

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISH AND GAME BRANCH

The following facts and figures for 1961 represent the total revenue taken in by the Fish & Game Department.

1,656,061 Dollars

This sum includes licence sales, trophy fees, revenue from the fur trade, game tags, fines and all other sources.

ESTIMATED GAME HARVEST. 1961

Deer	67,000
Moose	18,000
Caribou	1,000
Elk	3,500
Mountain Goat	1,900
Waterfowl	377,000
Grouse	414,000

WESTERN SOUTHLAND BRANCH.

Members of the Western Southland Branch please note that the Secretary's address is now 67 Crawia Road Tuatapere.

A TRIP TO REMEMBER

By Bob Wood.

Each year around March and April I remember a trip I had about five years ago. My three cobbles joined me in planning a trip and a new chum, just out from Ireland talked us into taking him along. He told us he was keen to have a go at the deer. We asked him how fit he was, if he had carried a pack, was he very good at walking and climbing. Irish told us that he had walked one hundred miles in 23 hours. We We grinned to ourselves and I for one thought "we will see when we get there mate". We had a block on the White Cones in the upper reaches of the Pomchaka river.

We went out by tractor trailer and arrived at the hut at 8 p.m. that night. Next morning we showed Irish the way to the top and he had a queer look in his eye. "We go up this hill, along the

top to the upper Jordon block, usually takes us about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour taking it easy" I said. We set out and after an hour and a half arrived at the top of the hill with an exhausted Irish. He said that he could go no further so we told him to stay where he was as it was a good place when the shooting started. We carried on to the upper Jordon and shot a couple of deer. On the way back to the hut Jack and Shorty saw Irish stalking a hind and calf. He fired and the hind leapt a good six feet in the air and disappeared into the gully which brought her out just below Shorty and Jack. A shot from Shorty and she staggered back into the bush badly wounded. Drawing his knife Shorty took off to finish her off. All thoughts of Irish were forgotten. The hind was lying by a bush and Shorty reached across to cut her throat. Irish saw the movement and fired, the bullet passed just between Shorty's stomach and into the hind. There was near murder done that day when Shorty recovered. Irish almost got his throat cut.

I have often thought of this incident and wondered who was at fault. Admittedly we never thought that anyone would be so dumb to shoot at a movement in the Bush when they knew that others were nearby. We made the mistake of leaving a new chum on his own, even if it meant missing a good days shooting. We should not have taken it for granted that he was an experienced handler of firearms. The lesson here, of course, is to take new hunters out and try and teach them, not make fun of them and the most important thing to stress is that you never shoot at a target until it is positively identified.

That old saying "better than no meat than no mate" carries a ton of truth.

NEWS FOR BUGLE.

The editor still requires a lot of news for the Bugle and anyone who can assist should do so as soon as possible. Short accounts of trips etc., are the thing we require so it is up to you, boys.

Although replies have not been received from all the run holders, it seems that there is no animal problem in the areas on which we have undertaken shooting operations in past winters. In the Greenstone area, mainly due to the venison recovery operations, the fallow deer population has been reduced to a very low number.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Bugle, the issuing of permits to shoot in the Dart Valley has been placed in the hands of the Otago Branch by the N.Z. Forest Service. The Committee responsible for organizing past shooting operations in the Wakatipu area, feels that it would be an unsporting act to send a large organized party into this area to reduce the goat and red deer population.

However the impression given in the last Bugle that the "goat herd in the Rees Valley" is spreading into the Dart is rather misleading and rather discredits the excellent work accomplished by the personnel of the winter shooting parties who have operated in the Rees for many years. Firstly goat numbers have been relatively light in the upper Rees, compared with the Lake Locknapan area of the Shotover which also saddles with the Dart. Goats have been established for many years on the southern and eastern side (sunny faces) of the upper Dart, and with goat numbers so few in the upper Rees at present, it would be wrong to speak of the Rees having a goat herd.

A.R. Harrison

Ed. In the last Bugle, on no account was it the intention to discredit the work of the shooting party concerned. Following a report from the Noxious Animals Advisory Committee re the goats in the Dart Valley, it was thought that attention should be drawn to them so that members hunting in the area could help to stop any further spread of these animals.

PRESERVATION INLET TO OREPUKE

By J. Orcheston, M.I.E.E.
Late Chief Engineer N.Z.
Telegraphs.

Extract from The N.Z. Surveyor 1928

With a view to ascertaining the practicability and probable cost of constructing a telegraph line to link up Puysegur Point Lighthouse with telegraphic system at Orepuke, the writer accompanied by 5 men traversed the little known forest country between Preservation Inlet and the Waiiau River.

