

Marion City - Clear Lake Trip 11/16/51

Warming Red & two boys, Edith & The left home at 10:30 AM. Traveled via Iowa City, Tama, & Hell Rock toward Marion City. At about 4:00 PM, we realized we could not reach destination until too late so we stopped a half hour about 2 or 3 miles from Hell Rock for a short hunt. One farmer said "no pheasants since we flooded last summer" but we "looked" anyway. There was but one chance spot. Found a hen on Polly's point and then a big cock which we both missed first barrel & I killed again on the second. An old timer with a tail feather about 24" long.

Come Saturday we washed in Joel Pancer's nice cottage. Getting ahead of my stay a bit. We reported at 5:45 at Ylland & Howard and Joel drove with his car to his nice cottage on west shore of Clear Lake. The ice of ten days ago was now gone but getting ready to form again. We cooked Warming's chicken for a good supper after Jack's good "Mashed" & Scotch! He seemed to like our company so we had very late 8:00 supper.

Evernote the snow came of the N.W. wind and 17° at breakfast time. The little boys were very good and slept together very well after a couple of hours of palaver about how they "touched" each other.

About 9:30 we drove to town & found Edie could go with us to hunt. So after a look around the store we came back to pick up our guns & get started. There about 5 or 4 miles north from Clear Lake & picked a spot. Red made diplomatic arrangements. At 12:00 lunch & there was 12:00 o'clock so we started. Good cover - corn etc all good, hens up. Then a single shot from Red & a cock reared. Fire up the draw & I made a man there on a long rise

I scared one out of two. Then on a sail
road bank point by Polly I scared a bad
double grouse. Then I made a fancy kill
from the track. Bird lit on the creek side and
hid across to bump the bank. Back toward
starting point with Polly doing some
good points Eddie had repeated of safety trouble.

But several round about eye wave were
made toward eye when the boys jumped
a cock & tried a long chance on one runner
by me "away out there" & I tried a long
one & killed him - Red said "he you shot
a rifle". "He was a block away". When he
hit in the plough field I think the blow
killed him.

Two more stops yielded no more
cocks but a lot of very cold fingers.
Eddie was plenty chilled, these cocks are
smart as proved by the two that came
up ahead of Red in the last field we
worked.

The little lads had a big day out of their
new gun equipment. Stevie for 2 guns
and Jimmy for 1 gun.

Jack chopped for supper. Red had cleaned
the gun & Polly grooming over a well
fanned warm cottage quilt. Snow at
8:15 - too bad for me at least. With the
little boys.

Joe will join us to morrow at 11:00
for the afternoon hunt. He has to take it
easy on the heavy exercise.

Our little boys have been very good
sports and most co-operative in every
way.

Day total about 25 cocks and 45 hens seen.

I killed 3 with 10 shots - Red 1 with only two or 3 shots.
Polly found a cripple for a days total of 5 cocks.

Sunday "17

Large Sunday A.M. after a rough hunt yesterday in the horizontal snow and the cold temperatures. This time the day broke clear and bright and stayed that way all day. Timely breakfast about 8:30 after which Darny and Red took the boys for a drive. Clear lake is frozen over or smooth or glass. But the ice at the shore is not heavy enough to hold a man's weight.

Joel was due at 11:00 and just on time for the hunt. Leaving our car for Darny and her boys, we drove N. & W. to a point north & east of Turtle to a big marsh. The bog was full of hummocks but few pheasants. First off Polly caught a cock who got tangled in the thorny weeds. Having just pointed a hen, that Joel flushed.

Finally we got up into a good weedy corn field, where Polly gave me two first points on cocks which I collected on easy shots. Followed by a long miss. Then on south thru a long cornfield at the end of which I killed a single cock that really was Red's or Joel's shot. On our return, Red made a nice kill on a cock Polly found a 100 yds from the shot. Then Red hit another bird, but did not drop. We followed thru a field at the end of which we lost Polly. Cilled, whittled etc. I told Red she likely was on point. I very clack-clack-clack up and for a big cock she had on point 25 yds away, all the while. That was our 12th bird but not gathered. One more stop where we hunted yesterday - here - no cocks or so ended a fine hunt.

Came for a drink with Joel & then to Dither for supper of chicken & shrimp. Time birds for the day. Then for me and shells. One for Polly & one for Red. Now to bed packed for an early return tomorrow. Polly has really proved herself as a pheasant dog.