy sportsmen share adventures on Second Annual Boat-A-Cade into a Picturesque, Tropical and Almost Forgotten Section of Florida.

BY JACK SCHOEMAKER

The following list of events that took place aboard our boat were rounded up and the itinerary was arranged by W. S. "Dick" Makinson, captain and skipper of the ship and chairman of the event, gave the command which showed us off on the nautical adventure. "Doc" Louis, the pilot, cook, janitor and mechanic of the "Venture," turned on the ignition, and we pulled away from the dock. As the first streak of dawn spread out over the horizon, more than 100 boats of all types and sizes gunned their motors and proceeded across the calm waters of Lake Tohopakaliga amid the cheers and hollers of the passengers, who braved the cool morning to see us off. As many of the boats left, others, still waiting on their car trailers, took their places at the dock.

The first day's destination was Camp Mack on the canal between Lake Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee, a distance of some 30 miles. We cruised along about seven miles an hour from Tohopakaliga along the route which would take us through the Southport Canal, to the choppy waters of Lake Cypress, then to the Hatchineha Canal, Lake Hatchineha, and the Kissimmee Canal before arriving at Camp Mack.

One of the interesting highlights of the first day's trip was talking to Captain A. S. Gilbert, 71-year-old resident of Kissimmee, who had sailed his half-century old pilot's steamboat on this same route for many years. The trip was his first in some 40 years, and he said that very little has changed in the River Valley since the early 1900's. In those years, Captain Gilbert and a dozen other hardy pilots sailed their stern paddle vessels up and down this waterway to Ft. Myers, Tampa, Stuart and even on to Miami. That was when the Kissimmee River was one of Florida's most important waterways and was used quite extensively for Central Florida commerce.

The Captain remembered the time he and another fellow went fishing for an hour here in the river on one of their offdays; the other fellow caught 82 bass and Gilbert landed 67 in just that short time. And well he recalls the numerous deer, turkey, panthers, and other game he saw along the banks of the various canals, and the thousands of cranes, herons, egrets, and the masses of teal, mallards, canvasbacks and geese winging their way up and down the ever-changing course of the river and the swamps. And it was still in this same shape, for on this trip we saw all of the fish and much of the wildlife that he talked about.

But eventually progress made its entrance and the commerce of the slower sailing vessels was absorbed by the highways and the railroads of the State. The markers of the river were destroyed and time soon changed the course of the winding waterway, and the valley returned to its long ago stage of wilderness. Years and years have passed since the day the steamers stopped sailing. Much of the land in this valley still retains its undeveloped sections while some of it has been turned into cattle ranches and vegetable

(Continued on Page 31)

The Game Commission plane was a constant help during the trip, helping boats find the correct channels and helping those in distress.
**The Gopher**

**By ROSS ALLEN and WILFRED T. NEILL**

One of the best known turtles of Florida is the gopher, also called "land terrapin," "highland terrapin," or "tortoise." This reptile is found from South Carolina southward through Florida and westward at least into Louisiana; closely related forms occur farther west. Nowhere in its range is the gopher more common than in Florida, where it inhabits almost any area of dry, sandy soil.

The young lady in the accompanying photograph is holding an unusually large gopher, and an egg laid by one of these turtles. Also shown is a freakish gopher which was recently brought to the Reptile Institute. This specimen was completely normal and healthy, although in the past it had suffered a severe injury. Somehow a large hole had been punched into its shell, but the bottom of the hole had filled in with a bony substance, and the gopher was just as active as its uninjured brethren! Many turtles are able to recover from severe wounds; some have survived being shot through and through.

The gopher is unusual among our turtles in that it digs a burrow in which to live. A big gopher may construct a tunnel as much as 30 feet long, slanting down at an angle of 15 to 35 degrees from the horizontal. In this tunnel the gopher spends most of its time, coming out for a short while each sunny day to nibble at grass, leaves, and berries. Occasionally two gophers may be found in the same burrow.

The burrows of the gopher provide a home for various kinds of wildlife: rabbits, mice, skunks, opossums, foxes, burrowing owls, coachwhip snakes, diamondback rattlesnakes, indigo snakes, crickets, spiders, beetles, and many others. Some of these creatures, including the diamondback rattlesnake, may live amicably with the gopher, while others usually seek out abandoned tunnels in which to make their homes.

(Continued on Page 32)

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

DECEMBER, 1951
"Fox hunting," said a man who should have known better, "is a very minor sport in Florida." The man made this statement in answer to an inquiry by a national outdoor magazine a few years ago.

But he was all wet. He just didn’t know what he was talking about, and he had never attended one of the annual State Fox Hunter’s Association Bench Shows and Field Trials. If he had ever attended one of the meets, and had done a little figuring, he would have realized that fox hunting is far from being a minor sport — either in the number of persons participating, or in the amount of dollars spent by the enthusiasts.

For instance, along about the last of October of this year, some 300 people and 250 high class hounds converged on a little Northwest Florida city, DeFuniak Springs, all with one object in mind — to run a few foxes.

It is likely that those people spent around $30,000 during the week of the meet, and the hounds represented an annual expenditure of some 30-odd thousands of dollars.

That sixty-some-thousands of dollars isn’t exactly hay. The city of DeFuniak Springs will vouch that, for all hotels and motels were booked to capacity, restaurants and dining rooms were taxed to the utmost, and dozens of local people rose at the unheard-of hour of four a.m., brushing the sand out of their eyes, in order to cash in on the unusual business.

But even so, it was all a minor fraction of the total year round business generated by man’s enthusiasm for the chase. It is likely that for every man and hound at the meet, Florida contains a couple of hundred more who couldn’t make it.

