Census Shows Abundance of U. S. Big Game

Government Figures Reveal 6,000,000 Animals Inhabit 'Wilderness' Areas.

WASHINGTON.—Big game in the United States is the most plentiful now since Daniel Boone went bear hunting, according to a game census made by the bureau of biological survey.

Government census takers who next year will count the human population, counted approximately 6,000,000 big-game animals, principally in government forests and game preserves.

It was the second such big-game inventory. Two years ago a census showed 5,000,000 big-game. Survey officials said, however, that the increase may be partially accounted for by a more accurate count.

The inventory was conducted in co-operation with the national park service, the interior department division of grazing, the bureau of forest affairs, the forest service, state game departments and other government agencies.

Deer Most Numerous.

Included in the survey were deer, elk, moose, antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, peccary, caribou, bear, buffalo and the European wild boar. Excepting buffalo the count did not include animals in captivity.

Deer accounted for more than 5,335,000 of the 6,000,000 big-game animals counted. The census included 93,500 black bear, 228,000 elk, 16,300 moose, 11,300 Rocky Mountain big-horn sheep, 4,500 buffalo, 40,200 peccaries and 1,100 grizzly bears.

Michigan, Pennsylvania and California, in that order lead all states in the number of big-game animals within their boundaries and also have the greatest number of deer. Michigan has 1,000,000 whitetail deer, Pennsylvania, 773,000 whitetails, and California 528,000 mule and blacktailed deer.

Wyoming leads in four big-game groups. It has 91,700 elk, 7,400 moose, 5,000 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and 890 buffalo. California also headed the list of desert bighorn sheep, with 5,000. Nevada was second with 1,140, and Arizona third with 1,200.

Washington was credited with 5,700 of the 14,500 mountain goats in the nation. Montana has 4,900 and Idaho 3,800. Texas has 32,500 of all peccaries, Arizona 7,200 and New Mexico 450.

The 845 exotic European wild boar found in this country are confined to Tennessee, 425; California, 200; New Hampshire and North Carolina, 100 each, and Mississippi, 20.

Washington has 15,000 black bear, California, 14,500. There are 550 grizzly bear in Montana and 400 in Wyoming. Only 16 woodland caribou were reported. Minnesota has 12 and Michigan four. Delaware is the only state in which no big-game animals were found.

Mother Takes Witness Stand Before Dies Committee

A boast that Communists would take over the government and armed forces of the United States was told to Martin Dies, right, of Texas, chairman of the Dies committee investigating un-American activities, by Mrs. Dollie Crawford, left, of Frederick, Md. Mrs. Crawford's son, William McCuistion, was arrested recently in connection with a New Orleans murder, and the man who "tipped off" the police that her son could be apprehended made the boast to her, according to Mrs. Crawford.

Use Fingers to Remove Unexpected Bones From Mouth

By PHYLLIS BELMONT

WILL you please settle an argument? How is a small fish bone removed from the mouth? Is it correct to use the napkin, the fingers, or to place it on the fork and then on the plate? Thank you.
MISS M. R. Y.

Answer—I assume the straying fish bone escaped your attempt to remove the bones with your fork before you started eating the piece of fish. We all find them occasionally where they are least expected. But if one unexpectedly turns up in your mouth, take the fish bone with your thumb and forefinger and place it on the side of your plate. Once food has reached the mouth, anything which cannot be swallowed should be removed by the fingers as inconspicuously as possible and put back on the plate. To use one's fork or napkin for this purpose today is an affectation, really.

Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.

Inquisitive Granny Fox Runs From Strange Hill Creature

By THORNTON BURGESS

UNC' BILLY POSSUM had passed the word along to Jimmy Skunk, Peter Rabbit, and Prickly Porky that old Granny Fox would be on hand at sun-up to see for herself the strange creature which had frightened Reddy Fox at the foot of the hill where Prickly Porky lives. How did Unc' Billy know? Well, he just guessed. He is quite as shrewd and clever as Granny Fox herself, and when he told her that the only time the strange creature everybody was talking about was seen was at sun-up, he guessed by the very way she sniffed and pretended not to believe it at all that she would visit Prickly Porky's hill the next morning.

