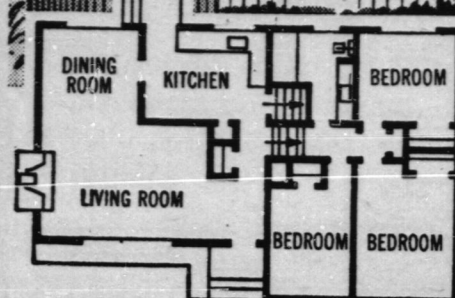
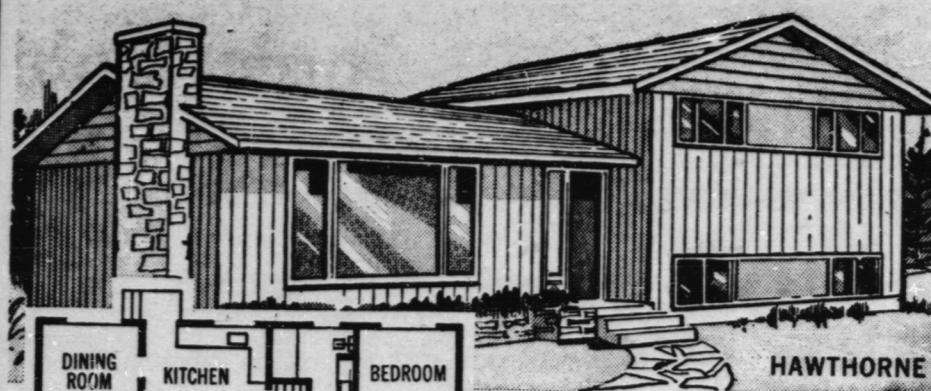


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FARM EDITION

Thursday, April 23, 1970

Care and Life Of Your Rifle

Come spring, many varmint hunters and benchresters begin fretting about their pet rifles. They're torn between wanting to shoot fast bullets, and their fear of wearing out favorite rifle barrels.

The danger is most acute in smaller caliber cartridges with large powder capacities - such as the .220 Swift, .22-250, .225, .243 and related wildcats. Serious barrel wear in such calibers isn't caused as much by actual passage of the bullet, as by intensely hot powder gases that may reach 6,000 degree F.

Such gases can literally burn away barrel steel just in front of the chamber's throat. The metal grows rough, eroded, and develops tiny surface cracks that resemble sun-dried gumbo mud. When a rifle bore is badly eroded in the critical first inch ahead of the chamber, the bullet must jump across that inch before it engages the rifling and begins to spin. It smashes into the rifling with great force while still gathering speed, and accuracy suffers even though the rest of the rifle's bore is in good condition.

Barrel erosion increases with temperature and pressure. The incandescent powder gases have relatively little effect on cold barrel steel. But in rapid fire, as barrel heat rises, so does barrel erosion.

Winchester-Western researchers have ruined a .243 barrel with as few as 1,100 shots. They "burn it to a barrel" when they fire once every ten seconds or faster, and after 30 rounds of this abuse the barrel will cause steam if immersed in water. By comparison, firing the rifle every 30 seconds or so - with the bolt opened so that air can flow through the bore between shots - is very mild treatment.

During heavy testing, Winchester-Western engineers begin looking for accuracy falloff in a .243 at about 1,600 rounds. In normal firing the barrel will last much longer than that. Accuracy in a .243 may be acceptable at 3,000 rounds and beyond - and possibly up to 5,000 rounds.

The .22-250 and .225 are comparable to the .243 in terms of barrel endurance. The little .222 has considerably longer barrel life than life than any of them, while the .220 Swift is inclined to be less long-lived than its sister calibers. Yet, Harvey Donaldson, writing in The Handloader Magazine last winter, told of his 35-year-old .220 Swift that has accounted for several thousand woodchucks' and could still print a 5-shot, 100-yard group that measured under an inch.

The life of a high-intensity rifle barrel can be stretched with a little tender, loving care. If you

reload, use something other than maximum charges. Shoot, carefully clean the bore from the breech removing all fouling, coat the clean bore with thin film of good oil.

Kokanee Fry For Georgian Bay

A total of 584 kokanee salmon fry planted by department lands and forests staff on March 4 near the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, Sturgeon River, Waubesahe, and a stream flowing into Georgian Bay, near Beach.

As some adult kokanee were seen in these rivers fall during their spawning migration, it was decided that the same waters were suitable for the plant.

Eyed-eggs of these kokanee arrived at Glenora hatchery from Idaho on Oct. 24, hatched and reared to size. At this stage, the young kokanee are absorbed and fish venture into lakes and fend for themselves.

During the summer of 1969, 178,000 kokanee were planted in Nottawasaga River, south of Alliston.

It is expected that kokanee, after establishing themselves in the Georgian Bay, will reproduce successfully and maintain a population with assistance from department hatcheries.