Before leaving the Inlet I was advised by the lighthouse keeper to take plenty of dogs with us and to see they were fat before starting as, of a previous party of 3 who attempted the journey two years before, only one (Harvey) reached the Waiiau in six weeks, minus his clothing. While swimming across the mouth of the Wairaurahiri River towing his bundle of clothing he unfortunately lost it. For five days he travelled without clothing, living on raw shell fish and kelp. Shortly after his arrival a party landed on the western side of the Wairaurahiri from S.S. Invercargill and tracing footsteps in the moss along the river bank for six miles found one of the party, Mr Kelly, gnawing the raw hind leg of his dog. The third man is still missing. Profiting by this experience I engaged Charley Thomas who had two dogs, a collie and a terrier. I also got 20 lbs of oatmeal to supplement our larder. But for the assistance rendered by the dogs in catching the flightless birds (Kakapo, Wekas and Kiwis) combined with the oatmeal, it is a question if this account of our trip would have ever been written.

The writer then goes on to describe the trip. When one reads of these early days exploration trips it brings home what hardy chaps they must have been. When we set out on some such trip we have light weight sleeping bags and all types of the best and lightest food to exist on. Even then we have a pretty rough time. I am sure that I could never foot it with these real bushmen.

STALKING NEWS

If the number of reports on hunting trips sent in to me by members is an indication of the trips carried out this season then it looks like the mighty hunters are staying home to watch T.V.

Never the less, a few have managed to get away and the following is a brief report on these trips.

Allan Harrison, John Murray and Harvey Morrow spent a few days on Stewart Island and, by all accounts had an enjoyable time. No trophy whitetail deer were obtained but enough were sighted to make them keen to return. I believe Allan did manage to get a trophy, a whale head. Do not know the Douglas score but elngth was about 12 ft.. Where he is going to hang it is a mystery.

Bob Wood, Dick Wood and Dave McGraw spent an enjoyable 8 days in the upper Landsborough where Bob and Dick shot a trophy Tahr and Chamois apiece. Best head was a 13" Tahr shot by Bob. There was some worried chaps when the parachute on the package containing a bottle of medicine failed to open. However it made the descent safely and helped to keep the party healthy.

Len Butterfield and party spent a few days on Stewart Island chasing a white deer. They came home empty handed and we can only draw the conclusion that it was a ghost. Perhaps too much medicine before the trip and I guess it is as easy to see a White Deer as a Pink Elephant.

Athol Hood and Roy Large of Blenheim spent a week on Stewart Island where they both shot quite nice trophy whitetail heads. Roy has been a regular visitor to the Island for the past few years and it is good to see it pay off. I believe Doug Johnson has also been on the Island but have had no reports of his trip.

LANDSBOROUGH VALLEY In the New Zealand Wildlife No 10 under "A Guide to Westland" a paragraph refers to the Landsborough. The writer states that there is a hut in the head of the valley. I must correct this as there is no hut in this area. In fact, the only hut in the entire valley is that on Harpers flat, some $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from junction with the Clarke and this is almost derelict.

AIRCRAFT TRAGEDIES

Once again we have to report two fatal accidents involving aircraft in our area. Captain I. Buckham and three passengers were killed when the Cessna Aircraft crashed on the Gertrude Saddle. Mr Frank Erceg and a companion were killed while recovering venison with the air of a helecopter in the mountains above the Matukituki Valley. The sympathy of all sportsmen go to the relatives of all those who lost their lives.

WILD SHEEP

It may be of interest to members to hear of two very fine wild sheep heads that I have viewed and measured recently. They were shot by Mr G. Auton and a friend a few years ago. The measurements are as follows. Length Left Horn $30\frac{1}{8}$, right horn $29\frac{1}{4}$. Girth left $8\frac{1}{8}$ right 3. Spread $23\frac{3}{4}$. This sheep was a black one. Length left horn $28\frac{3}{4}$, right horn $28\frac{3}{4}$. Girth left $7\frac{7}{8}$ right $7\frac{5}{8}$. The condition of the horns on these trophies are in wonderful condition and represent two of the finest trophy sheep heads I have ever seen.

BRANCH NEWS.

WESTERN SOUTHLAND. The Annual General Meeting of the Western Southland Branch will be held in the Orange Hall Otautau on June 15th at 8 p.m. SHARP. Films to follow and supper.

ANNUAL DINNER. The Annual Dinner will be held at Tuatapere again this year on July 17th Keep this Saturday free.

MEAT FOR DINNER. Venison and Pork is still required for the dinner. Donations may be left or forwarded to the Riverton Fish Supply. Please label clearly. Loins of pig are also required for supper.

HUMP HUT. This hut is now completed and members are encouraged to use it. Parties intending to go to this hut please contact the Secretary. There are several articles to be taken up to the hut.

BRANCH NEWS.

Southland Branch.

Members please note that the Annual Meeting of the branch will be held in the Y.M.C.A, Tay Street Invercargill on Wed 16th June. Remember it is up to each and every member to attend this meeting.

