

DUCK HUNTING ON THE TURNER FLATS 1935-1972, written by Elisabeth Walton Potter¹ in 2020

In 1935, William S. Walton purchased 602 acres from the Rike Farm on the Turner Flats. The Salem banker developed his holding over nearly two decades. He and his brothers were accomplished anglers and had enjoyed organizing family fishing trips in the 1920s, an era during which it seemed trout and steelhead in Oregon lakes and streams would be perpetually abundant. Walton was an equally enthusiastic duck hunter and was an early supporter of Ducks Unlimited, the national non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wetlands for migrating wildfowl. At the farm, Walton introduced the rye grass recommended to enhance habitat for the birds.



William S. Walton, c. 1930

After William S. Walton's death in 1954, a portion of the farm went to his nephew, James J. (Jim) Walton, who continually sought new means of expanding the farm's uses and produc-



Jim Walton begins cleaning a duck at the duck shack, 1961.

tivity. Experiments included the harvesting of pond-raised frogs and snails for the local culinary market and the pasturing of buffalo to determine whether the animals could adapt to the Willamette Valley climate for breeding purposes. When Jim took over as steward, he titled the holding as Mt. Jefferson Game Farm. It became a venue for Ducks Unlimited fundraising gatherings. Jim's son, James J. (Jeff) Walton II, assisted in making preparations for the popular fund-raiser auctions. Dearl Stinson was resident manager of the farm.

Following is my personal account of events as I remember them, plus some observations. They are followed, in turn, by biographical notes on the two Walton land holders and core membership of the club known as the Neskowin Duck Hunting and Debating Society.

¹ **Elisabeth Walton Potter.** Born in Salem, Oregon, in 1939, Elisabeth made her career as a staff member of Oregon's State Historic Preservation Office, where she coordinated nominations to the National Register of Historic Places over a period of thirty years. Before retiring in 1998, she had helped to enroll more than 1,500 buildings, structures, and districts to the National Register. Her father, James J. (Jim) Walton I, was the organizer and founding president of the nonprofit Mission and Mill Museum Association, incorporated in 1964 to preserve the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill (1896) and two historic houses (1841) of Jason Lee's Methodist Mission station that predated the Salem town site. Elisabeth was among original board members of the association that is known today as the Willamette Heritage Center. She remains active in the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery, a volunteer group dedicated to supporting the City of Salem in its care of the historic cemetery established by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1854. In 2018, she was honored by the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her championing the City's historical and cultural assets following the tradition of her parents, James and Kathryn Walton.

My great uncle, William S. Walton, Salem-based financier, was an amateur horticulturist and active in promoting agricultural enterprise in the Willamette Valley. The place the family called “the farm” or the “duck lake” was an absorbing leisure activity for him. He remained in vigorous health until he died, unexpectedly, in 1954 at the age of seventy. The Walton brothers, the elder being James, Jr., my grandfather, who died in 1931, Bill, and Leo, together with James’s son, my father, were devotees of fishing and bird hunting.

Uncle Bill bequeathed a portion of the duck lake property to his nephew, Jim. Another portion apparently remained in co-ownership with another party at the time of Bill’s death. The complexity of Bill’s holdings in real estate extended the probate of his estate for several years. A significant issue was disposition of that portion of the duck lake property that had not been devised in the will. It was necessary to determine through appraisal the value of that portion devised to Jim and distinguish it from the undevised acreage. Eventually, Father was the successful bidder at a public auction of the undevised portion. The farm’s development thereafter was wholly in his hands.



Walton Duck Lake on Turner Flats, Don Harger photo, 1954.

In a 1962 summary statement of the origins of the Neskowin Duck Hunting and Debating Society (NDH&DS), Father explained that he and three close friends who had been acquainted since high school and college days organized themselves for sport as early as 1935, when the venue for shooting was at Neskowin, Uncle Bill's resort on the Oregon Coast. It was not until the end of the war that Bill's farm on Turner Flats became the club's settled venue. The men were committed to doing their part to protect habitat for the Pacific flyway. Ducks Unlimited was formed in the Great Depression, around the time James Walton, Chandler Brown, Dr. Harold Olinger, all of Salem, and Robert C. Bishop of Portland created their club. Each of the four original members had ties to the University of Oregon and, like the additional members they recruited, they were business and professional men and civic leaders. They were lifelong members of Ducks Unlimited and subscribers to the federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp revenue program by which, over the years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service raised hundreds of millions of dollars for enhancement of waterfowl habitat in Canada and the United States.



Neskowin Duck Hunting & Debating Society founding members, c. 1958, left to right: Chan Brown, Bob Bishop, Harold Olinger and Jim Walton.



The 1950s and '60s were the decades of peak activity at the farm. The clubhouse (also "shack," or "cabin") was in regular use. NDH&DS members were busy introducing their sons to duck hunting and they enjoyed looking back on their history together in the sport. They corresponded with vendors of decoys, hunting gear, and seed for preferred grasses to attract wildfowl. Members and guests kept track of their bags and sightings

and tabulated the results for the record. Three new members, Dr. Ralph Purvine of Salem and Portlanders Charles Snell and Joe Nance, were invited to join the club and help meet expenses with their dues. In the 1960s, Father was in communication with the Oregon State Game Commission and Fish and Wildlife agency experts about the raising of pheasants and the experiments with buffaloes, snails, and frogs.

By 1970, the “Buffalo Pasture” had been converted to the raising of bush beans. Father placed 137 acres of the property on the market as surplus to his needs in 1972. With the passing of two core members in 1974, the era of NDH&DS hunting and occasional dog trials on Turner Flats decidedly had come to a close.



Larry Goss harvesting bush beans in the former buffalo pasture, 1970.

“To me, the series of progress reports that Bob [Robert C.] Bishop faithfully sent to his fellow founders at their varied U.S. Navy postings to keep their spirits high during the final year of WW II is a great treasure. Bob’s letters to report on home front developments are couched in terms of friendly comradeship that testifies to the strong bonds among the “brothers” and their accustomed guests that came from sharing the excellent sporting life – both fishing and bird hunting – that was available to them in Oregon in their day.”

