

# ing Not Answer esses Of Deer

... (Page Six)

... were forest-... currently... in the region... but I was... abundance of... as well as

... Coon tracks... until we... a little grump-

... I COULDN'T believe it. We had

... driven mile after mile without seeing human or human habitation. We'd stopped on high points and looked at tens of thousands of acres at a lick, with no evidence of man's works and abuses. Thin population his country. Even if everybody there hunted constantly, you'd be tempted to bet that the net result wouldn't have been too much on deer supplies.

... I was talking to a chapter of the American Society of Foresters over in Tennessee, mostly telling them how "Field & Stream" and I got to be the way we are, and I put the question to the group.

... "Why don't you have more deer in these hills?"

... "Poaching!" They said in the same breath: "The herds just don't get a chance. Every other hill family has dogs and lives of the country, as they have for generations. That holds the deer population down close to a survival level."

## LAFF-A-DAY



"No, I didn't get a commission in the army—I worked on a straight salary!"

hemorrhagic septicemia, a disease which is a hazard to the local sheep industry.

In early fall mortality from the same ailment showed up on the Ocoee Area of the Cherokee National Forest, and 38 carcasses, found in a period of a few days, caused a cancellation of the proposed open season there. How long has that been going on? And how widespread has it been or is it due to get? And what might be done about it?

I COULD take up a lot more space with similar questions, but I hope the point is established: we don't know much about deer management in that section. And this brings up one more: Why not?

Well, one very good reason is that the Southeast is badly equipped with research personnel. I've

encountered some Forest Service biologists who were bang-up lads, well equipped, but I used that word "some" deliberately. There aren't enough of them, and never were. Funds for game affairs within the bureau never have been anywhere near sufficient. The old inertia generated by the sawlog forester's indifference in animal-life forms is, praise be, pretty well overcome, but the Service has a long road ahead of it before its staff of game men gets up to where it should be.

The point is that the people of the Southeast want more of what their hills might offer; and if somebody can convince them that there is a way, they'll accept the findings and go along. There's not too much time. A lot of wire and "No Hunting" signs are appearing in the Southern Appalach-

## Test Off Cape Cod Sinks Nazi U-Boat

WASHINGTON — A specially equipped torpedo fired by an American submarine sent a former German U-Boat to the bottom in 10 seconds in an experiment recently off Cape Cod, Mass., the Navy announced.

The Nazi undersea boat, the 773-ton U-977, was hit amidships. It broke in two and went down in about 900 feet of water.

The 1,810-ton Atule, late model United States submarine, fired the torpedo, a steam-propelled type

similar to the ones used against Japanese shipping during the war. It contained what the Navy called "a recently developed feature." The Navy did not amplify this cryptic reference except to say that it did not mean use of "homing" or remote control devices.

The U-977 was interned in Argentina on August 17, 1945, one of 10 undersea boats turned over to the United States by the tripartite agreement with Britain and Russia.

### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our relatives and friends for their many expressions of sympathy and the flowers sent at the death of our husband and father, Seymour Nichols Clark.

Mrs. Seymour Clark and Family.

# Playground or Battlefield?



This looks like a battlefield. But you can see the same thing in too many of America's forest playgrounds. Over there it's bombs. Here it's forest and woods fires. Makes returned Servicemen feel right at home.

Yes, forest and woods fires! Fires that burn 31,000,000 acres every year—more than the whole State of New York. Fires that kill billions of little trees—tomorrow's timber—and enough big ones to build 215,000 five-room homes. Fires that denude vital watersheds; cause floods and erosion; scar Nature's beauty.

But here's the payoff. Nine out of ten forest and woods fires CAN be prevented... because they are caused by good, law abiding citizens—like you! So you can help save America's forests—and jobs and homes for her Servicemen—by being careful in all forest areas.

Remember this: Preventing forest and woods fires is better—far better—than fighting them. So read the rules on this page—then abide by them. Do your part... always.

**REMEMBER THESE RULES**

1. Hold your match till it's cold—then pinch it to make sure.
2. Crush out your cigarette, your cigar, your pipe ashes. Then, when there's an ash tray, use it!
3. Drown your campfire and warming fire, then stir and drown again. If no water is available, cover with clean earth.
4. If you must use fire: Ask if the law requires a permit; burn only on still evenings; have help handy; kill every spark.



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# Asheville Burley Tobacco Market

in the case. Why? Because not only do we have a stake in the country's National Forests with a net acreage of over 2,000,000 already, but it should be one of the great game-producing regions of the land and isn't. Then, if the answer still remains poaching, it's high time something was done about it!

LET'S LOOK FOR a moment at the yields of certain areas in this region. I'm talking, remember, about the hills, not the coastal plain. My figures are for 1944 because, as I write, those of the last year are as yet unavailable.

**GA. 2—SOUTHERN—24 Sports**

Here's the Mt. Mitchell Wildlife Management Area in North Carolina with an 8-day season, 683 bucks out and 29 bucks killed on 25,000 acres; and the Daniel Boone Area with 6 days of hunting, 675 bucks moving on 40,000 acres and 39 deer taken. Over in Tennessee 63 hunters took 13 bucks from 80,000 acres in 25 days, and on the 19,000-acre Ocoee Area 210 hopefuls accounted for only 9 bucks. Georgia cover didn't yield any better either. There 192 hunters on the Blue Ridge Management Area had 5 days to try their luck and came out with 36 deer, all bucks. Over 40,000 acres were involved. When you can't average a buck to 1,000 acres in country which looks as good as that does, something's cock-eyed.

"But," you may say to yourself, "he's quoting the figures that make out his case. He hasn't even mentioned the Pisgah Preserve! If he'd just take a gander at the Pisgah, he'd..."

Hold up a minute, brother.

**THE PISGAH** is the biggest management area of 'em all. It's roughly 100,000 acres. In 1944, 955 hunters had 13 days of shooting and took out 281 deer, 113 of them does. That isn't a big yield. A deer for every 350 plus acres is away under what will be taken in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin or several other states, and all of 'em Northern States, too, where the whitetails have to get through tough winters that never bother these Southern herds.

Biologists of the state of North Carolina and the U. S. Forest Service have been working on the Pisgah for years. We can't go into the detail here of what they've done, but take it from me they've done much besides just keeping the poachers under a certain amount of control. And the above figures, compared with those that went before, should indicate that it's been a good investment!

Now it's true that not all this area was originally big-game country. Oldtimers will tell you that deer never were found in some of the higher altitudes. And it's true that a lot of the slopes have been so badly denuded that the soil which would grow cover again has gone on down to the sea by the erosion route. But we hope that the worst of that is over. Forests grow with amazing rapidity in the whole region when given a chance, and the bet is that they're going to have a chance, too, because the foresters—state, Federal and on the staff of TVA—have done a bang-up job of education and sustained-yield logging is coming into rapid acceptance.

**OF COURSE**, replenished food and cover alone will not do the job. A host of factors which have a bearing on game abundance must be identified and studied. It might be—might be, mind you—that, despite the luxuriant ground cover which persists under big timber, deer need more and longer-lived openings. They close very quickly there.

And what about disease? A year ago the folks around Norris were enthusiastic about their deer herd. It was doing well; it had had a rather extended period of legal protection, and, although considerable poaching was suspected, the whitetails were increasing nicely. Then that spring the boys began to find dead deer. And autopsies showed they had succumbed to

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