"The ol' lady suspects that there is some trick, and we'uns has got to be very careful," warned Unc' Billy as he and his three friends put their heads together in the early evening. "She is done bound to

Then he climbed down from the tree he had been sitting in and began to poke around in the dead leaves.

come snooping around before sun-up," he continued, "and we'uns must be out of sight, all excepting Br'er Porky. She'll come just the way she did this afternoon, from back of the hill instead of along the holler."

Unc' Billy was quite right. Old Granny Fox felt sure that some one was playing tricks, so she didn't wait until jolly, round, red Mr. Sun was out of bed. She was at the top of the hill where Prickly Porky lives a full hour before sun-up, and there she sat down to wait. She couldn't see or hear anything in the least suspicious. You see Unc' Billy Possum was quite out of sight as he sat in the thickest part of a hemlock tree, and Peter Rabbit was sitting perfectly still in a hollow log, and Jimmy Skunk wasn't showing so much as the tip of his nose as he lay just inside the doorway of an old house under the roots of a big stump. Only Prickly Porky was to be seen, and he seemed to be asleep in his favorite tree. Everything seemed to be just as old Granny Fox had seen it a hundred times before.

At last the Cheerful Little Sunbeams began to dance through the Green Forest, chasing out the Black Shadows. Redeye the Vireo awoke and at once began to sing, as is his way, not even waiting to get a mouthful of breakfast. Prickly Porky yawned and grunted. Then he climbed down from the tree he had been sitting in, walked slowly over to another, started to climb it, changed his mind, and began to poke around in the dead leaves. Old Granny Fox arose and slowly stretched. She glanced at Prickly Porky contemptuously. She had seen him act in this stupid way dozens of times before. Then slowly, watching out sharply on both sides of her without appearing to do so, she walked down the hill to the hollow at the foot.

Now old Granny Fox can be very dignified when she wants to be, and she was now. She didn't hurry the least little bit. She carried her big plumey tail just so. And she didn't once look behind her, for she felt sure that there was nothing out of the way there, and to have done so would have been quite undignified. She had reached the bottom of the hill and was walking along the hollow, smiling to herself to think how easily some people are frightened when her sharp ears caught a sound on the hill behind her. She turned like a flash and then—well, for a minute old Granny Fox was too surprised to do anything but stare. There, rolling down the hill straight toward her, was the very thing Reddy had told her about.

At first Granny decided to stay right where she was and find out what this thing was, but the nearer it got the stranger and more terrible it seemed. It was just a great ball all covered with dried leaves, and yet somehow Granny felt sure that it was alive, although she could see no head or tail or legs. Then Granny forgot her dignity. Yes, sir, she forgot her dignity. In fact she quite lost it altogether. Her big plumey tail, which she carried so proudly dropped, and old Granny Fox ran just as Reddy had run.

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'Somebody Please Throw That Man Out'

When the cameraman surprised Countess Barbara Hutton Haugwitz-Reventlow, left, and Bob Sweeney, her new heart interest, while dining in a New York hotel, their companion, Countess Dorothy DiFrasso, jumped to the rescue and threw her fur piece over "Bab's" face, requesting that the cameraman be thrown out. Sweeney was too busy ducking.

Switchboard Heroine

Marcia Smith, telephone operator in a New York hotel, is shown back on the job after being acclaimed a heroine during a blaze in the building. Despite fumes and smoke, she stuck to the board and warned guests of the danger. She then collapsed.

War in Europe Makes Profitable Market for Timber

UPTON, MAINE.—The New England hurricane of last year will have a direct result on the war for agents of the British government are ready to buy all the hurricane salvage timber for shipment to the British Isles.

In the first long-log drive here in over 25 years millions of feet of the finest pine roared through sluice gates at Pond-in-the-River dam, hurtled down Rapid river and started a journey that will end somewhere in Great Britain. Agents of the British government, it has been learned, are ready to purchase 200,000,000 feet of the pine. Already 150,000,000 feet have been disposed of by the northeastern timber salvage administration of the federal government.