However, the annual bench show and field trial, is the top event of the year in the sport. For weeks — even months — beforehand, men start grooming and selecting hounds for the trip. Newly born pups, with an ancestral background unequaled by any human being, are given a close scrutiny for conformation and other characteristics that might bring back the top trophy in the show.

Other pups are carefully and scientifically fed and raised for a year, or even two or three years, in the hope that they’ll take after their...
Deer and Turkey Populations

By FRED W. JONES

Estimates of the numbers of deer and turkey in the State of Florida have been revised upward substantially during the past three years by the Game Management Division of the State Game and Freshwater Fish Commission.

This is good news indeed. It might almost be called astonishingly good news, for the previous trend had been downward and even a maintenance of the status quo for the past three years would have been good news.

Three years ago, for instance, after a lot of checking, I predicted the end of public hunting to all intents and purposes in this state within 10 years. The trend was bad and the future of hunting for the average Joe looked dim indeed.

However, available evidence today indicates a reversal of that trend. The rapid increase in the amount of land posted during the past decade had one good effect—caused an increase in the amount of game in the state.

Then when the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission began taking over large areas through deals with landowners, and then opening those areas to managed public hunting, it made the increased populations available to the public once more.

This season, with more than a million and a half acres of land open to the public through the efforts of the commission, and with the increased populations of deer and turkey, it is sure that there will be more "lucky" deer and turkey hunters than there have been for many years.

Florida was a bit slow in changing the trend of game populations. Several other states took actions that began to increase their game populations before we did. However, when we did begin, we went fast.

Not only have our populations shown very favorable percentage ratio increases, but we jumped far into the lead in acquiring land for the average hunter. No other state in the country has acquired as much land through its game and fish management agency for the average hunter as has Florida.

This combined with the fact that our deer and turkey populations have increased during the past three years by roughly 50 per cent, means that the average Joe stands a much better chance of bringing home a trophy now than he did a few years ago.

Back when I made that gloomy prediction, the official estimate of deer and turkey populations stood at about 22,000 to 25,000 of each species. Now it is estimated at 45,000 to 50,000 deer and about 50,000 turkey. We might add here that Florida has been second among the 48 states in turkey populations for some time, and is rapidly approaching first place.

But possible even more encouraging than the results of the past three years is the outlook for the future. This 50 per cent increase came in the face of a very gloomy outlook. With a much brighter picture in view now, the next three or four years could show an even better increase ratio.

With the better cooperation of the sportsmen that has been evidenced during the past year or two, and the more up to date game management practices, it just could be that within five years we would come near the ideal situation of having available range stocked to near capacity.

If this should come to pass, and I repeat that it could if everyone does their part, we would be first among the states in turkeys, and not too far down the list in the number of deer available.

Another good feature of the present picture is the fact that under present rules, regulations and game management practices, a very substantial "crop" of each species may be taken annually without in any way decreasing the future increase potential of these two species.

Under the present system, we could harvest every local buck deer without decreasing the annual fawn crop at all. And by harvesting all the legal bucks we also stave off that eagerly sought day when our deer populations will reach the over-saturation point.

The same facts, to some extent, apply to turkey. With the "gobblers only" law, we may harvest a crested each year without reducing future crops. In other words, at the present time, we have both increased shooting and really bright prospects for the future. —END.

Florida Wildlife
Florida
HUNTING
FLORIDA
WILDLIFE
WIN
$750
250
$250
DON CASH!

Tallahassee, Florida, and postmarked no later than March 1, 1952. The contest is open to anyone except employees of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. All manuscripts become the property of Florida Wildlife, subject to editing and or revision for publication in the Florida Wildlife, and will not be returned. The decision of the judges will be final.

Even if you dont win you may have the thrill of seeing your story published in Florida Wildlife. So get busy and get your story in. Or maybe youll like to submit more than one—there is no limit on the number you may send in.

Remember, too, you dont have to be a professional writer or a college professor to get into this contest. . . . lets all have some fun!

Shallow Water Bass Fishing

Generally speaking, when a bass enters water no more than two feet in depth he has the same thing in mind that you have when you stroll into a restaurant. He's hungry, and he knows hell find a meal in the shallows. Perhaps he'll be in a finicky mood and want to look over the various colors of minnows, crayfish, frogs, or shrimp before deciding on a first course; or maybe he'll take 'em as they come, figuring that a meal in the gillnet is worth two in the water weeds. In either mood, the bass in the shallows is a pushover for the angler who knows how to fish for him.

In fishing for shallow water bass, it must be constantly borne in mind that such bass are instinctively on guard, keeping a watchful eye peeled for aspseys, gators, water snakes, and other natural enemies to which their exposed position makes them vulnerable. Sleppy casting, loud splashing plugs, or unnecessary thumpings or splittings in the boat will send Mr. Bass scurrying for the safety of the depths. He cant afford to take any chances; natures law of self-preservation forbids it. (Most of you readers have probably seen into shallow water bass which seemed utterly without caution. So have I, but these foolhardy fish are exceptions whose human counterparts are simpletons, circus performers, and guys who write fishing columns.)

Necessary for success with bass in thin water, then, is a careful approach and a light casting touch. Move slowly; fish are less likely to detect slow motions than quick ones. Do not try to reach the fish with meal-breaking casts. It is much better to maneuver close enough for a smooth and easy 80 foot heave if using a casting or spinning rod, and to within no more than 30 or 60 feet with a fly rod. The best way to approach a feeding bass in shallow water is by wading, but a peddled boat—not rowed or paddled—boat can be placed close enough to the fish to put the most moderately capable angler in business.