E. Walton Potter, August 17, 2018

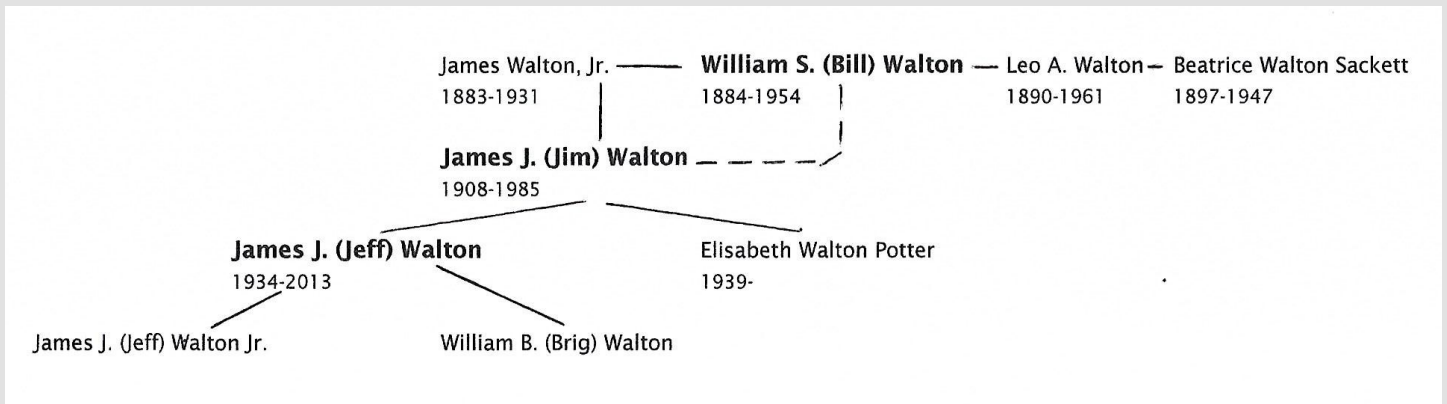
To: Robert C. Bishop III, William C. Brown, Casey Olinger, James J. (Jeff) Walton III, William B. (Brig) Walton



Jim Walton, left, and Charles Snell at the Duck Lake with retriever and brace of ducks, c. 1960.

“One of the interesting protocols that members of the Duck Hunting and Debating Society resumed once they returned to regular civilian life after the war was the recording of leg bands from ducks bagged at the farm on Turner Flats. The light-weight leg bands were imprinted with the date and location of the banding wherever it happened to take place within the Pacific Northwest flyway. Some of the banding locations were as widespread as Saskatchewan or Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northern California. Many more, naturally, were in Oregon and Washington. The idea was that hunters who were promoters of conservation and involved in the aims of Ducks Unlimited would report any banded bird bagged in their bailiwick as a means of helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service track movement within the flyway. NDH&DS was most active at the farm on Turner Flats from 1948 to 1970. I presume a similar reporting etiquette continues across the country today.”

Letter from E. Walton Potter to Kathy Bridges, September 5, 2018



William S. (Bill) Walton (1884-1954). William S. Walton was born in Salem to an Oregon pioneer family headed by the British-born James E. Walton, who became a naturalized citizen while raising sheep in Douglas County in the 1850s. At the age of 15, Bill was employed as an office boy at Ladd & Bush Bank, one of Salem's oldest banking institutions. He married Harriet Hargrove, descendent of Silverton area pioneers, in 1916. He was promoted to cashier and in 1924 became executive vice president. As the result of a merger in 1940, the bank became a branch of the U.S. National Bank of Portland. Walton retired from his executive position in 1948 and thereafter until his death in 1954 was a member of the board of directors of U.S. National Bank. Walton promoted agricultural, timber, and financial industries in the mid-Willamette Valley. In 1933, he was named to an advisory committee of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, a federal lending agency created to stimulate recovery during the Great Depression by issuing loans to agricultural credit unions and other financial institutions. His passing in 1954 established the William S. Walton Charitable Trust that for more than thirty years was managed by Floyd K. Bowers and the U.S. National Bank of Oregon as co-executors. It was an important source of support for Salem's charitable and educational organizations. Substantial contributions were made to the Salem hospitals, Willamette University (where Walton Hall is named for him), the YMCA and the YWCA, Salem Art Association, Humane Society, Salvation Army, Assistance League of Salem, Mission and Mill Museum Association, Pentacle Theater, and others. Once the principal of the bequest had been largely expended by 1990, U.S. Bank, then the sole trustee, adopted a reduced level of giving restricted to a small percentage of interest income from the remaining capital. Today, the Trust continues to support Salem's non-profit charitable work with modest "seed money" grants from a typical distribution amount of little more than \$20,000 per year. During the 1920s and '30s, Walton was the proprietor-developer of the Oregon coastal resort of Neskowin in Tillamook County that had been platted by his elder brother, Tillamook banker James Walton, Jr., and his wife Lizette, in 1910. Essential developments of the brothers' venture included a water supply system, campground, nine-hole golf course, a hotel, store, and gasoline filling station. Bill established the family's tradition of maintaining a vacation house at Neskowin that continues to the present day.

Bill's brothers and sister were: **James Walton, Jr.** (1883-1931), banker; platted Neskowin, Ore., 1910; U.S. Army WWI; tax lawyer eastern U.S. **Leo A. Walton** (1890-1961), West Point Class of 1915; ultimate rank Major General in command of 14th Air Force, and **Beatrice Walton Sackett** (1897-1947), executive aide to Governors I.L. Patterson, Julius Meier; State Board of Higher Education.

