

GUIDE REPORT

Bear problems

By SMOKEY TRUMBLY

Each year, about this time, the telephone starts to ring in Fish and Wildlife Branch Offices throughout the province. The increase in daily calls are from concerned persons who are experiencing black bear problems. The conservation officers have only a limited number of live bear traps at their disposal and do their best to accommodate the callers, but it's impossible to set a live trap at each trouble spot.

The reason for the increase in bear complaints this time of year is mainly due to the scarcity of natural food. But, the food supply that continues when all else fails is human garbage. Garbage cans, garbage dumps, dumpsters parked in central locations — all are hit by bears to augment the natural food supply.

Some other reasons for bear complaints include those that repeatedly kill livestock, damage farmers' crops, or beekeepers' beeyards. Human fear of bears accounts for a good number of bear complaints as well. I'm not saying that human fear is wrong because a bear is a wild animal and periodically there are documented black bear attacks on humans.

NEW FACTS

A Pennsylvania biologist has uncovered some startling new facts about black bears. Gary Alt is a bear biologist and manages the bear population of that state. Jerome B. Robinson, a writer for Sports Afield, discloses some of Alt's findings.

"Black bear have been known to occupy dens within 50 feet of occupied houses and the people never even know there were bears around. You could walk through the woods forever and never find a bear's den except by accident. Bears never den in the same place in subsequent years, and rarely is a den site used by another bear."

Repeating and temperature appear to have little to do with when bears den up for the winter. Some females will den up in early-October when the temperature is 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The abundance of natural foods seems to determine when bears go into their dens. When food is abundant, some bears may remain active all winter even when the temperatures dropped to minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Most of the winter months are males.

"Only female bears make real dens and pregnant females are the first to den. Barren females den next, leaving the males wandering about on the surface."

NATURE'S METHODS

"Female cubs normally live out their lives within their mother's home range or within overlapping ranges. Male cubs, on the other hand, commonly travel at least 40 miles away before establishing their own range. Bear cubs leave their mothers at 18 months of age. What better way for nature to prevent inbreeding between intermates. Females range over an area of roughly 20 miles square, while adult males may wander 40 to 60 miles square."

"A black bear will travel back to the place it was trapped if the distance is not greater than 40 miles." This is the reason here in B.C. that bears which commit an offense and are trapped are destroyed by conservation officers.

"How do bears navigate the course of their return?" The bear will wander about for an hour or so, then will plant his hind feet and circle with his front feet for a full 360 degrees. When it completes the circle, the bear will take off on a compass course exactly in the direction of its home range. During the trip it will repeat the previous several times. So far, this is another of nature's secrets."

BOUQUET OF THE WEEK

Goes to Gary Alt

BRICK OF THE WEEK

Goes to hunters who say, "There are no deer." Our deer numbers have increased.

Ski courses starting soon

Three courses are being offered, through the Adult Education Program, to prepare skiers for the upcoming season.

Gerry Goudge and his Silver Star Ski School staff will conduct a dry ski school and conditioning classes Mondays, starting Sept. 24.

The dry school is a combination of talks, films, demonstrations, and exercises. The course also features a day at Silver Star including lesson, rental equipment, and day pass.

The school will run five consecutive weeks, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at West Vernon.

Elementary School. Cost is \$25 per person.

Conditioning classes will also be held five consecutive weeks, at West Vernon, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost, including a day at Silver Star, is \$20 per person.

The third course, for cross-country skiers, is scheduled Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at West Vernon.

The cross-country sessions will include films, equipment and waxing sessions, light exercises. A day of on-snow instruction will follow the four gym sessions. Cost of the program, which starts Oct. 6, is \$25.



FOR FRIDAY GAME

Veteran forward may rejoin club

Veteran forward Dean Hascari may be in the lineup Friday when Vernon Lakers host Merritt Centenials in the B.C. Junior Hockey League action, at the Civic Arena.

Hascari, who has been working near Revelstoke, will attend his first practice tonight.

