YOUNG ANIMALS

A YOUNG OF THE FOX ARE CALLED PUPS

A YOUNG BEAR IS A CUB

A YOUNG OF THE FOX AND OTTER ARE CALLED SQUAB

A YOUNG BEAVER IS A SQUAB

A YOUNG DOVE IS A SQUAB

A YOUNG GOOSE IS A GOSLING

A BABY DUCK IS A DUCKLING

A BABY GOOSE IS A GOSLING

QUAIL YOUNGSTERS ARE CHICKS

BABY TURKEYS AND PHEASANTS ARE CALLED POULTS

A CALF MAY BE A YOUNG PORPOISE, WHALE, ELM OR BISON

THE Cover

Now abundant and found throughout the state, the beautiful Snowy Egret was nearly destroyed years ago by "fence hunters" for the makers of lady's hats. See page 10.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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JUNE, 1969

The Cover

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A newsman witnessed the showdown between riot control officers and more than 200 determined anti-war demonstrators at St. Leo College near Dade City last April couldn’t believe his eyes.

"Wildlife officers on riot duty," he asked.

Florida wildlife officers had lined up shoulder-to-shoulder with highway patrolmen and other law enforcement officers forming a line across State Road 52 when the demonstrators were threatened to cross a barrier. The shaved-hair students tried to break the line...but went no further.

Five other wildlife officers, who had been patrolling the southern fringe of the campus all morning, surrounded a frisky lake-side meadow as security for U.S. Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird as his helicopter touched down. He had come to deliver a commencement address...

for U.S. Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird as his helicopter touched down. He had come to deliver a commencement address. . .

To wit: Former Florida State Senator Tom Shirley of Miami, both karate instructors and Special Duty Officers

By MIKE ALBERTSON

A Florida State Senator, Tom Shirley, says Major Brantley Goodson of Tallahassee, chief and duty at St. Petersburg, Gainesville, Live Oak, Tampa joined the riot control ranks at St. Augustine in the long, hot summer of 1964.

"We are given special authority in civil disturbances under Chapter 870 of the Florida Statutes," says Major Brantley Goodson of Tallahassee, chief and duty at St. Petersburg, Gainesville, Live Oak, Tampa joined the riot control ranks at St. Augustine in the long, hot summer of 1964.

"St. Augustine was where a lot of our men got their initial training," says Major Brown. "It was a sort of ‘baptism by fire’—they had to learn fast."

Since that time, wildlife officers have undergone intensive training and received proper riot control equipment. They have been called out for special duty at St. Petersburg, Gainesville, Live Oak, Tampa and in the state capital.

Each enforcement’s five regions provides four 5-man squads, which train regularly with other enforcement agencies and under Commission instructors like lieutenants Jim Brantley of West Palm Beach and Tom Shirley of Miami, both karate instructors.

As the case of real violence, four of the squad members are armed with riot guns (shotguns) and one with a 30 caliber carbine," says Goodson.

"Other equipment includes gas masks, sidearms, handuff, flash vests and tear gas."

In addition to the five-man teams, wildlife officers use a standard 13-man wedge formation designed to divide a crowd and encircle its leaders in a ring of officers.

People seem surprised that we participate in riot control duty," Goodson says, but in many ways the very nature of our routine work prepares our officers for riot control duty."

"First, our men work outside under rugged conditions, day and night, and in all kinds of weather; They are tough," he says. "But most important in dealing with a mob, our officers are self-sufficient and self-confident...and they exercise above average self-restraint."

There are only about 125 wildlife officers throughout the state. Each works alone for the most part and deals with armed individuals on a daily basis.

"Because our officers are few and far between, they all know each other from one end of the state to the other. This familiarity makes them work well in teams when assembled for any type of special duty—riot control, search and rescue, evacuation duty, disaster area patrol, etc." How do the officers feel about riot control duty? The feeling is distasteful at best," says Captain Starling, "but we are a tight-knit, proud organization and, like other enforcement agencies engaged in this duty, we are responsible first for the safety of the public. When we are called out we simply try to do our outstanding job."

Major Brown, who worked in the Everglades for years as a wildlife officer, touched on the philosophy behind the training given each new wildlife officer for the performance of his normal land and water patrol duties.

"If the person we are dealing with is nice, we try to be nice. If he wants to get rough, we have to be rougher. Working alone, we must control the situation at all times," he says.

"And that is what riot control duty is all about, too," says Major Goodson. "When needed, Florida wildlife officers are ready for the job."

"Two, or possibly even three motors on the stern of a fast fishing boat won’t attract a lot of attention these days, but no two outfits are used exactly alike."

"Right now, I am using a battered old aluminum boat with a 15-horse Johnson. The stern is quite wide but until they put some of the new motors through a reducing salon, things were pretty crowded back there. Some of them stand pretty tall but all of them are now fairly slim, important the way I use them."

Like many Florida fishermen, I frequently run some distance before starting to fish. On fresh water I will go 10 or 15 miles; on salt water it sometimes turns out to be more like 50 or 60 and if you want to do more than boat ride you need some horsepower. Since I generally use boats that are pretty light, my motors are usually in the medium power class—from 18 to 65 horsepower—for long fishing trips.

I am grumpily opposed to matched motors for most fishing. The idea, of course, is that you have two engines back there to give you extra speed on the way and get-home insurance if one of them quits you. My argument is that if you wipe out both, lower units while churning a sunken log or turning a manatee’s back you are in big trouble, so I’d rather have one of the outboard motors etched in the boat or turned up where things won’t happen to its pushing end. Better be a loner than I am won’t agree but they can’t convince me."

I like it with the main power plant in the transom center. ‘Way off to one side I like a motor that’s small and handy enough to maneuver with while fishing but big enough to get me home before I starve. Some kind of spice is only common sense if you go very far, and the spare has brought me home about half a dozen times from more than five miles.

"Right now, the spare is a 9½-horse on what I call ‘my big boat.’ Actually, my 16-footer would be considered pretty small by most joy riders but it is wide."

