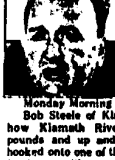
BANGOR, MAINE
NEWS
D. 79,000

OCT 25 1976



# OUTDOORS . . .

**Monday Morning Musings:**

Bob Steele of Klamath, Calif., relates how Klamath River sturgeon run 200 pounds and up and how a "city feller" hooked onto one of those brutes, playing it for hours with no success. Steele says he slipped off his clothes, dove into the water and followed the fishing line to the bottom. Seems there was an old car on the bottom and the sturgeon was inside it. Bob tried to get behind the big fish and work him out so the "city feller" could reel him in, but everytime he got close, the fish would roll up the car window. That's it. No more to the *story*. No, I never did learn if Steele got the sturgeon out from behind the wheel . . . The moose hunt is on in Canada's Province of Quebec and the age-old pastime of Canadians poaching moose on the Maine side of the imaginary international markers is giving a short-handed warden force a merry chase . . . Richard H. Schmidt, Patten, forwards an observation on the Carter-Mondale Presidential ticket from the September issue of "The Shooting Industry." One paragraph reads: "Make no mistake about it! The Carter - Mondale combo is out to dry up the supply of handguns and the handgun business and the handgun ammunition business in the United States. Dealers can make these facts known by telling customers about them, by encouraging them to tell others and by letting them know that if they do not become actively involved in the presidential race this year, they may well lose their firearms." All I can offer on this particular issue, Richard, after carefully reviewing statements on both sides, I'm confused, and that's likely what both parties hoped all along.

**WARDEN WILLIAM** (Bill) Vail, Greenville, says heavy frosts and fall temperatures have changed the habits of deer and grouse. Sightings in the last few days, he says, have increased . . . The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has closed two more of that state's rivers to fishing because of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination. The Etowah and Oostanaula rivers are the latest victims. The Coosa river was closed earlier. Fishermen and others are cautioned about eating fish from those streams polluted with the organic compounds used primarily to manufacture electronic compositors and transformers. A group of Georgia and Alabama residents have filed a $500 million suit in federal court against General Electric Company and Monsanto Company, charging the firms with polluting the Coosa river. The Monsanto Company has been named a codefendant in a $1 billion class action suit on behalf of Lake Hartwell property owners in Georgia and South Carolina. That lake also is polluted with PCB's . . . A deer trapped in Cape Elizabeth was shot a few days ago by a bow hunter in Limington, approximately four miles from where the animal was turned loose back last winter, proving the whitetails do not wander very far from their favored and chosen grounds . . . Two hunting accidents thus far. In one accident, a hunter mistook his companion for a bird in the sighting while the pair were illegally hunting raccoons. The second incident was a line of fire accident on the Mousam river. The victim and the shooter were within sight of each other and both were hunting ducks.

**FISHERY BIOLOGIST** Stu DeRoche has completed a detailed report on Sebago Lake, a 56-page accounting on sale from the Maine Fisheries and Game Department at fifty cents per copy. DeRoche's Sebago Lake study depicts what can be done when appropriate and immediate action is taken to restore a salmon fishery in a large body of water. DeRoche claims beyond all doubt that the use of DDT to control pestilent insects around the shores and tributaries of Sebago Lake was fully responsible for the collapse of the smelt population, which in turn adversely affected the well-being of the landlocked salmon population. Had this practice of using DDT around Sebago Lake continued, he writes, salmon fishing would have been destroyed. Species composition studies showed that nearly all fish species living in Sebago Lake were adversely affected by the DDT spraying. Only now, 10 years after the cessation of the use of DDT, are these species returning to near normal levels. There are strong indications that most minnow species have not recovered. This is quite probably due to the severe reduction in their numbers during the years DDT was used around the shores of Sebago Lake. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, cusk and suckers, which were markedly reduced in numbers, are just now showing signs of complete at Sebago . . . Warden Charles Allen IV, Fort Kent, says grouse have moved to the hardwood ground and filling up on a bumper crop of beech nuts. S-n-o-w, real s-n-o-w, covering the country and woodside at Fort Kent and the St. John Valley, advises Charlie. You are quite correct, friend, all the markings of a long, long winter.

**STEEL SHOT** users at Merrymeeting Bay were unimpressed. Hunters complained that they simply could not bring hit birds down out of the air. Others reported a high number of wounded birds. The losses came when partially-wounded birds dropped into the marsh grass and simply escaped retrieving efforts. Warden John Marsh, who keeps an eye on happenings at Merrymeeting, makes an interesting observation. He says a surprising number of hunters using smaller gauge guns, 16s, 20s and 28s, weapons not requiring steel loads, shot with amazing effectiveness. If the steel shot test at Merrymeeting does nothing else this year, it has hyped the sale shotguns in smaller gauges while closing off 12 gauge sales. Incidentally, Marsh asserts prospects of productive deer season are excellent, coyote sightings are commonplace, fisher sign negligible except in coastal Knox County and that the general public should be reminded again that lighting wildlife after sunset is against the law and punishable on conviction by your friendly, neighborhood judge . . . Another reason why you should no longer delay waiting and installing your storm windows, neighbors. Beaver have already completed their construction of large feedbeds. The flattails are active because some unexplainable mechanism has passed along word of a fast advancing winter. They've put in a supply of wood for winter whittling.

MONS 050848