Lakers' Coach Gord MacBeth said, "I don't know what kind of shape Dean is in, but if he is fit, we'll probably use him this weekend. If he is excited about playing hockey, he'll really help us."

Hascari joined the local club in 1979. The following season, when Vernon took a one-year leave of absence from the B.C. JHL, he played juvenile hockey in his hometown, Nakusp. He split the 1980-81 campaign between Revelstoke Rockets and the Civic Arena.

After joining Vernon in November, he was one of the club's most consistent performers.

There will be a couple changes on the blue line corps Friday. Mike Wiebe, a 150-pound enforcer who spent part of last season with Lakers, and Tom Roy, a 190-pound rookie from Quebec, will be inserted to add some size.

MacBeth said, "I haven't decided on my exact lineup for Friday, but there will be some different people on the ice."

Taylor Sebastian will be between the pipes with Shawn Oswald, who played well in the loss to Penitents, on the bench as back-up.

On Saturday, Lakers are in Kelowna to meet the Buckaroos.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hockey loop needs a team

Pleasant Valley Hockey League is looking for an eighth team to complete its 1981-82 schedule. Games are played week nights. No bodychecking or slapshots are allowed. For further information phone Peter Murray at 545-0065. First league game is scheduled Oct. 14.

TWO GAMES

Vernon Men's Road Hockey League action resumes tonight with two games at Centennial Outdoor Rink. At 7 p.m., Tigers take on Ted S. and Company; and at 8 p.m., screaming Eagles face Camels. Tigers and Eagles are currently tied for first-place with 2-0 records.

SPORTS HOUR

A kids' sports hour will be held Thursdays, from Oct. 15 to Dec. 17, at the Dogwood Gymnasium in the Recreation Complex. Sessions are open for boys and girls aged 5-7. They will learn how to play floor hockey, McWhip (soft jacks), and indoor soccer. Cost is \$17 per child. The class is limited to 16 children. For further information, or to register, contact the complex at 545-0035.

SOCCER BANQUET

Vernon and District Youth Soccer Association will hold its annual banquet and awards presentation night, Friday, at the Recreation Complex. The event is scheduled to run from 7-9 p.m.

VERNON LAKERS' President Al Thomas, left, congratulates Vern Healey and his son, Jim, who won a new Honda Civic in the team's recent season ticket draw. The 170 people who purchased season tickets prior to last weekend's league opener were eligible. The car has a retail value of \$6,000. Lakers host Merritt Centenials, Friday, at 8 p.m. (Daily News Photo)

REPEATERS PICKED
TORONTO (CP) — Running back Larry Key of B.C. Lions and linebacker Ben Zamboni of Hamilton Tiger-Cats are the first repeat winners of the Canadian Football League's weekly Rothman Star Awards. Key won on the strength of his three-touchdown performance.

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Pony races in Armstrong

Okanagan Pony Chariot and Chuckwagon Association will hold its championship race meet this weekend at the Armstrong Fairgrounds.

A gymkhana, sponsored by the Armstrong Enderby Riding Club, will be held in conjunction with the races.

Association spokesman Judi Collins told the Daily News she is expecting a fantastic meet.

"We're expecting entries from throughout the province," she said. "I think we'll have about 20 chuckwagons and between 25-40 chariots."

Racing starts Saturday, at 2 p.m., and Sunday, at 1 p.m. There will be a large contingent of local entries including Collins, and four of her relatives, from Pukland. Armstrong entrants include Emil Rurka, Len Price, and Joe Young.

SALMON ARM
Salmon Arm will be represented by Dune Bodland and his three sons, Noel and Myron Tarnwell, Blake Pleaswell, and Bill Petrovski. Up to 40 junior and senior riders are expected to take part in the gymkhana.

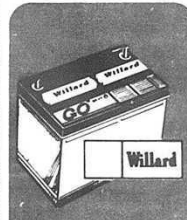
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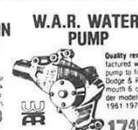
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