The 9½-horse Johnson is a pretty chubby little character, being ‘squeezed’ in from the top to shorten overall length. Until Johnson slimmed up the bigger models there wasn’t room for the squatty one back there and I used a 6-horse.

The boat has a high transom and the 55-horse fits it but that 9½ is a short shaft motor, meaning that it can’t quite get a good bite of water and has very little pull in reverse.

The idea is that the small motor isn’t going to plane the boat, anyway, and the stern will be far enough down that the water pump works anyhow. If you open it up it will cavitate somewhat but by shifting the load back there it can be made to go pretty well. With the resultant shallow draft it is a gem in grass and weeds and over shallow oyster bars. Best of all, it is an excellent choice for use on small boats, most of which don’t have high transoms.

It takes a wide transom for this kind of operation. Remember that the main power plant is in the center and with some combinations I’ve used, the small motor had to be placed on the right hand side of the boat; the steering handle kept ‘wringing the (Continued on next page)"
I'm being evasive about this because you can't get the damned thing without a lot of trouble and I'm sure someone will replace it with something just as good if I can't get it before long.

Anyway, I did name it to several good fishermen and one of them immediately started a personal manufacturing project. He is going to make just a few-for himself. If I'll bet the cost per plug will be astronomical. Construction is a little tricky.

Another veteran bass fisherman took one look at my crude sketch of the thing (I don't own one) and stalked out of my house with a strange look on his face. He was back soon, having driven 500 miles to get one of his own.

That's what I mean.

I learned a lot from Walt Dineen and Forrest Ware a while back while on a bass fishing trip in the FCD conservation areas south of Lake Okeechobee.

Dineen is a fishery biologist for the FCD and Ware is in fisheries for the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. Since Ware is primarily a fly fisherman and I write too much about fly fishing anyway, I'm going to report on some of Dineen's ideas and methods, leaving Forrest out of it.

We used an airboat and fished well back in the thick foliage with waders and I watched Dineen for quite a while. He was catching a lot of bass, even though he called it a slow day.

He uses a free-spooling casting reel, monofilament line and light lures. Not many heavy cover fishermen use light lures for an obvious reason:

To horse bass out of bonnets and grass you need fairly heavy tackle and it is unsuitable for throwing light lures. Dineen had most real shuckers raked seldom throw anything lighter than 1/4 ounce. Dineen was throwing quarter-ounce stuff.

He is, of course, an excellent fisherman with a lot to offer any angler and is a most accurate observer of his surroundings. He is quite a student of the habitat. A lot of fish are found in water that is 1 to 3 feet deep and he knows just what's going on in the water within that depth range. It is his job to know this stuff and he's good at it.

He is simply trying to get the hell out of his boat and spends his summers in Illinois, uses a duckbill pushpole and a light johnboat. Most fishermen go far from the canals.

"After I push back three meters of a mile, I'm generally alone," says Horner. "In this day and age, no one out of a thousand casual fishermen would consider going that far by elbow power."

I like the slender johnboat for sawgrass operation.

Canoes will go back all right but are seldom comfortable for stand-up poling and are not happy under the size of motor you need for long canal trips.

Walton wet in South Florida is generally comfortable after early April—not always. The majority of back-country bass fishermen wade at least part of the time, whether they go by pole or airboat.

It's uncommon to see a small skiff lashed to an airboat but it's a good idea.

Walt Dineen fishes a small bass in the kind of fishing country he prefers. He uses a fairly light red, free-spool reel and small lures for much of his bass fishing. He is also a proficient fly tackle angling man.
I once submitted an article to one of the more popular outdoor magazines. The editor contacted me, and said he regretted that he couldn’t use the piece. I asked him if he questioned my facts. He replied: “I do question your facts, but printing such truths as you have set forth would lose me most of my advertisers.”

That statement left me with the impression that outdoor magazines are not always printed as evangelistic media for promoting sound conservation philosophies in the public mind, but to panderm popular illusions and primarily for the profit motive.

I am well aware of the need for profits to sustain a business. But if there isn’t some evangelistic sincerity along with the profit motive when using outdoor recreation as a profit media, the subject can become shabby subterfuge for editors calling their efforts conservation. Outdoor magazines mold public opinion, as do newspapers. They have a public duty to reflect a true picture in relation to the use of resources or they become a menace. There is no such thing as neutrality.

I look in vain for a change in editorial conscience, but find little if any. The outdoor sports magazines continue with the seasonal round of pheasant, grouse, elk, deer and bear hunting, with trips to the Canadian Arctic and Alaska; and occasional safaris to Africa and Asia.

Then there are the stereotyped dissertations on fresh water and oceanic fishing of all kinds, from sunfish to sailfish. Added to this is somebody’s opinion on the property care and use of guns, added dissertations on fishing and camping equipment both plain and fancy—useful and doubtful.

If game management, habitat restoration in relation to land capabilities, or some hard-minded discussion of pesticides is given space, it is treated in a light and passing vein so that the hackles of potential advertisers are not rubbed the wrong way. If one does wish to read something on the more basic aspects of land husbandry for either economic or recreational uses, it is generally necessary to obtain brochures from state or Federal agencies or literature issued by the private conservation agencies.

It seems both strange and lamentable that there cannot be a wedding of talents between professional writers of recreational stories with their flare for dramatics, and the professionals of resource husbandry. No doubt others had had my experience of being told that their literary efforts were too blunt with truth, therefore unprintable and, not being willing to jaw up the truth, their submissions are not acceptable.

Some state agency leaders have been showing real courage in calling the turn on the carelessness and indiscriminate uses of pesticides and chemical poisons. If there have been many ‘nearly-shaking’ articles in the 1968 popular outdoor magazines that sold on the newskinds, damning pollution or pestic ides or making little of those matters a long running crusade, then I have missed them while I was wiping my glasses. If such there were, I apologize. Pollution could be one of the greatest crusades that outdoor magazines could tackle, and newspapers are now giving the subject space—but not in the sports sections. They consider the magazine and news space and the billions of dollars that go into spectator sports, football, baseball, basketball, hockey, and the millions for golf, skiing and the like. No one complains—they are all proof of the invincibility of the Great Society—but when money is wanted for wetlands, air and water pollution, estuaries, forest management and soil erosion, the money source has a way of drying up.

