

The Buck Coon of Shadow Lake

AN EPISODE IN WOODS AND WATER EXPLOITS

By Ernest McGehee
Author of Poems of Gun and Rod, Etc.

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As soon as I heard that the ducks had begun to come in I packed my grip for Sowers, and sent Dib Sowers a telegram. That night I reached his farm, and the next night we were at camp. Everything was ready, feed for the live decoys, the boats overhauled and caulked, plenty of wood for the old-fashioned fire-places in the camp shanty, shells loaded, and general preparations complete for a ten-days' shoot. I had taken a 44-caliber old-style cap and ball revolver into the timber with me that fall, just because I was charmed with its phenomenal accuracy. It would throw a bullet exactly where you held it, and loaded with a pinch of powder only it did not jar nor throw up as so many revolvers do. I had a notion I would take a turn in the woods after fox-squirrels with it if the duck-shooting was so poor as to warrant it, or so good that it would get monotonous.

Early the next morning I skipped out by myself to try a few ducks be-

fore we got things settled down so as to hunt together, and I found a likely-looking spot in among the willows after paddling a couple of miles from camp. I rowed in to some drift and willows, put out five live decoys, built up a little "blind," and had my duck "call" handy. The live decoys splashed and dove for smart-wood, and pretty soon a pair of mallards came over and saw them. They sailed around a couple of times over the willows and then came in grand. I saluted both of them, and waded out and gathered them. After that I didn't see anything for a couple of hours, but a few flocks away to the north. Think I to myself, I'll pull up and get into camp, and we'll lay out our plan of campaign for to-morrow. It was a warm, bright day, and the ducks weren't stirring around much. There was a big log about 30 feet from the "blind" that ran out from the butt of a half-sunk sycamore. This sycamore was a whopping tree, and was connected with the shore on one side by a catch of drift-wood. Well, I heard a noise and turned around towards that log, pecking quiet out of the "blind," and there on that log sat the biggest raccoon I ever laid my eyes on.



THE LIMB AND ME COME KA-WHALLOP ACROSS OLD LEANDER.

"But finally all of a sudden he clawed loose from the limb and down he went into the pond with about a bushel of bark and grape-vine and splinters around him, and the minute he hit Leander and some more of the dogs flew out to where he was. I squirms around on my perch, about 40 feet from the water, to get a look at the fight, and just as the buck coon and Leander has arranged to ketch bolts, whack goes my limb and down I come before I could holler, 'Look out below.' 'Well, the best thing me and the limb could do was to come ka-whallop right across old Leander and bury him down in the mud at the bottom of this shallow pond. Two of his ribs was stove in, and he was otherwise damaged, includin' breakin' his back. I reckon I might have kicked the coon in the face with one of my spare feet as I lit, but I ain't certain about that. Of course I was knocked senseless, and the boys run in and got me out on the bank and poured vinegar into me and finally brought me to again. Old Wib had left me cold as soon as he sensed how bad Leander was hurt, and at last I gets my bearings again, shakes myself and find I'm all right, no bones broke, and just jarred some. Leander and the water had busted the force of the fall, you see.

"I goes over to where the boys had built a fire and, say, I was plumb sorry for old Wib. This here Leander was layin' out on his belly and every once in awhile he'd let out a yelp. I says to the old man, 'My terrible sorry, Wib,' and he says, 'I don't blame you, Dib, it was that blasted limb.' He didn't cuss any, for old Wib was a church member. He says, 'What is to be happens. Put him out of his misery, boys, I can't do it.' So Dad Oliver swung an ax, and I don't reckon old Leander knowed what hit him.

"Put him in the sack," says Wib. 'I'll give him a Christian burial, coffin and all. There's all that's left of the best hound that ever nosed a trail or henna a bristle.' It was a mighty solemn thing to old Wib, lemme tell you. 'The Lord gives, and the Lord He takes away,' says the old man, 'blest be the name of the Lord.' Why they said around Slaton that he thought as much of that Leander dog as he did of his own wife and family, and he was a good husband and father, too."

Dib paused and snaked a live coal out of the fireplace with the end of a shovel, and deftly shunted it into the bowl of his pipe with a segment of hickory chip. Then he puffed reminiscently.

