

# Etheridge Urges Development of Game and Fish Crops

## Would Yield a Regular Harvest

### Conservation and Development Director Writes on Interesting Subject

By R. BRUCE ETHERIDGE  
(Director Dept. of Conservation and Development)

Game and fish are crops and will yield a regular harvest if they are so treated. Upon the public realization of this fact the future of the wildlife program, to a great extent, rests today.

The main requirements for reaping a return from these wildlife resources are ample food, cover, and protection. Dividends may be collected in the form of financial returns, the personal pleasure derived from these sports, more vigorous bodies, and more active minds that result from wholesome outdoor exercise and relaxation from the grind of every day life.

Increasing numbers of hunters and fishermen are becoming more willing each year to pay a reasonable fee for the privilege of hunting and fishing where they know they have an opportunity to have satisfactory sport. Every section of North Carolina is suited for some type of game and generally for fish. If these particular forms are encouraged and the supply is replenished, the farmer and landowner will benefit.

Probably none of the functions of the Department of Conservation and Development are better known to the public than those dealing with the fish and game resources of the State. Although in scope it covers probably the widest field of any State Department, being responsible for the forestry, water resources and engineering, commercial fisheries and mineral resources programs besides serving as the agency that advertises the opportunities and encourages the industrial development of North Carolina.

Fishing and hunting are undoubtedly the two earliest occupations of man, dating back to the dawn of history when prehistoric man was forced to depend upon the beasts of the field, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the stream for his daily sustenance together with the wild berries, fruits, and roots that he could gather.

A distinct urge for the pursuit and taking of wild life has persisted even to the present day. The extent of this survival of this fondness for sport is demonstrated by the fact that reports show some 7,000,000 hunters in the

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field in the United States every year and about 150,000 in North Carolina. Records of the number of fishermen are not as complete, but they must be almost as numerous when every class is considered.

Early settlers of our country were able to subsist mainly because of the great stock of wild life for which they hunted, trapped and fished, thus providing themselves with food, shelter, and clothing. As our frontiers were pushed back and man cut the forests, built cities, adapted a large part of the land to agriculture, and polluted streams with industrial and domestic wastes, the breeding places, refuges, and feeding grounds for game and fish have been limited considerably from original conditions.

This situation, together with the fact that the number of hunters and fishermen still increases, has made it imperative that the taking of wild life be restricted so that game and fish may be allowed to reproduce in breeding seasons, limiting the amount and sizes that may be taken and prohibiting the wholesale destruction of wild life. If free and indiscriminate taking of game and fish were allowed, it requires only a little reflection to realize that all wild life would soon go the way of the carrier pigeon and the American bison.

Game and fish are the property of all the people whose rights have been established by statutes and confirmed by the courts. The State Game Law and fishing regulations are made to protect these rights and to make sure that they are not dissipated by those who would slaughter reck-

lessly without thought for the future.

Laws and policies without means for enforcement and constructive measures would be useless, and the Department of Conservation and Development has been created as the agency to protect the interests of the entire people in these natural resources. This Department functions in the field through wardens in every county of the State who are charged with the responsibility of enforcing the laws and assisting with all constructive measures toward preserving and increasing the natural supply of wild life.

The State's conservation program, however, does not stop with law enforcement, which although fundamental to any successful policy, is not sufficient in itself to create satisfactory hunting and fishing conditions. Constructive measures being taken for the rehabilitation of the game supply include the establishment of a State Game Farm near Fayetteville; the setting aside and administration of State Game Refuges; restocking areas depleted of game; and encouraging and assisting farmers and land-owners to practice game management.

In order to recommend policies and to carry out a progressive administration, it is necessary that considerable time be spent in the study of game conditions to show the trend in wild life, whether the tendency of certain species is to increase or decrease, determining the reasons and to attempt to remedy the situation if possible. This work is done by means of observations, special studies, and general surveys of condition. A preliminary survey of conditions that will reach representative counties in every section is now underway.

On the constructive side of the inland fisheries program, the Department is now operating five fish hatcheries, and is contributing toward the support of two others. Five of these are in Western North Carolina. For the past few years, approximately 4,000,000 game fish have been hatched and distributed every year by these cultural stations.

About two years ago, the Department lead a campaign to enlist the interest of the sportsmen in rearing the baby fry from the hatcheries to a more hardy age than the infancy stage at which they had formerly been forced to seek existence in stocked waters as a more efficient measure for the improvement of fishing. Organizations and individuals rose to the appeal and since that time more than 100 of these nursery ponds have been established. At the same time the Department re-

### Popular Jeweler



CARL W. STEELE

doubled its efforts to hold the baby fish and last year about 1,000,000 were reared at the hatcheries to the fingerling stage.

The Department has also encouraged the construction of private fish ponds, using lands that are not applied to other uses, thereby increasing the facilities for the enjoyment of the sport of angling. Although sadly handicapped by the lack of sufficient funds for its inland fisheries program, the Division of Inland Fisheries is striving determinedly to preserve the State's fishing grounds and to lessen the "time between bites." For this work the funds must be increased if made effective.

Since the inland fisheries program is dependent upon the collection of licenses fees, every sportsman can contribute his share by purchasing a license and by seeing that all other fishermen do the same as required by law.

Here in Western North Carolina, we scarcely need emphasize the drawing power of well stocked streams for visitors from other parts of the country. Good fishing grounds attract fishermen from points hundreds of miles distant and will bring them back for repeated visits.

Another point worth considering is the economic value of the flesh of game and fish. The Conservation Department recently estimated that proper protection and development of our game and fish resources will enable people of North Carolina to save a meat bill of \$20,000,000 annually. We appeal to every sportsman and public spirited citizen to aid in this great program.

### Jeweler Praises North Wilkesboro

#### Business of Carl W. Steele Grown Remarkably During Past Five Years

Five years last April Mr. Steele established the jewelry business at North Wilkesboro that bears his name. During the period of time, since the doors were first open for business, it has shown consistent gains, which is reflected in a greater number of customers who look to Mr. Steele for their requirements in silverware, glassware, jewelry, diamonds, watches, and all associated lines. He handles national known goods, quoted at prices in keeping with the times.

Mr. Steele does a very large watch and clock repairing business that is quite out of the ordinary for a town the size of North Wilkesboro. That is his specialty and he has skilled assistants, who can put that watch or clock to keeping the correct time.

Speaking to the writer Mr. Steele said, "Though born in Snry County, North Wilkesboro has always appealed to me as being a splendid place to carry on business and enjoy real home life. The past five years have more than justified my confidence in this community. The people are one hundred per cent American."

Mike Nolan, foreman at the Fort Morgan transient camp, caught a five-foot rattlesnake with nine rattles and a button. Nolan offered the snake for sale through the want ads of the Mobile Register.

A Federal judge and a score of lawyers and attendants were routed from a Newark courtroom when tear-gas bomb exploded in the coatpocket of a lawyer arguing a case.

### Postal Inspectors To Halt Sale of Obscene Literature

Washington.—Postal inspectors received orders today to "crack down" on booksellers who offer obscene literature to boys and girls throughout the country. Kildroy P. Aldrich, chief of the postal sleuths, told his men to redouble their investigations of

insidious advertising sent through the mail. He named New York city as the source of most of the objectionable "sex" publications.

"We're going to clean up that festering sore if we can," Aldrich said. "If we can't do it with existing laws, we're going to try to get the law amended."

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