Most state resource agencies published bulletins and monthy magazines that are a reasonably good mixture of fundamentals and the more popular type of reading. Some, however, still cling to the ideal that to extend their influence they must bow to popular demands and issue glorified tourist brochures. It is a common trait of governors and legislators that the golden image must be presented to attract the tourist dollar.

Magazines published by the national conservation organizations all take off on a variety of national issues such as pesticides, the Redwoods, pollution and many others, even they may differ somewhat in philosophies. At least they bring forth the pertinent issues for discussion. But even the readers of these literary efforts, many of whom consider themselves more or less esthetic-minded, can, not stand too much truth serum. They would rather dwell in a dream world of unreality than have these private organizations prick their conscience.

It is also only fair to add that many of the affiliates of the federation in their publications are consistent of the big picture and calling a spade a spade. However, studying all the many projections discussed which directly or indirectly bear on the subject of using resources for recreation or economics, the foment of issues and the urgency for concrete accomplishments is more apparent every day. But only when more of the public begin to feel that getting on the conservation bandwagon is the popular thing to do, will greater progress be made. Herd instincts cannot be discounted.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JUNE, 1969

Wildlife Officer Notes

A WIDELY-KNOWN Leesburg fur and hide dealer and his agent-buyer were arrested by wildlife officers in Sumter County on May 1st and charged with possession of 198 green (untanned) alligator hides, according to Major Brantley Goodson, chief of Law Enforcement Division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee.

Arrested were William P. Bigham, 62, a farmer and rancher and the owner of Bigham Hide & Fur Company of Coleman, and Gordon Graham, 49, of Coleman, listed on arrest records as a truck driver.

The pair were arrested without incident while loading burlap bags containing salted alligator skins into the trunk of an automobile belonging to Bigham. The hides had been concealed in a wooded area northeast of Coleman. Value of the cache, containing hides ranging from three to 12 feet in length, was estimated at between $2,500 and $3,000 by Lt. Roscoe Hamilton, area supervisor of law enforcement, Bushnell, who directed the investigation which led to the arrests.

Bigham and Graham entered pleas of not guilty at their arraignment in Sumter County Court May 13. They are free under bonds of $300 each. No trial date has been set.

Wildlife officers participating in the case were J. L. Adams, Bushnell; Bartow Wigglesworth, Wildwood; Thomas Croft, Orange; Harold Watson, Groveland, and James Moore of Clermont.

Lt. Hamilton and the five officers conducted a 3-month investigation in the case during which aircraft and unmarked cars were used in addition to regular patrol vehicles. "Drop-out" men—officers on foot on surveillance duty—communicated with the others by radio handsets, or walkie-talkies.

According to Lt. Hamilton, about 10 suspect vehicles were kept under general surveillance by his officers since any of them might have been used to make the pick-up of the illegally taken hides. An area of about 12 miles around Coleman was systematically combed during the investigation before the hides were found stashed in the woods northeast of town.

"Then it became a matter of waiting," said Hamilton.

On the day the arrests were made, arresting officers Adams, Wigglesworth and Croft were "dropped-out" by Lt. Hamilton at 4:00 A.M. Bigham and Graham were accosted at 3:30 that afternoon as they were loading the last of the widely scattered bundles of hides.

A quantity of salt, stashed in plastic bags, was also found in the vicinity.

Commission records reveal Bigham has been arrested previously on identical charges. All occurred in Sumter County. He estimated a $100 bond in a 1963 case, was convicted and fined $100 in 1966, and had the charges dismissed in 1967 on grounds of illegal search.

The alligator has been a fully protected species since January 31, 1961, the date Florida’s last legal commercial season on gators closed. Since that date the unauthorized taking or possession of any alligator, crocodile, or black caiman, or any part thereof, or their nests or eggs, has been a violation of the law.

Florida Statute 372.682 provides a penalty of up to one year in the county jail or a fine of $1,000 for the unlawful sale, possession or transporting of alligators or alligator skins.
beautiful heron with
the golden feet

The
Snowy Egret

Back in the early 1900's the Snowy Egret had problems. Hat designers of the world of fashion decided that certain long, delicate feathers worn by the Egret made fine looking adornments for millady's hats. Properly called aigrettes, or, more commonly, plumes, they became quite fashionable and, unfortunately for the Snowy Egret, the milliners called for more and more. Anxious to capitalize on a good thing, they were willing to pay good prices for good feathers.

The dollar was king and it spoke loudly. "Plume hunters," eager to make a killing—on more ways than one—slaughtered adult Egrets by the hundreds of thousands in Florida rookeries and left like numbers of nestlings to die of starvation and exposure. (Aigrettes are worn by the Snowy principally during the nesting season.)

As you may have guessed, it wasn't long until the supply of Egrets began to dwindle. It was feared, in fact, they would be wiped out completely. The Snowy "then" was much like the American Alligator "now" as it sacrifices its hide to the alligator handbag and shoe manufacturers of the fashion world, and to those who buy and wear the finished products.

Anyway, thanks to the National Audubon Society and pressure from other conservation-minded people, laws were passed outlawing the shooting of Egrets and the use of Egret feathers in making hats. And the ladies, bless 'em, helped immensely by refusing to buy, and declining to wear, Egret feather hats. As a result, Snowy Egrets are common again, and are among our most beautiful wildlife attractions. Their esthetic value to Florida cannot be calculated.

Makers of alligator leather goods—and BUYERS of them—please note. A lesson can be learned from the story of the Snowy Egret.