"What became of the buck coon, Dib?" was my query. Dib stretched his massive legs out so as to get the full blaze of the logs on them and said: "Oh! that peaky critter? Why, he was just naturally got away durin' the excitement."

FOR THE HOSTESS

Advice and Suggestions as to Entertainments, and Other Subjects, Compiled by a Recognized Authority.

In Honor of a Friend.
I want to entertain for a friend before she goes home, but I hate the thought of a party, as I know of nothing to amuse the guests. Can you suggest a menu for a dinner party and something to do?
REBECCA.

There certainly must be something wrong with your internal apparatus when you say you "dread the thought of a party." Why, it is one of the most glorious things in the world, given reasonable health and even a small bit of this world's goods, to share our home and hospitality with our friends. But, my dear, your heart must be in it; you must want your friends.

A dinner party needs no set form of entertainment. An hour or more is consumed at the table, then there may be a round at cards if all like to play. The old lost art of conversation is being revived, and in this day and generation when nearly every one is rushed to death people who are thoroughly congenial enjoy talking.

Dancing and costume parties are always successful, and it seems to me there are guessing contests for every occasion.

A good dinner menu consists of a clear soup, preceded if you wish by a canape, meat, two vegetables, salad and dessert, followed by coffee and cordials.

Sending Out "At Home" Cards.
I have a young lady friend who will make me an extended visit shortly. I am anxious that she become acquainted with as many friends as possible.

Shall I send out the "at home" cards soon after her arrival, or must I wait until after my friends entertain her, or at both times?

Please advise me and accept thanks from one who very much enjoys the department.
M. F. L.

Send out the cards just as soon as your friend arrives, then all your friends will call and have ample time to arrange pleasant affairs for the honored guest.

A Farewell Party.
A club member is going to move out of town. There are ten members. I'd like to entertain at a dinner, but there will be no men present. We would each like to present her with a small gift. How could this be arranged?
Your ideas have helped me before and I am sure will not fail me now.
"VIC."

I am glad indeed if I have helped, and hope the following will fill your needs:

Why not have a luncheon for your friend and the club girls? That would seem a better plan than an evening dinner, for at the latter entertainment there should be men, so it seems to me. Suit cases are appropriate for place cards and for the centerpiece have a toy express wagon piled full of the ribbon-tied parcels containing the farewell gifts. Opening these surprises will be a very enjoyable feature of the occasion. It would also add to have toasts and the packages marked with original jingles.

A Stork Luncheon.
Some one told me that a description of a "stork" luncheon had been in the department. I would greatly appreciate suggestions for table, favors, menu and entertainment. E. M. L.

The stork luncheon was repeated very recently, but must have escaped your notice. Stork place cards, cradle,

center-piece, walls decorated with baby food advertisements, offerings of dainty bits of wearing apparel for the little stranger and a simple menu were some of the features given. Hats and balls of colored celluloid are also good favors. Pink or white should be the color scheme, with the addition of dainty bits forget-me-nots if the hostess desires.

Concerning Place Cards.
I am about to give a luncheon and have been out of and away from society for years. What I would like to know is about the place cards. Will you kindly inform me in this respect?
RETTA.

Place cards may be a plain white card with the guest's name, or may be elaborately decorated, in shapes to suit the occasion, bells, hearts, slippers, flowers, etc. They are intended to show where a guest is to sit at the table. They may be purchased or made at home.

Guessing Games for a Shower.
Could you furnish me a couple of games to use at a shower? I contemplate giving early in April? I should greatly appreciate it.
MAXINE.

It seems to me that I have not courage even to look a guessing game in the face, but the demand for this form of entertainment, like the little brook, "goes on forever." At a recent shower the guests were passed pink heart-shaped cards with a number of words transposed, which the hostess explained represented articles to be found in the bride's trousseau. Two prizes were awarded. Generally the presenting of the "shower," opening and commenting upon the articles, constitutes all the diversion necessary.

China Wedding Anniversary.
The last week in April I wish to celebrate our china wedding. Will you suggest an interesting way to entertain about 20 guests informally?
LUELLA M. S.