In this area, hard hit by the hurricane, millions of feet of timber were scattered, forming a serious fire hazard. The federal agency purchased 566,000,000 square feet for $6,500,000.

NO HAM AND EGGS?

Pension Sentiment Expected to Boom When Payments Start Next Month

By STEPHEN BRAINTREE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WASHINGTON. — Californians won't eat ham and eggs this winter, nor will Dr. Francis E. Townsend cash a $200-a-month pension check. Ohio has repudiated the Bigelow old age retirement plan, too, but the smart politicians aren't fooling themselves. The high pressure pension advocates will bust into full fury before 1940's elections have become history.

The ruffled gray hair of America's elders may be smoothed somewhat on January 1 when first benefits are paid under the federal old age retirement plan. A little is better than nothing, but it's only a drop in the bucket compared to the pensioneers' demands. Instead of placating the aging voters in a presidential election year, the small social security payments may well boomerang back to the White House. You can't taste cake without wanting more.

Pension Payments Costly.

It's no trifling sum that the social security administration will hand out to some 912,000 persons next year, congress having advanced the starting date of payments from 1942. An estimated $114,000,000 will be paid out starting January 1 to 485,000 primary beneficiaries, 125,000 wives and 20,000 widows over 65 years of age, to 78,000 young widows with dependent children, 194,000 dependent children, and 10,000 dependent parents.

This is entirely apart from social security's old age assistance program, already operative in 48 states, District of Columbia, Alaska and Hawaii. Under the latter plan, which distributed $36,750,000 to 1,897,400 recipients during November alone, the federal government matches state contributions up to $15 a month per beneficiary. Thus, if the state provides a cash allowance of $12.50 a month for old people in need, the U. S. will supply another $12.50.

California Leads.

How this plan has mushroomed is shown in records of five states wherein more than 100,000 needy get monthly checks. There are 137,000 in Illinois and 136,000 in California. Ohio, Texas and New York are the others. California, home of the pension movement, heads the list in amount disbursed. In November that land of sunshine and honey handed out $4,413,000.

Pensioneers insist the nation can stand a large scale retirement program, but realists in the administration doubt that we can afford it. They regard the 1940 payments as a modest start and refuse to make any more concessions to hold the pension vote next year.

Pensions Go to Congress.

It's not expected that 1940 elections will make congress any more pension-minded than it was last June when the house voted down the Townsend plan 302 to 97. That plan would give a pension of $200 a month to all persons over 60 who retire from work, the money to come from a 2 per cent tax on all transactions.

Townsendites are fighting furiously with another group which wants the same general idea wrapped up in another package. This is the General Welfare federation, whose bill is now pending in the house. It would amend the social security act to give $30 to $60 a month to all persons over 60, the cost to be paid by a gross income tax of 2 per cent. Deductions would be permitted from gross income of the cost of materials used in the products of industry, and of the first $60 per month, or $720 per year, of gross income received.

Seek Early Vote.

The potency of this plan is shown by the fact that 130 house members have signed a petition to discharge the house ways and means committee, in whose hands the bill now rests, and bring it to the floor.

The old age retirement plan which goes in effect January 1 is figured this way.

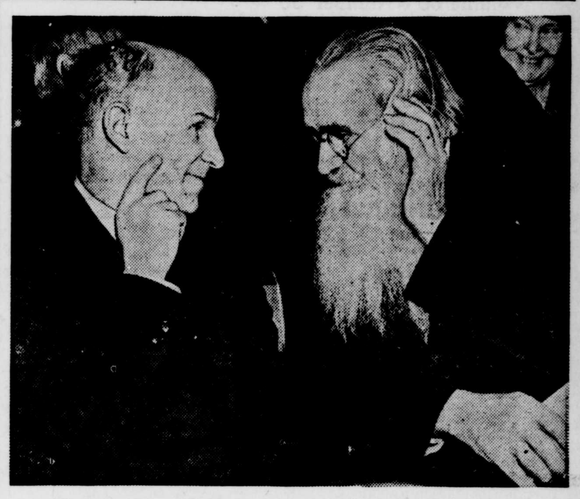
Beneficiaries will receive a basic amount equal to 40 per cent of the first $50 of the average monthly wage plus 10 per cent of the next $200 of average monthly wages. To this is added 1 per cent of the basic amount for each year in which the individual earns at least $200 in covered employment.

