

Cougar Bob Reports Problem-Solving Breakthroughs



Family and friends of Stan and Delores Sweet, Bonners Ferry, ID, cut calves from the cattle herd for branding in May.

Cougar Bob freely dispenses his collected wisdom on finding sensible ways out of tough spots.

Branding presents solvable problem: Bob recalls a moment of clarity in the confusion at an annual Sweet Ranch cattle branding. A cowboy holds down a calf, ready for vaccination, castration and branding. “Hey, somebody. Quick!” he yells. “Give me a hand here.”

Five guys run, surround the cowboy sitting on the calf, and give him applause, whistles and cheers.

Porky & Mule Secrets told: “Denny called me one night,” Bob recalls, “to come help remove porkypine quills from his mule’s nose.”

Denny and neighbor Gary had coaxed the mule for an hour to hold still by petting it and trying to feed it apples, but the mule wasn’t interested. It still kicked and bit whoever got close.

“When I walked over and twisted its ear,” says Bob, “the mule stood dead still. Then the guys could clip off quill ends to let the air out. That made the barbs at the other ends straighten and pull out more easily.”

Avoid Pewtrid Situation: “If you’re after a skunk or wolverine and want to keep it from spraying, shoot it directly in the heart,” warns Bob. “If your aim is bad, stand in White Pine smoke before going home for dinner.”



Who Knew? “Many people don’t know why they never see a crow as road kill,” Bob states. “I’ve certainly wondered, but I got the straight scoop from neighbor Steve Drake.” Steve says crows assign lookouts to avert accidents. When these scouts fly about in traffic zones and see a car coming, they screech their warning, “Caw!! Caw!!”



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Landslide Fix Ground Breaking

Bob Campbell, Engineer Technician with the Forest Service in late 1960’s, discovered a landslide on the mountain above the contractor’s timber purchaser road under construction near Little River. Water from a spring above the unstable area saturated the slope and worsened the slide headed for the new road .

“This calls for a trench below the spring above the landslide,” Bob concluded.

He and FS co-worker, Duane Schultz, talked it over and made a plan. Bob drove to Sandpoint and scrounged his Dad’s walking plow. Duane borrowed a chainsaw winch from a guy he knew. Together the men dug the trench. Bob guided the plow, and Duane operated the winch to pull the plow, as though they had a horse. Their efforts redirected spring water away from the waterlogged area and saved the day.



cont. from p.1

Waterfowl Annoyance Department



Flavor Failure: "Time has come to point out a source of hope for a long-time culinary crisis," says Cougar Bob.

"Babe's nephew, Kerry Brock, master duck hunter and gourmet chef, sums up possible solutions in an emergency e-mail. Listen to this:"

No matter how you cook them, different varieties of duck taste terrible. Ones to stay away from are Wood Duck, Coots, Mergansers, Golden Eye, any diving ducks or bottom feeders. However, most ducks and geese that eat grain or corn are good eating.

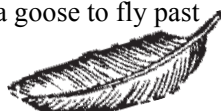
When it comes to roast duck, I have found that the Mallard is the best eating. I start by plucking the duck and torching off all pinfeathers. Then I soak it overnight in salt water to get all the blood out of the meat. I cut up apples, onions, cloves and bay leaves, and stuff all into the duck. I use a 325 to 350 degree oven, and baste the duck with butter, or some other preferred marinade, every 15 minutes. I like to whip up some hot mustard while the ducks are roasting. Normally they are done after about an hour, depending on how many ducks you have in the oven. Five or 6 ducks should take 1-1 1/2 hours.

---KB

All in the Feathers: Hunter Keith McDougal recounted to Bob the story of a hunt where he hiked through the tulies hoping for geese to circle in. Here came a flock of three, honking toward him. He shot-gunned directly into the approaching birds. The audible "pop" as pellets hit feathers told him his shot was good, and yet not one goose fell. However, his lead rained out of the sky onto his own head.

At the hunting area checkout, Keith groused about falling shot to the Ranger, who chuckled. "Waterfowl breast feathers are so heavy they deflect shot. You don't shoot waterfowl head on. You angle your shot 'under the feathers' from behind."

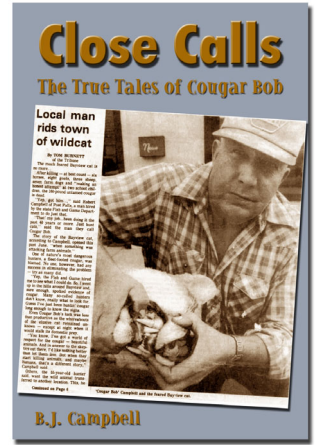
So now Keith is armed with a plan. He's just waiting for a goose to fly past him.



Author featured on Blog

B. J. Campbell, with her book, *CLOSE CALLS: The True Tales of Cougar Bob*, is the June feature by Mary Jane Honegger on "Writing North Idaho" Blog, www.writingnorthidaho.blogspot.com/ Should you have time for recreation and perhaps delight and amazement, check out blog archives.

For more information about the book or to purchase: Gray Dog Press www.graydogpress.com 509-534-0372, www.amazon.com, Hastings Books, Auntie's, Rathdrum Star, 8068 W Main St, Rathdrum, ID, or your other favorite bookstore.



Many Mini-Reviews...



Got a house full of company about the time we received the *CLOSE CALLS* book, so I had to steal time in the bathroom, and computer room. I finished it last night. I hope whoever's reading it now enjoys it as much as I did.--Jac C.

Keith V has given raving reports about the book. I would like to request a signed book for my husband's birthday.---Anne S.

I read your book about Cougar Bob. Loved it. I've been telling others about his adventures. There are few men like him today. Thanks for writing it. --- Rex E.

What a wonderful book! It absolutely had us laughing and crying.--Kitty K.

I was aware of the polio Bob had while in the Navy...but not how he single-handedly beat the disease with his determination. He is an example of how a person can survive such a physical set-back and persevere the way he has. When I hear the name "Cougar Bob Campbell," I think of the man he is! ---Eugene B.

This collection of heart-warming stories...is a tribute to Cougar Bob, his integrity, his problem-solving skills.This book is an absolute joy.---Linda B.

I found your book very entertaining. I like your sense of humor!--Judy B.

Teresa is hogging the book, so I have to wait till she is finished.---Abdul R.

I really liked Close Calls, and purchased a few extra copies for Christmas gifts.---Mike M

Please say hi to Bob. I feel like I know him since reading your marvelous book. It's extraordinary he survived all of those situations.---Catherine S.

Write on indeed. I just finished reading "Close Calls." What a good book! It just made each story come alive.---Marie S.

I will never, ever give this book away!--Tanner, 5th grader, Grandson of Cindie P.