A jolly informal affair that came to my notice which was given on the twentieth wedding anniversary was carried out in this manner: The invitations were written in Chinese characters on red paper, the translation was on the inside page and asked the guests to come in Chinese costume. Red and yellow were the predominating colors and the refreshments were sent from a fine chop suey place with real celestials to serve. The favors were china spoons. This certainly was a novel entertainment.
MADAME MERRI.

About Sleeves.
The sleeves for shirtwaists are not so full at the top as they were last year. They are very much flatter across the top of the arm, most of the fullness being kept as in a man's coat, at the side front and side back. In fact, sleeves are decidedly shorter, and in all of the plainer tailored shirtwaists only long ones are used. They are generally finished with a small cuff with round corners, worn either with links or buttoned closely to the wrist.

Millinery Shows.
Have you seen the big lace millinery show that Paris is sending over? It is made of one kind of lace trimmed with another. There are four wide loops and two wide ends, all wired and stiffened and supplied with a firm foundation for the trimming of the hat. A hat, no matter how large, needs nothing but this one enormous bow of lace.

USEFUL WORK-BASKET



A useful and decorative little work-basket, which would be sure of a ready sale at bazars, may be seen in the accompanying sketch. Almond any kind of a small rug or wicker-basket will serve for this purpose, provided it is sufficiently strong and firm. The inside is lined with silk in some bright color, and the lining is continued above the top of the basket, so that it forms a useful bag, bound at the edge with silk braid and drawn up on a ribbon string. The same style of basket made up in a large size would be a useful present for a mother, in which she might keep stockings that require darning, and mending materials generally.

BELTS THAT FIT THE SKIRT.

Girdles Always Should Look a Part of the Costume.

No tailor who knows his business ever turns out a street skirt without finishing it with a stitched narrow belt of the material. This is sometimes attached, but more often not, although the best tailors recently have been fastening this belt to the skirt, attaching it on in such manner that it fastens with a pointed end where the skirt fastens. This attached belt obviates all need of separate belts, and women who have adhered to the tailored belt with the tailored skirt have presented a trimmer appearance around the waist than those whose belting has been any miscellaneous thing that happens to be smart in bedlam at the time.

If one's tailor has not been so considerate a good substitute for the narrow belt of the material is a heavy silk braid not over an inch wide and matching the gown in color. This should be lightly attached to the skirt and finished with a small clasp.

Soft liberty satin five inches wide, drawn taut around the waist and buckled, makes a dressy and easily shaped belt. It must match exactly. The belt that is off color and out of harmony is often the thing that kills the whole getup.

The belt must always be a part of the costume, and not, as it so often looks, an odd girdle of any old kind that happens to be handy.

Fancy Shoes in Favor.
It is hard to tell how much the average society woman spends for her shoes, but she will have to pay a good deal more than usual if she indulges in all the extravagances that have been designed for the season's fashion. One shoemaker says he has just had an order for white satin wedding shoes to be covered with a fine silver web studded with seed pearls. Pointed and block toes are fashionable and the approved boot is quite out of favor. Many women in Paris now have their under-shirts frilled and wired out around the skirts to show their footwear.

AN INTERESTING CHEMICAL EXPERIMENT

Any Child Can Do It—The Result is Almost Like Magic—Useful, Too.

Anything in the nature of a chemical experiment is always interesting and usually educative. Here is a simple experiment which any child can perform and which is instructive in a very practical way: Get a bit of White Lead about the size of a pea, a piece of charcoal, a common candle in a candlestick, and a blow-pipe. Scoop out a little hollow in the charcoal to hold the White Lead, then light the candle, take the charcoal and lead in one hand and the blow-pipe in the other, with the large end of the blow-pipe between the lips; blow the flame of the candle steadily against the bit of White Lead on the charcoal and if the White Lead is pure it will presently resolve itself into little shining globules of metallic lead, under the intense heat of the blow-pipe, leaving no residue.

If, however, the White Lead is adulterated in the slightest degree, it will not wholly change into lead. So, it will be seen, that this experiment is not only an entertaining chemical demonstration, but also of practical use in the home. White Lead is the most important ingredient of paint. It should be bought pure and undiluted and mixed with pure linseed oil. That is the best paint. The above easy experiment enables anyone to know whether the paint is the kind which will wear or not.

