

Along The Trail

by
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Ask any hunter or fisherman what it is that makes him love his sport and most of them will say it is the hours spend in the woods or along the stream which give the greatest satisfaction.

Put his trout in a concrete pool where there are no swirling pools, undercut banks or submerged sangs to provide dark places for imaginary lunkers to hide and he'd probably give up fishing.

If his deer grazed with cattle in an open pasture, where he looked at them every day, and where they never came crashing up from some forest bed to nearly scare him out of his wits, then dash off through brush on some obscure trail known only to the deer, he would as soon shoot a cow. Yes, it's the whole nature picture which gives most outdoorsmen their pleasure. Remove any one item and their enjoyment would not be full.

People who live where deer pass in daily parade are apt to take them for granted, but to the city dweller a sleek, graceful, prime buck is a noble creature, one to be admired.

The fellow pictured here is a resident of Big Sur. I caught him one night in an open spot and flashed a bulb at him. This is one of the coast blacktail deer, at first thought to be a separate species but now considered to be only a sub-species of the mule deer. Mule deer are usually larger and do not have an all-black tail. Some have black tail tips or a black line down the center.

Male deer do not have horns;

instead, they grow antlers each year. Horns are permanent; antlers are shed in the winter following the mating season. In Spring, new antlers begin to grow, and at first are filled with blood and nerves and are quite sensitive. They are covered with velvet (skin), hence the expression "in the velvet." As fall approaches, the antlers shrink and harden, and the velvet is scraped off on some sapling or brush. With the antlers polished and hardened, they become effective weapons with which to fight off rival bucks as each vies for the privilege of reproducing the species.

Most oldtimers will say that you can tell the age of a buck by the number of points on his antlers. This is only partially true. After five or six years the number of tines diminish and some very old bucks may have only spikes with no forks.

Buck deer are polygamous and fight among themselves during the breeding season but are congenial in the non-rut. Then we often see them living peaceably together and even biting ticks off one another.

Deer mainly are browsing animals, feeding on the tips of trees and shrubs. They graze at times in the manner of cattle and eat acorns and berries. They are fond of salt, traveling miles to reach natural salt licks. It is this fondness for salt which brings them to the beaches.

Black-tail bucks seldom exceed

Perfect Shot For Camera Or—



As comfortably posed as though he were in a taxidermist's window is this coast black-

tail deer which stopped his browsing momentarily as the photographer's flash bulb threw

him into sudden light and then took off through the Big Sur area woods.

CRTA To Meet Wednesday, Exchange Gifts

The cabinet of the Santa Cruz county division of the California Retired Teachers' association, meeting in the home of Mrs. Alice Carmean, announced the following program for the regular bi-monthly meeting of the division Wednesday at 12:15 p. m. at Heath hall of the First Methodist church.

Potluck luncheon will be followed by the business meeting and a talk by Mrs. Elsie Burk, state membership chairman.

LP Records At Library Listed

Here are some of the latest long-playing records that may be borrowed from the music department of the Santa Cruz public library:

Beethoven: Symphony No. 9, in D minor, with Symphony No. 1, in C; Toscanini and the NBC Symphony orchestra.

Folk music: World festival of folk song and folk dance.

Backhouse: Carnegie hall concert; Wilhelm Backhaus playing sonatas of Beethoven and shorter works by Schubert, Schumann, Liszt and Brahms.

Rotarians See Film Display

A film presentation showing how the Ford Motor company selected Milpitas as the site of its west coast operations was shown members of the Santa Cruz Rotary club at their meeting Friday in the Palomar hotel.

Paul Ogden, associated with the Ford company for 25 years as a public relations representative, displayed the production and accompanied it with a commentary.

Kermit Darrow, Al Cheney and Ed Christensen were visitors.