Choice of an outfit for fishing the shallows depends mainly on the nature of the water. For areas which are fairly clear of weeds the fly rod is probably the most formidable weapon, with the spinning outfit a close second. Where a heavy weed growth exists, however, the cast casting outfit is most practical. These recommendations are based on a couple of important reasons. In the first place, you'll find that bass in open shallows tend to be so jumpy that the splash of casting-size lures flusters them. And at least some of them. The delicate little splash of a fly or tiny spinning lure, on the other hand, bothers them not a bit. Not that casting lures wont take bass in the open shallows, for they certainly will . . . but flies and spinning lures will take more.

In weedy waters, bass evidently feel that they're hidden from their enemies and seem to be far less skittish. Large plugs or spoons do not frighten them here unless landing right on top of them. The advantage of casting tackle for weedy bass lies in the greater strength of the tackle, enabling the fisherman to land the bass clear of the weeds before the line or leader is fouled. This doesn't mean that fly and spinning tackle won't handle bass in grassy shallows, but only that casting gear will lend a larger percentage of strikes in such water.

I, personally, am very partial to small lures for shallow water bass fishing—any kind of shallow water fishing, for that matter. The usual food is up to size found in water less than two feet deep: small insects, small minnows, small frogs, small crayfish. He's looking for something small when he enters the shallows, so why not serve it up to him? Then too, of course, there is the matter of greater delicacy and less noise in casting small lures.

Though running a severe spawning fever these days, I still prefer the fly rod for this water bass. If bass are in the shallows at all, it is a rare thing for them to refuse a properly worked bass bug. Bugtype have been discussed here in the September issue, so we will not go into details of their use now except to relate that it is impossible to fish a bug too slowly for bass, but it is easy to fish 'em too fast. One word of caution regarding the use of bugs, or any other surface lure, is very shallow water. DO NOT TRY TO SET THE TROUBLE QUICKLY OR THE STRIKE. There will usually be a well-deflected wake when a fish comes for the lure. Give him time to take it before striking. This may seem a foolishly unnecessary warning, but you'll be surprised how your reflexes can cross you up when a heavy wake comes in on your lure.

The lures for fishing in the shallows are the cute little miniature replicas of standard surface casting lures. They may be dropped on the water with very little splash, and the combination of a long light rod and thin line allows them to be worked beautifully. Another killer for the spinning outfit is a small perch chunk on a weedless hook. Mims go for this.

Despite the rising popularity of spinning and fly fishing in Florida, there are probably more bass taken with casting tackle than by all other methods combined . . . and casting tackle will take them of shallow water bass. Here again, surface lures are probably most productive, but where the weeds are thick, any of the old reliable weedless spoons will often turn the trick when everything else fails.

No matter what tackle you prefer, youll get your bass if you can find them in clear, deep water. The password is easy.
Levy County provides "Suwannee River Chicken"

that far surpasses the barnyard variety.

For a number of years I have been hearing Levy County residents described as being "clannish." According to the whispered stories, the average Levy countian didn't welcome company—he didn't have a bit of warmth for out-of-county sportsmen—there was no friendliness in his soul.

Well, I've just finished three days of visiting every nook and cranny of Levy County. During that time I talked with folks that ranged from ultra-wealthy lumbermen to the average farmer who tills the soil for a livelihood. Long before my three-day visit had ended, I was thoroughly convinced that the stories I had previously listened to were far from correct.

Levy County, without argument, has a wealth of wild life, fishing, timberland, cattle, and valuable soil. It covers 1,103 square miles and 80 per cent of the area is woodland. The average county resident has come to the realization that they cannot eat their cake and still keep it. They are determined to protect and improve their natural heritage—and that attitude, for my money, can be charged to good conservation and not to "clannishness."

It's true also that they detest game and fish "hogs"—poachers—and the like! But, what true conservationist doesn't? They simply abhor anyone who carelessly or maliciously sets fire to their forests. But you can't criticise a man for protecting his bank account.

So, before I start describing my Levy County visit, I wish to make it clear that the residents there are not "clannish." They are friendly, jovial, and helpful to guests who conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen during their visit.

M. D. Andrews, of Chiefland, was the first man I contacted on my Levy County trip. He owns 16,000 acres of which 2,000 acres is improved pasture and the remainder timberland. From one end of the county to the other they refer to Andrews as "Mister Six" rather than "Mister Andrews." He's proud of the nickname and he's proud, too, of the fact that he acquired his 16,000 acres "the hard way." He is in the cross-tie, pole, and plywood business in addition

(Continued on Page 23)

DECEMBER, 1951
THE one county in Florida rich in timber, cattle, soil, naval stores, general farming, and outdoor recreation. The Levy County merchants listed on these pages have confidence in the future of their county. Patronize them. They deserve your cooperation.

THE QUESTION MARK
Lehigh Keys, Florida
Fishing Tackle—Sunshades—Cosmetics

STANDARD MANUFACTURING CO.
P.O. Box 105
Kanapaha, Florida
Magnificent and wonderful place for sport fishing

GULF FISH COMPANY
P.O. Box 93
Cedar Keys, Florida
Smoked Sea Delicacies

OTTER CREEK SERVICE STATION
Okeechobee, Florida
Staple Groceries, Refreshments, Gulf Products

FUGATE PEANUT SHeller
Whitney, Florida
Bring your peanuts to us—we shell them

FRED T. DAVIS & SONS
Chiefland, Florida
Quaint Fishing—Fads—Sun—Hunt

THE QUESTIONS
Lehigh Key, Florida
Fishing Tackle—Sunshades—Cosmetics

STANDARD MANUFACTURING CO.
P.O. Box 105
Kanapaha, Florida
Magnificent and wonderful place for sport fishing

GULF FISH COMPANY
P.O. Box 93
Cedar Keys, Florida
Smoked Sea Delicacies

OTTER CREEK SERVICE STATION
Okeechobee, Florida
Staple Groceries, Refreshments, Gulf Products

FUGATE PEANUT SHeller
Whitney, Florida
Bring your peanuts to us—we shell them

FRED T. DAVIS & SONS
Chiefland, Florida
Quaint Fishing—Fads—Sun—Hunt

DECIDENCE, 1931
in raising 1,000 head of cattle.

