

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

By Paul M. Kelsey

DOGS, DEER AND SNOW

If the snow in the woods is as deep as it was in my driveway this morning, deer are in for some heavy going between now and the time spring comes. From some reports on the radio, the snow in my drive was rather mild. Problems created by snow are twofold first, it just makes travel in the woods that much harder, and second, it makes deer much more vulnerable to dogs.

Most people do not realize how small a deer really is, and I have often been questioned when I stated that buck's heart is only 18 7/8 inches above the ground. Just because a buck is standing on a deer pole most of the time, it does not mean that it stands four or five feet high at the shoulder.

Just to see how tall some of those big deer I had been told about would fit in the handling boxes our biologists use, while measuring deer they live-trap, I measured one of the boxes. The hole in the yoke which holds the deer's neck was centered 22 inches above the floor. The box itself stands a mere 36 inches high. Body size has never been a problem when walking a deer into one of these handling boxes.

With their pointed feet, deer will sink into new snow right down to the ground or a good solid crust. If it is over 18 inches deep, this means that they are standing in snow up to their chest. If you have ever walked around in snow that came six or eight inches above your knees, you know the problem with which they are presented. As snow gets this deep deer gravitate to areas where there is the least snow. Because the physical conformation of the land, and the vegetation on it, determines how the snow builds up, the same places will be used year after year.

Once deer have moved into these sheltered wintering areas they will not leave until the snow outside has settled to a point where travel is again easy. This usually means spring, though sometimes a thaw followed by a heavy crust will release the deer from their confinement for a short while.

Since these same areas are used year after year, they may be over-browsed while the range surrounding them has adequate food. Deep snow, however, acts just like a fence in keeping deer in the yard, rather than moving out into the woods to feed. Some sense must tell deer that they will use up more energy fighting deep snow than they would gain from the food obtained.

There are enough different factors involved so that it is impossible to say just how long deer can stay in a yard before they become malnourished. Under adverse conditions a fawn can be on the ropes in as little as five or six weeks. Older deer, because they have more reserve upon which they can draw and because they can reach browse which smaller deer cannot, can go a couple of weeks longer.

When travel becomes hard for deer, dogs can be a very serious problem, both directly as killers of deer and indirectly because their harassment causes a high energy demand during a period of food

scarcity. This additional food requirement can mean the difference between starvation and survival.

The dogs I am referring to are not wild dogs, which are a problem where they exist, but free-roaming household pets. These unconfined dogs may not be deer chasers to begin with, but when they join with other wide-roaming dogs, the sight or scent of deer bring out the predator in them.

Dogs may chase deer at any time, but when snow is deep they have a distinct advantage. Their foot size in relation to their weight is larger, therefore giving them a snowshoe effect on snow. Much of the time when the sharp hooves of deer will break through, letting them sink deeply, dogs can run lightly along the top while the deer flounders.

In areas where the deer population is below the carrying capacity of the range, killing of deer by dogs can be an important factor in keeping the herd down, depriving deer hunters and watchers of many recreational hours.

From Our Files

Mrs. Carl Tassell of Independence is visiting her mother and sister in Georgia for a couple of weeks and also a brother in West Virginia.

Karl Pingrey, son of Mrs. Bertha Pingrey, has been recently discharged from the Army after two years in the European War Theatre and is now employed by B. F. D. Paper Company in Ogdensburg, New Jersey.

The Entre Nous Club and their gentlemen held their Annual Christmas and New Year's Eve Party at the home of Fay Boyd on Dyke Street. A social evening with exchange of gifts was enjoyed.

Miss Helena Higgins of Washington, D. C., was a weekend guest of Mrs. Grace Howland.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Martin of Wellsville were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McClure on New Year's Day. Rose McClure and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eldridge and daughter, Gayle of Wellsville were callers at the McClure home in the afternoon.

Miss Nancy Jane Snyder returned to her school duties at Lake Erie College Wednesday after passing the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Snyder.

January 10, 1946

Captain Robert Common, who landed in the States last week is now stationed at Camp Shanks and expects to be transferred to Fort Dix in the near future.

James Driscoll R.M. 3/C arrived home Sunday having been discharged from the Navy at Samsom on Saturday. "Jimmie" has served in the Navy for 27 months with 19 months Sea Duty.

Cpt. Francis McAndrew has returned from three years overseas duty and is enjoying 90-day furlough with relatives and friends in this vicinity.

Petty Officer 1/C Vincent McAndrew son of Mr. and Mrs. George McAndrew has received

his discharge from the Navy at Samsom after serving over two years in the South Pacific.

Llwyn Howland C.T.C.M. left Monday for New York City to report for duty after a 23 day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Howland.