Thus a worker whose average monthly income was $100 would receive monthly benefits of $25.75. If married, he would receive an additional $12.88 for his wife, if over 65, and $12.88 for each dependent child. On the same basis a widow's benefits would amount to $19.31 per month; a widow with one dependent child would get $32.19, and a widow with two dependent children, $45.06. No benefit may be less than $10 a month, and the highest will be $85.

Taxpayers Will Decide.

Rational and unbiased observers of the pension movement can see dangers on both sides. A citizen who's worked hard all his life and now faces indigent old age is apt to be a bit too demanding on his government. And youngsters, who fall heir to their elders' jobs and must foot the pension bill, aren't apt to be very sympathetic.

It won't be necessary to worry about alleged "crackpot" retirement schemes. On some not-too-distant day one of them may be legislated into being, but not for long. Eventually the electorate will decide how big a tax load it can carry.



PENSIONEERS—Ira Culp, right, 74-year-old Clevelander, and his companion (unidentified) both worked for the Bigelow plan which was defeated in Ohio last month. It would have paid $50 a month to all persons over 60, money to be raised by a state income tax and a special levy on high-priced land. But Ohio pensioneers, like those in California, aren't downhearted.

Ciphered Messages Foil Enemy, But Sometimes They Backfire!

A'LISTENING—Operators in recording room of the British Broadcasting corporation, London, listening to stations throughout the world. When they strike an interesting or mysterious broadcast, it's switched to the recorder.

LONDON. — Two British secret service agents were arrested in Germany recently after the Nazis had intercepted their coded radio communications. Thus was completed a thrilling — if unsuccessful — chapter in wartime use of ciphered messages, a procedure developed during the World war and being used by all participants in the present war.

In London, Berlin, Paris and other key cities, code specialists are constantly scanning the ether for secret messages.

Phonograph Ran Down.

Clever tricks are often used to foil the enemy. During the World war the allies puzzled for months over fast, gibberish signals broadcast from the great German radio station at Nauen. Records were made and studied in the allied decoding rooms, but the mystery remained unsolved until one hot day on the Mediterranean when British naval officers were mixing cool drinks and listening to musical selections on their portable phonograph. Finally one officer said:

"Well, that's all the records, except for some of the Nauen lightning gibberish."

The record was started, but the first officer forgot to wind the phonograph and none of his companions bothered to stir in the heat. Suddenly an officer jumped to his feet. The "gibberish" on the slowly turning record took form in recognizable code groups, being a message from the German high command to an outpost in East Africa.

Blunder Cost a War.

A code blunder was responsible for Russia's defeat in the World war. Discarding its old cipher in favor of a previously planned new one, the Russians invaded East Prussia with two armies. Through error, only one of the commanding generals had been given the new code, so the field radio proved a boomerang. Neither army could read the other's code, consequently they resorted to "clear," or plain code which the Germans had no trouble intercepting. With this unexpected information, General Von Hindenburg surprised the Russians at Tannenburg on August 26, 1914, and massacred the enemy.

A few weeks later the Russian navy made up for the army's loss. Having sunk a German battleship in the Baltic, a Russian commander ordered that the German dead be picked out of the water and taken to land for a decent burial. One of the first things they found on the person of a dead officer was the lead binding of a code book. Dredging frantically, they soon discovered the book itself and thus acquired not only the code then in use, but the key to the whole system on which German naval codes were built.

NAVY MAN PILOT ON FIRST AERIAL 'BOMBING' FLIGHT

NORFOLK, VA.—Capt. Patrick N. L. Bellinger, commanding officer of the United States naval air station here, piloted the first airplane struck by bullets in combat.