Half of his 10,000 acres, "Six" explained, "is under cultivation." He also maintains a private hunting lodge on 4,000 acres of land near the homestead that borders the winding and historical Suwannee River for a distance of 10 miles. His homestead's plenty of water offers a unique view of Florida history connected with a huge piece of land that is part of the historic Suwannee River.

The camp name has been deeply engraved in the timber, "Six," he told me, "is an old name that was given to the tree by the Indians who lived along the river bank near the lodge. The camp name has been deeply engraved in the timber, "Six," he told me, "is an old name that was given to the tree by the Indians who lived along the river bank near the lodge.

Upon entering the attractive log-cabin lodge, "Six" insisted that I inspect his deep forests.

"A lot of people think that just because a man maintains a hunting lodge, he has his own private reserve filled with venison, wild turkey and quail," he told me, "I always request an inspection of the lodge before I accept a reservation for the day.

A peek into the box revealed nothing more startling than two luscious steaks, sausage, liver, and bacon.

A average of 30 pounds per week is available to hunt each season as "Six"s"" camp guests. The host makes but two stipulations. First, no one is permitted to hunt unless they are accompanied by their host, and, after hunting camp, he must be provided with copies of the Florida Hunting Laws to that effect.

Some of the finest hunting and fishing is found in Levy County. Everyone in the county is justifiably proud of the Florida Wildlife Management Project, one of the best natural areas for the world's largest game bird. The Suwannee, a large gray-headed heron, is one of the finest of the world's largest game bird species. The Suwannee is one of the finest of the world's largest game bird species.

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December 1951

Florida Wildlife

In raising 1,000 head of cattle.

Half of his 10,000 acres, "Six" explained, "is under cultivation." He also maintains a private hunting lodge on 4,000 acres of land near the homestead that borders the winding and historical Suwannee River for a distance of 10 miles. His homestead's plenty of water offers a unique view of Florida history connected with a huge piece of land that is part of the historic Suwannee River.

The camp name has been deeply engraved in the timber, "Six," he told me, "is an old name that was given to the tree by the Indians who lived along the river bank near the lodge. The camp name has been deeply engraved in the timber, "Six," he told me, "is an old name that was given to the tree by the Indians who lived along the river bank near the lodge.

Upon entering the attractive log-cabin lodge, "Six" insisted that I inspect his deep forests.

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December 1951
This year's deer crop in Florida is estimated at 45,000 to 50,000. This compares to last year's 35,000 to 40,000.

First reports from hunters throughout the state indicate that the Game Commission's predictions of a bountiful hunting season this fall are justified. The duck flight to the north has resulted in record-breaking flights to North Florida, the Titusville area, and the middle Gulf Coast.

Florida as a whole has far exceeded previous years and early cold weather is expected. First reports from hunters throughout the state indicate that the Game Commission's predictions of a bountiful hunting season this fall are justified. The duck flight to the north has resulted in record-breaking flights to North Florida, the Titusville area, and the middle Gulf Coast.

The biggest flight of Canadian geese in many years has arrived in North Florida's Tallahassee region. Thousands of them were located on the sand flats, as well as wet, peanut and corn fields.

Johnny, Get Your Gun!

A good acorn crop has resulted in an increased number of squirrel throughout the state. Quail, in south Florida, plentiful this year since 1946.

This year's turkey population of more than 50,000 for exceeds last year's estimated 35,000 to 40,000. This picture was taken a week ago in a pasture field near Blountstown.
SAILFISHING
Continued from Page 21

Sailfish stuck on display racks, were being sold to a commercial shark fleet for bait. Fishermen from other Florida cities picied eight or ten sailfish into big bumphers and fenders on their cars, drove home with them — they showed up in the garbage of Coconut Grove, Miami, Daytona Beach.

A wholesale slaughter, a senseless destruction of a great natural resource.

Call it the Black Christmas.

I thought it of one day last winter while fishing with Capt. Curtis Whitmer.

My 11-year-old son, William, and I were guests of E. D. Knight of Charleston, West Va., a light-tackle enthusiast. We were fishing six-thread. Each of us caught a sailfish, and we went in without a score on the board, six small sailfish.

I was in the mood for the look of my boy when Capt. Curt tenderly unhooked his fish at breakfast.

"Now you're eligible," he said. "to join the League of Honor. You've just won a Stuart Sailfish Club Release Plaque.

I liked that scene. I remembered that it had been Capt. Curtis Whitmer who had brought the first sailfish to the Stuart Sailfish Club back in 1952, the year of the great slaughter — who proposed that the Sailfish Club give a gold pin to every man who released his first sailfish, and pledged himself to continue to release.

Some of the charter boat men were hard to convince. They argued that since they got the sailfish, tired out after being brought to the boat, that it was necessary to pile quantities of fish on display racks to interest fishing customers. "There's no proof that released sailfish live," they said.

But we did it. Capt. Curt designed the button, the white clouds, blue Gulf Stream, an anchovy, the sailfish, one word. "Released."

Club members solicited business for the release moneys from seekers of sailfish for Stuart the little gold, blue and white lopho buttons which signified that they had contributed to the new League of Honor. Sailfishing stopped for the war, but when it was resumed in the winter of 1945-46, some 500 Release Buttons were issued.