The Snowy Egret is a medium size heron, about 24 inches tall, with a wingspan of three feet, and a weight of only about 12 ounces. It is most beautiful during the nesting months, March to July, when wearing plumes. Its yellow feet, black legs, and black bill are important birdlife field marks of the Snowy.
The Incredible Crayfish

some of these creatures build “chimneys,” resting in a hole at water level during the day, coming out to forage at night

JUNE, 1969

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Some of these in-the-dark crayfish were initially overlooked because they were hanging onto the ceilings of the underwater caverns! While crayfish are more highly regarded as gourmet items in European countries, the American housewife apparently does not find them particularly appealing, except in the tri-state area of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, with New Orleans the center of the crayfish cookery.

Crayfish bisque (a thick soup) is a world-famous New Orleans specialty, but crayfish simply boiled like shrimp is a favored standby. Many people try them in stew, salads, cocktails, pies, or fry them. According to Cecil LaCaze, Louisiana crayfish expert, natives in New Guinea use them as a primary source of protein.

The main species of crayfish harvested in Louisiana are the red swamp crayfish and the white river crayfish. They’re either caught “wild” at the rate of 2,000,000 pounds per year or cultivated at rates of 2,000,000,000 pounds per year or cultivated at rates of 2,000,000,000 pounds per year. When young, crayfish molt many times a year, but a typical life span covers three-to-five years. A. D. “Bob” Aldrich, Hatchery Supervisor has tried and liked various crayfish preparations across the Gulf states and declares that “they’re better than shrimp.”

So, if you get a chance to boil up a mess of tails, don’t pass it up. They could be a pleasant surprise.

The huge Columbia River crayfish, harvested in Washington and Oregon, have a high economic value also, frequently ending up in California as “short lobsters.”

An ecological value of the crayfish is commonly overlooked. Like the alligator’s habit of building wallow holes during low water which carry over breeding stocks of insects and fish for future normal water levels, the crayfish, in a smaller way, of course, contributes similarly in building its watery burrows. Tiny organisms frequently survive in these watery tunnels during times of drought to emerge and reproduce in the transient ponds again.

Except for his belligerent attitude and a non-bloodletting pinch (you cut your own skin when you jerk your finger from his rough-edged claws)
The crayfish, a prime bait, is used throughout the United States in Michigan mink and Tennessee raccoon farming. The crayfish is a secondary intermediate host and has been found in the United States in Michigan mink and Tennessee raccoon farming.

Cooking solves all problems, however. In Hawaii, Australia, and Japan they’re destructive to crops, particularly in Japan where the red swamp crayfish was imported as food for bullfrogs. The project—as do many tamperings with nature—ultimately backfired. The crayfish were eating too many young tilapia, which causes pulmonary disorders in humans.

Properly presented crayfish make an ideal bait for Nearly all kinds of fresh-water fish. Depending upon the size of the offering, they’ll attract anything from a bluegill to a channel catfish. They can produce some good catches in Florida. There are over 300 species of fresh-water crayfish worldwide, with over 135 species in the United States. West of the Rockies, the five species of Asterus predominates. East of the Rockies, the remaining members belong mainly to the Cambaridae, of which Florida boasts over 40 species. Each animal in the universe occupies its own little niche, filling it to one degree of importance or another. The fresh-water crayfish serves us well as an entertainer of small boys who delight, as I did, in capturing them, or as food for humans, as food for other higher animals, as a valuable scavenger, as bait for fishing, and above all, with all of his "moving parts," as a curiosity and an object of incredibility in nature’s scheme.

A dipnet slid under and rubbed against floating crayfish will usually gather a few crayfish for bait. Funnel traps, baited with a fish head or meat scraps, should be shaped so that the entrance lies flat on the bottom. The funnel hole has to be wide enough to accommodate the width of a crayfish, however.

A "soft craw" is a prime bait, much sought after by fish and fishermen. While secretive and hard to find at this stage, they can be probed from under rocks and vegetation. If you catch a hardshell all mottled and unthriftily looking, you can count on his being ready to molt. Put him in a separate container, checking every eight hours or so.

Crayfish are hardy and present no big storage problems for the fishermen. Since they absorb oxygen from water through their gills, use an "air-breathing" bucket. Lackling that, an area where they can crawl out of the water if the oxygen supply in the water becomes depleted is necessary. Damp moss, wet grass, a moist burlap sack—all will hold crayfish successfully. The important thing is to keep their gills damp.

Keep soft craws in containers separated from hard craws, though. They’re delicate and easily maimed by an aggressive hardshell.

While I’m no authority on using crayfish for bait, it appears obvious that, given a consistent supply, they could produce some good catches in Florida.

In Hawaii, Australia, and Japan they’re commonly yielded one or two. But in using live crayfish, pull the pincers off. They can crawl out of the water if the oxygen supply becomes insufficiently cooked crayfish.

But aside from allergies, another kind of reaction, the toxic reaction, can result from insect stings. In young children particularly, a toxic reaction is very dangerous. Such a reaction depends upon the toxic properties of the venom involved and in this respect resembles snakebite. A toxic reaction may result after multiple stings—30 or more—at one time, perhaps. It occurs because a sufficient quantity of venom is injected into the individual for him to become poisoned.

Every year many persons—hunters, fishermen, campers, gardeners—are stung by bees, wasps, hornets and yellow jackets, all members of a group of insects known as Hymenoptera, which also includes the ants. Reactions to these stings vary from simple discomfort to acute allergic, and even toxic, reactions which have sometimes resulted in death.

In normal persons there is usually only the pain of being stung, some local swelling, and possibly a little itching at the site when the pain goes away. In moderately sensitive individuals reactions may appear in more alarming forms—widespread swellings, hives, wheezing, faintness, shortness of breath, abdominal cramps, vomiting, nasal discharge, tightness in the throat, aching joints, and even diarrhea. A highly allergic person can sustain one sting and go into shock which can prove fatal in a matter of minutes, but, fortunately, these extreme reactions are rare.

Today, according to the Allergy Foundation of America, medical technology has made it possible to lessen the dangers from insect stings by immunizing individuals who need it through a series of injections. Frequently, the degree of sensitivity in the allergic person increases with time after succeeding stings. Several insect stings at once may speed up the allergic response and increase the severity of the victim’s reaction. Case history studies indicate there is a higher incidence of insect sting reaction among individuals with other allergies, or "allergic tendencies," than among persons without any allergies.

