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OUTDOORS

Landowners don't object to hunting, just to 'slob hunters'

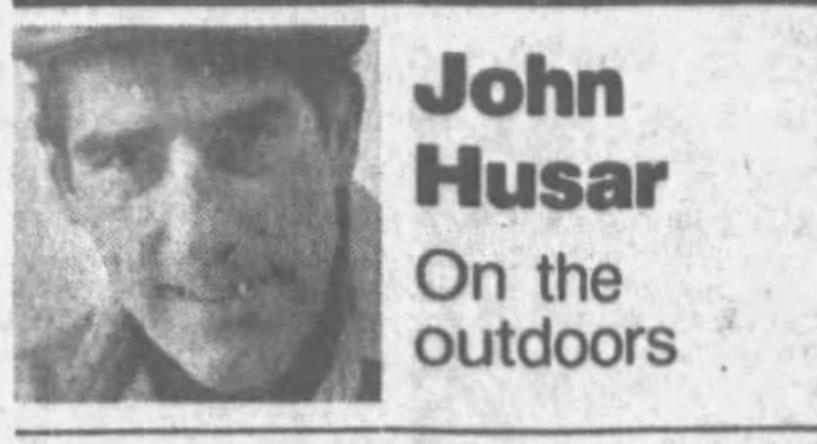
A new survey of rural Illinois landowners shows that most are not against hunting. They do, in fact, routinely open their lands to relatives, friends and hunters who are polite enough to ask.

But some have been deeply scarred by a tiny minority of slob hunters and trespassers who act as though these fields and woods are public. Many farmers say - they have endured damage from open gates, cut fences and wanton shooting, and they don't want to endure these hassles

That, they indicate, is why so many "lands are closed to public hunting.

The survey came from 622 responses to 1,197 random samples made in September by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's statistics service in Springfield. The results will be released later this week to the state conservation and agriculture departments' -joint "A Place to Hunt Committee."

According to Gary Kepley, the USDA's urdeputy state statistician, a third of the respondents felt strongly enough to include wwritten comments, and we are printing some of them here. He cautions readers, however, not to jump to any grave anti--v-hunting conclusions. "In my view, they -uswere more indicating their concern rather ""than any general antihunting position," Kepley said. Not all the issues turned out negative, he added. Overall, landowners were primarily interested in government helping them to reduce liability for recreational guests and improve wildlife populations and habitat. Kepley said roughly two-thirds of the -farmers did not want government to get involved in crop damage or hunter-access issues, like fee hunting. They feel that government interferes enough, he said. Of those reporting large crop and livestock damage, however, the leading offenders



were deer, coyotes, beaver, muskrat and squirrels. Of 21 percent reporting deer damage, 17 percent wanted fewer deer on their land.

Kepley said as many as three-fourths of the landowners do not follow any formal wildlife enhancement program, although most employ federal set-asides, where wildlife sometimes can live. Some revealed that despite the volume of publicity in recent years they had no proper idea how to enhance habitat.

Jim Moak, the DOC's wildlife chief, said many of the negative comments reflect longstanding biases that are not applicable to hunters as a whole. "Those 3 percent of slob hunters have painted everyone with a broad brush," he said. For what it's worth, here is what a lot of farmers currently say they think of us and also reveal about themselves: Hunters are rude, with no respect for fences or gates. They pull down wires and leave gates open. . . . How would they like it if I were to camp on their back yard and leave the mess they do?

Recreational vehicles are the biggest problem. They cut fences any time or place. They make a road in a hay field.

I feel that I should share the great outdoors and the beauty of nature with those less fortunate.

The cost of liability insurance prevents access to my property.

Hunters have been a source of grief to me for over 30 years. Theft, shot livestock shot equipment, gates left open, potentia liability, etc., etc. ... Permission to enter another's property at any time or for any purpose should be mandatory and en-

We have been letting almost anybody hunt here. Last year, a group came in one Saturday with 14 beagles and cleaned us out of rabbits in two hours. I am posting "No Hunting" signs this fall and am going to be very select as to who hunts my land.

