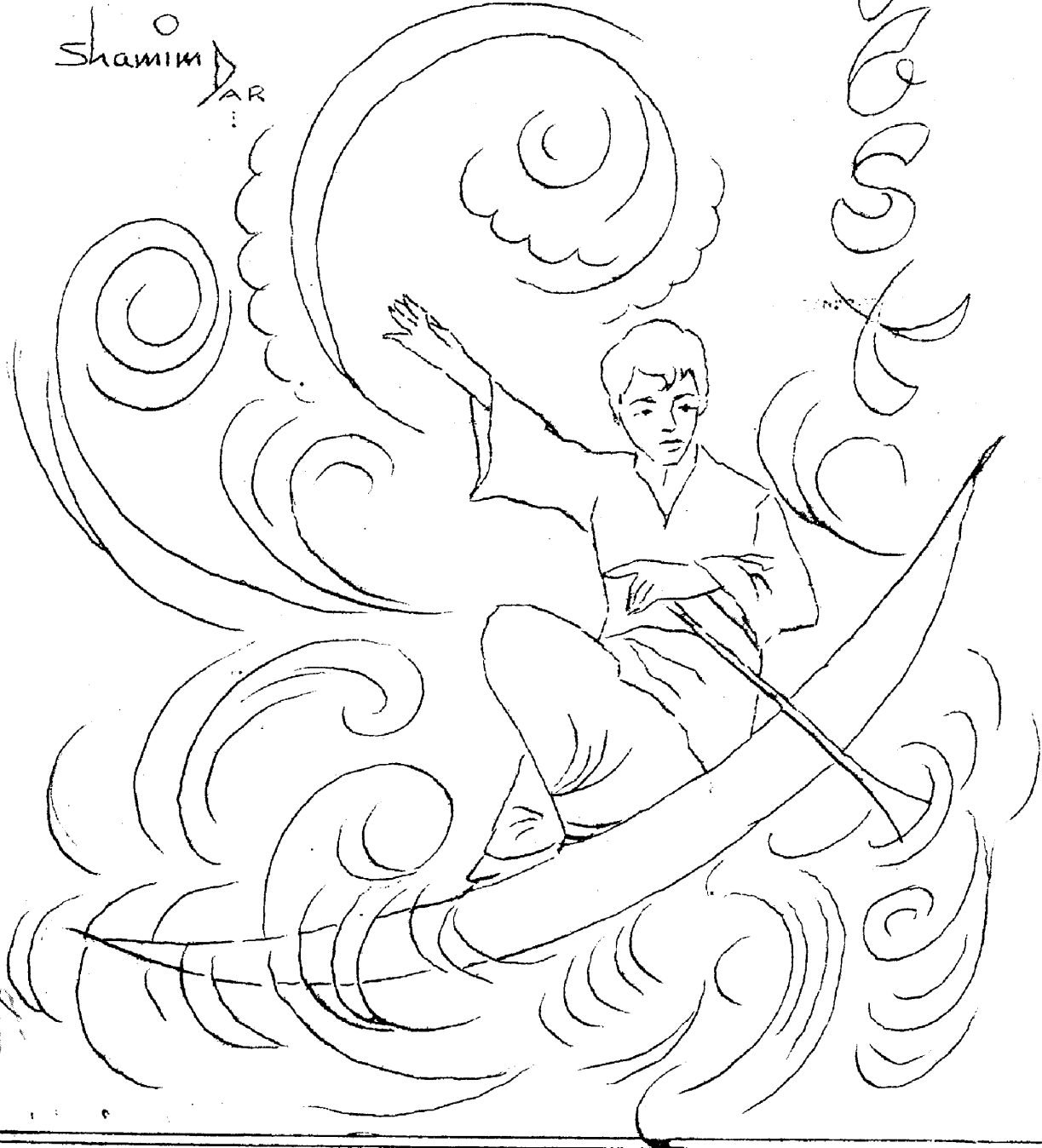


# GAN ISLAND

Shamim  
DAR



EDITION NO 299 .....