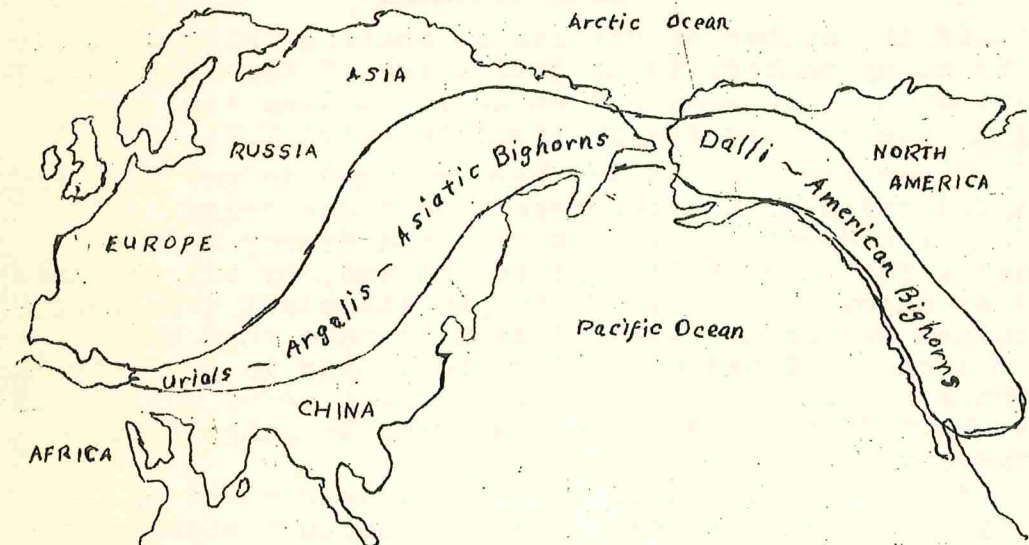
Photographic Competition. The annual competition will be held on Wed 7th July, Y.M.C.A Tay Street. Colour Slides must be mounted in glass covered mounts and have a spot on the lower left hand corner when viewed in the normal upright position with the naked eye. Rules and entry forms may be obtained from A.W.Hamiltons or by writing to John Murray, Forest Hill No 6 R.D. Invercargill. All entries must be in the hands of John Murray by the 23rd June.

Annual Dinner. The branch Annual Dinner will be held in the Scottish Hall, Esk St Invercargill on Wed 14th July and will be on the same lines as last year. That is the hinds will be able to attend. Members please note that we eat VENISON at this function. It looks like we will have to starve this year if some meat does not roll in. Members are reminded to watch the notices in the press in regards to tickets for the dinner. All trophy cups to be returned to Hamiltons as soon as possible.

Range Shoot. The range shoot will be held on the Otatara range on Sat 10th July. Please watch the press for further information. The usual trophies will be competed for plus £10 worth of taxidermy kindly donated by Mr Bok. This will be a grand opportunity to get your trophy head mounted for nothing. If you can hit a deer then you may be able to hit a bull, (eye).

Remit. The following remit was carried at the recent general meeting of the Southland Branch. "That all members of Southland Branches be asked to drop a line to their respective Secretaries outlining any case they know of of poaching or misdemeanours within the Fiordland Nat Park. This information to be collated and forwarded to the National Secretary before the 7th June. In all cases wherever possible details of names, dates and places be clearly stated."

This remit was moved by I Macfarlane and seconded by R.D.Wood.



The Great Arc of the Wild Sheep.

WILD SHEEP.

Nowhere in the world outside of their Great Arc which is entirely north of the equator, may wild sheep be found. The arc runs from the western part of North America to British Columbia and Alaska, across eastern Siberia, down through Central Asia and ends in the middle east countries. The wild sheep of the world may be divided into five general groups. Mouflons of the middle east countries and Mediterranean Islands, Argalis or Ammons of Central Asia, Asiatic Bighorns of Eastern Siberia, Dallis of Alaska and Northern British Columbia, and North American Bighorns of western North America.

Of all the coveted big game trophies of the world there is few more highly prized than a massive sheep head. To achieve this ambition, the hunter must take to the high country, for such is the habitat of wild sheep. He may travel east or west but he must hold to the mountains if he hopes to see the sheep. In a word, he must follow the Great Arc of the Wild Sheep.

In each publication of the "Bugle" we will describe one of the many species of Wild Sheep.

THE BUGLE

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A CONSERVATION PLEDGE

* * *

I believe in the wisdom of nature's design.

I know that soil, water, plants and wildlife creatures
depend upon each other and are vital to human life.

I recognize that persistent research into the
intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure
wise use of earth's abundance.

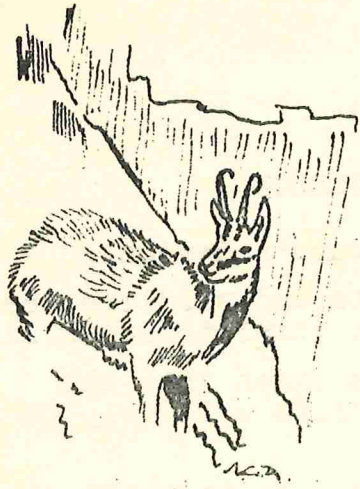
I condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no
living species shall be lost.

I believe that every generation should be able to
experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places
where primitive nature is undisturbed.

So I will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas,
refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's
storehouse of resources.

I dedicate myself to the pleasant task of opening the
eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the
beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in the
conserving its wonders forever.

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The Bugle

by the Southern Branches
N. Z. D. A

