



THE **COUGAR BOB REVIEW**

November 2001

Moose on the Loose

ATHOL, Idaho— The Idaho Fish & Game Department doesn't do a moose nose count, but they know that hunters took 106 males from the Panhandle last year. Some area residents think their back yards attract most of the surviving moose relatives.

"Actually, there usually are only five or six moose in our yard," says Cathy Widmayer, in the woods on Eightmile Road southwest of Athol. In April, when she checked with Cougar Bob on what to do about it, the thirsty moose were drinking

water out of the children's wading pool, eating the top out of the maple trees, and menacing children.

"One day," says Widmayer, "three moose kept my kids crouching under the slide while they drank out of the dog's dish on the back porch and stood in the sprinkler."

When the Widmayers attempted to scare the moose away with their sport utility vehicle, the moose charged the vehicle.

What to do then?

"Hang bags of mothballs," said Cougar Bob.

"Mix raw eggs with water and spray it on vegetation," suggested the Fish and Game.

"Creep up on the moose and apply pepper spray on their noses," was yet another bright idea.

The Widmayers themselves were making plans to move away.

No one will ever know about the success of the plans in this case. The problem cleared up for the Widmayer's when a neighbor purposefully placed water-filled containers in his back yard. The moose migrated to the neighbors. Bets are on the duration of welcome in the moose's new back yard. ■

Moose with Attitude Determine Right of Way

In a standoff, a 1400 pound wild animal with a chip on its shoulder has everything to say about what happens next. Ask three North Idaho men who each encountered a different moose on its down day.

Bad Attitude Bullwinkle

Cataldo, Idaho--Bill Alf, archer driving his shiny red, 1999 Ford F-150 pickup in the Coeur d'Alene forest, met a huge bull moose on a mountain road. Alf says that honking the horn did not deter the moose as he ground his antlers into the front of the pickup. Alf was able to back down the road, but not before the

moose inflicted \$4000 worth of damage to the pickup.

"I figured I had to do something or he was going to turn my truck into a pile of junk," Alf says. "I have no doubt he would have killed me if he had gotten to me."

Moose Don't Shoo

Bonnars Ferry, Idaho--A cow moose challenged logger Stan Sweet on his log landing when he tried to shoo

her off to make room for his truck. The moose charged.

"She put me right back into my truck," says Sweet.

Dibs on Trail

Post Falls, Idaho--Jesse Hammer reports several incidents near Roman Nose Lake, where moose

rule. Moose and snowmobiles travel the same trails, but a moose blocking a trail causes only a short showdown. The smartest snowmobilers turn around and move in the other direction. ■



Don't Mess With Moose

KELSO, Idaho— On the Granite Lake road toward Kelso last week, a large black dog crossed in front of Cougar Bob, churning up the gravel.

"He was in a big hurry," observes the North Idaho trapper. "Running scared would be more like it."

Within seconds, a bull moose galloped across the road, clearly focused on the black dog.

"I'll bet that started the other way around," says Bob. "If the dog lives through it, he'll think twice before he bothers another moose." ■

Other close calls....

New Address Minus Moose

During the first quarter of 2001, the Campbells sought a new address. They found a house on five timbered acres at an Athol, Idaho, near Farragut Park, then lost it in a contingency deal. The three bedroom ranch style house that got away came with an assortment of welcome wildlife and at least one moose.

"Babe found moose sign in the back yard," remembers Cougar Bob.

"If the Chief hadn't made a rare hunter joke that I was serving it at dinner the night before," she says of the large black olives on the menu, "I never would have identified it correctly."

The Campbell's Post Falls, Idaho, cabin on five lots, which they have called home for 35 years, was still for sale when other buyers acquired their Athol dream house. A buyer came along for their Post Falls house, but by then house shopping had lost its charm. Cougar Bob took their home off the market and committed the Campbells to Post Falls indefinitely.

Then, as though the local 911 Emergency authorities knew the

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you



A moose in steep country
Bart shot.

"Pack it out?" exclaimed he.

"I think not!

Send word to my wife,

To bring skillet, fork, knife.

We will eat it

right here on the spot."

Pack
It
Out
Point

Campbells wanted a new address, they changed their address from 110 West 13th Avenue to **120 West 13th Avenue, Post Falls, ID 83854.**

"We've always liked it here at our new address," says Cougar Bob. "And we don't have to deal with any renegade moose." ■



Licensed driver, Cougar Bob, and Betty return to their new address after a spin in a spiffy Model A pickup owned by Fred and Mary Fraser of Richland, WA.

On the Road Again

In a memorable coup on October 18, Cougar Bob won back his driver's license. On August 14, his 71st birthday, when he went in to renew his license, he had lost his driving privileges by flunking the vision test and driving too slowly.

In the months following, Cougar obtained glasses he actually plans to wear, studied hard, passed the written and

road tests, and plagued his wife with all the right answers.

"Having to be chauffeured around by a wild woman for three months made me try harder," says the driving scholar. "I allowed her to drive me to the coffee shop at 5:00 a.m. every morning, to the rifle range, and to set coyote traps, but I risked my life."

"Now that he knows every crummy rule," the chauffeur states, "I can't even drive over my curbs and get away with it." ■