James Jefferson (Jim) Walton I (1908-1985). William S. Walton's nephew, best known to friends and associates as Jim, was born in Tillamook, Oregon, to James Walton, Jr., and the former Lizette Fawk. He was raised in Eugene and in 1931 was graduated from the University of Oregon School of Architecture's civil engineering track. He married Kathryn Brigham, worked for the Oregon State Highway Department for nine years, and achieved his registered professional engineer's certification in 1935. In 1941, he entered the electrical contracting business in partnership with his University of Oregon Sigma Nu fraternity brother, Chandler Brown, by acquiring Bosler Electric, a Salem company the partners continued to operate under that name until reorganizing the following year as Walton-Brown Electric.

Continued, James Jefferson (Jim) Walton I:

With the nation's entry into World War II, the company, while providing commercial and residential wiring service, was poised to bid on and gain a number of defense contracts that included wiring an airport and Oregon military installations at Camp Adair and Camp White. For a time, the two executives left the company in charge of their associates' training in the U.S. Navy. Walton served as a Lieutenant of Supply in Seattle Harbor overseeing the outfitting of ships for duty in the Pacific theater. After the war, Walton-Brown Electric continued until it was acquired by Riches Electric in 1953 and subsequently dissolved. Jim was named to Salem's post-war Long-range Planning Commission. He was a president of the Salem Chamber of Commerce, Salem Art Association, and the Mission Mill Museum Corporation, which he organized in 1964. He was an active member of the Professional Engineers of Oregon, Salem Rotary Club, and Ducks Unlimited. Jim was executive secretary of the State Board of Engineering Examiners from 1966 to 1969. He was named to board of the Automobile Club of Oregon and was a long-term member of the board of directors of Portland General Electric Company, having been appointed to serve PGE as a director from the time of the company's post war reorganization in 1948. He retired from the PGE board in 1983.

James Jefferson (Jeff) Walton II (1934-2013).

Jeff, the late grandnephew of William S. Walton and father of James J. (Jeff) Walton III and William (Brig) Walton, and daughters Mary and Victoria, was born in Salem, educated in local public schools and was graduated from the School of Business Administration at the University of Oregon in 1956. Having enrolled in R.O.T.C., he received his commission in the U.S. Air Force and commenced his officers' training directly after graduation. Ultimately, he was posted to the North Bend Aerospace Defense Command General Surveillance Radar Station on the southern Oregon Coast. He was honorably discharged in 1960 and served as captain in the Air Force Reserves. While a family man in Salem, he was a real estate salesman, commercial broker, and property manager for Grabenhorst Bros. Realty. He was also partner in the Salem firm of Boise & Walton. In 1985 he moved to Neskowin, Oregon, as a year-round resident and for ten years maintained Neskowin Beach Realty as an independent brokerage. He concluded his business career as an affiliated broker with Capital Valuation Group in Salem until 2004.



THE GREAT SNAIL ENTERPRISE — Jim Walton of Salem is shown looking at a few of the "countless thousands" of snails which "inhabit" his game farm near Jefferson. He discovered this summer that he can sell each snail for five cents apiece. (Capital Journal Photo)

Snail Farm Big Surprise

By JOAN KRAUS
Capital Journal Writer

JEFFERSON — It all started 20 years ago in San Francisco when Jim Walton of Salem thought he was ordering clams from a French menu and got snails instead. He liked them. And thereby hangs the tale.

He ordered two dozen of the delicacies (to the French and other brave gourmets) from New Orleans and "planted" them at his game farm near Jefferson with visions of forthcoming sauted, garlic-flavored snails in his head. But his wife wouldn't cook them, and they were left to multiply to their hearts' content. And they did.

"We didn't realize how fast they would multiply," Walton remarks. "And we certainly didn't know that there were any commercial possibilities in 'snail-raising'."

This summer he found out that there were real profits to be made from the little shelled ani-

mals, when a dealer in goldfish offered to pay him five cents apiece for them.

GOOD FOR GOLDFISH

It seems that when snails are put in aquariums they keep oxygen in the water. They are essential to the goldfish business.

"First I sold this man 2,000 snails and then he said that he

wanted 10,000-20,000 snails a month!" Walton notes, with a shocked tone in his voice.

"As if that isn't enough, now I have offers to sell my snails to wholesale groceries and restaurants," he added.

He was told that snails are hosts for many different parasites, so he took a load of them up to Oregon State University to have them inspected. They were given a "clean bill of health."

Besides raising snails, he raises fish, frogs, pheasants, ducks, and quail on his 600-acre farm, called Walton's Mt. Jefferson Game Farm. The farm is his avocation. By vocation he is a civil engineer and an architect.

ALSO KEEPS BIRDS

For fun, though, he raises pheasants to be shipped to dog field trials and keeps many unusual and colorful birds, such as Mongolian pheasants and bright-colored fighting chickens, on his farm. "I've eaten bullfrogs raised on my place, but I've never eaten any home-grown snails," Walton declares.

Besides eating snails in San Francisco, however, he has eaten them in New Orleans and Chicago.

His newfound snail business is the most profitable of his game-raising ventures, he explains, as snails cost nothing to keep. He says he's going to expand this business as rapidly as possible.

And he's got "countless thousands" of them nesting comfortably along the banks of his 17 duck lakes. They don't realize that they've made Jim Walton a new kind of entrepreneur—of snails or less!

Salem Capital Journal,

Mon., Oct. 9, 1961, Sec. 2, p. 10.

Ducks Unlimited Swells Treasury With Trials, Auction



NATIONAL TRUSTEE for Ducks Unlimited, Bob Bishop (right) hands State Commerce director Hillman Lueddemann a Herter Sprig decoy which, after appropriate inscription, will be presented to Gov. Mark Hatfield. Lueddemann represented the governor who has been long time supporter of program.

By **MARYETTA DEVEREAUX**
Of The Town Columnist, The Oregonian

"You might get tossed in a lake," warned Jim Walton, Salem financier and sportsman.

I packed along another outfit Sunday and left my wrist-watch at home, just in case. The occasion was the 5th annual Ducks Unlimited STAG Benefit held at Walton's 602-acre Mt. Jefferson Game Farm at Turner Prairie.