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Venom attacks the red blood cells or the nervous system to produce hemorrhages, anemia, or nerve paralysis. Persons who have shown unusual sensitivity to stings from bees, wasps, yellow jackets or hornets should consult their physicians as to measures to be undertaken for testing of their sensitivity and immunization treatment. The treatment is a prolonged process but is well worth the time and money spent since it is very often a lifesaving procedure.

In one study reported by the Allergy Foundation involving over 3,000 insect sting-allergic persons, there is clear evidence that preventative injection therapy is helpful. Progression to more serious reactions was halved in over 97% of the patients treated and in most instances responses were noticeably lessened or reduced to that of normal persons. Many who were given preventative shots maintained their protection for many years after treatment was stopped. However, a few lost their protection in less than a year.

Despite the success of desensitization treatment it is not believed that everyone who has insect sting allergy necessarily needs this form of treatment. People whose reactions are limited to the site of the sting and surrounding tissues usually do not require immunization. For most persons the wisest course will be prescription drugs (usually cortisone or antihistamines) to be taken orally at the time of the sting. But in cases of more serious reactions, factoring the likelihood of the person being re-stung, severity of the reaction, and the difficulty of reaching a doctor must be taken into consideration. The type of treatment which is best is highly individualized and the final decision must be made by a doctor.

The honey bee is one of the most common—and useful—of the stinging insects. It performs an invaluable service to mankind by pollinating various plants as it travels from place to place gathering nectar and pollen for use in the manufacture of honey, which is a commercially valuable product in the world food market.

It is the only one of the common bees that loses its life when it stings. Its stinger, being barbed, gets stuck in the flesh and in trying to free itself, the bee is injured internally and dies.

The wasp clan includes hornets, yellow jackets, and, of course, wasps. The most familiar of these are the paper wasps, which build their flat, unadorned, paper nests under the eaves of our houses and barns or in the shrubbery beside our walkways. All wasps are extremely nervous insects. They will attack in defense of their nests at the slightest provocation—far quicker than will the guards who defend every honey bee colony.

Hornets build the big, football-shaped, covered paper nests, usually in the deep woods, high up in trees. These insects are the master paper-makers among wasps. Their nests are sometimes large enough to house over 10,000 hornets. Yellow jackets are the worst offenders of gardeners and farmers. These build their nests underground, sometimes in an abandoned field mouse nest, in a rock wall, or under a rotten log. (Bumble bees, too, build underground nests.) A trowel or shovel penetrating the nest cavity, or even a foot-step in the vicinity of a nest, will infuriate the inhabitants, who are often stinging away before the victim even knows the intrusion, or trepased! A careful search of the area at night, by flashlight, will safely reveal the source of the trouble, which will be a tiny entrance hole with one or more guards sitting on the runway. A few doses of gasoline, kerosene, or lye will kill them.

Electric hedge clippers, tractors, power mowers—either is apt to produce a sneak attack from yellow jackets. Gardening should have aswagen cautiously by any person, but insect sting-allergic individuals should be doubly alert. The same should apply to sportsmen, of course.

There are a few other precautions which may help the family avoid insect stings this summer. Any sort of food will attract bees and wasps. Outdoor cooking and eating, feeding pets out-of-doors, leaving garbage cans uncovered and dirty on the outside, leaving fruit or melons exposed, even the feeding of a child's popcorn or ice cream cone—all will bring the bees in short order.

Keep foods covered until time to eat and clean up immediately after the picnic or cookout. Keep garbage containers clean and capped. If a bee or wasp alights on you or nearby, keep calm. Move slowly if at all and your chances of being stung will be greatly reduced. Excited beating and flailing may only provoke an attack.

If an insect enters your automobile the same advice applies. For safety's sake, keep calm. Don't try to kill a bug while you're driving and don't allow yourself to be distracted by the excited reactions of your passengers. Pull over in a safe place and then deal with the situation. Many, many avoidable traffic accidents have been caused by the panic and distraction of a stray insect entering a car. And far more often than not the culprit wasn't even a stinging type.

By way of special precautions against stings, remember that perfumes, hair sprays and tonics, sun tan lotion and other cosmetics attract insects. Avoid them if you're planning a nature walk or stint in the garden.

Brightly colored clothing, too, is said to attract bees and wasps, especially flowery prints. Avoid them and bold colors. Light colors—white, tan, pale green and khaki—are thought better to attract or antagonize insects.
I would rather not fish with a plastic worm! Oh, I'd do it if there was no other kind of bass fishing to be had, but I am not screaming and scratching to get to the worm counter. Since some of my best friends build plastic worms for a living and since other friends fish with vir­tually nothing else, this soul talk may take me off track a little. And I am going to give an illustration or two. The editor thought this was going to be an article on how to fish the plastic worm and I am going to get to that soon, but I would prefer to first prove what a whiz of a fishing psychologist I am.

Now then. The other day I went fishing with Ray Donnershage, who is a pure fly fisherman—I was about to say fly fisherman. Pure and simple but there is nothing simple about this guy's approach to fly fishing. He's dedicated and knows the way.

We went fishing at a time when the worm and shiner fishermen were doing very well and, for some reason, fly fishing was terrible. Ray started out with surface popping bugs and stayed with them. He fished carefully from early morning until late evening and if during that time he let up in his careful casting or his meticulous lure manipula­tion, I didn't catch him at it.

Every little bit he would ask my advice about how to work his bug. Of course I had no suggestions because by noon he had pulled every sneak fly-fishing trick I'd heard of.

At 3 o'clock, Ray, who had made a 100-mile trip for that day's fishing, was still laying them out there and he hadn't had a single strike. Not a swirl, not a boil, not a splash.

Then at 3:15 p.m., he had a real falling bridgewallop on a little popping bug with rubber legs. He picked up the rod tip and was pretty busy for a little while holding his fish out of the grass but when he landed it, it weighed 8 1/2 pounds, which I consider a pretty good day's work. We kidded him a little and named him "Juan Strike" (One Strike), but he took the whole thing in stride as if he knew he'd catch a big bass if he just kept on pitching.

