



ON THE OUTSIDE

with Pete Ceraschia

ARE YOU LOOKING for a good, safe place to fire a few rounds through your artillery piece before deer season opens?

Today and again next weekend, two club rifle ranges not far from the Eugene-Springfield area will be open to hunters who wish to make sure their gun sights are on target. One is the Inak Walton League range about six miles southwest of town. Follow the Lorane highway to Spencer Creek Grange Hall, then turn south on McBeth road and follow the signs.

The other is the new range which Emerald Park Gun Club is establishing in an ideal setting along McGowan Creek on the north side of the Mahawk Valley. Follow Marcola road about five miles beyond Hayden bridge, then turn left at Mulvick and follow the signs on the old Marcola road.

Each range offers bench rests with sandbags, spotting scopes and qualified club members to help you if wanted. The Waltons will charge only a small fee for targets (if you don't bring your own) but will accept donations, as in past years, while the Emerald Park range fee will be one dollar.

That dollar will go toward development of what could become one of the finest shooting layouts you'll find anywhere. Since the donation of 26 acres along McGowan Creek by Willamette Valley Lumber a year ago last May, Emerald Park Gun Club

has nearly completed a smallbore range and hopes to have before long a high-power range, pistol range, and training deer range plus trap, skeet and archery ranges.

The smallbore range, which is being used for sighting-in purposes, has 25 targets at 100 yards. If you hunt the wide open country in Eastern Oregon and prefer to be seated at 200 or 250 yards, the club provides a handy stalling chart which quickly shows where your caliber and grain should hit at 100 yards to be on the money at greater distances.

Construction has started on the pistol and training deer ranges. The pistol range will have 50 points with turning targets and covered firing line. Club members also hope to have ready by this fall at least the 100-yard portion of the high-power range, with extensions to 300 meters to be added soon as possible.

Long range plans also include a clubhouse, junior shooting programs, handloading instruction, and a host of other club activities including all types of matches, turkey shoots, and hunter safety courses.

The 26 acres along the secluded creek bottom offer great potential, but it will take a heap of work by a good many people. If you're interested in working toward these goals, the club wants you.

But as you'll read at the end of the information sheet which is handed to range visitors on the weekends, "Names on the roster we don't need, working members we welcome."