I've been using electric fences to keep my cattle in certain fields. I've found where hunters have shorted a fence to get over it or to get dogs through. I am tired of walking several miles every Monday to check my fences.

hunter down that asks, but I never let those who don't have permission to stay.

I will not allow any hunting on my land in the future. Someone shot my Lab in the head.

It would be nice to have places for city people to hunt even if they have to pay.

Hunters from the city have no right to be on the land that we farmers have spent a lifetime putting together. They think we owe them the right to come out here and do as they please. When they drive on your land and try to run you off the road, they are out of place and they better stay out of my area. As for the state, you stupid people, we really like you bringing in the coyotes and all the other junk. The day will come when coyotes or wolves will start killing our livestock, then who will take the loss; we, the farmer, will.

I allow hunting because it seems the people who ask are the people who usually don't get to go hunting.

I feed the wildlife with my crops. I provide habitat for wildlife by not plowing fence row to fence row and not clearing

Woods & waters

Extremely dry conditions throughout Illinois are prompting dangerous fire warnings. So far, eight southern counties have banned burning, and there are fears a continued dry spell could lead to hunting prohibitions.

Chuck Tamminga of the Illinois Department of Conservation said a wildfire consumed 2,500 acres of woods and habitat last week in Randolph and Jackson Counties.

"We have talked about [banning hunting], but we don't want to do it," Tamminga said. "But we are watching the situation carefully."

Last week, Kentucky's lieutenant governor i sued an executive order banning anyone from entering that state's 12 million acres of forest except landowners, tenants and people engaged in business. The bow season for deer was suspended until weekend rains allowed the ban to be eased

With Illinois' shotgun deer season only nine days away, hunters clearly will be hoping for a lot of rain.

The DOC has a supply of "Ask, Thank, Share" cards available at conservation offices. On one side is a simple formula that should help hunters find access to hunting land. The other side includes a place for the hunter to write his name address and telephone number to leave with the landowner before the hunt.

gene pool of original Lake Michigan lake trout in Yellowstone National Park will provide the key to restoring that fish here. The lakers originall were stocked in fishless Yellowstone lakes near ly a century ago, long before Lake Michigan's own supply was wiped out by sea lampreys in the 1950s. "Unknowingly, the National Park Service has preserved one of the most important gene pools of lake trout," Fred Binkowski of the

I prefer to be personally acquainted with hunters on my land, rather than dealing with a total stranger.

I truly am not sure good farmer-hunter relationships may ever develop. Most people (hunters included) do not value others' property or lives.

My ground is in the Conservation Reserve Program, and I'm going to plant 30.2 acres into mixed trees and the rest is already in timber. So long as they do me right, I will do them right.

I found two dead steers in my pasture from gunshot wounds. That hurts!

I have one acre of timber and this man came and shot 15-16 squirrels at once and it took years to replenish them.

Farmer-hunter relations are very poor, and any improvements would be welcomed.

It is extremely important for a hunter to ask permission. I never have turned a

FOOTBALL

brush. So if anyone is going to hunt my ground it will be my friends or someone willing to pay the price and have liability coverage.

I see many otherwise law-abiding hunters arrested and fined for violations which are unknown or unintentional, while the real outlaws in our area are never caught or prosecuted.

If the hunters want to hunt, they should buy their own property.

Hunting privileges should be reciprocal. Since Cook County does not allow deer hunting there, we should not allow Cook County residents to hunt in other counties.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Great Lakes Studies told Jim Carlson of the Associated Press. Binkowski said these Yellowstone fish are unlike other strains that have been used over the past two decades to reestablish reproducing lake trout populations.

Binkowski said he hopes to find new methods that will make spawning success more likely. For example, he said researchers hope to catch spawning trout at Yellowstone in the fall, artif cially fertilize the eggs and then submerge them in a lake there within cage-like devices where they can incubate over the winter. They would be retrieved at the time they develop into "sacfry"-tiny fish still connected to a nourishing egg sac. "No one has stocked sac-fry that came from wild fish and were incubated in the wild." Binkowski observed.

