

Along The Sports Trail

By W. CURTIS RUSS

THE RUSSIAN WILD BOAR

The story of the Russian Wild Boar, as published by the game division of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is more than of just passing interest.

The story is of unusual interest right now, since wild boars are being hunted in the wilds of Graham county. The story is as follows:

HISTORY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Shortly after the beginning of this century, two men, George C. Moore of New York and Conway C. Moore of Aberdeen, Scotland, leased a large tract of mountain wilderness in Graham County. Upon the highest peak, Hooper's Bald, they enclosed a 2,000 acre timbered area with a stout fence with the idea of establishing a game preserve.

The sight of large heavily-bolted crates stimulated a speculative and inquisitive interest among the natives as these crates were being transported to the Bald after the long wagon trip from the distant railroad. These same mountaineers gaped incredulously when huge, heavy beasts were uncrated on Hooper's Bald in 1910. Thus originated the Russian wild boar in North Carolina.

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The wild boar is about the size of the black bear, ranging in weight from approximately 200 to 400 pounds. They are black or brindle in color and have a short, soft under-fur and stiff guard hairs that differ from the wild pig in that they are split at the tips. They also grunt in pig-like fashion. These boars have long snouts, extremely short necks and high shoulders. They have stout, sharp teeth and protruding from their jaws are two pairs of curved tusks (the lower tusk longest and sharpest) which are whet on each other. For a period during the summer the wild boar sheds its under-fur and has only bristles until the winter fur is acquired.

The sow usually dens up in some cliff recess or rocky ledge, or in a dense rhododendron thicket, previous to the bearing of young, to insure safety from enemies and danger. The litter may number anywhere from three to eight, but four and five are the most common numbers of pigs born. For the first several weeks of their lives, these young pigs are a rich brown color with dark yellow horizontal striped markings covering their bodies. While the young are confined to the den, the sow keeps constant vigil over the litter. The little pigs rapidly learn to shift for themselves, however, and are soon on their own.

The Russian boar is a wild and elusive creature, fleet of foot and difficult to bring to bay. Once cornered, they are ferocious fighters and frequently wound or kill the hounds. They have also been known to attack hunters on such occasions. Frequently the Russian breeds with stray "wild hogs" of domestic origin. These crosses are of various colors and make almost as good hunting as the pure-bred Russian. Wild hogs occur over a slightly larger range than the Russians due to the open stock of earlier years.

FOOD

The wild boar is practically omnivorous and one of his most common characteristics is a willingness to utilize nearly everything that is edible. Perhaps from necessity, the boar is principally a vegetarian due to the food normally available. Nuts, mountain grapes, roots, blackberries, insects, wild apples and cherries, worms, dewberries, reptiles, huckleberries, fox grapes, and mast constitute the most common foods obtainable. During the spring and early summer, chick grouse and green corn from the high mountain fields are also included in the diet. The boar feeds mostly at night, but also in the early morning and along towards evening, while during the middle of the day he seeks a retreat in the thickets. Occasionally, a solitary boar or a sow and her litter are reported seen during the daylight hours, but this is a rare occurrence.

ENEMIES

While wildcats undoubtedly take many pigs, probably the only serious enemy of the boar is the black bear, and then usually only the smaller individuals are taken. Stray dogs in the area may occasionally catch young pigs which have wandered from the litter, but losses of this type are negligible.

PRESENT RANGE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Russian boar ranges through the deep-forested, rugged mountains of Graham and Cherokee counties. A large portion of this area was purchased by the U. S. Forest Service and part of this now constitutes the Santeetlah Cooperative Wildlife Management Area. Managed hunts for boar, as well as other game, are held on this area each fall.

HUNTING

The first open season on this animal was declared in 1937. Since they range through the most remote and rugged terrain in the State, hunting this species requires the utmost in stamina on the part of both hunters and dogs. Owners of good bear hounds are reluctant to loan them for boar hunting since boars usually put them to a much more severe test. One of the most effective strains of hound used in this sport is the "Plott" hound, which was originated in Germany and developed by a group of handlers near Waynesville in the western part of this state. They have keen noses, deep chests, and are long winded and persistent, and bred especially for their ferocity.

Varsity Football Awards Presented At Bethel High

Annual football awards were made to members of the varsity squad at Bethel High School at an assembly last week.