Now the point is that he didn't want to catch a fish on anything but his fly rod, and time or effort (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

meant very little. He couldn't have cared less about the big catch being made on shiners or worms.

Plastic worms have not been kind to me. There was the time when a lady sat in one end of a boat, and caught and released 52 bass on plastic worms, and I caught one in the other end. Her husband, who did the paddling, said I didn't feel badly, that she was a pretty good worm fisherman.

There was the time when I anchored on a school-ground in the St. Johns River and caught two bass with my plug rod while a guy anchored 50 feet away simply worked plastic worms along the bottom and caught, maybe 30, turning them loose. There was the time I went out on an Everglades pond with John Wilhelm and Ray Stephens. It looked like a fly rod pond to me but I guess it wasn't. They caught some bass on worms and did it in what I considered an insulting manner (I find any other fisherman who is catching more fish tends to be just a little insulting).

So what's new in worm fishing?

Like most things in lure selection one of the first things is worm color. I am amazed at the selectivity of bass when it comes to worm color; something that I wouldn't go for at all a few years ago. When certain fishermen begin to insist on purple worms for bass, and swore they were much better than black worms, I figured here was a sharp bass man and I'd go for it in worm fishing.

Somehow the word is out that a black bass loves purple, and after he'd have a dozen fruitless casts with it he'd put on his original killer. Then he'd get a fish every cast and would change back again. No fish.

So when he told me about this I immediately began working up learned theories about what the worms resembled and why one color worked in a given situation when another wouldn't. My conclusions weren't too sharp because the same kind of Bass in another pond, and maybe in the same pond on a different day, wanted another color.

Whenever two or more worm fishermen get together they generally start talking about what a plastic worm represents. If it's in lizard country it represents lizards, they say, and if it's in big worm country they say it represents worms (that's not starting), and if there are quite a few snakes around they say it represents a snake.

Somehow the word is out that a black bass loves to strike a snake at every opportunity and I had begun to subscribe to that idea until I was watching Walt Dineen, the FCD biologist, opening some bass that had been caught. Dineen found something that was partly digested and, at first, wasn't sure what it was but when he finally figured it was a snake he said that in the thousands of bass he's inspected he's found less than a dozen with snakes on the inside. Well, there goes that bass "fact."

So I figured here was a sharp bass man and I'd get his opinion.

"What?" I asked, "does a bass think he's getting when he takes a worm?"

"Just something easy," said Walt. "He's never seen anything like it before but it looks easy to catch and easy to swallow so he grabs it."

If biologists are going to keep coming up with undramatic explanations like that, how are we to retain dignity in our professions? Fortunately, most worm fishermen don't care what a bass thinks it is as long as he wants to eat it, and perhaps the bass thinks it's a plastic worm and good to eat. Some of them are good to eat, you know, and some small boys buy the licorice flavored ones for that purpose. However, don't go around munching all kinds of plastic fishing lures. For all I know, some of them may be deadly poisons. Anyway, if you have to lunch on a lure, be sure there's no hook.

I'm not going to begin listing the kinds of plastic worms but maybe I should bring up some specific types for specific uses.

One of the most popular methods is simply to buy the inexpensive worms with no hooks in them and put the hook in yourself. Some more expensive worms have built-in spring so that they tend to coil and uncoil when worked on the bottom or through the water. Some worms have hard heads so that the hook will hold better.
loose coil. Then there are a number of multi­
tailed models and the small tails undulate in the amounts to a small plug with a lip to cause action more durable lip and hook can last indefinitely. The best part about most of these arrangements are living lizards. Of course it may be that wormswould work just as well. used a great deal, generally in areas where there that the worm itself can be replaced whereas the aforementioned springy worm is constructed so that. at all, but I am a notorious misser of worm strikes. of the plastics are remarkable. The fished out so many times. •
the rear peep sight’s alignment. Once accurately positioned to coincide with the rear peep’s established zero for elevation and windage, the auxiliary, folding middle sight usually serves only as a “check sight” for quickly re-establishing a preferred sight setting. It probably never will be used as an aiming aid, unless the peep sight should suffer some irreparable damage afield.

A large target style sighting disc, with small center aperture (size .050 or .060) is in order for de­

liberate shooting at paper targets, but is a handicap on a hunting rifle.

In alignment. Once accurately positioned to coincide on top of the sight, as one would view a ball or tin can resting on upright end of a 2 X 4 or flat-top gate post.

A bead sight is useful for hunting and for in­

formational shooting at tin cans and other inanimate objects, but is of much value for serious target shooting at orthodox round bull’s eye. Simply, it is more difficult to hold two circles (the bead front sight and the round bullseye) on top of each other than it is to “hit” a round object on a flat post. This can easily be substantiated through a simple experiment, using two small coins of equal size and one end of an ordinary desk ruler.

With one of the coins representing the target, lay one end of the ruler, or the other coin, so that its edge barely touches the rim of the coin representing the target. By comparison, you will readily see the advantage of a medium width blade sight over one of bead type.

Bead sights are usually made from some eye­

catching, colored material—like genuine ivory, bone, plastic or “gold” (copper alloy). All but the last are apt to prove fragile and difficult to retain. The condition is frequently referred to as “shooting away from the light.” Bright, irregular shaped bead front sights and shiny, nar­row blade types are the worst offenders.

Besides shape and color, size of the bead is im­

portant, too. The bead must not be so small that it tends to fade out in poor light, nor so large that it obscures too much of the target.

For serious target shooting, or for the more varied demands of hunting, take care to equip yourself with the best sighting aids obtainable. You’ll shoot better and have more fun.

FIREARMS REGISTRATION FEARS

By JOHN MARSHALL, Savage Arms

IT IS REASSURING to see that some of the gun registration advocates are finally grasping a hint as to why sportsmen have feared gun laws all these years.

