

First of all, a shout out to the staff of the Estill County Tribune, for their outstanding layout of my last week's **Just Hunting**. I am not a new comer to this business, and I must say, the work put into the story from your end was awesome. Tip of my hat, to you, for a job well done.

Next, I would like to send roses to Betty A. Young. I was always taught to give people roses while they are alive, it means more to them. I have never met Ms. Young, but I hope that will happen some time soon. Her stories, although happening today, take me back to the days of my childhood and growing up in a Union coal mining town, McRoberts, in southeast Kentucky. Job well done, Ms. Young, I will keep reading if you keep

year was 1965. I tried to hunt everything that and snow was blinding. was in season, except I had never goose or duck hunted. Some of my friends were big time hunters of both, and kept putting the pressure on me to go to Ashland, Kentucky, to hunt with them for blind lease on the Big Sandy River and assured me it was something to behold.

When I started getting ready for the hunt, after I gave in to their demands, I found how much I never knew about duck hunting, and that I had a "Goose Gun" that had a 34 inch barrel, and a modified choke. The choke you twisted from outside the barrel. I ordered me one from Wards, was a bolt action, the release on the right side, and I am left handed. I also needed to order wool everything, wool shirt, wool pants, wool socks, a wool hat, wool gloves, I mean everything. The those.

at a motel, I now looking back on, should have and lows. I have never duck hunted ever again. For

Geese and duck hunting on the Big Sandy River



Kentucky Goose Hunting (courtesy of Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Resources)

would be shut down by the State. We never went to check the blind, them telling me they had gotten a report that day, and all was fine. I never slept one wink all night. We left the motel well before daylight; it was really cold, and I was thankful for Now to our hunting story of the week. The the new wool things I had purchased. The wind

After a short ten-minute drive, in a 1953 Willis 4x4 truck that was never built for a trip from McRoberts to Ashland; but we were thankful for such a truck. As we got into the Jon Boat to ferducks, or geese, whichever flew over. They had a ry us across, it was still not breaking light. The sound of the little 9-horse-power motor was the only sound, although I could hear several up and down the river. We stepped into the blind, I was amazed. There was hot coffee, snacks, and a sense this was going to be a good hunt. I was never had what I needed to actually do the hunt. froze to death, the wind, snow, and rough waters Although the owner of several shotguns, I never had beaten me to death, before the first duck appeared.

I would have bet the farm, (that my parents owned) there wasn't another hunter within and when it arrived, I was shocked to learn it miles. WRONG!!! the sky lit up when the ducks started showing up, you could hear the shot falling all around you; I hunkered down and never shot once during the first ten minutes or so. They got me out of hiding, and I downed my first two boots I had would do fine, so no need to order ducks; and I might add, my only ducks ever. I sold one of my buddies, the old Wards shotgun, and We arrived outside of Ashland just after dark sold my wool clothing to some of the other fel-

the Wildlife Women to go back for a second year, is beyond my pay grade. The ones of you that enjoy duck and goose hunting, my hat's off to you.

Editor's Note: Here's a goose recipe courtesy of Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Resources

Bubba's Gourmet Goose

1 Large Canada goose

1/4 Cup Cognac

2 Tbsp dry mustard

1/4 Pound butter

Salt and pepper to taste

Dash thyme

6 Medium apples with peel, coarsely cut **Bay leaves**

Fruit juice of your choice

In a large bowl, mix by hand the apples, salt, pepper, and half the Cognac. Stuff the bird with 1/2 of this mixture. Place the bird in a pan and surround it with the remainder of the stuffing. Make a paste with butter and mustard and coat the goose. Add bay leaves, salt, pepper, and thyme. Roast in a 350 degree oven for 3 1/2 hours. Check the goose frequently. If the goose becomes dry, turn it over and add fruit juice of any type. Baste regularly with remaining Cognac and equal parts water until goose is done to taste.

from Mrs. Kevin L. Chaffins, Mount Sterling

You can email Steve Brewer at <Steve@EstillTribune.com>



Times Remembered **Betty A. Young** BYoung505@Outlook.Com

because our log house is situated at the edge of the woods; we are practically in the woods, therefore, we few years back. We heard the same time to time.

that summer; then we didn't see any A huge one, middle-sized one,

and a smaller one. They are not as pretty as raccoons but they are more behaved.

They come up from the creek area to eat under the bird feeders and search for any other scraps I have put out for the critters. Usually, the possums stay on the ground near the back decks, but occasionally they venture upon the porch.

Late the other night we were watching TV when I heard a loud crunching noise coming from the back porch. I wondered, which one of the stray cats was eating dinner at this hour? I got up to check, and there was a large possum feeding at the cat bowl. He was brave and had marched right upon the porch and helped himself. Our cat, Si, was just sitting there watching the pos-As I have mentioned before, we sum eat his food. It was like, Oh! help have critters where we live. Mainly, yourself there's plenty more in the his razor sharp teeth. He jumped and they are smart critters bag!

The funniest thing happened a year we saw ten to twelve raccoons chair and walks out to the back as Bob! I thought it was funny! porch and begins looking for somethis past season. But lately, we have thing when he heard a loud growlbeen seeing numerous possums. ing noise. It sounded like it was There are three that visit every night. coming from the grill. He lifted the **thousands a day along with many** grill cover up, and there sat the

Possum Visitors



possum; immediately he showed right down at Bob's feet, scared, and running as fast as he could. Meanwhile, Bob yelled Whoa! And have visitors from possums from noise on the back porch and just stepped back; he practically fell figured it was some animal getting over the wicker chair sitting behind It seems to come in spurts. One into mischief. Bob gets up from his him. The possum was as frightened when threatened or harmed they will

All in all, possums are good to have around.

They eat ticks: they consume other insects

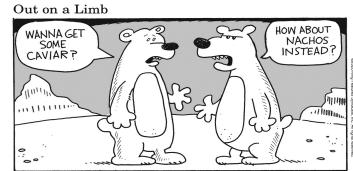
- Possums are incredibly agile
- Are the only known North Ameri-
- can Marsupial outside of Mexico They are all thumbs, just like
- humans and other primates They aren't aggressive, but
- play possum They rarely have rabies
- Many large possums are immune to the venom of rattle snakes and pit vipers and regularly prey upon these snakes.

I GOT THIS SMART PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEED HELP PRO-CANI HELP YOU? GRAMMING IT.

Out on a Limb







by Gary Kopervas POLAR OPPOSITES KERBRIAS