

# The *Cougar Bob Review*

November 2003

## Trapper Rids Town of Wildcat

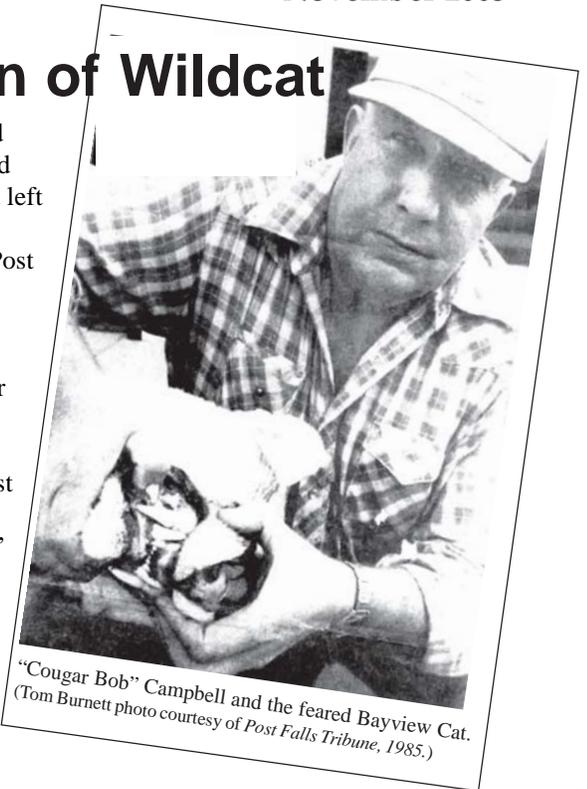
BAYVIEW, ID—A marauding cougar terrorized this Panhandle town and surrounding area for at least three months. The unusually brazen cat killed farm animals and pets, attacked horses, stalked children. The only clue it left behind was one long scratch on all the horses' right side.

In June 1985, the Idaho Fish and Game enlisted Robert Campbell of Post Falls to trap the specific cougar. "Cougar" Bob, already known for his success with problem animals, tracked the cougar's habits. Then on the following September 13 he outguessed the cat on its unusual rounds. He trapped the 165lb Boone and Crockett cat at a fresh goat kill on the Baker ranch at Careywood.

The cougar's left foreleg appeared damaged, possibly from an old injury, and its right front claws were ½" shorter than normal. The longest claw on that foot had left the distinguishing mark on horses.

"Keeping peace between man and wild animals is a difficult issue," Campbell said. "I respect the cougar and want them to live. But when they start killing your farm animals, and threatening humans, it's time to choose sides on the matter." ⊕

The full account of "The Bayview Cat" capture appears in *Trapper & Predator Caller Magazine*, Iola, WI, June 2003.



"Cougar Bob" Campbell and the feared Bayview Cat. (Tom Burnett photo courtesy of Post Falls Tribune, 1985.)

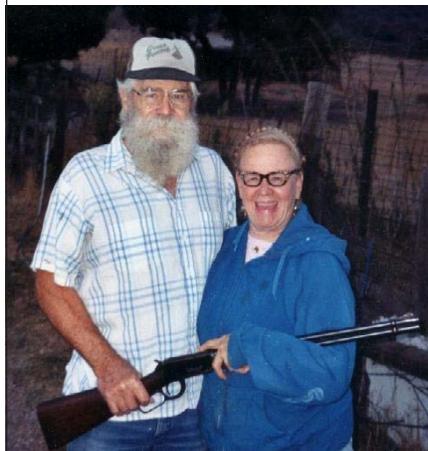
## California Cougar Enjoy Fast Food

SAN BERNARDINO, CA--In the old days, Alice Hall sang and danced while she fed her goats. But these days, this braid-crowned rancher, whom the Campbells met at a California writers' conference in April, carries a rifle at chore time.

Ever since Californians voted on Proposition 117 in 1990, farm life has taken a survival stance for Alice and her husband, Roger. Voters, focused on prevention of cruelty to animals, decided that cougar hunting and trapping were best left to the history books. In 1996, voters reaffirmed their stand.

Of all the changes the Halls have seen in their livelihood of raising goats in the national forest since 1948, none is more dramatic than the increase in cougar since 1990. Their farm offers easy meals for large carnivores with no natural enemies.

"We lost 85% of our goat and sheep herds to cougar in four years," Alice lamented, "close to 75 animals, and almost 100% of our peafowl. Once cougars get used to man's presence, nothing scares them."



Roger and Alice Hall guard their San Bernardino, CA, ranch against cougar attack.