The awards were made by Al Phillips of Sluder Furniture Co. of Canton to:

Clyde Duckett, best blocking lineman; L. M. West, best blocking back; Ray Browning, best defensive back, and Bobby McFall, best team spirit.

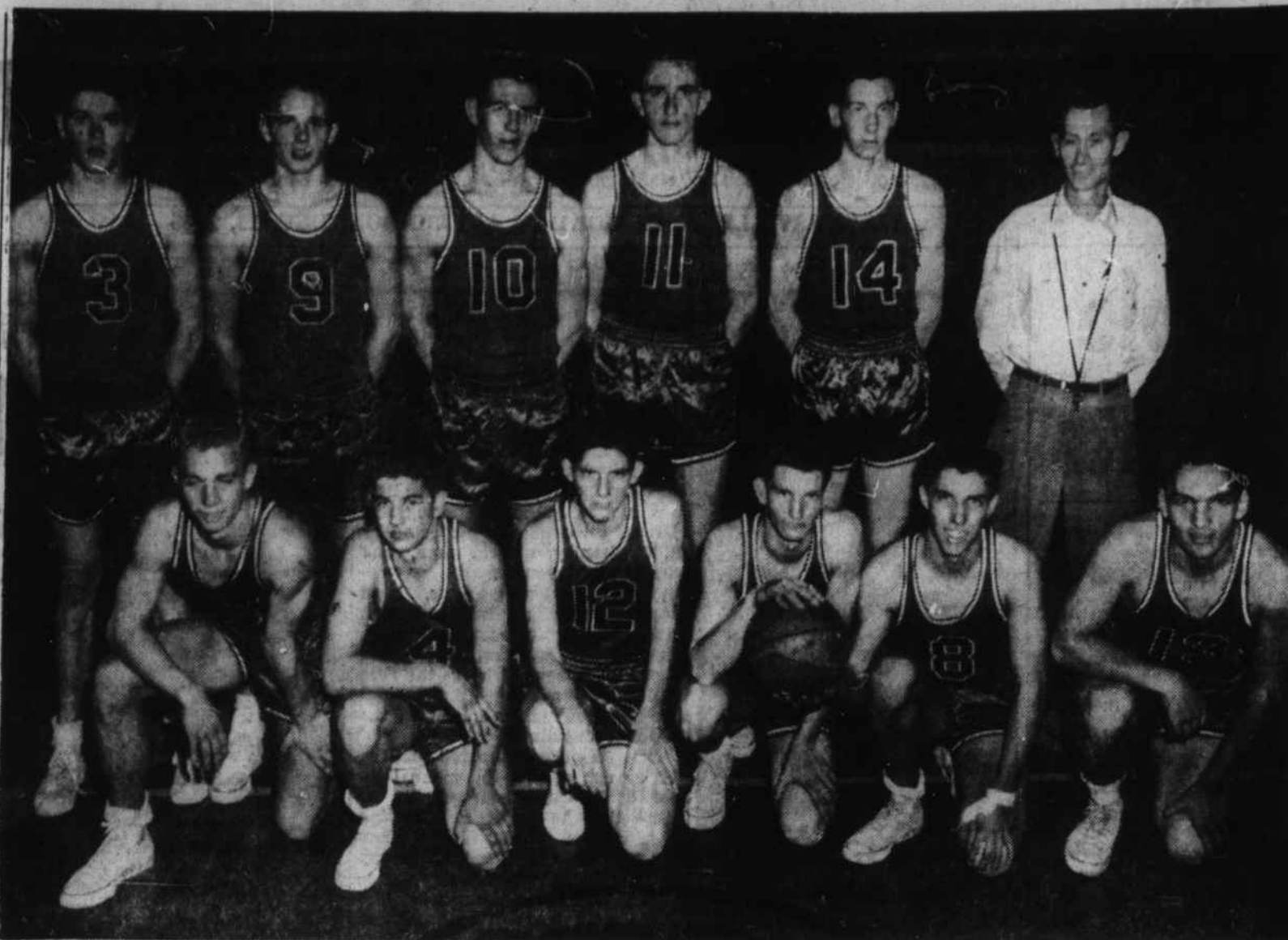
Duckett was named to the all-conference game; McFall played with the Midwestern All-Stars against Buncombe County on Thanksgiving Day, and James Fore was named on an Asheville Times all-star squad.