SAILFISHING — Finest of Sport Fishing!
SAILFISHING

(Continued from page 24)
_valence of the rainbow—mother has to be satisfied with death, lust. The iridescent-like glisten in her eyes, the color does all the striving, with which she takes the hook of death.

The angler's gull is instinctively
to his wife. When he
ugly, pitiable friend's it's a matter of "must death do us part". As a matter of fact with many game bird species, the male refusal to sit as much as per nest of
to sit as much as the opposite sex even though death has taken his mate. "Pat," a huge Cana

goose at the bird farm is an out-

standing example of faithfulness to his mate that died quite a number of years ago.

Gist acquired Pat and his mate many years ago through an unusual chain of circumstances. They were the pets of a farmer in south central Florida. The hen nest-ful of eggs and her gander a flock of
downerly. One day the two cow quite unintentionally

the nest and broke all the eggs.

Pat went into a rage over the cow's

blundering. He grabbed her by the heel with his beak, started beating his wings, and the frightened bovine frantically galloped around under the nest, just as the rain was taking Place by the gull's widow.

The trip ended only after the cow was completely exhausted. But it seems that Pat had a memory like an elephant! He continued to aggravate the cow day after day until the farmer, in desperation, requested Gist to move the pair of gulls to his farm.

The gull lived happily in their new home for a number of years—until suddenly the wife died from unknown causes a few days later. Pat has been unable to erase the memories of the happy romance from his mind. As a result, he has shunned the thoughts of girl friends and steadfastly has remained loyal to the memory of his mate.

About six months ago, Gist sold Pat to a bird fancier in Wisconsin. A month later, the purchaser complained that Pat was so crippled that he was unable to walk. In addition, he re-

lated, the goose refused to eat and likely would die within a short time.

Gist requested the owner to ship

the gull back to McTavish. When the mate arrived and was opened, Pat struttled out robustly. He wasn't crippled—there were no kinks in his bones. What had occurred immediately before he started eating huge quantities of grain. Yes, you've guessed it, Pat had simply participated in a show in Wisconsin. As a matter of fact, Pat's trick had succeeded. After his return, Pat evidently decided to become the leader of Gist's flock of 20 or so Canadian geese and still takes approximately the same gosling cut.

Gist reports that Pat accomplished his purpose within two weeks. Pat, in a matter of fact, maintains his goslings intact and the goslings follow him around like the rest. Today, Pat struts proudly in front of the other geese and when he gives the command "Gosling! Right side to the left," his followers meekly obey the order. There's no argument, Pat is the boss.

Now, let's take up the case of "Oscar," an Australian black swan. Many humans could learn a lot about proper respect and love for their mates, if they would follow the dictates of Oscar.

Three years ago he was hatched at Gist's bird farm. Strangely, his mother was a diminutive white and brownish silver from Asia. "Silky" has black markings and very small size to our own domestic chickens.

Today, Oscar has grown to gigantic proportions, but he has never lost his attachment for his tiny mother. All day long he guards the nest so viciously that anyone who comes too close. When I saw Silky, she was sitting on a nest of eggs. Her "Oscar" gave her no chance for a rest. No sooner would she leave the eggs than Oscar would pursue her viciously and with flapping wings and a bellowing squawk, drive her back to the nest of eggs. Then he would assume his job of protecting his mother from intruders.

A pair of Mandarin ducks, natives of China, particularly struck my fancy. The male, beautifully attired in a feathered coat of blue and white, was impressive to say the least. The hen, following bird custom, was just as attractive. But of the grayish feathers. I learned from Gist that there is interesting history surrounding the Mandarin duck. In China, he told me, these ducks are believed to foretell the success or failure of marriage. As soon as a Chinese bride and groom have taken their wedding vows, a Mandarin duck will be released in the air. If he makes a short flight—then it is believed that the marriage will be unsuccessful of short duration. If the duck makes a long flight—the marriage will be enduring and never go on the rocks. While we talked, Gist and I watched a flight of 25 or 30 of his mallards returning from an aerial jaunt to nearby Orange Lake.

"I'll have to pen 'em up before hunting season," he mused, "or else the duck hunters would soon be eating them."

Gist revealed that it requires different types of food to supply table for his enormous bird family. It takes 20 or 25 cans of grain and other food to quench the appetites of his feathered family—and there are two feeders to supply the necessary ration in Florida.

It is interesting to note that he likely is the only man ever to succeed in breeding and raising Florida ducks in captivity. Experience has taught him that his swans have but slight chances for survival once they are liberated in Florida.

"Unless a pleasant is the type that roosts in trees, his chances of escaping Florida's predators are remote," Gist declared. Based on a money standpoint, Gist revealed that Australian black swans are the most valuable birds in his enormous collection.

"A pair of black swans cost just about as much money as a team of good mules," he told me.

Black swans are valuable because of their scarcity, he explained. The scarcity of this species results from the high percentage of infertile eggs they lay.

It took nearly two hours before I had viewed all the birds at Black Swan Park. But, during that two hours I learned more about game birds than I likely could have absorbed from reading 10 volumes of books on the subject. One thing is certain, Gist and his strange hobby without doubt are helping perpetuate the survival of many a foreign land.

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LAKE WALES, FLORIDA Fishing Information
Cruising the Kissimmee
(Continued from Page 1)

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DUCK HUNTING

Uncle Joe’s Fishing Trip
LIBERTY POINT—CLEWISTON, FLA.
February 25–May 1
2005
(Continued on Page 38)

DECEMBER, 1951

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the number of families represented, with the younger sharing the fun with their elders.