Illinois' upland hunting season has had a phenomenal start, considering the paucity of the past few years. Those with decent habitat are reporting limits of pheasants, rabbits and quail "You can't imagine how glad I am to be hearing stuff like that," DOC wildlife chief Jim Moak said from his office Monday, where enthusiastic call kept pouring in. If only he could say the same about ducks. "There just aren't any ducks," Moak said.

This 'n that: There'll be heavy competition on the airwaves Saturday when suburbanite Mi-chael Jackson, whose real name is Orrin Brand, goes head-to-head with WGN's Bill Cullerton in a battle of outdoors shows. Jackson's show will run opposite Cullerton's in the 6 a.m. time slot on WMAQ. ... Another state-record saugeye has come from the Illinois River with the 5.39pounder landed by John Regina of La Salle on Oct. 26. He caught it at Peru. ... That live coho salmon reported in the Illinois River at La Salle would have had a monumental trek, but not one that's unheard-of. Several dead salmon have been seen that far. ... A few dozen Nature Conservancy volunteers sowed native grass last Saturday on a 40-acre portion of the Nachusa Grasslands near Dixon. ... Bill Redmond of Maroa has purchased Clinton Lake's Clinton Marina from Don and Linda Story. The place now is called Home Port Marina. ... New Hampshire is planning its first moose hunt since 1901-a three-day hunt Oct. 18-20, 1988.

John Husar

Houston's Rozier says he sought help for alcohol abuse

From Chicago Tribune wires

Houston Oilers running back -Mike Rozier confirmed Tuesday that he went to an alcohol treatment center for counseling but denied that he had checked in the facility, as a Houston TV station had earlier reported.

KHOU-TV had reported that -Rozier, 26, the 1983 Heisman Trophy winner at Nebraska and the Oilers' top rusher this season, had checked into the Orchard Creek Hospital in Rosen-" berg, Tex., west of Houston.

NFL NOTEBOOK

"I went down there for two days to talk to a couple of people about drinking," Rozier said. thought that I was drinking a little bit too much. I was getting carried away with it. I just went down there and talked to a couple of counselors about it.

"As far as I could see, it was getting out of hand and I wanted to do something about it. I wanted to get away from it."

Detroit Lions defensive end Reggie Rogers, at the beginning of his 21-day stay at an emotionalcounseling center near Pontiac, Mich., denied allegations that his problems are drug-related. "That's a lie," Rogers said, referring to a CBS report Sunday.

Rogers, the Lions' No. 1 1987 draft pick, has been trying to deal with a series of personal tragedies. It began with the death of his brother Don, a safety for the Cleveland Browns, of a cocaine overdose in 1985.

Since then, Rogers has been involved in legal battles with agent Norby Walters and with a former girlfriend in Seattle. His mother has been ill during the last year with a heart condition.

Also, his sister Jackie has caused problems for him. While visiting Rogers in Detroit, she disappeared for four days. She turned but disappeared again after Rogers took her to the airport Saturday for a flight to her home in Sacramento.

Linebacker Jerry Robinson of

the Los Angeles Raiders was fined \$750 and placed on three years' probation after pleading no contest to one count of driving under the influence of drugs.

New York Jets wide receiver Wesley Walker, who separated his right shoulder during Monday night's game, will be out six weeks. Other Jet casualties: tight end Mickey Shuler and running back Johnny Hector, both with sprained ankles. Shuler will miss 2-4 weeks; Hector is day-to-day.

Bears

Continued from page 1

"Bear" or old "46" defense bemucause he could apply instant pressure to the middle of an offensive in line and cave in the quarterback's pocket.

With no place to step up, the quarterback had trouble escaping speed rushers Wilson and Richard Dent from the outside.

Tobin thought Wilson, Hampton, Dent and Steve McMichael were his four best pass rushers. Wilson, who had won a job on the nickel pass rush this year for the first time, was leading the club in sacks with 51/2.

"He was playing well," Tobin

Now, Harris will stay at left end in the nickel rush and Rivera instead of Perry will be replaced by a nickel back-either Shaun Gayle or Reggie Phillips. In the "Bear" alignment, Tobin said either Perry or McMichael will play over the nose.

