

Wild Boar Hunting In Carolina Is Rugged Wilderness Adventure

G. F. Burchfield is everything a boar hunting guide should be. He knows the Smoky Mountains, is patient with greenhorns and rolls his own cigarettes.

Burchfield works for the Blue Boar Lodge in Robbinsville, North Carolina, one of three facilities in the state which offer organized hunts for wild Russian boar. The others are Thunderbird Mountain Resort which will cater to hunters for the first time this year, and Phillips Motel in Robbinsville.

Just before the season's end last year, Burchfield took the lodge guests to Patrick Meadows in Swain County for the

start of a hunt. It was a cold day, with rain at the bottom of the mountain and mixed sleet and snow at the top.

The hounds he released were a mix-blooded lot, hardy, and well-scarred from battle with boar and hog. The hunters were stationed at intervals along a ridge near Hoffman Creek. Two others accompanied Burchfield and the pack.

A poor mast year in 1968 forced the boar to range widely for food. Although the dogs found sign which the guide estimated to be three days old,

they did not strike a boar. The following day they hunted near Tapoco in Swain County and chased a hog into Tennessee, which adjoins the county, but could not follow, lacking proper licenses. The dogs returned, one by one, and Burchfield loaded them into his truck.

The Blue Boar Lodge plans two three-day hunts a week during the season. For one price you get a room and meals and guide service. Energetic hunters may accompany the guide, who must be close behind the pack to kill the hog when it bays. Otherwise, the

hog may kill the dogs. Most hunters take stands, however, and hope a boar passes within range. Following the melodious chase by ear, hunters sometimes may move in position to intersect the boar.

North Carolina's Russian boar are not merely feral hogs, although they all, most probably, have some domestic blood. The boars are fast, powerful animals capable of running through dense rhododendron thickets and up steep ridges while covering miles of mountain countryside. Most of them are armed with tusks capable of ripping open a dog—or a

man. Males may weigh over 300 pounds.

Tar Heel tuskers originated from a game preserve built by George Gordon Moore on Hooper Bald in 1912. Moore, a wealthy Chicago businessman, imported 14 boar from the Ural Mountains of Russia, as well as buffalo, elk, mule deer and bear from Canada and other parts of Russia.

The animals soon escaped their pens and fled into the mountain wilderness. In ensuing years, most of the game died off or was killed, but the boar were capable of eluding hunters and establishing

themselves on the wooded slopes surrounding 5,429-foot Hooper Bald in the Unicoi Mountains.

Public hunting for boar is available in the Santeetlah Wildlife Management Area near Robbinsville. One section is set aside for still hunts, while in another, dog hunts are permitted. Last year, hunters took 33 boar from the Management Area, but in some years the total killed for the five-county area where boar are found in North Carolina goes over 300.

A hunting license and a big game permit are required for hunting boar, except on the San-

teetlah Wildlife Management Area where an additional daily permit is required.

All 100 Counties Are Represented

All 100 counties in North Carolina are represented by graduate and undergraduate students enrolled this fall at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Among the 6,423 students attending UNC-G this fall are nine students from Watauga County. In addition, UNC-G has 85 alumni who live in Watauga County.



Mrs. Ruth Malta Is New Member Of Police Force

Mrs. Ruth Malta of Route 2, Vilas, has joined the staff of the Boone Police Department, Chief Clyde Tester announced. He said her duties will include a surveillance of parking meters, office work and school patrols. Mrs. Malta replaces Mrs. Pat Isaacs who has joined the staff of the clerk of Watauga County Superior Court. Mrs. Malta formerly was with the purchasing office at IRC for 15 years.

\$8,400 Is Paid By Farm Office

Annual payments of \$8,400 have been made by the ASCS office to 70 producers under the Cropland Adjustment Program, according to Roy W. Inley, ASCS office manager. Twenty-eight acres of burley tobacco allotments has been placed in the long-term Cropland Adjustment Program (soil bank) and will not be grown for the period of agreement. The program is similar in some respects to the old soil bank or Cropland Retirement Program. Producers have signed agreements with the ASC County Committee to not grow their tobacco allotments for a five to ten year period and have the land maintained in a soil conserving crop. Producers receive an annual payment based on their average farm yield and they agree not to harvest from the diverted acreage during the agreement period.

FOOD & HEADACHES
CHICAGO—Dr. Michael Anthony of Australia told an international symposium on headaches at the Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center that some food and drinks can give you a headache. He said that migraine headaches are associated with chemical changes in the body and the same results can come from eating cheese, oranges, chocolates, herring or drinking wine.

Amazing FACTS
By JERRY COE

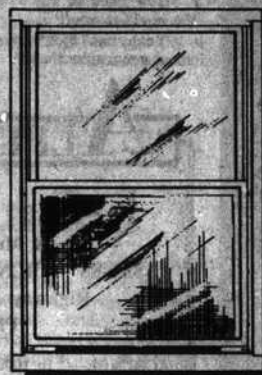
HOW BIG WAS THE CHICAGO FIRE?
The Chicago fire of 1871 has been the subject of song and verse. This blaze ravaged a great part of the Illinois city, killing an estimated 250 persons and causing damage of more than \$195 million. Thousands of business places and homes were obliterated.

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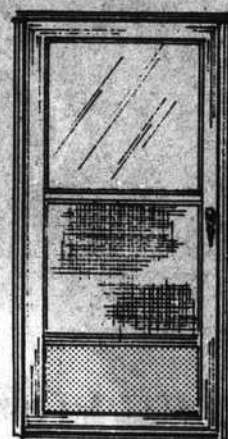
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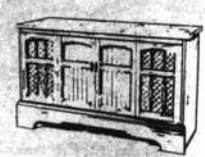


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