About Deer

Antlers are usually considered the exclusive property of the male deer, but at times a female will be found with a small set. Antlers are shed and re-grown each year. Let's begin with the moment the antler falls off, usually in January or February. Bleeding begins from the pedicel, which clots very rapidly. Skin, which contains veins, nerves and hair, forms over the blood clot. The burr or warty substance forms first, this is caused by the overflow of blood.

The antler establishes its full diameter first and then begins to elongate. Antlers are supplied by two streams of blood, the stream which runs up through the pedicel and a second stream which feeds the velvet. The animal is very sensitive during the time of antler development.

The beam, or main stem, grows until it flattens, then bification takes place, which forms tines. The blood vessels eventually are filled in and closed, beginning at the top. After the antlers take on their solid form, the outer skin, or velvet, becomes very itchy, and the buck will rub his antlers against branches until all the velvet is removed and the antler becomes shiny. This whole process of growing antlers takes approximately 100 to 120 days.

A first year animal will usually produce a single beam or spike, with more tines being added along with each years set of antlers. The age can be guessed from the number of tines, but this is not accurate due to possible malformation of the antlers which may be caused by: 1. Injury to the antler during growth, 2. Injury to the animal itself, which usually causes malformation on the same side of the animal that was injured, or 3. Poor growth because of poor food.

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Cover for wildlife corresponds to arns and sheds of domestic ani- ffords shelter from the fuge from enemies, a parative peace where may be spent in ther d, t t el- as m- all od- eot, efore he nal en wh t fled up in sh, they're h ept at putting a couple of saplings between themselves and a charge of No. 8's. Every hunter has literally mown off the bushes as a bird disappeared unscathed, and undoubtedly also has had the experience of clubbing a tree with his gun-barrel while swinging on a "side-winder."

Early-season trout fishermen enjoy the "drumming" of the males when the birds are abundant, and are saddened by the lack of it when the birds are at a "low." Yes, in addition to their tricky behavior in the brush during the hunting season, grouse have another habit which gives sportsmen and biologists alike a great deal of concern. They have a tendency to be very abundant for a few years, and then very scarce for a few. This cyclic behavior has received a lot of attention from hunters as well as from professional game men.

Some want to cure grouse cycles, and some only cuss them, but we still have them, and whether they can be cured or only cussed is a question not yet answered. Many observations have been advanced as explanations and have proven to be correlated with the cycles, but not necessarily the cause of them. Biologists of the Conservation department's Pittman-Robertson grouse research project are looking for more correlations.

Biologists believe their function today is to correct all the data they can, on all possible aspects of the rough grouse population, and to develop new approaches to the old problem. They are building the foundation on which grouse management, and consequently the sport of hunting, will rest in the future.

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Don't Do It!

Conservation-minded fishermen used to believe confidently that they should "put the little fish back and give them a chance to grow."

Fact-finding has shown that where fast-multiplying panfish are concerned, the well-meant old slogan is anti-conservation. The trouble is, in more cases than not those little fish won't grow. What they'll do, if put back in the water, is compete with countless little cousins for a too-small food supply.

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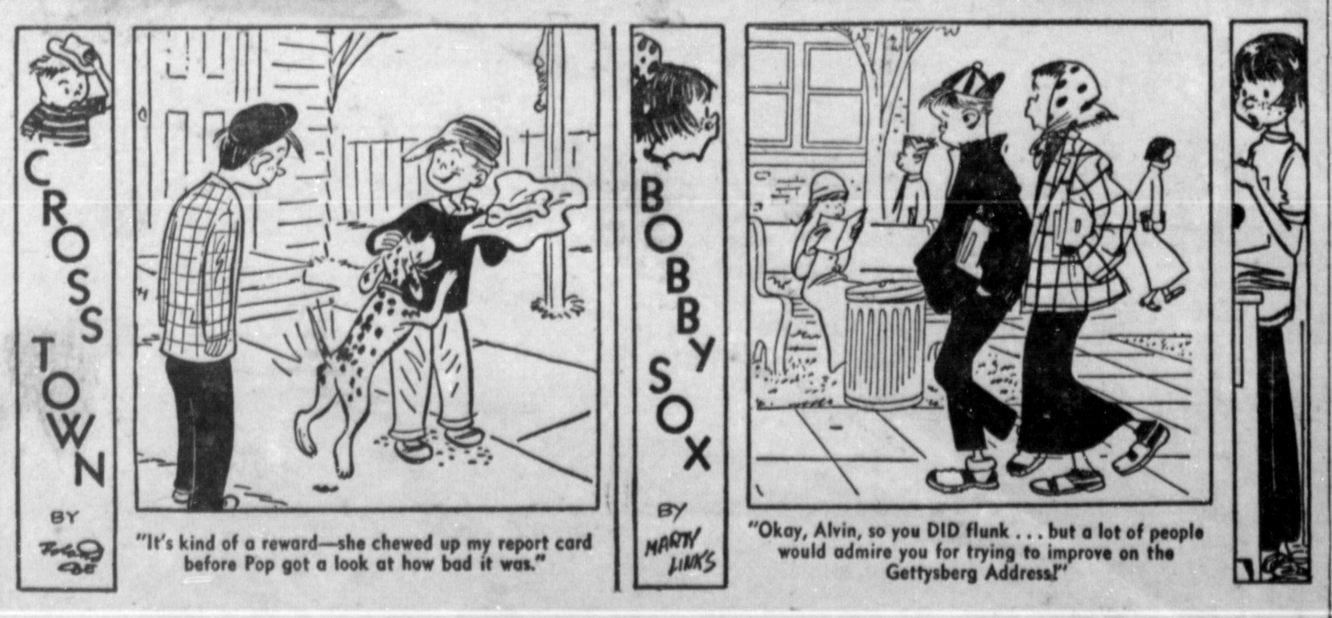

"It's kind of a reward—she chewed up my report card before Pop got a look at how bad it was."

"Okay, Alvin, so you DID flunk . . . but a lot of people would admire you for trying to improve on the Gettysberg Address!"

Classified Department

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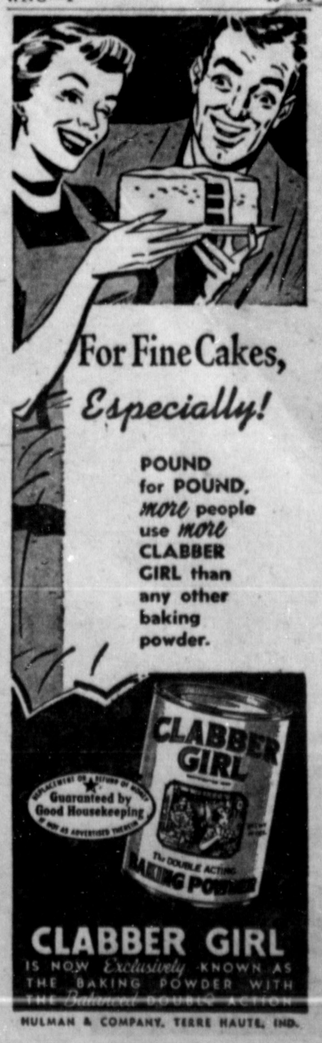
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