Host Walton, who could well be a direct descendant of the famous 17th Century outdoor lover, Izaak Walton, has created a paradise for waterfowl on the prairie his pioneer forebears used to farm.

Taking advantage of the 40 acres planted in feed and the 17 man-made lakes are 39 varieties of fowl, one of the largest collections on privately owned land in the U.S. according to my rather doubtful host.

Walton has such rare and beautiful birds as the Arctic Emperor geese, colorful eared Mancharian and Lady Amherst pheasant. His collection drew the admiration of the 200 or so men attending the big yearly money-raising drive of the Oregon Chapter of DU.

Ducks Unlimited is the most successful conservation organization in America, according to Charles E. Sneli, an original founder of DU. "It is impossible to measure exactly the benefits derived from this year-round nesting program in Canada. But we do know that there has been an increase of as high as 300 per cent in waterfowl census since the bleak years when the DU con-

servation program was launched."

Since DU was incorporated in 1937 with the credo, "Conservation of waterfowl and the preservation of wild fowling for the future," more than \$12 million have been raised by members to create or restore more than 700 Canadian breeding areas, the source of 30 per cent of this continent's duck and goose population.

Of the above total, \$9,300,000 has found its way directly into building 80 dams, providing 1,750,000 acres of marsh habitat, establishing more than 4,300 miles of shoreline on the open prairie, and backing up water that covers over 843,000 acres.

Since Federal law doesn't permit use of Duck Stamp funds to be spent outside U.S. Territorial borders for migratory waterfowl purposes, one can see why those attending Sunday's benefit were so quick to get out their money clips, and had such a good time doing it.

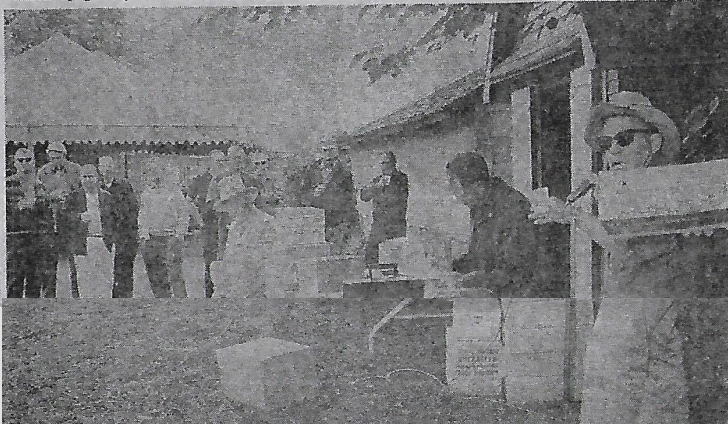
Approximately 30,000 ardent sportsmen belong to DU, but millions enjoy the harvest of waterfowl's bounty. Millions more enjoy the beating wings heard throughout the land, the honking of geese and cry of ducks as they migrate in their patterned flyways—signs of summer and winter.

Next year, Host Walton and the Marion County Ducks Unlimited Chapter hope more hundreds will enjoy the all-day STAG benefit that they'll again put on to swell their conservation treasury.

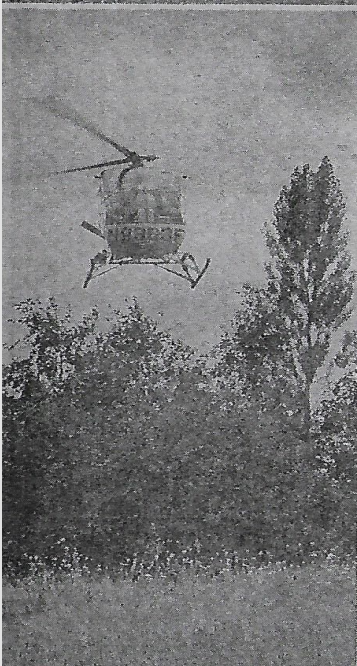
No, I did not become "The Lady of the Lake."
 (Photos by Chuck Von Wald)



SOME OF finest Labradors in Northwest worked dog trial at Turner during day of fun and benefit. Here, Handler John Toollett gets retrieved bird from Ch. Tye of Tye.



BENEFIT AUCTION at Mt. Jefferson Game Farm Sunday swelled Ducks Unlimited treasury. Auctioneer Dan Fry Jr. (right) ran through donated merchandise like old pro. This was fifth year for event which drew about 250 bird lovers from all over the state of Oregon for conclave.



NOT A BIRD but a plane is this helicopter which brought its owner, guest Glen Stevenson to bird farm.



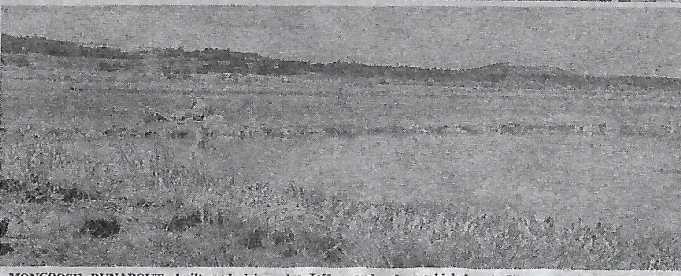
CHEF EDWARD HAYES, Dallas, started day with plate-size pancakes then graduated to barbecued chicken and Swiss steak for 250 men and one girl at stag affair.



HUNTING CRONIES Al Gerlinger (left), Dr. Ralph Purvine and Host Jim Walton look over contributed loot before auction's start. Guests poured in more than \$4,000, which was nearly half of 1964 budget of Oregon chapter of Ducks Unlimited.



CALLIOPE FROM old Mississippi show boat played by Lenthai Holman, spouted old time tunes such as "Cedrus" and "Bill Bailey" from dawn to dusk. Calliope uses player piano rolls, too.



MONGOOSE RUNABOUT, built and driven by Jeff Walton, gave guests easy tour of 602 acre game farm and refuge which boasts 17 man-made lakes. Prairie was turned into game farm by Walton family.



