

Planet News

If recently you have scanned the western sky in the early evening, you probably have noticed two brightly glowing points of light plainly visible before the other stars have appeared. For the majority of us these bright lights will never be anything more than just stars; for those interested in astronomy, these are, in fact, not stars but the planets Venus and Jupiter.

For centuries early astronomers gazed at these and other wonders and speculated about their origins and composition. In the centuries following scientists made great progress in their studies of the heavens. One of the tools that has

evolved for the transmission of this knowledge is the modern day planetarium. A planetarium is essentially a theatre which enables the public to view simulated images of the stars, planets and other phenomena projected on a screen-lined dome. Through the use of special projectors augmented by narration, which includes explanations of scientific fact, planetaria are able to offer a variety of educational and entertaining astronomy-oriented shows.

Islanders are indeed fortunate to boast the presence of the only major planetarium east of Montreal. The U.P.E.I.

Planetarium, now entering its third month of operation, is housed within a geodesic dome 37 feet high, 50 feet in diameter and has a seating capacity of 61 persons. Since its inception the Planetarium has been offering a 50 minute presentation entitled "Springtime of the Universe." This show, which has been well received by its viewers, deals with the creation of the universe concentrating on the birth and death of stars and their role in the eventual demise of the universe.

By mid to late September the Planetarium hopes to be able to offer two new shows. The first will be a children's show entitled "The Sky Tonight"

a 30 minute presentation giving children a basic overview of what they can see in the night sky. The other presentation will be a star recognition show also 30 minutes in length which identifies major constellations in the fall sky.

Supplementing the Planetarium presentations is the U.P.E.I. Observatory. Equipped with a 14 " reflecting telescope, the observatory enables visitors to view the actual night sky. This additional service is available to the public on an appointment basis.

Further information regarding the U.P.E.I. Planetarium and Observatory may be obtained by calling 892-4121, Ext. 383.

Goosing in P.E.I.

BY Hugh Johnston

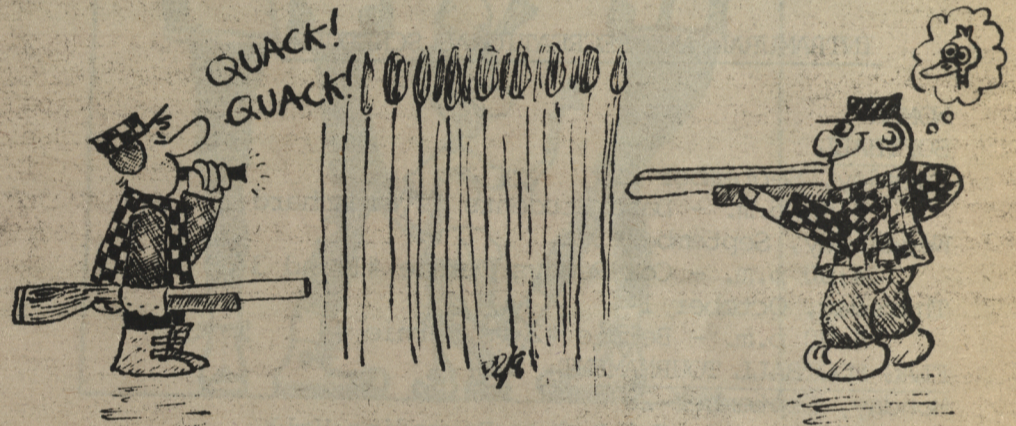
In the fall of the year the geese come to P.E.I. by the thousands. This is the time that all you geese and duck hunters take their trusty shot-guns out of the closet and oil them up for the hunt. There are always beginners in every group, and a few of these believe that all they have to do is fill the little buggers with twelve gauge shot. However, nothing could be further from the truth. There is a well-planned ritual that one must follow, at least to some degree, before he can ever expect to dine on goose. If it is not followed, the only thing he will shoot is the breeze.

The first think that you have to do it to obtain two hunting licences, one provincial, and one federal. On these is stated all of the information you need to legally go out and get-'em. Now if you derive great joy from blowing the feathers off pin-tailed ducks with deer slugs, that is fine with me. But just remember that the remnants of nothingness which are left behind are considered part of your limit. So if you have the overwhelming urge to kill, go out and

blast a couple of crows or illegal immigrants.

For the more serious hunter who really loves the sporting life, the "Great One" has supplied thousands of geese just sitting there saying "Shoot me, shoot me!" The first step towards actually bagging the geese is to go out and find them. This may sound redundant, but it is just a simple matter of going for a drive a few days before you go hunting. "Seek and ye shall find." Then when you do find them you must ask permission to use the grain field where they are. (hint!) If you do not you may find your behind full of buckshot. However most farmers are usually pretty co-operative as long as you clean up your mess. (Rule 1: Do not act like a city slicker.)

The next think that you must do is dig a blind; preferably the same day you hunt, unless you are the magical genie and can predict where the wind will be. You must dig a pit on the lee side of the grain field for your blind, and cover it with branches. You can also set up branches on the lee fence of the field for your blind. Then cover the area with straw and set up your



decoys. A couple of dozen decoys will do, and believe you me, they are expensive. The jist of the whole operation is to have the geese come in close enough, before they see you, so that you can pot a few.

Many a day the hunter has sat in his blind with the geese right in front of him; out of range. Many a day has the hunter sat in his blind only to find that some imbecile has taken a couple of pot shots at your geese and scared them away. It is the odd day that you have a good one.

It is three-thirty in the afternoon, you and your two buddies have been sitting in your blind since just past daylight. You decide that there would be no harm in pouring yourself a cup of coffee to warm your bones; but as soon as you do you see the geese coming. There is a good wind but there is another blind set up in

the next field. You pray that the geese come to your decoys. There is not a sound but that of the geese. They are coming over top and circling. You crouch down low and wait for them to decoy. It is time! You rise and let one rip at the front of the flock. The geese are retreating as you get your second shot off. Just as they are about to go out of range you get your third shot off.

It has been a fine day., for when you look you find fourteen geese down, one less than a three man limit! You collect your geese, fill in your blind and head for home. Now you may think that this is just great: well it is! But the real fun part is the hours and hours you will spend cleaning the buggers. Everything takes its final revenge, and such are the toils of those of us who love that sporting life.

Season opens October 5.