While flying at a low altitude over Vera Cruz during the Mexican trouble in 1914, Bellinger's Curtiss pusher seaplane was hit by bullets fired by ground troops.

Bellinger also is believed to be the first aviator to attack enemy soldiers from the air, even though the "bomb" he dropped was a cake of soap. Bellinger became angry when ground troops fired at his ship and threw at them the first thing he could lay his hands on—a cake of soap.

The incident involving his plane when he first was shot at is mentioned in a recently published book, "Navy Men," written by James Connolly, an old shipmate and acquaintance of Captain Bellinger.

It was not until Bellinger had landed that he realized what a close call he had. Examination of the ship revealed three holes bored by bullets in the fuselage of the plane.

The purpose of Bellinger's hops over Mexico was for observation.

Flying a plane in those days was a tough job. The old seaplane he flew had a top speed of about 60 miles an hour and its ceiling was not much more than 1,000 feet.

Fighting back was almost out of the question. Keeping the plane in the air required all the pilot's time and ability.

Many descendants of the old pusher type seaplane now are under Bellinger's command. But these craft, with their incredible speed, remarkable maneuverability and bristling guns, bear little resemblance to their ancestors.

Steel Plate as Base for Roads Is Being Put to Test

NEW YORK.—Roads, constructed of steel are being studied both in Europe and the United States, according to the American Institute of Steel Construction.

The institute released a report saying that tests at Bethlehem, Pa., of a "battledeck floor" covered with a three-eighths inch of asphalt have proved successful.

... of battledeck floors for ... been under way here and in Germany for several years. Only comparatively recently, however, have tests been conducted for steel roads. A steel plate was set in a road at Bethlehem and covered with the asphalt mixture consisting of crushed stone, sand, portland cement, water and an emulsified asphalt which could be applied without heating.

After 18 months heavy usage, the report said, no disruption of the blond between the plate and asphalt had been observed and present indications are that the test appears to have demonstrated that such surfacing will adhere satisfactorily to steel under normal road conditions.

The test panel showed no signs of rutting under traffic, the report said, and showed no "undue tendency" for skidding.

Official Army Song

The official song of the U. S. army is "Army Blue."

Elder's Frown Set Down In Historical Survey

MELROSE, MASS. — When the First Universalist church was erected in 1851, a deacon of another sect who disapproved of the establishment of the faith in the community stood at the door of the church and frowned down upon all entering the edifice. Record of the incident was found by the WPA historical records survey in the unpublished history of the church by Rev. H. Marshall.

Fritz Thyssen, Millionaire Refugee From Nazi Germany, Pushed Adolf Hitler Upstairs to Reich Chancellorship

LOCARNO, SWITZERLAND.—The world may never know why Fritz Thyssen, German iron and steel magnate and staunch supporter of Naziism during Adolf Hitler's salad days, fled his native land recently to find refuge in this haven of exiles.

Reputedly worth 80 million dollars, Thyssen would only tell reporters that he was "against the war and the present policy of the reich government." But he added a hint that his life had been endangered by saying that "this political attitude threatened to cause consequences which forced me to leave Germany."

Thyssen's departure recalled the rise of this dominant industrial family and its vice like grip on Rhineland industry, a position in which the Thyssen family once employed 60,000 men and held some 500,000 Germans under its dependency. The fortune was started by old August Thyssen, who began with a small steel plant at Muelheim. By 1913 he and Hugo Stinnes were Germany's richest men and it was rumored the Kaiser promised each of them vast concessions in Australia and Canada if they would help win the World war.

Fritz Thyssen

Fritz, the present refugee, was August Thyssen's younger son. The elder, August Jr., was heir apparent until he began squandering the family fortune at European night clubs.

How Thyssen fell in disfavor with the Nazis will probably remain a mystery. It is known that he and other great industrialists helped support the party from 1930 on, having looked with disfavor on the democracy which followed the World war. Thyssen disliked the French, partly because of the Versailles treaty, but mostly because he lost heavily when France occupied the Ruhr in 1923.