Pendleton Woolen Mills

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HIGH GRADE WESTERN WOOLENS
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MAIN OFFICE
 19 S.W. BISHOP COURT
 PORTLAND 1, OREGON

November 14th
 1962

Mr. James J. Walton
 580 State St. Suite 205
 Salem, Oregon

Dear Jim:

Finally found my clipping from McAllister's column and enclose it herewith for the record. If we want to preserve it we could cut the heading from another column of McAllister's, which I did not think to do in this case.

The other enclosure is simply an advance suggestion to be preserved for the future. It will not be applicable of course until your first Round-Up in the east pasture, probably a year or two from now.

Not sure about the week-end plans, but will probably talk to you between now and then.

f
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 b
 s

Sincerely
Bob
 Robert C. Bishop

GEESE ON a string...
 At Jim Walton's Mt. Jefferson Game Farm on Turner Flat southeast of Salem they're taking about the 3 out of 11 geese bagged from one flock.
 Bob Bishop, Portland, and Jim left their blind to get sandwiches at the (1st) house when they saw the flock, dropped to their hands and knees and yelled an alert to the other hunters.
 Low and answering the flock came over a blind occupied by Chen Brown and Dr. Harold Glander, both Salem, who brought down three birds.
 Next blind is Jim's son, Jeff, killed two geese. Then the pruned flock turned and flew across over Jim and Bob who each killed two geese.
BISHOP HAS long been a leader in Ducks Unlimited activities and is sharp on bird identification. He was amazed at the mixture of geese in the flock.
 Their bag included three cacklers and three Hutchison geese (all small races of the Canada geese) a juvenile and an adult white-fronted goose and one snow goose.

Only nature can produce the living fiber... Wool

PROJECTS AND NEEDS:

- **** 1. The main water gate and valve feeding all the ponds originates at the bridge over the main ditch just before reaching the cabin. This pipe is clogged with debris and must be cleaned out to provide proper flow. Level should be lowered at west end.
- **** 2. Back wall of wood shed (next to cabin) has sagged and must be repaired.
- ** 3. Kitchen oven needs repair (Walton will investigate)
- **** 4. Flashing around chimney is leaking and needs repair.
- **** 5. Main cabin windows need re-caulking to prevent leaks.
- * 6. Interior of cabin needs re-painting.
- *** 7. (a) Decoy inventory indicates 4 or 5 dozen needed, (Snell to investigate)
 **** (b) Snell will get anchor cord and Walton the anchors for all decoys.
- **** 8. Four boat cushions for blinds. (Walton will arrange)
- **** 9. Firewood for stove (Walton and Daryll will arrange)
- *** 10. Three pipes connecting ponds west of cabin are rusted and need new welded nipples.
- * 11. Burn cattails off marsh directly west of pond in front of cabin.
- * 12. Burn cattails off marsh north and west of pond north of cabin.
- **** 13. Drain shooting lake (Daryll will do at proper time)
- **** 14. Move fourth blind from pond behind south blind to the north end of the main shooting lake.
- **** 15. Repair dike running south from east blind across main ditch to plug muskrat and nutria holes.
- **** 16. PLANT approximately 40 acres sudan grass along south fence from main lake to the cabin. (about same as prior years).
- **** 17. PLANT approximately 10 acres buck wheat on east and west sides of main shooting lake (about same as prior years).
- ** 18. Burn off diseased smartweed behind south blind and consider replacing with some other attraction.

NESKOWIN DUCK AND DEBATE SOCIETY

Record of Ducks Killed at Turner Flat

Year	Mallard	Sprig	Widgeon	Teal	Others	Geese	Total	No. of Shoots	Birds per Shoot	Guns	Per Gun	Banded	Bag Limit	Bonus
1955	274	117	154	118	42	11	715	24	30	94	7.6	0	6	3
1956	155	141	64	152	38	0	550	25	22	100	5.5	4	6	3
1957	336	177	105	158	30	2	808	33	24	118	6.9	9	5	3
1958	225	93	93	89	68	3	571	23	25	96	6.0	2	5	4
1959	64	108	54	98	25	4	353	23	15	74	4.8	1	5	0
1960	114	38	32	18	24	6	232	20	12	74	3.2	1	4	0
1961	156	24	30	21	23	0	254	19	14	64	4.0	1	4	0
1962	102	43	21	68	28	12	274	25	11	90	3.0	0	4	0
1963	153	52	30	47	25	3	310	26	12	81	3.7	0	4	0
1964	151	44	57	41	36	5	334	27	13	99	3.4	1	4	0
1965	259	134	66	77	64	7	607	30	20	151	4.0	0	3	0
1966	169	150	86	106	57	5	573	31	18	133	4.3	1	5	0
1967	285	141	84	190	62	7	769	31	25	154	5.0	0	5	0
1968	199	146	210	55	60	1	671	31	21.5	138	5.0	2	5	0
1969	104	83	58	57	8	5	315	27	12	85	4.0	1	5	0

Buffalo Roam Oregon Pastures In Larger Numbers

An animal which almost disappeared has come back.

In the 1870's, an estimated 50 million buffalo roamed the Western United States. By 1900, the buffalo was almost completely gone from the land, victim of the greedy or callous hunter who often used the beasts simply for target practice.

TODAY, there are some 12,000 buffalo, according to government figures. The same figures list 377 of them as being in Oregon and all but 27 of those as being owned by Harry Pon, Burns, who hopes to have the largest privately-owned herd in the world some day.

Pon's 350 bison now comprise the second-largest herd, he says. He keeps them on a large spread north of Burns, along with his herd of over 800 Texas Longhorn cattle, the largest bunch of that variety in the world.

Pon, a Los Angeles-area-businessman part of the year, said he will begin marketing the buffalo as meat animals when his herd gets large enough. "Several thousand in four or five years." In the meantime, he keeps on acquiring the huge animals at around \$450 apiece—plus transportation — from government preserves and other private herds.

The 27 bison which are not owned by Pon are spread between several owners, including John Day of Central Point, with 14, and the Portland Zoo, which owns five.