Friday, April 23, 1970

FARM EDITION

PAGE 23

How Lake Of The Woods Birds Are Affected By Environment

Pelicans and cormorants are nesting on Lake of the Woods prior to the opening of this century. Commercial fishermen (now mostly gone) who were fishing on the lake shortly after the turn of the century, recall presence of pelicans and ducks (cormorants). They destroyed eggs and birds were responsible for declining catches.

Remote areas, seldom visited, are chosen by these birds as nesting sites. It required a special effort to determine, in 1968, that an estimated 330 young cormorants were hatched that year on the five production ranges from two to 180 young per island. A total of 260 white pelicans were also reared that year.

Sometimes changes, which are not readily recognized, occur in Lake of the Woods bird populations. In 1965, for instance, there was a noticeable decrease in the nesting population of pelicans in the Dream Island area, which was a principal nesting ground for several years. A new nesting site on Three Sisters Islands, 14 miles to the south, was located in 1966.

Fluctuation in populations are normal among all living organisms. Birds and other animals may also abandon one area and move to another, usually because the habitat has changed and is no longer suitable. This may result from a diminished food supply, invasion by other animals or intolerance to human activities. Any one or a combination of these factors may have been responsible for cormorants moving away from the Bigstone Bay - Scotty Island area. Past accounts indicate they were quite numerous there 10 to 15 years ago.

Bald eagles and osprey also nest on Lake of the Woods. Although the eagles show a preference for certain areas of the lake while ospreys utilize others, the numbers of both species are about equal. In 1969, the count of active nests (used by adult birds for egg laying, incubation and rearing of young), was 63 eagle and 62 osprey. These counts are considered minimal.

Fish and wildlife are being endangered by human activities but some animals live in areas where, as yet, the environment has not been drastically changed. J. Kenora game and bird populations are fortunate in this respect. Some migrating species, however, may spend part of the year in less suitable localities and may suffer the effects of pollution in those places. This applies especially to eagles and osprey which are more likely to spend time in areas where their fish food may be contaminated.

Returns from the Lake of the Woods pelican banding program indicate that these birds winter in Mexico. The use of pesticides is quite limited in both of these areas and only a few cases of soft-shelled, infertile eggs have been reported to date. Such eggs may be produced by birds which have accumulated high levels of pesticides in their bodies.

Lacrosse Sticks Made By Cornwall Indians

The game of lacrosse was originated by North American Indians and an enterprising band on the St. Regis Reserve south of Cornwall, in eastern Ontario, has been turning out much of the world's supply of lacrosse sticks in a factory which has been operating for approximately 40 years.

Cornwall resident Colin Chisholm began manufacturing the sticks in 1930 and constructed a factory on Cornwall Island. The industry began with an Indian staff of three and continued to expand until today there are, at times, up to 93 people employed.

Approximately 40 women, working at home with husbands and children, lace up to 12 sticks per day. By consuming a volume of 300 cords of wood annually the company is able to produce and ship throughout the world, 7,000 dozen lacrosse sticks per year.

The industry has progressed steadily from 1930 but has had its share of setbacks. In 1968 a fire

completely destroyed all of the buildings except one. The remaining shed contained a small number of hickory billets (the partially dried bent sticks). By working under trees and in temporary sheds the manufacturing continued as a new factory was constructed.

Lacrosse sticks are manufactured from wood obtained from the butt logs of bitternut hickory. The bolt of wood has to be seven feet in length and no smaller than 4 1/2 inches in diameter at the small end. The ability of hickory, and particularly bitternut hickory, to take and hold a bend is far superior to other species.

The manufacturing process entails the splitting of the bolts by hand while the wood is still green. After being split the pieces are left to air-dry and when half dried the sticks are bent to the required shape. When almost perfectly dry they are laced and finished ready to be marketed. The entire process, including drying, takes more than a year.

The major problem facing the industry today is the availability of quality hickory. With the decrease in supply of this species in eastern Ontario, it has been necessary to travel distances of up to 300 miles to obtain the volumes required. It is through Mr. Chisholm's resourcefulness and determination that the Mohawk Indians have been provided with an industry which contributes greatly towards the economy of the St. Regis Reserve.

Nesting Sites Being Built For Waterfowl

The winter silence so long associated with Tiny Marsh, near Elmval, Ontario is being broken by the grinding of machinery and the roar of powerful diesel engines. A subdivision containing sixty home sites is being built - not for people but for nesting waterfowl only.

For the last month a dragline has been operating in the middle of Tiny Marsh constructing waterfowl nesting islands which range in size from 150 feet to 25 feet in length. Bales of hay are being placed on the islands and they will be seeded down with the appropriate grasses to add cover and nesting material. It is hoped that many of the migrating waterfowl passing through the area this spring will find these islands attractive enough to take up residence. They will be completely surrounded by water, making the nests safe from marauding predators.

Secondary uses of the islands will be dry platforms for fall hunters who previously had to stand in waist deep water all day. If numbers of sportsmen use the islands it should reduce the number of crippled waterfowl last each year, as the raised lands will give sound footing for more accurate shots plus a better observation point from which to locate downed birds.

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