

Tar Heel Outdoors

By JOEL ABBINGTON
HARKERS ISLAND, N. C.

—Jack McCann has a new and better way to hunt rails. Rather than waiting for an extreme high tide and searching for someone willing to pole him through a marsh—which is the usual procedure in Tar Heel rail hunting—McCann shuns the push-pole and couldn't care less about the tide. He hunts only the highest marshes and uses a boat only for transportation to rail-infested islands off Shackleford Banks not far from his motel and marina on Harkers Island.

Poling a flat-bottom skiff over a flooded marsh is frequently a back-breaking chore, even if you can find someone willing to do it. Extreme high tides that are ordinarily necessary for good rail hunting are infrequent during the season that runs from the first of September through the first week of November.

The secret of McCann's marsh henning success is a dog named Sam.

Sam is a Labrador retriever, black as marsh mud, and a former Carolinas' field trial champion. The dog is getting along in years now, has a terminal heart-worm condition and is down in his back from a long-age encounter with an automobile.

But he is a genius on rails. McCann has trained the dog to smell out birds and flush them, usually in shotgun range, and to retrieve downed game from water or land.

On opening day of rail season, I saw a demonstration of Sam's skills along with McCann and Joe Suggs of Rocky Mount.

McCann had previously barged an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) to the marsh on the east end of Shackleford Bank within sight of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Sam and a co-worker named Ginney, a fine marsh henner in her own right, hit the beach running.

Suggs and McCann boarded the ATV and I followed along with a camera. We hadn't gone far when McCann stopped the vehicle and motioned for Suggs to get out and get ready.

"Sam's making game there," he said, as Suggs slipped number eight into his 20-gauge. The dog's tail was wagging energetically and his ears perked intelligently as he tracked a creeping marsh hen.

Then the bird flushed, rose slowly at first, caught the wind and was swept rapidly away. Suggs shouldered his gun, swung carefully and dropped the bird in a little creek not far away.

Both Sam and Ginney raced for the rail, but the younger dog reached it first after swimming the creek. She returned it to McCann, who moaned in mock disdain.

"That's the trouble with owning the dogs," he said. "I have to carry all the birds".

It was like that, more or less, for nearly three hours,

Social Security Questions-Answers

By DONALD S. MORRIS

Q. Since I am not going to school during the summer, will my student social security benefits stop?

A. Not if you are planning to return to school in the fall.

Q. I became totally disabled on December 31, 1969. How soon can I get disability payments started?

A. There is a waiting period of six calendar months before payments may begin. This means that July is the first month for which you can receive a check. Payments for July will be received around August 3rd.



Choral Society Rehearsals Set

The Adult Education Division of the College of the Albemarle announces that the Albemarle Choral Society rehearsal meetings for the fall quarter have been scheduled as follows: Southwest Division, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish House, Edenton, Tuesdays at 7:45 P. M.; Northeast Division, Room 143, ground floor, COA main building, also at 7:45 on Thursdays.

Membership is open to all singers in the area of senior high school age or over.

Two series of major concerts for presentation in Elizabeth City and Edenton have been planned to be given the first part of December and the end of March, under the auspices of the COA Lyceum Committee. Instrumentalists from East Carolina University will provide the orchestral accompaniments.

Thirty states in the United States have passed school eye-safety laws, requiring that all students, teachers and visitors in schools and colleges wear appropriate eye protection in labs and workshops.

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Sunday School Lesson

Continued from Page 4

our lives — sometimes more than once. We have many things in our make-up which we, like Jacob, must strive to overcome — selfish preoccupation with our own welfare — disregard for the rights and feelings of others — over-active concern with materialistic, earthly things — the absence of concern with our spiritual welfare.

Jacob's spiritual pilgrimage was long and fraught with anxieties. Ours can be no less. But we must learn from the experience of others in order that our own experiences may be less painful, less shattering. Jacob was assured (because it was God's will) of his birthright, but he was too impatient to claim it. He suffered — but he grew spiritually in that suffering and finally came into his own. We are assured of OUR birthright, in Christ; if we are not worthy of it, we must strive to attain worthiness — but with patience, insight and understanding in our souls.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission).

One in every 20 preschool-age children in the United States is affected by amblyopia (lazy-eye) or other vision problems which can usually be corrected if discovered and treated before school age.