VANISHING AMERICAN is returning. Buffalo, or bison, now numbers about 12,000 head in U.S.

ONE WHO doesn't intend to go into the buffalo meat business is James Walton, Salem civil engineer and architect, who keeps three of the shaggy beasts on his 360-acre property near Turner.

"It's just a hobby with me," Walton says. He paid about \$300 per animal and they have borne several offspring. His inventory currently reads two bulls and one cow, the rest having been slaughtered for benefit functions.

While Walton purchased his "herd" entirely from the U.S. Government preserve near Moiese, Mont., Pon has acquired his herd from several places, public and private, including one reserve in Canada where at least 15,000 buffalo live.

BUFFALO bring more money butchered than beef does, Pon said. "Buffalo meat has a flavor all its own," he said. It's something like beef, but richer, leaner and terrifically in demand. It once made up the main diet of the plains Indians, who

By RICHARD COLBY
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

subsisted on it alone quite well, he observed.

Keeping bison requires six-foot fences — they can jump over anything lower — and plenty of food, he said. When deprived of it during transit, "they have been known to break through boxcar walls," he pointed out.

Buffalo are wild animals weighing as much as 2,300 pounds and while they can be led gently, they cannot be driven, Pon said. Buffalo steers fed with grain could reach "monstrous" weights, he believes, although he has not tried that yet.

HANDLING the beasts for branding, vaccinating and sorting has required construction of a specially-designed holding device which can accommodate the animals' huge, shaggy heads without letting their narrower shoulders slip through, he said.

Last year, a few of his buffalo reacted positively to brucellosis disease tests and had to be destroyed. (Brucellosis is a malady which strikes buffalo, cattle, deer, elk and other such animals, causing pregnant females to abort midway through pregnancy.)

Pon maintains there is no certain proof that brucellosis-infected bison can transmit the disease to cattle, although there is proof the illness can go in the opposite direction.

"OUR GOAL is to have the largest 'clean' herd in the United States," he said.

And the buffalo, once scarce, is returning.

Apr 7, '64
Statesman, Salem, Ore., Tues.

Buffaloes Roam on Mt. Jefferson Game Farm

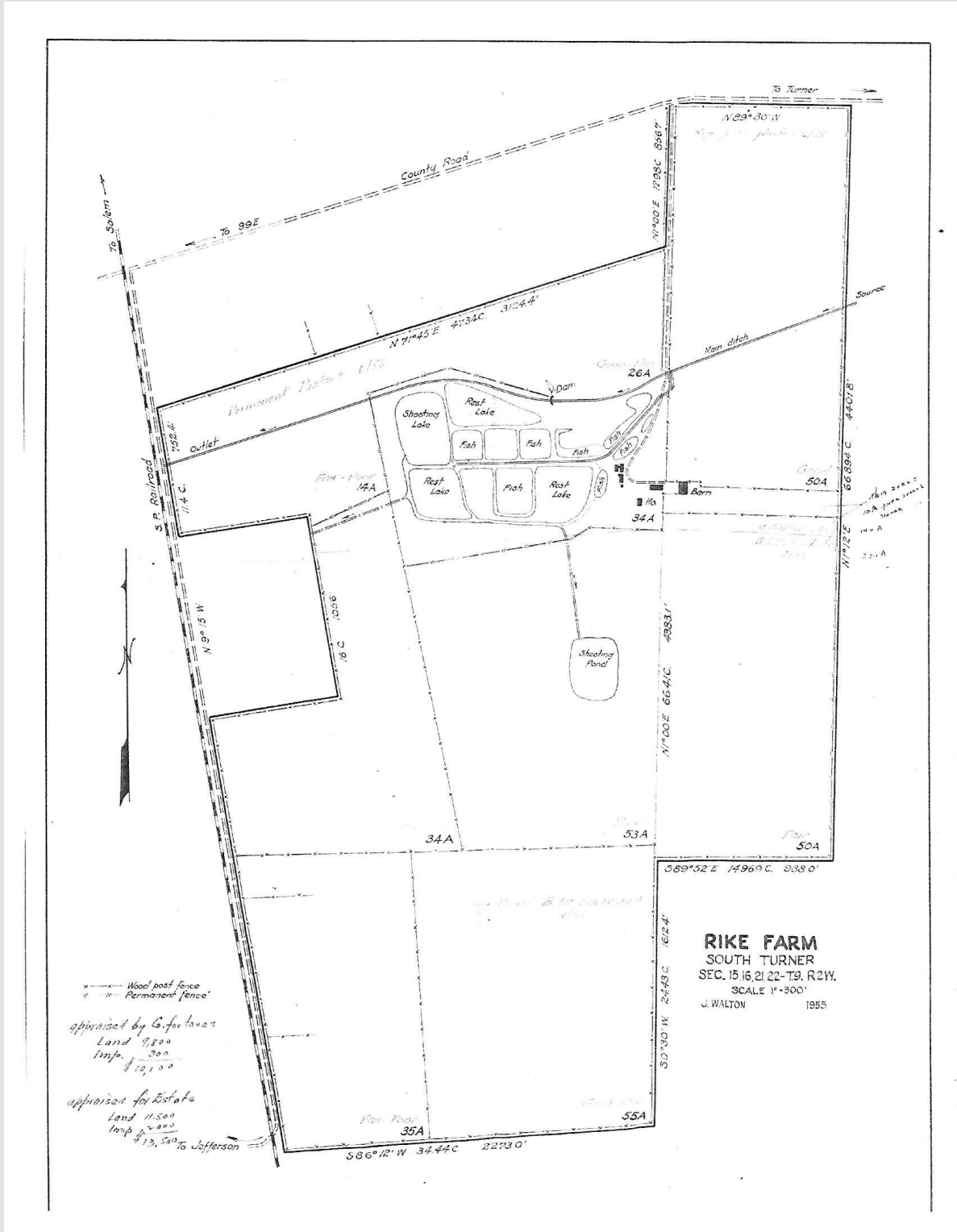


TURNER—Buffalo hunting is out, but buffalo watching is fine at James Walton's Mt. Jefferson Game Farm three miles southwest of here. The three ani-

mals were bought in Montana by Walton who hopes to develop a larger herd of buffalo, one of the symbols of the old west. (Statesman photo by Loyd Sidwell)

Detail of "Rike Farm" dated 1955, J. Walton.