It was still early in the afternoon when we first landed at Camp Mack. After lunch we decided to do some fishing. There were several motor boats and a canoe available for angling expeditions and many of us took advantage of them. During the entire trip, there were many opportunities for fishing, and few were those who didn’t exercise that pleasure during their leisure hours both for the sport and for the added incentive of the many awards offered for prize catches of fish above the trip. The prizes included fishing and boating equipment donated by various merchants in the Kissimmee River Valley area.

That night, as were all other nights of the expedition — was spent in eating supper, sitting around camp fires and singing, telling stories, swapping various experiences, and comparing fishing and boating equipment. At the designated camping sites, tents were pitched, bedrolls unfurled, and a spirit of friendliness prevailed as the sportsmen gathered in little groups with adventure-sharing conversation the main topic.

Few accidents marked the trip. Several of the smaller boats were swamped in the choppy waters of the various lakes as the wind was quite high at times. Other boats were stranded on sand bars for a few minutes until help arrived. This happened to us aboard the "Venture." We had about 20 minutes of shoveling and pulling before we were on our way again. Several of the boats turned over when they tried to speed around the sharp bends in the Kissimmee River. A few motors caught out!

Every outdoor adventure is best remembered by the humorous incidents that happen. Two of the funniest on this trip were when a photographer fell or jumped overboard when he got out of a plane after he had taken aerial shots. The other was when a fellow tried to stop into a canoe and it toppled him headlong into the water.

Many Florida cities were represented on the trip with a group from Winter Garden topping the list. There were 20 boats and 44 persons represented in that party, with most of the boats of the same color. In addition, all with "Winter Gar..."
One species of frog, the gopher frog, commonly dwells with the turtle, and is seldom found outside their burrow. When fire sweeps across the dry fields and wounds many of the smaller wild creatures find refuge from the flames by ducking into gopher holes.

The gopher digs a hole with its front feet, and pushes the dirt out of the excavation to form a mound, or heap of sand on the surface at the mouth of its burrow. Since a single-burrow may be 50 feet long, a foot wide, and 2 inches high, one gopher must move a lot of dirt! Usually, gophers live in colonies; and the activities of a colony may bring tons of fresh dirt to the surface, as soil-felted by the subsurface soil.

On the hilltops raised by the gophers' digging, many plants get a foothold and a big gopher can affect the whole soil. These plants are often of kinds that could not yet get a foothold elsewhere in the dry, sandy places that gophers frequent. One shrub, the gopher-apple, is spread mainly by the tortoises themselves. A relative of the northern prickly pear, the gopher-apple grows on both sides of the road and in the bush soil. This fruit is an edible which is much sought after by the tortoise. The gopher eats the fruit and digests the pulp, thus spreading the seeds. Growing out somewhat along the reptile's line of march, and soon sprout.

From the above remarks it will be seen that the presence of gophers alters the soil, the soil water, and the animal life of an area. Obviously these big land turtles play an important part in the natural scheme; they merit more study and attention than they have received in the past.

The female gopher deposits a number of round, white eggs in the soil at the mouth of its burrow. Each egg is a little more than an inch in diameter and a half inch in diameter, with a beak shell like the egg of a bird. The newly hatched young are very similar to the adults in appearance, but are more yellowish in color, being mostly of yellowish and orange shades. The shell of the young is rather soft and flexible, while that of the adult is very hard and strong; a big gopher can support the weight of a man.

The shell of a very large gopher may be 12 inches long, straight-line measurement; such a specimen would weigh about 12 pounds. Even the largest adults are inoffensive, and make no effort to bite when molested.

Many people eat gophers, dig them from their burrows or catching them on the roads and in the fields. The big turtles often try to cross highways; but being slow and clumsy, they are often run over or else captured. Indeed, automobiles and pot-hunters are probably the major enemies of the species.
bighorned swordfish. But he did.

And he broke a world's record of long-standing. Twenty-three years ago a Mr. J. W. Lump landed a 365-

pound broadbill swordfish off the coast of Catalina Island, California, using a 50-pound test line—equipment comparable to that used by Mr. Fleming.

Before this epic event, we find the "Helen S." drifting with the wind, a mile or so off the South Florida coast near the historic Hills-

boro Light. Mr. Fleming's modest little ballyhoo is about 15 feet below the surface of the water, some 60 feet to the windward of the "Helen S."

Shortly before two in the afternoon, Capt. Dan Barnasey spots a big fish flittering around where Fleming's bait is supposed to be. In a moment, there is a strike, and the line goes out. It's a big fish, and no mistake. All other lines are hauled in, and Mr. Fleming sits himself down in the stern seat, jams the rod butt into a swivel socket and prepares to do battle.

In a few seconds, the fish jumps.

The Chief, who had for thirty-five years been engaged in law enforce-

ment through his own offices, the Pan-American Secret Service, and who was by avocation a manu-

facturer of fishing tackle, recognized the importance of aiding and assisting youngsters into the field of sportsmanship and, in particular, sport fishing. It has always been the Chief's conviction that a boy who becomes interested in sport fishing is not likely to engage in any activity which would make him the so-called "delinquent." Sport fishing is a character-builder, he is certain.

And so it began! The aid of the various sportsmen's organizations was enlisted and their members asked to bring or send in any rods, reels and other tackle accessories they no longer had use for. The idea took hold and old fishing tackle piled up daily at Bahama Fishing Tackle.