When asked whether Perry had lost enough weight to rush the passer effectively, especially late in a game, Ditka said, "I don't know that that has happened."

Harris will give the Bears more speed and agility at end, which onwill be especially useful Monday

when the smoke clears, you'd be surprised how much good football he plays. He makes things happen," Ditka said. "He's not as fast as Otis, but he is a very heady football player."

Rivera started two games at the demanding middle linebacker spot for Mike Singletary last season and made 13 tackles in his first game.

Behind Rivera, the Bears also have Jim Morrissey, a third-year linebacker Ditka and Tobin like. But depth on the line is a problem.

Rookie Sean Smith will return from the inactive list this week, providing his sore leg is well. He is the fourth-round draft choice from Grambling the Bears kept instead of veteran Mike Hartenstine, who recently signed with the Minnesota Vikings.

Ditka said eighth-round rookie linebacker Paul Migliazzo also will come off the injured reserve list to back up Singletary in the middle. But if something happened to Singletary, Ditka said Rivera would move to the middle and Morrissey would play outside.

Last year, Harris played linebacker and started a game when Wilson was suspended.

Harris was moved back to his original position of end after the Bears decided to draft quarterback Jim Harbaugh instead of linebacker-end Alex Gordon.



This was the package, the city, and helpless. the franchise, the coaches, the players. It worked because all fed from the same bowl.

Lincicome

Continued from page 1 convince itself to care. "We are professionals," said Al Harris.

They used to be bullies. This was a team that loved being special, a team that reveled in its muniqueness. These were the Bears. They would be the Bears until they were no longer able to be the Bears. What's the big deal? Anyone can be a Bear. And was.

Now for whom do they win? For whom do they sacrifice? For whom -do they ache? For themselves, and that is not enough.

Approval reinforced conviction, approval from their bosses, from their coaches, from their neighbors. The Bears were special and their violence and their achievement were applauded. Tough town. Tough team.

Ron Rivera may lack glamor,

night against Denver quarterback

"Elway is more dangerous out of

the pocket than in. He's good in,

but outside he can really hurt you

Ditka has considerable confi-

Last year, the coach thought

Rivera would push Wilson for the

"When you watch Ron play,

maybe he's not as glamorous, but

running the ball," Harris said.

John Elway.

dence in Rivera.

starting job.

but his headiness is impressive.

Woof! Woof! the people yelled. Woof! Woof! yelled the Bears. We love you! the people yelled. We deserve it! yelled the Bears. And then the Bears went away for while. And the people yelled Woof! Woof! at valets just as cagerly as they had at heroes.

And the Bears were angry and sad

The coaches, the head coach and the others, patted the backs of strangers and admired mediocrity. The owners said kiss my tasseled loafer and maybe you can be Bears again.

The lesson learned, the hard truth of life as a Bear, or as a Raider or as a Dolphin, is that one laundry fits all.

If you want to see the old Bears, I suggest you put them in a ring with Mike McCaskey, Joe Robbie, Tex Schramm and Jack Donlan.

Or maybe the Bears aren't angry enough even for that.

Maybe they are just numb. I do not blame them.

Curry

Continued from page 1

cut me and my career would have been over, but he wouldn't do that, and I'll never forget him for that. I ended up playing 10 years." From McCafferty—"Patience and never raising your voice. Unfortunately, I have not learned to do that."

From Knox—"He was a great say, 'Don't talk to us about all that stuff,' but Chuck could talk to them and they'd listen."

When Curry talks to his team now, he tries to demystify the game for them.

He does not want his players to believe they can be beaten Saturday by one roll of Tim Brown's dice.

'Tempo, momentum, those are

creations of the mind," he says. orator. Guys in the NFL tend to "If Tim Brown runs a punt back against us, it doesn't mean we lose the game. You've got to go back and play the next play.

> "Big plays do have an impact, yes, but not nearly as big as people think.

> "What has an impact is when you're busting a guy in the mouth on every single play until the guy decides, 'That guy's killing me; 'm scared of him.''