Map shows areas marked for "permanent pasture" and "rye grass," driveway to duck cabin, kennels, house and barn, fences (wood post and permanent fence), main irrigation ditch and dam, irrigation ditch to the ponds and to the adjoining property to the west, and fourteen ponds identified as follows: two unmarked ponds, seven fish ponds, three rest lakes and two shooting lake/pond. The map includes notes: J. Walton 150 A, W. S. Walton Estate 210A. Appraised by County for taxes: Land \$9,800 and Improvements \$300 = \$10,100. Appraised for Estate: Land \$11,500 and Improvements \$2,000 = \$13,500.



James J. (Jim) Walton & Members of the Neskowin Duck Hunting and Debating Society

In addition to the duck lake property on Turner Flats, James J. (Jim) Walton was heir to that part of his uncle William S. Walton's property in the plat of Neskowin on the Oregon Coast that had not been sold by the time of William's death in 1954. As a registered professional engineer, Jim personally surveyed and sold lots from the remaining holdings. In 1970, he and his wife, the former Kathryn Brigham, deeded a swath of dry sand area along the Neskowin oceanfront to the State of Oregon. The gift bolstered the State's efforts to secure public access to the beaches under progressive legislation known as the "Beach Bills" of 1967 and 1969.

The following note on the origin of the Neskowin Duck Hunting and Debating Society written by Jim Walton in 1962 explains the connection between the coastal resort and the family's duck hunting venue in the Willamette Valley.

HISTORY OF THE NESKOWIN DUCK HUNTING AND DEBATING SOCIETY, 1935 to 1962

The NDH & DS [Neskowin Duck Hunting and Debating Society] was the outgrowth of a long dry period that not only resulted in a decreased flight of wildfowl in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, but virtually dried up the natural and artificial ponds of Polk County for a major part of the curtailed shooting seasons of the early 1930s. During this period R.C. Bishop and Chan Brown together with Al and Carl Gerlinger and Vic Williams shot at a lake in the Basket Slough area some five or six miles northwesterly of Rickreall, Oregon. They fought a game battle, but eventually lost to the drought. During this same period I was shooting with two uncles, Fran Fawk and Will Walton, and Bob Roberts and Frank Spear on a lake approximately three miles northeasterly from Rickreall. We lost the same battle. Both areas had previously been good producers, but the shortened season, improved drainage, and drought all but eliminated the shooting.

One day on a visit to Neskowin I was relating our problems to Matt Sandage, a longtime native of that coastal area. He suggested it might be worth investigating the area to the north of Neskowin as a shooting site because [as marsh land] it enjoyed plenty of water and food and, consequently, ducks. In both fall and winter of 1934 and '35 Bob Bishop, Chan Brown, Dr. Olinger, and I, who were to become the NDH & DS original members, made numerous observations of the duck population in the area and were encouraged to go ahead and secure a lease, build blinds, etc. It is only fair to state that "Jack Daniels" often went along on these exploratory trips and played no small part in many of our decisions. Even with his capable counsel most of our conclusions, i.e. blind locations, etc. were not arrived at without considerable debate. Hence, we had the nucleus of a name.

*James J. Walton
1962*

NESKOWIN DUCK HUNTING AND DEBATING SOCIETY, 1935 to 1962

Chandler P. (Chan) Brown (1909-2001). A descendant of Oregon pioneer families (Breyman and Brown), Chandler was the son of one of the state's leading dealers in hops and wool commodities, Clifford W. Brown, and Alice Bretherton Brown. During Chandler's and his brother Werner's teenage and college years, and beyond, the family home in Salem was the stately Queen Anne-style residence built in 1894 for Dr. Luke Port that is maintained today as Deepwood Museum and Gardens. Chandler was a 1931 Business Administration graduate of the University of Oregon, where, following in his father's footsteps, he joined Sigma Nu Fraternity. It was while spending time at the University of Washington in his Junior year that he met his future wife, Eleanour Plamondon. Chandler and his fraternity brother, Jim Walton, formed the Walton-Brown Electric Co. partnership in Salem and operated successfully from 1941 to 1953. Chandler owned commercial and timber properties and maintained business connections with Stevens Steel & Equipment Co., Mill Supply Corp. and Steelco, Inc. among other concerns. He served on the Salem City Council in 1940 and chaired the Salem Water Commission until resigning to enlist in the Navy in 1943. He would later return to his seat on the commission. During the war, he was stationed in Washington, D.C. in the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, and retired in 1946 with the rank of Lt. Commander, U.S.N.R. In post-war community life, Chandler was a founder of the Illahe Hills Country Club and a director of Salem Development Inc. He was a two-term president of the Oregon Historical Society in the early 1960s at the crucial time of acquiring, and financing development of property on the South Park Blocks in Portland for the institution's first purpose-built headquarters and museum. For his leadership, he was honored by appointment to the Society's Honorary Council. He contributed substantially to the preservation of "Deepwood," the former family home that became one of the primary historical assets of the City of Salem parks system.