The most reassuring sign of this awakening has come from a leading New York City newspaper, long a proponent of national gun registration and licensing. Like all advocates of gun laws, it saw loopholes in the system and was pained that the sportsman in the city’s administration of the new registration law on shoulder arms should be as simple as registering automobiles.

That’s not the way it turned out. Apparently gun registration in New York City is really a boon­

doggle, enough of a mess to prompt the following editorial comment from the New York Times:

“Unfortunately, the city has not done all that it could to simplify registration. Forms and instructions read as if they were written by a Faulknerian scholar. A half dozen pages have to be filled out, including notarized vouchers, certified checks and photographs. All this may be helpful for the record, but the paper work is ridiculously complex. Why should it be more difficult to register a rifle than an automobile?”

Such naiveit after all the warnings sportsmen have voiced! And in the shadow of the Sullivan Law, the notorious city ordinance of 1911 that was not supposed to coat gun owners a cent, much less take their handguns away from them.

Look at what’s happening in New Haven, Conn. Pistol permit applicants must fill out 21 pages of information about themselves, despite an attorney general’s opinion that such forms are not allowed. That’s the kind of police power sportsmen fear.

How can an applicant accurately answer such questions as where he intends to use the firearm, how often he uses it, on which days of the week he uses it and during what hours?

Then he’s faced with inquiries regarding his medical history, military service, educational back­

ground, employment records and residential history. An error means either rejection or delay. That is the kind of harassment sportsmen have feared.

Unfortunately, those who advocate gun registra­

tion and view the sportsmen’s fears as unfounded seem to disappear after their “model” laws have passed and the abuses begin. Thus, it is reassuring to sportsmen to have a newspaper such as the New York Times to preempt the field of firearms regulation.

The registration law in New York City is simply a model for gun registra­tion in other states. The laws now being considered in Harris­ton, Michigan, and Chicago are of the New York City type. They would require all guns to be registered.

Unquestionably, the most accurate combination of metal sights is a micrometer-click rear peep sight, used with a hooded front sight, the latter preferably one that accepts interchangeable inserts to take care of different light conditions and specialized demands. The Redfield No. 63 Globe, Redfield International and the Lyman models 11A and 17 are typical examples.

The combination of hooded front sight and precise-adjusting rear peep sight is especially good for competitive target shooting and for deliberate, un hurried varmint shooting from prone or sitting position, but is too slow for the hunter who must shoot fast and often erratically moving targets.

For big game targets like deer, shot at close range, a large, instantly found 1/4 inch diameter bead can be used advantageously, with rear sight adjusted slightly high and windage, the auxiliary, folding middle sight used with desired bullet impact point at average hunting range. But the target must be large and the range short.

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The highway Trust Fund, created in 1956, now collects four cents on every gallon of gasoline and also taxes other motor fuels on a variety of other necessities such as tires and spare parts. It is a fairy tale pork barrel that magically replenishes itself as fast as the money is spent. Mr. Mowbray describes the perfect closed loop aspects of the Fund. As the road mileage increases, more cars take to the roads and drive more miles, burning more gallons of gasoline, wearing out more tires and feeding more money into the intricate Trust Fund.

Money in the Highway Trust Fund is allocated to interstate highway construction — 41,000 miles by the mid-1970's — and pays 90% of the costs. Attempts to use this money for balanced transportation, or to "freeze" funds during the economy's downturn, have been beaten by the powerful lobbies of industries with a vested interest in highway construction, including such indirect beneficiaries as the automotive and petroleum industries.

Money streams into the Trust Fund, which doles out the cash to the states and the highway districts and asbestos goes on inexorably.

While the author indicts a fearful Congress and the fearless highway industry lobbies, he assigns part of the blame to the American motorist, whose love affair with his car is a "passion that has culminated in an attempt to hard-surface the entire nation." Because the automobile owner believes it is his god-given right to drive wherever he chooses — and often chooses to see the grandeur of our natural resources through the closed windows of his air-conditioned sedan — Mowbray warns:

The day will come when every lane will be described, every wood invaded, every park bisected, every trout stream bridged, every mountain tunnelled, every city block cut, filled, jacked, overpassed, interchanged, hardened, surfaced, clover-leafed, its citizens isolated in a sea of asphalt and smothered in an ocean of exhaust fumes.

Florida Nature Conservancy

A resolution supporting Florid­a State Parks' Legislation for the future of five naturalists was adopted at the spring conference of the Florida Nature Conservancy.

Held at the University of South Florida's Chissegut Hill Conference Center in Brooksville, the Conservancy also elected five new members to the board of trustees. They are Mrs. Nick Gandol of Orlando, Dr. George Cooley of Babson Park, Mr. B. Lippincott Company. In this critical study of the Federal Highway Program — a program which generously funds the Federal Highway Program — But apparently we have only been covering 16,959 square miles, equal to the national forest area. The land area under the roads and streets is almost more than the land in which we live in, by burying it out the land.

The environmental is compounded by the rapid destruction of coastlines. Construction will displace homes and tidal flats. During the three year period the destruction of our natural species of trees, shrubs and ferns.

The acquisition of Fuchs Hammock in Homestead, Dr. Frank Craighead, Florida Nature Conservancy also elected five new members to the board of trustees.

They are Mrs. Nick Gandol of Orlando, Dr. George Cooley of Babson Park, Mr. B. Lippincott Company. In this critical study of the Federal Highway Program — a program which generously funds the installation of a border-to-border carpet of asphalt — the author cites the destruction of cities and the desecration of our national parks and other recreation areas that accompany the futile effort to provide for the free and easy access of automobiles everywhere — throughout the land.

The physical degradation of our environment is compounded by the misuse and financial loss suffered by people swept from their homes and small homes by the tidal wave of highway construction. During the three year period from 1967-1970, it has been estimated that federally funded highway construction will displace 146,959 households (most of them in power communities), 16,979 businesses and non-profit organizations, and 5,000 farms. "When a highway slashes through a city, it is usually the low-income housing that suffers, the author charges.

CONSERVATION SCENE

On a clear day you can see from our new observation tower at Caladesi Island State Park near Dunedin.