A few days before Christmas it was ready. And you'd never have recognized it. Everything sparkled like new. Reels had been completely overhauled and polished, guides mended and varnished, guides replaced, Bennett supplied new line out of his stock and reels were matched to form the particular types. Other tackle stuff, like artificial lures and other gadgets, had been discarded tackle from the mem-

bers and by some method or means, cleaning and rehaling and reconditioning it so it could be presented to the youth of this community who couldn't afford to buy their own. Up to this point, some of them had been forced to fish with a piece of rigging left over from a broken bough.

Leo Taylor commenced talking along this plan with the members of the Rod and Reel Club and sought to devise a means for overcoming the necessity of some youngsters being forced to fish with obsolete or inad
dquate tackle and to provide them with equipment that their parents could ill afford to purchase.

Leo Taylor's idea fell on fertile soil, and when he approached "Chief" Bennett, owner of Bahama Fishing Tackle, at 624 N.W. 52nd Street, Miami, he found a kindred soul sharing the same general opinions as he and determined to aid these un

fortunate children.
Cruising the Kissimmee

(Continued from Page 31)

den" painted on the sides. Makinson thinks that more groups like that will join in the annual Boat-A-cade from cities other than his in Florida and Georgia next year. He also hopes that, in time, other states will send along delegations.

The Peach State was well represented this year with a large number of entries. One of the prize entries was George Schomburg, who arrived for the trip from Chicago. He had heard about the trip several months ago and put it on his agenda. He stayed in Florida a few days after the trip before his return to the Windy City. Two others came from Washington, D.C., while a large delegation of writers and photographers from the top newspapers and organizations traveled the entire route.

Our days during the jaunt were spent relaxing, looking at the scenery, taking in past and present experiences and getting ready for our fishing trips. We spent most of the time aboard the boat, looking either ahead or behind at the beautiful sight of a fleet of boats marked by their spray in the water. Perhaps a painting could best describe the scene, with the various vivid colors of the boats, the blue, white-capped waters of the lakes, the gray of the spray, and the green of the forests on either side of us.

It was a well-planned and well-organized trip. All arrangements made in advance went off without a hitch. Many of those on the trip agreed that top credit for the success of the trip to Makinson and the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce. But Makinson only replied, "We profited by the mistakes of last year."

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission was singled out for praise by the Chairman. The several speedboats and the two planes the Agency had on hand served to keep many boats from wandering into dead-end channels and becoming involved in other hazards. Commission wildlife officers marked the various channels which stretched out into numerous coves and lagoons in the Kissimmee River and gave the outboard-motored boats a course to the flatslands, and the airplane pilots made a survey of the area over the route checking all boats and made numerous trips back to the nearest town to replace equipment on boats that had broken down.

Makinson said: "The Game Commission personnel has done a wonderful job. I don't know what we would have done without them."

The remainder of the trip found us staying at Kiceco the second night, at the Durance Ranch in Riverview the third night where a barbecue awaited us and the final stop at Oke-Simme Fish Camp on Lake Okeechobee where a fish fry was given for the boatsmen by the City of Okeechobee. The weather was wonderful throughout the trip with the exception of the last day when rain tried to bring the voyage to a dismal ending. But the outdoorsmen were undaunted by the dampness and continued their trip to the destination. In fact, several of them, turned right around and proceeded to bring their boats and cruisers to the city pier of Kissimmee, retracing their route to the beginning.

As for the trip itself, the hardy sportsmen had re-opened the long forgotten river channels of the Kissimmee River. In the spirit of the pioneers of years ago, they had explored a wild country, focused attention upon a yet-to-be-developed section of Florida, and spent a few days out in the open with the best that Nature can provide — truly, a pleasant and satisfying adventure!

END

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December, 1951
HOW TO CATCH
(Continued from Page 36)

not break, and the fish is still on. Everyone aboard breathes again.

That near disaster confirms what Dan Garness has suspected for some time. This fish is not a blue marlin—it is a broadbill swordfish. By this time, Mr. Fleming is near exhaustion. His hands rapidly ache with the dull fire of physical anguish—but he hangs on, and pumps and reels whenever he gets the chance.

At approximately 4 o'clock, the fish makes its last deep water plunge—its 30th or 40th evasive action—Cornell isn’t exactly sure which. It now lies still—some 350 yards away and down.

Garness takes his bearings and estimates the monster’s position. Is it dead, or merely sinking? Slowly the “Helen S.” eases forward, Fleming reel in as the boat advances over the point where Dan figures the fish is resting. A few tentative pulls on the line—it gives a slight bite. Apparently, the fish is dead.

Even if it is, the battle is not yet won by any means. The fish must be brought to the surface—by delicate pressure on that slender line. And there are sharks to contend with. Slowly the job is accomplished—little by little the fish comes up, until finally at 5:06—three hours and five minutes after it struck, the broadbill is beside the “Helen S.” completely dead.

Dan hooks it to the stern—there is no winch aboard the boat—and the vessel heads for the Hillsboro Dock.

Mr. Fleming is exhausted—almost as dead as the fish. On shore, a small crowd gathers—part of the fight had been seen from the dock. The fish is weighed and measured and the necessary statements made by witnesses and signed before a notary.

Everything is in order, and the data forwarded to the International Game Fish Association in New York City. In a little while, the catch will be official—Mr. Frederick Fleming of Yonkers, New York, has established a new world record for broadbill swordfish caught on 30-pound test line.

Here with the data relative to the catch forwarded to the International Game Fish Association.

Time of fight: three hours and five minutes.

Place: Atlantic Ocean off the Hillsboro Light near the town of Pompano Beach on the southeast coast of Florida.

Weight of fish: 444 pounds.

Length: tip of bill to stub of tail, 135 inches.

Length: tip of bill to fork of tail, 12 feet one inch.

Measurement: dorsal fin to bottom of anal fin: 115 inches.