The National Lead Company guarantee that white lead taken from a package bearing their "Dutch Boy Painter" trade-mark will prove absolutely pure under the blow-pipe test; and to encourage people to make the test and prove the purity of paint before using it, they will send free a blow-pipe and a valuable booklet on paint to anyone writing them asking for Test Equipment. Address National Lead Company, Woodbridge Building, New York City.

BUT WAS IT THE SAME MELON?

Paper Carried by Darcy Amounted Almost to Perpetual Permit.

"A negro just loves a watermelon," said Representative Johnson of South Carolina. "Strange, too, that when a policeman sees a negro with a melon at an unreasonable hour he has it right down that the ducky has stolen that watermelon. I heard a story about a policeman who met a negro in the early hours of the morning, and he had a big melon on his shoulder. 'I see you have a melon there?' 'Yes, sah,' answered the ducky. 'Tse got er melon; but I fixed fer you, sah,' and pulling out a paper he handed it to the officer, who read: 'This bearer of this is O. K. He paid me ten cents for the melon, and he is a pillar in the church. James Elder.' 'You are fixed,' said the officer. 'Dat's what I loved,' answered the negro, and he bowed on."—Washington Herald.

NEURALGIA

The real meaning of the word Neuralgia is nerve-pain, and any one who has suffered with the malady will not be so anxious to know of its nature as to hear of its antidote. Though scarcely recognized by the profession and people half a century ago, it is now one of the most common and painful ailments which afflict humanity. As now generally understood the word signifies an affection of the nervous system, with pain in the course of the principal nerves.

The two great causes of Neuralgia are, Impoverishment of the Blood and Deficiency of Nerve Force; and the treatment of it is not so obscure as many would be led to suppose. The first thing is to relieve the pain, which is done more quickly and satisfactorily by ST. JACOBS OIL than by any other remedy known; the second object is to remove the cause, which is accomplished by the abundant use of nourishing food, of a nature to strengthen and give tone to both the muscular and nervous systems.

Nor Fire Nor Water.
Secretary A. M. Downes of New York's department of fire, related at a dinner a fire story.

"At the end of the first act of a drama," he said, "a man leaped hurriedly to his feet. 'I heard an alarm of fire,' he said. 'I must go and see where it is.' 'His wife, whose hearing was less acute, made way for him in silence, and he disappeared. 'It wasn't fire,' he said, on his return. 'Nor water, either,' said his wife, coldly."

Don't Try Uncertain Recipes.
It is entirely unnecessary to experiment with this, that and the other recipe. Get from your grocer, for 10 cents, a package of "DUB-PIE" Preparation—Lemon, Chocolate or Custard—your making pies that are sure to be good. "Put up by D-Zetta Food Co., Rochester, N. Y."

Testless.
"One of those fellows that is always doing the wrong thing, eh?" "Is he? Why, say, that fellow would put a freeze around a hothouse."

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years ago, also increase yearly, wonderful remedy: cured millions weak eyes. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

How many times have you won out when invited to go up against another or man's game?

LANGUID AND WEAK.

A Condition Common with Kidney Trouble and Backache.

Mrs. Marie Spive, 416 Miller St., Helena, Mont., says: "Three years ago my back grew weak and lame and I could not stoop without a sharp pain. It was just as bad when I tried to get up from a chair. I was languid and had much pain and trouble with the kidney secretions. This was my state when I began with Doan's Kidney Pills. They helped me from the first and four boxes made a complete, lasting cure."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Miss Lillian Dean, 828 East 84th Street, New York, writes: "Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound overcame my irregular periods, nervousness, and nervous headache, after everything else had failed to help me, and I feel it is my duty to let others know of it."
Katherine Craig, 2205 Lafayette St., Denver, Col., writes: "Thank you to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I am well, after suffering for months from nervous prostration."
Miss Marie Holliman, of Lowell, Mass., writes: "I was in a run-down condition and suffered from depression, indigestion, and poor circulation. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has made me well and strong."
Miss Ellen M. Olson, of 417 N. East St., Keosauqua, Ill., writes: "Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cured me of backache, side ache, and established my periods, after the best local doctors had failed to help me."

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