A letter from Mrs. J. J. Oakes this week discontinues "The News" to both Donald and Victor Oakes.

"Vic" is already in the States awaiting discharge and "Don" expects to be back within a month.

Jack Saunders left Tuesday for New York City to report at Fort Dix, Wednesday, where he expects to be discharged from the service in the near future.

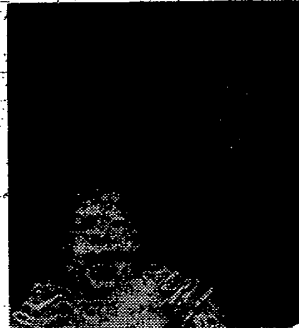
A phone call Wednesday night told Mrs. Elizabeth Regan that her son, Lester, had landed in Port-

land, Oregon that day. He left Okinawa on Christmas Day. Her other son, Jack, landed in Virginia Saturday and is being transferred to Fort Dix.

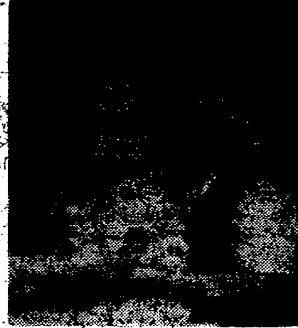
Clarence Carson arrived home Monday after being discharged at Fort Dix, Sunday. "Micky" served in the Army for 22 months with 15 months overseas duty. He is the

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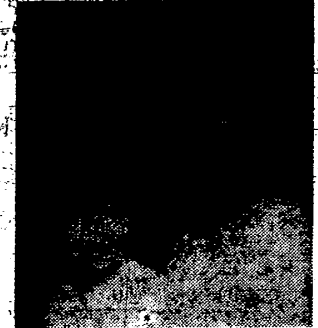
Citizens of Tomorrow



Roger Waters, 4 yrs., and James Robert, 3 1/2 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Dale R. Waters, Box 297 Andover.



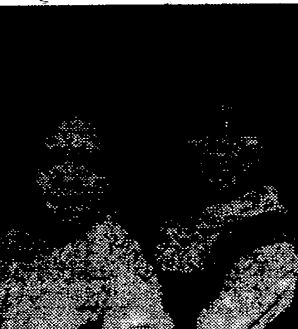
Shane Michael, 18 mos., and Christy Michele, 9 mos., children of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Sherwood, Box 119 Fairview Ave., Andover.



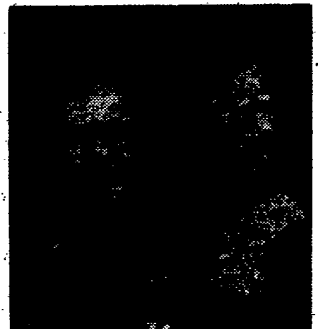
Daphne, 10 yrs., and Tamara, 3 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Riffle, 38 Rochambeau Ave., Andover.



Tammy Lynn, 6 yrs., and Bridget Donella, 2 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. David S. Thorp, 24 East Center Street, Andover.



Mary Ann, 4 yrs., and Joan, 1 yr., children of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Kemp, R.D. 1, Andover.



Heather, 5 yrs., and Christopher, 3 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Duane C. Cook, Box 21 Andover.



Ronald Lee Jr., 13 yrs., Penny Rae, 12 yrs., Pamela Jean, 11 yrs., and William Harley, 10 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Glover, 57 Rochambeau Avenue, Andover.



Lynn Robin, 10 yrs., Todd Aaron, 8 yrs., Victoria Dawn, 6 yrs., and Robert Emory, 3 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Curville R. Jordan, R.D. 1, Andover.



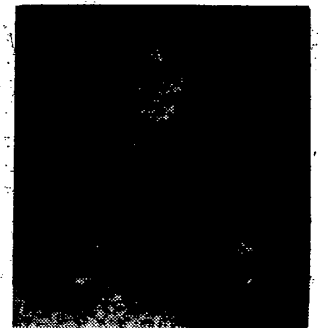
Kevin, 13 yrs., Wanda, 11 yrs., Tammy, 9 yrs., and Kelly, 4 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ordiway, Box 296, Rochambeau Avenue, Andover.



Gary Richard, 11 yrs., Christopher Lee, 9 yrs., and Stefanie Lyn, 5 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hoagland, 28 Elm Street, Andover.



Jeffery, 6 mos., Michael, 4 yrs., Timothy, 6 yrs., and Frederick, 7 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Fitch, 71 E. Greenwood Street, Andover.



Mary Anne, 9 yrs., Megan, 6 yrs., and Paul Michael, 5 yrs., children of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. McCormick, R.D. 2, Andover.

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