State Parks Director Bill Miller said the 60-foot steel structure, provided by the Florida Board of Forestry, was erected to provide a scenic view of both the Gulf of Mexico and St. Petersburg Sound.

A sweeping view of the area around the Caladesi island actually gives the observer a glimpse of the Gulf of Dunedin Beach and the causeway, the city of Dunedin, the city of Clearwater and a rather obscure scene of Clearwater Beach.

In addition, Miller said, visitors get an interesting glance at the intertidal zone, oak and pine groves. Colonies of egret and heron nest in the mangrove growth there, osprey and owls live in the trees, while alligators and small birds abound in the 20 miles of canoe trails.

A picnic area including tables and barbeque grills, garbage disposal units, and two portable restrooms is adjacent to the tower.

However, Capt. Sam Wilson, park superintendent, points out that the entire area is still under development, no boat basin has yet been established. He says:

"There are ways to get these bills moving without committee action. But it takes hard work and legislative know-how to make this happen. Maybe enough sportsmen will write their senators and congress­men to get things moving."

Bacteria Trained For Waste

A Houston, Texas, scientist has developed a unique system for training bacteria to eat waste. By reducing by a specific instance, the Wildlife Management Agency, the desecration of our land by burying it out the land. Particularly effective in the treatment of sewage, Robert Pruessner of Petro-Tex Chemical Corporation, has refined the technique. In the patented process, the company uses a strain of bacteria specifically developed to consume the particular waste materials found in its manufacturing process.

Pruessner conceived the idea of teaching bacteria to "eat" chemicals to solve a specific problem in the industry's water pollution problem. Starting with a small quantity of sludge from the city's sewage plant, the bacteria were conditioned to feed on powder milk. Once the proper number of bacteria were established, they were fed ever increasing quantities of the plant's effluent. Since bacteria evolve and adapt to new environmental conditions, new strains were developed that thrived on the changing environment. The bacterial forms that did not make the shift simply perished, but Pruessner's own had its own hard of useful critters.

Petro-Tex's wastes are treated in two large aerating ponds. Wastes, together with ''food" feed, maintains the bacteria in a healthy, productive condition.

An anaerobic clarifier settles solids before the purified waste water is emptied into a nearby channel. To demonstrate the usefulness of the process, the company has been able to transform the effluent from two million gallons per month. But pruessner's own had its own hard of useful critters.
Game Management Notes

Statistically speaking, during the 1967-68 hunting season 230,320 licensed resident hunters spent 4,427,900 days afield in Florida and bagged 42,900 deer, 18,500 wild turkeys, 33,600 wild hogs, 2,863,380 quail, 1,381,800 squirrels, 2,875,200 doves, 431,300 ducks, and 334,100 snipe.

These figures, all but the number of licensed hunters, are computed estimates of the actual harvest. They are based on the results of a random mail survey of Florida hunters conducted by the Game Management Division in cooperation with the Southeastern Cooperative Statistical Unit at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, according to Gordon Spratt, assistant chief of Game Management, Tallahassee.

The survey also revealed that on the average it took 29.1 days to kill a deer, 19.9 to bag one turkey, but only 8.3 days to take a wild hog. Quail hunters averaged slightly over three birds a day on each day out—and 84.1 of them averaged nearly 8.4 man-days of quail hunting each.

Geographically, Northwest Region had the most resident hunters—52,300 in round figures. The other Commission administrative regions fielded these totals: South Florida—43,800; Central—44,600; Northeast—43,000; and Everglades—34,600.

The calculated deer harvest was distributed like this: Northwest—9,700; Central—9,500; Everglades—9,100; Northeast—7,700; and South Florida—8,300.

"The effect of unusually poor nesting success is reflected in the turkey harvest estimates," says Spratt, pointing out that the state total of 18,500 turkeys killed is down by some 12,500 from the 1966-67 harvest estimate.

On the other hand, the deer harvest in this report is up by an appreciable 8,900 animals from the 66.67 season estimate. Wild hogs, too, are up—by 10,600.

Small game species are most important with respect to satisfying the greatest number of hunters and in terms of hunting opportunity, or man-days, and harvest," says Spratt. "Dove is the top small game species by all measures, and although more quail are harvested than squirrels, squirrel hunting provides more man-days of recreation than quail hunting. Therefore, squirrel may be considered the second most important small game species, at least in terms of hunting opportunity afforded Florida hunters. Squirrel harvests are diminishing as habitat destruction continues," he points out. (The '66-67 squirrel harvest was an estimated 1,420,000; the '67-68 figure, 1,381,800.)

"In comparing previous survey data with current information we are able to confirm that average hunter harvests are declining nearly proportional to the increase in the number of hunters, even though, generally, game populations are increasing," reports Spratt. "In addition, the average hunter is spending more time in the field to harvest most game species."

Commenting on the survey, Spratt says, "Many feel that the sample is too small (2% of the resident hunting license buyers) and question the reliability of the harvest estimates. The answer is that the level of precision could not be significantly improved by doubling or even tripling the sample size. The existing standard error of the estimate meets existing needs.

"The fact is that the field of wildlife management does not require a high degree of statistical precision in estimating wildlife populations and harvests. Our primary objective is to determine trends in game populations and hunter harvests which meet the needs of both administrators and resource managers. This we have been able to do.

"The information furnished by hunters on mail questionnaires is processed by a computer which adjusts for hunter response bias and other factors which affect validity. Our harvest estimates are accurate in terms of management needs."

"Technically, we are wrong when we say 42,900 deer were killed during the 1967-68 hunting season. There were approximately that many deer harvested. The actual kill was somewhere between 37,500 and 48,300 since the standard error of the estimate was 5,400."

"In the case of quail, we should say there were approximately 2,388,300 harvested and that the true harvest was between 2,065,100 and 2,711,500 since the standard error of this estimate was 223,300."

Concluding, Spratt says, "Most of the southeastern states are cooperating in the statistical program. Our data compares favorably with surveys conducted elsewhere. Our methods are statistically sound and our harvest estimates are valid within acceptable limits."
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