Previously shy, cougars now boldly approach populated areas during daylight. Freeways, nine-foot fences, lights, radio, rattling cans, perfume, guard dogs or nearby humans do not deter the cats.

The Halls observe that cougar do not always eat what they kill, nor kill only sick and weak prey, nor kill only when they are hungry. With their freedom among farm animals, cougar train their young to kill at leisure, sometimes slaughtering all farm animals in the pen for practice.

"I never believed they killed the way they do until I saw it happen," Alice says. "No excuse for that kind of wanton behavior."

Despite the prohibition of hunting and trapping, the State does allow property owners to kill invasive predators to preserve their own property. The Halls focus now on protecting their animals, confining them to barns at night.

Alice has adapted. She talks loudly at chore time to avoid surprising a cougar. She checks the roof while she's still close to the barn eaves. But no more polkas in the pasture for her, unless she can carry a 30-30. ⊕

# Countering Clockwise



Cougar Bob and B.J. line up tools of their target practice hobby--earplugs, .270 rifle, spotting scope, bull's eye.

POST FALLS, ID-- "Now that The Wife is home all day with nothing to do," Cougar Bob tells a reporter, "she is mine to command."

*"True," says The Wife, "but by his superb negotiating skills and my tact, we reach fine-tuned agreements on my time management and behavior."*

"I have her trained at last. She will drive me anywhere I decree at the speed and by the route I specify. I make sure she rises at 4:30a.m. so she won't have to rush us to the Coffee Shop by 5:00."

*"By expanding the breakfast menu to two choices, I bartered those ten extra minutes so I can wash my face and get dressed."*

"She has plenty of time to wake up later as she serves the breakfast of my choice. Then at 7:30 we go to the Coeur d'Alene

Rifle Range or the gravel pit for target practice."

*"Departure time will be prorated, of course, to allow for daily change in time of sunrise. In addition, he conceded to my running errands in Coeur d'Alene to save me a 20 mile special trip later. I also bought Tuesday a.m. and Sunday a.m. for more of my favorite projects."*

"OK, we shoot my .270 every day, five mornings, two afternoons, at 28 yards and 100 yards. I bought her a treadmill so she can stay in shape for running those targets."

*"I countered with a spotting scope to save all my 100 yard dashes except those for target placement and retrieval."*

"Under my instruction, she has mastered speed-shifting and double clutching my pickup so as not to strip those gears or lug the engine."

*"To accomplish this feat, he allows me to move the bench seat forward so my feet touch the pedals. I sit upon a pillow so I can see over the dashboard."*

"My knees then are under my chin, but I'm willing to pay the price. As long as I can have the windows down while we drive so I can be free to survey the landscape more clearly for coyotes."

*"To counteract the wind chill factor, I wear a down jacket, muffler, gloves, and turn the heater on full blast on my side. But when cold weather comes, I will dress more warmly."*

"I have told her that if ever we see a coyote—go like crazy."

*"At our standard 35 mph I have not found that gear yet, but give me time." ⊕*



Coyote Mail:

*Until this summer, I was unaware that coyotes eat fruit. I saw them pick and eat peaches off our short trees.---Jac Caward, AZ*

*There's one!--Bruce Barker, TX*



Computer Mail

*Computers are miserable critters. There ought to be a season on them.---Mike Mooney, WA*



Menace Mail:

*Dear Cougar Robert: We already know you are a dangerous man, so next time, disarm before you drop in at the VA Hospital. We are returning your large hunting knife, pocket knife, and 8 cartridges for a .270 rifle...this time. Too bad you did not see a deer on this morning's hunt. ---Love, VA Security*



Grouse Mail:

*There's one!--Bruce Barker, TX*

## Logic Prevails in Bluing of Rifle Barrel

The gunsmith should finish bluing my new rifle barrel by this weekend," says Cougar Bob.

*"What does bluing of the barrel do for the rifle?" The Wife wonders.*

"They dip the barrel in hot caustic salt to turn it blue."

*"When they dip the barrel in hot caustic salt and turn it blue, what does that do for the rifle?"*

"Turns the barrel a different color--blue."

*"But...but...how is that an improvement?"*

"Bluing creates rust. Makes rust part of the metal so it won't rub off. And animals can't see the barrel."

*"Got it. So, if a guy doesn't hunt, only target shoots, say, he wouldn't get his barrel blued."*

"Not necessarily. Makes the barrel look pretty." ⊕

*having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one who is lost until he finds it?*

Which one of you,

Luke 15:4

