

Buggy Rides

When John Breach became interested in a young lady, Louise Reagor who lived across the sagebrush covered hills in northwest Colorado, he quite often rode his horse to her house to see her. But when he began courting her, he

didn't put his arm around her to prevent her from falling. John told her that she had told him off the other time so he wasn't about to try to do that again!

Sometime later, they bought a 1915 Model T Ford. At least, it had a door to prevent falling out!

~by Margaret (Breach) Crill
My family homesteaded in remote northwestern Colorado in the 1920's and 1930's and moved to Canyon County, Idaho in 1940.



took the horse and buggy to take her for a ride with him.

Louise was very shy and modest and on one occasion, when they went over a bump in the buggy, she started to fall out. John put his arm around her to keep her from falling. She became rather incensed as he had put his arm around her when, in her words, "we aren't married yet!"

A couple of years later, after they were married and had a baby daughter, they were traveling in

the buggy when they again went over a large bump. John grabbed the baby, but Louise fell out of the buggy and the wheel ran over her leg, though she was not badly injured.

When she got back in the buggy, Louise asked him why he

Scouting For Big Game



Corissa with a big coho.
The picture doesn't do it justice.

K, I know I say this regularly but it is a killer to write for a monthly newspaper if you live in Idaho. There is so much going on that you could almost write a daily article. Since the last article, in the past 4 ½ weeks I've had the big iCAST Show in Orlando and seven great fishing trips. One trip took two of the Bowden boys with me and we got I think 168 crappie. Three days

later I took their dad Brent and his 12 yr. old son and we got 268. Took another dad and his son three days later and in 3-hours and 15 minutes we caught 300 crappie. Then what about the kokanee fishing? Then last Thursday Corissa, Lauren and myself went to Lake Cascade and fished with guide Chris Weber (920.728.2818). Corissa caught the largest coho I've seen in Idaho and they both caught super nice trout, crappie and perch. We only fished for 5-hours and yet netted super nice coho, trout, crappie and perch. My wife Katy had to run to school and had to cancel on this trip.

Then next week I've gotta go on a backpacking/flyfishing trip. And then bow season has started by the time you're reading this article.

Moving on from fishing... I drew a coveted bull elk tag down in the Owyhee's so I need to start focusing my pronto on scouting (Even though it might be with a mouthful of fish). But you see what I mean, I could write this whole article on any one of 10 topics.

I've noticed over the years, the people who regularly kill big bulls and bucks spend a lot of time scouting. It's easy to say that but what's the normal guy supposed to do? He may only get 2-weeks of vacation. He can't scout for one week and hunt for one week and leave no time for family vacation!

But just know, the more you scout the better you'll do or the first 2-3 days of your hunt will really just be scouting. But, what if you take the family camping Friday night and wake up before daylight and scout then come back to camp at 9:00 a.m. and cook breakfast for everyone and spend the rest of the day with them? Or run out a few Saturday mornings and run back home by noon? Do the best you can with what you have.

To really scout you'll need a good set of binoculars and spotting scope. Twenty years ago to get good glass you had to buy from one of the big three European companies but now, there are some good American companies and for half the price you can get comparable glass. I do a lot with

Lauren with a nice trout.



Vortex and when using their high end optics I can't tell a nickels difference in their optics and the European companies that charge twice as much.

To be successful get up earlier and go back in further than most people. Get up on ridges and glass for long hours. Let the optics do the walking. If possible don't go down and bugger them up.

On the other hand yes, you need to put on the miles. Elk can't fly so if you're not seeing tracks... there's no elk. They can't fly. Not all food sources will have elk but look for meadows with close timber where they can bed down.

Always have a few spots scouted out. What if on opening day there's someone else in your hotspot? Or another big problem that popped up 25 years ago, what if the wolves moved in and have run everything ragged? The first elk I ever shot I moved camp three times and finally got into a hotspot.

I teach Glassing for Big Game seminars from Vegas to Nashville. Up until 10 years ago I preached to use 8x binoculars because if you used higher you couldn't stabilize at the blink of an eye due to huffing and puffing while hiking but I finally decided that I was missing too much game so I went to a 10x.

Sure, a 20-60x spotting scope is nice but if you're hiking on foot they're awful heavy so a 15-30x should work. Get a spotting scope with an angled eye piece and for dang sure you'll need a tripod.

Also take a pad or better yet a lightweight backpacking chair or you won't be able to sit still for long. With a chair you'll be slightly elevated and can see over the brush better. Good luck!

~by Tom Claycomb
Tom is a local outdoor writer with columns in newspapers in Idaho, Nevada, Colorado and Louisiana. He also writes for numerous magazines and websites. He conducts outdoor seminars from Texas to Alaska. He is on Pro-staff with numerous companies and tests and develops outdoor gear.

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