Measurement: girth at widest: 57 inches.

The fish was weighed by P. M. Mowbray, weigher of the Pompano Beach Fishing Tournament Committee.

The following witnesses signed notarized affidavits to the catch:

John Marshall; Richard O’Brien; Capt. John Winter; Frank P. Sahia and Capt. Garness and Mate Harry Cornell of the “Helen S.”

The fish was not mounted. Mr. Fleming took the bill as a memento of his epic battle.

END

---

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Sanibel Captiva Directory

Cape Coral, Florida

December, 1951

Florida Wildlife
CONSERVATION ISN'T NEW

(Continued from Page 31)

from November 20 to February 20, protected both the turkey hen and the doe deer, prohibited the selling, shipping, trapping, snaring, baiting, night hunting, use of poison, chemicals, and explosives. It also provided bag limits of 2 a day and 5 a season on key gobblers, 1 a day and 3 a season on buck deer, 20 a day and 50 a season on quail, 25 a day and 500 a season on other species and limited possession to 5 days after close of season. License fees provided by the law were $1.00 for Resident County Hunting license; $3.00 for Resident State Hunting license and $15.00 for Non-Resident hunting license. No license was required for fishing.

It might be interesting to mention here that the Commissioner was paid an annual salary of $2,500.00 with an expense allowance of not to exceed $500.00 per year. Game Warden—one for each County, appointed by the Commissioner with the approval of the Governor, were paid a fee of $25c for each Resident County license sold in his County; 50c for each State Hunting license sold in his county; and $1.00 for each Non-Resident Hunting license sold in his County. In addition to this he was paid 5% of the court fine when he did not furnish the evidence for conviction and 5% of the court fine when evidence sufficient to secure a conviction was furnished by him. He also received the arresting fee for each arrest he made and was paid $3.00 per day when on special assignment.

This law remained on the Statute Books only two years, being repealed in 1915 when wildlife protection again became a local issue enforced by counties. In 1917 there were 15 local laws passed; in 1921 38 local laws were passed and in 1925 60 more local laws were placed on the Statute Books. In 1925 when a Game Department was again created the 129 local laws already enacted remained on the statute books to cause confusion.

The 1925 law creating the new Game Department provided for the appointment by the Governor of a Commissioner to head the Department. Mr. J. V. Royal was selected by Governor John Martin to fill that position. The law also provided the following license fees:

- $1.00 Resident County Hunting
- $3.00 Resident, Other than Home County Hunting
- $10.00 Resident State Hunting
- $25.00 Non-Resident State Hunting
- $7.50 Non-Resident County Hunting
- $2.00 Non-Resident County Fishing
- $5.00 Non-Resident State Fishing
- Trapping licenses and Commercial licenses.

Residents of the State could fish without purchasing a license.

A total of $138,594 was collected during the first year and a balance of $11,853 remained at the close of the first fiscal year of operation. Game Wardens were still employed by the Commissioner with the approval of the Governor.

It is interesting to note that in 1926 a recommendation was made to the Governor that he request the Legislature for Uniform Game and Fish Laws.

In 1927 the law creating the Commission was re-written and all local laws repealed, but in 1929 the same confusing practice of enacting local laws remained. 1931 saw more of this same practice.

In 1933 the Game Commission was made a part of the State Board of Conservation which included Salt Water Fish and Oysters, Geology as well as Fresh Water Fish and Game. This did not prove satisfactory and in 1935 the Game Commission was divorced from the Board of Conservation and a Commission made up of a five man board, one from each Congressional District was formed. The five man board had authority to employ an Executive Secretary to head the Department. Dr. I. N. Kennedy, who recently re

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I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of remembering "The People of the State of Florida" when thinking in terms of any Commission function. The people own the fish and game. By their vote they created the Game Commission as it exists today—and by that same method they can destroy the Commission if it is not carrying out the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment or resort to too lightly the great power which has come to the Commission by way of the Constitutional Amendment. As I stated before—Conservation is no new thing in Florida—not is it a very old one either. To prove this point I would like to offer the Foreword of the Report of the Commission created in 1913.

CONSERVE YOUR BIRTHRIGHT
"The most vital question now before the American people is that of the conservation of our natural resources. Perhaps no other nation has ever been so abundantly endowed with wealth of mine and forest as are the people of the United States, and probably the citizens of no other nation have ever been so careless with their treasures—so prodigal of their birthright."

"The next generation of men and women will be made up of the boys and girls now in the public schools of our country, and upon them will devolve the solution of the vital problem of saving from destruction the treasures with which our country is so bountifully blessed."

"The young American whose birthright includes the birds of the air, the game of the forest, and the fishes of the streams, may be compared to a young man coming into his inheritance. If he cares for his fortunes and is not a spendthrift, his wealth will increase till he can live in comfort or even luxury, and still have enough remaining to transmit to his children. But on the other hand, if he proves improvident and wasteful, he will not only be impoverished during his own lifetime, but will lose his children's paupers."

"The American people have long been wasteful of their splendid treasures; great forests have been set on fire, while the careless lumberman has destroyed the young and growing trees which should have been left to take the place in the future of the great forest trees he falls for the use of man; birds and other game have been ruthlessly destroyed in the mating season and fish, wantonly dynamited by the thousands."

"The American people have wasted their inherited wealth of mine, stream and forest for more than a century, and only recently have they come face to face with the fact that if this great country of ours is to continue to be a land of plenty, we must conserve our birthright. If we draw from the national bank of our natural resources only just as much as will provide for our comforts, we can enjoy the blessings of a happy life, and still leave ample wealth for those who are to come after us."

I am sure you have heard these very same words spoken during the last few weeks—nearly forty years later.

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