Coch James Mayfield also announced that the following boys will be eligible for monogram awards, pending the passing of three-quarters of their semester's work at the end of the first semester.

Backs—Roy Browning, Bobby Phillips, L. M. West, Carroll Henson, Robert Capps, Carroll Henson, Eugene Shepherd, and Stanley Swayngin.
Linemen—Dale Singleton, John Russell, Billy Burress, Gerald Hill, Clyde Duckett, Charles Cathey, Billy Conard, Roy Henson, Daryl Cant, Bobby McFall, James Fore, Joe Bob Fish, Doyle Warren, Roy Warren, and Tommy Vance, manager.

Shady Deal

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP) — You can buy excellent window shades and shutters at a factory here. A sign over the door proudly boasts, "Come in — and get the shadiest deal in town."



CANTON BLACK BEARS, posing in the gymnasium at the new Canton Junior High building Wednesday, were: (kneeling, left to right) Billy Stamey, Bill Hudson, Bernard Boone, Dwayne Milner,

Doyce Cannon, Wiley Carpenter; (standing) Bobby Pace, Jerry Raxter, Charles West, John Joe King, Eugene Van Hook and Coach Buck Barkby.

Waynesville Cagers Start Holiday After Double Win Over Crabtree

Waynesville High cagers celebrated the start of a two-week Christmas holiday by scoring a double victory over Crabtree-Iron Duff Thursday night, although the girls had to come from behind for their win.

The boys won without being pressed, 53-32, but the girls had to go all out to triumph 41-38.

Don Jordan and Carroll Hooper divided scoring honors for the Mountaineers with a dozen apiece. Roger McElroy was high for Crabtree-Iron Duff with seven.

Waynesville had a 25-14 lead at the half.

In the girls' game, Crabtree was ahead at the intermission, 17-14, but sophomore sharpshooter Agnes Roberson made the big difference in the game by netting 28 points for Waynesville.

Smith was the top scorer for the C-ID sextet with 14 points.

Girls' lineup:

Waynesville (41) Crabtree-ID (38)
F—Carver (9) Pressnell (8)
F—Fitzgerald (4) Hannah (6)
F—Robinson (28) Smith (14)
G—Howell McCracken (7)
G—Ratliff Plemmons
G—Turner Ferguson
Subs: Crabtree—Brown 2, B. Crawford, J. Crawford, Jones.
Half time score: 17-14, Crabtree.

Boys' lineup:

Waynesville (53) Crabtree-ID (32)
F—Hooper (12) Bradshaw (6)
F—Davis Hannah (6)
C—Sparks (4) McElroy (7)
G—Ballance (2) Best (4)
G—Jordan (12) Kirkpatrick (11)
Subs: Waynesville—Medford 6, Holder, Davis, Hall, Trull 4, Hinchshaw, Ezell, Crabtree—J. Parks, G. Ferguson, Clark 5, Crawford, K. Hannah, Rogers, Beasley, Brown, C. Parks.

Dayton Cagers Now Second In WNC League

The Dayton Rubber Thorobreds won another basketball game in the WNC Industrial League last week by clipping Venable on the losers' floor, 83-63, and now rank second in the league.

Max Rogers led Dayton with 30 points.

The Thorobreds — with only one defeat — are now second in the league only to the powerful Beacon quintet, who won the championship last year.

The Dayton Rubber girls also are second in their division of the league, having dropped their only game to Beacon.

Behind Dayton in the loop standings are Venable, Weaverville Lions, Old Fort, Youngblood Trucking Lines, and Blanton's Business College.

The Thorobreds are scheduled to meet Blanton's in the new gym at Crabtree-Iron Duff High School tonight. The Woodmen of the World are handling the ticket sales.

Hunting By Radio

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A Drummond stockman, Wayne Hill, radioed for a gun when he saw a bear. He spooked the bear into brush. While wondering what to do next, he saw a Blackfoot Forest Protective Assn. patrol car. Patrolman Art Ahlin radioed a lookout station which called Hill's son, Byron, at school. Byron got to the scene with a gun and his daddy bagged the bear.



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WEEK PROGRAMS

THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

MON. - FRI., 9:10 & 10:55 A. M.

VOICE OF CHRISTMAS

TUES. - FRI., 11:45 A.M.

CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHRIST

MON. - SAT., 12:45 P.M.

GEO. MELOCHRINO STRINGS

MON. - THURS., 1:45 P.M.

