

Summer Fun

By Hap Hansen

When I was a kid, I remember hearing stories about 'Snipe hunting.' Snipes are long-billed wading birds and are not hunted by anyone. That fact, however, did not prevent 'the big boys down at the pool hall' from inviting an innocent, unsophisticated, unsuspecting High School Freshman with no perception whatsoever to accompany them on a Snipe Hunt.

As the story goes, on a dark night, the big boys would take the Freshman a mile or so from town, station him at the end of a corn row, give him a gunny sack and tell him to be quiet until they got to the other end of the field and would begin chasing Snipes toward him. Somehow or other, they got the Freshman to believe the Snipes would run away from them and jump into the sack to hide, at which time he would close the sack, thereby catching the elusive bird. While he was waiting, the big boys drove back to town, leaving the Freshman shivering in the cold and holding the bag. Eventually, he would walk back to town – embarrassed, enlightened and Snipeless! I have heard many stories about Snipe hunting, but I have never gone on a hunt. And actually, I have never met a Freshman naive enough to really believe Senior and Junior boys would let him do anything with them. In those days, Snipe hunting stories abounded, but I admit, memories are beginning to fade.

Now there is a new way to embarrass the uninitiated. It's called 'cow-tipping.' Apparently, some town kids actually believe that late at night, when the moon is in the crescent stage, one can sneak into a field and tip over cows who are sleeping while standing up. Having grown up on a farm, I must admit I have never witnessed a cow that was asleep while standing, A few hired hands maybe, but never a cow. Even if cows did doze off while sanding, they would have to be sound sleepers if a group of kids tried to sneak up on them to try to tip them over and they never awakened. I have even heard stories of people who said they had tipped over cows. More than likely, they were in the local tap room, tipping tumblers of Tequila! At least some of our young people are using their imaginations. It's better to try to convince someone that it's fun to go Snipe hunting or cow-tipping, than to convince someone that it's more fun to use drugs or snort cocaine. Excuse me, I hear cows snoring. I am going to try my hand at tipping one over!