Robert C. Bishop (1909-1974). Robert Chauncey Bishop was a descendant of the founding families of leading woolen manufacturing and retailing concerns in Oregon. He was the grandson of Fanny Kay Bishop and C.P. Bishop (founder of Bishop's Clothing and Woolen Mills Store in Salem), and nephew of their son, Clarence M. Bishop, who headed the Portland-based Pendleton Woolen Mills Co. from 1909 to 1969. C.M. Bishop helped prepare Robert to join the company after Chauncey Bishop, Robert's father, died in 1927. A native of Salem, Robert was a 1931 graduate of the University of Oregon and completed work at Harvard University's Graduate Business School in 1933, at which point he joined the company to work closely with his uncle to help steer the enterprise through the Depression with defense contract production of blankets and effect a post war recovery with expansion into menswear and womenswear marketed nationwide. Pendleton Woolen Mills Co. operated plants and facilities from Portland and Washougal to Omaha, and the well-recognized label was advertised widely in publications that included outdoor sports magazines such as *Field and Stream*. Though hampered by a serious leg injury incurred on the playing field during school days that affected him for life and barred him from active duty in the military, he was an outdoor sports enthusiast who staunchly supported Ducks Unlimited as a national trustee and engaged in the training of hunting dogs. He chaired the American Kennel Club's Pacific Northwest trial board. He and his wife Maria supported innumerable civic and charitable causes in Portland. Robert remained a director in the family-owned Pendleton Woolen Mills Company after his retirement from active management in later years.

Harold M. Olinger (1909-1978). Harold Olinger, known to closest associates as "Olie," was the son of the former Frances Matthews and Dr. Harry H. Olinger, dentist, one of the respected civic-minded professional men of his day in the state capital. After a fire destroyed the old statehouse in 1935, H. H. Olinger was chosen to serve as vice chairman of the consequential Capitol Reconstruction Commission that steered selection of a rebuilding site, organization of a design competition, and budgeting and contracting for construction and decoration of the modern capitol that was completed in 1938. Olinger had been chairman of the Salem School Board and a supporter of athletic programs in 1928 when new playing fields on the north side of town were named in his honor. The Olinger name subsequently was attached to the adjacent outdoor municipal swimming pool that was opened there in 1934. Harold followed his father's footsteps to a professional career. He attended the University of Oregon as an undergraduate and gained his degree from the North Pacific School of Dentistry in Portland in 1934. With one interruption for service in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater during World War II, he maintained his practice in Salem until his retirement in 1975. Dr. Olinger's lifelong love of sports was formed at Salem High School in competitive team sports, especially basketball and baseball. He was a member of the school's championship teams in 1925 and 1926. With wife Dorothy, he was a golf enthusiast and held memberships in Salem Golf Club and Illahe Hills Golf and Country Club. In civic life, Dr. Olinger served on the Salem City Council and was a long-active member of Salem Rotary Club. He regularly supported Ducks Unlimited.

Ralph E. Purvine (1910-1974). Son of an Oregon pioneer family, Ralph Ellis Purvine was born to Ellis Purvine and Dr. Mary Bowerman Purvine who began their married life in Condon in eastern Oregon, where Dr. Mary specialized in obstetrics. Eventually, the family relocated to Salem, where Mary had prepared for her career at Willamette University Medical School. (She was a graduate of 1903, before the professional school later was absorbed by the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland.) Ralph followed his mother's path in pursuing a medical career while his sister, Dr. Margaret Ellis Purvine, gained her doctoral degree in sociology and was a professor of distinction in social work at the University of California, Berkeley. Ralph was a 1931 graduate of Willamette University and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1935. He completed his residency in cardiology and obstetrics on the East Coast and returned to Oregon to open his practice in the Salem Clinic in 1938. In 1940, he became long-term director of health services at Willamette University. During World War II, he served as State Medical Officer for the Selective Service 1942-1946. An appointment to the State Board of Medical Examiners followed in 1948. He was personal physician to Governors Mark O. Hatfield and Tom McCall and served at times as physician to the Oregon Legislative Assembly. He was appointed to the State Board of Higher Education in 1959. Dr. Purvine and his wife, Jeanne, were active supporters of Salem charitable and cultural institutions such as the hospital auxiliaries, Salvation Army, and Salem Art Association.

Joseph A. Nance (1905-1995). Joseph Alton Nance began his career in Oregon in 1934-1935 when he settled with his wife Dorothy in Portland to take the position of assistant director of the Oregon branch of the Federal Housing Administration with the object of opening local FHA offices. On leave of absence from the federal authority in 1942, he became administrative director of the Portland housing authority to supervise construction of 18,000 temporary war housing units for the shipyard workers in Vanport. Nance was a native of Bedford, Virginia, and attended school in Washington, D.C., where he was graduated with a degree in business administration from Southeastern University (founded 1879, closed 2009). Nance left government service in 1944 to establish his own business, Northern Fuel Co., as a contract hauler. In the early 1950s, when Nance was brought into membership in the NDH&DS, he was serving as general manager of the Lake Oswego Country Club. In 1957, he was appointed administrator of the Oregon Liquor Control commission and subsequently became executive vice president of a Hood River distillery.

Charles E. Snell, Jr. (1902-1983). *Charles Edward Snell, well known as a top executive for the Meier & Frank Company department store in Portland, was the son of Douglas County pioneers Charles E. Snell and the former Alice Durr. He was born on the family homestead in Drain, where his father was a prominent local grocer. Charles was a 1925 graduate of the University of Oregon's School of Business Administration who went to work directly for Meier & Frank Co. He had worked his way up to assistant general manager in 1934 before embarking on sequence of store management positions in Oakland, California; Kansas City, Missouri, and with the May Company in New York City over the next five years. In 1939, Snell returned to Portland to become Meier & Frank's merchandise manager until 1951. Then, from 1954 to his retirement in 1963, he was general manager at Meier & Frank's flagship store. In community life, he and his wife Margaret were supporters of the Portland Symphony. Snell led fundraising campaigns for the Red Cross (1943) and the Community Chest (1942-1944). In support of the war effort, he was active in the commercial division of the war bond drive (1942) and was appointed consultant to the wartime Office of Price Administration, consumer goods division, in 1943. Subsequently, he was engaged in local civilian defense organization and operations. Following his retirement, Snell participated in several trade missions for the U.S. Department of commerce and was chairman of the Small Business Administration consulting program. He was a director of the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation and, from 1951 to 1954, was on the board of the Oregon State Motor Association, now known as AAA Oregon/Idaho, which he served as president for twenty-four years. He was a longtime national trustee of Ducks Unlimited.*