CHRISTMAS IS IN THE AIR

TUES. - FRI., 3:05 P.M.

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

TUES. - FRI., 3:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

MON. - SAT., 3:45 P. M.

970 **WWIT** 970

CANTON, N. C.

Canton Black Bears Top Bethel; Belles Victorious

Clyde And Fines Creek Split Games

Clyde and Fines Creek split two basketball games at Clyde Friday night with the Clyde boys winning, 52-41, and the Fines Creek girls, 49-46.

In the boys' game, three Cardinal cagers hit in the double figures — with Shook caging 19, Caldwell 14, and David McCracken 12. James Ferguson and Haynes both hit 13 for the Hornets.

Clyde was ahead at the half, 27-20.

The girls' game featured a scoring duel between Catherine Ferguson of Fines Creek and Betty Owenby of Clyde with the former finishing with 32 points and the latter 30.

The Fillies were in front at the half, 26-18.

Neither Clyde or Fines Creek will play any more games until after the Christmas holidays.

Girls' lineup:

Fines Creek (49) Clyde (46)
F—C. Ferguson (32) Owenby (30)
F—E. Ferguson (7) Harris (2)
F—A. Ledford (10) Medford (14)
G—Parkins Scott
G—Trantham Russell
G—Rogers Brown
Subs: Fines Creek—B. Ferguson, Bradshaw, Price, Clyde—Ducker, Hughey.

Boys' lineup:

Fines Creek (41) Clyde (52)
F—Fish (5) McCracken (5)
F—Haynes (13) D. McCracken (12)
C—J. Ferguson (13) Shook (19)
G—Evans (8) Caldwell (14)
G—Bramlett (2) Green (2)
Subs: Fines Creek—Clark, G. Ferguson.
Half time score: 27-20, Clyde.
Officials: J. Gaddy and Kaylor.

Deer Disease

Disappears

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A mysterious disease, which killed more than 130 deer in Michigan in a month this fall, has disappeared. The Michigan Conservation Dept. said it believes the disease

Canton's Black Bears put strong bid for the Haywood County boys' championship this season by scoring a decisive victory over the Bethel Blue Demons, last year's titleholders, 64-50, Thursday night.

The triumph was all the more convincing because it took place on Bethel's floor.

The strong Bethel Belle

however, evened things some

by downing the Canton Lady

61-51.

King led the Black Bears with

points, while Milner added

other 21. Deatin Reese, as

was Bethel's top scorer with

points.

Lowe showed the way for

Bethel Belles with 16 points.

Phillips of the Lady Bears

scoring honors in the game

set a season's record for

girls by throwing in 35 points.

Girls' lineup:

Canton (51) Bethel
F—Phillips (35) Low
F—Carswell (2) Henson
F—Willis
G—West Pinkert
G—Kinsland
G—Burnette M. P.
Subs: Canton—Taylor, R. N. Clark, Surret 3, Young 11, inson, McCracken, Bethel Smith 12, J. Smith, Laymon 6, er 2, Green, A. Grogan, B. P. Edwards 4, Johnson 2, J. G. Griffin, Frizell, Brown, C. Metcalf, B. Henson, Burnette.
Half time score: 36-16, Bethel.

Boys' lineup:

Canton (17) Bethel
F—Milner (17) Burr
F—King (21) H
C—West (11) Russ
G—Cannon (2) Rea
G—Raxter Que
Subs: Canton—Stamey 2, P. Van Hook, Green 2, Boone 4, el—West, Singleton 6.
Half time score: 33-20, Ca
Officials: Kaylor and Lov

was a virus infection which cially covered a five-county in the heart of Michigan's country.

Egyptians were the first teets to work with stone. began using the material for ing about 2750 B. C., says tional Geographic Society.

NOTICE

THE DRUG STORES OF WAYNESVILLE AND HAZELWOOD ANNOUNCE NEW CLOSING HOURS —

BEGINNING JANUARY 2nd, 1956,
AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
THE DRUG STORES
WILL CLOSE
AT 7 P.M.

SMITH'S DRUG STORE

Phone GL 6-3361
Emergency GL 6-3603

DAN'S DRUG STORE

Phone GL 6-5112
Emergency GL 6-3214

CURTIS DRUG STORE

Phone GL 6-3321
Emergency GL 6-3352

HAZELWOOD PHARMACY

Phone GL 6-5481