WEEK ENDING 28TH DECEMBER, 1968

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## MORE POACHING

By

W.M. WOODS

I wonder if, when H.T.C. Farmer penned his very fine article on Poaching last week, he purposely made it lighthearted in order to provoke comment among those of us who regard this fine old art with sacred esteem. If he did, then he has succeeded.

H.T.C.'s article on pheasant poaching brought back happy memories of my boyhood in Ireland where anything which was tasty and edible was "fair game" and the avoidance of the gamekeeper simply added spice to an enjoyable pastime.

I found that I had first to spend many evenings "shadowing" the gamekeeper to find the frequency and times of his movements so that I might use this knowledge in future. Where he went was also important because, who would know better where the best game areas were than the gamekeeper himself? Many times, on a quiet summer evening I have shadowed the gamekeeper for miles making mental notes where he was setting his traps, marking spots by breaking a twig (The Indians weren't the only ones!) -- and I would then follow this trail again at 5.30 next morning and empty his traps for him, (being careful to set them again exactly as I found them) and removing all traces of rabbit fur. This system ensures that you can always keep the household supplied with meat without going to the expense of buying traps, guns, or other expensive impedimenta. Not that I was ~~generous~~ -- I just didn't have any money.

To get back to the article in question I was surprised that H.T.C. made no reference to one of the more obvious (and to my mind, the best) pheasant baits. Pheasants will go miles for a feed of raisins! He says that horsehair "mesmerised and irritated them". It does more -- it chokes them!

I know this system at first hand as it was one of my methods. I would nip into mum's larder and shove a handful of raisins in my pocket and then into the stable and pull a handful of hairs from the horse's tail. Thus armed I headed for the stubble field. In Ireland at that time, the course was stacked in the corner of the field for some time to mature before threshing time (not like today when combine harvesters clear the lot off in a day) and you could always guarantee that a few pheasants would be in the vicinity of these stacks (you didn't see them, but poaches instinct told you they were around--and probably watching you). All I had to do then was to select a nice thorn from the hedge, gauge a hole through the raisin with it, thread the hair through the hole and when halfway along the hair squash firmly onto the raisin with finger and thumb. One only need prepare a couple of dozen raisins in this manner and distribute them around the stacks. The pheasant's instinct to find raisins is uncanny. Needless to say all this takes place at dusk. All I had to do now was hide nearby and await developments. Soon the pheasant comes along -- and soon he is flapping and chopping helplessly on the ground. Tomorrow's dinner awaits you, sir!

When raisins were in short supply (which they often were) I found that drawing-pins did just as well. Just stick them into the raisins. A pheasant experiences great difficulty in swallowing a drawing-pin also! A ordinary rabbit snare can also be used. These cost a penny each, but I found that a cheaper source of supply was assured by shinning up a telegraph pole and helping myself to a length of telephone wire (There must have been plenty in supply, because the Post Office engineers always replaced it next day). Careful searching of the ground, "looking for sign" will soon expose pheasant "runs" just as easily as rabbit "pads"; and as the pheasant moves with its head and neck stretched forward (like an angry gander) it is ideal for the snare. Use a smaller loop than for a rabbit, of course.

A lot of H.T.C.'s methods involve noise -- this is bad. The life of the true poacher is one of solitude, trusting nobody. Searching and watching, waiting and outwitting. Patience and stealth are essentials -- but above all SILENCE.

The system of "running the little bastards down" with your car I found to my sorrow to be expensive. When one tends to pay more attention to the gyrations of the pheasant than to ones driving .....



Latest Local News

Eagle Troop by:

In a most exciting finish, SASF defeated SHQ/RMC by a single point as the result of the Round the Island Relay Race.

Tour de Gan:

On Boxing Day the Tour de Gan Cycle Race was won in splendid fashion by Col Lee (SHQ) who cycled twice round the island and overcame hordes of relay cyclists.

Dhoni Race:

Here again, the professionals showed the way home to the other competitors with MCS winning easily from Hilda; they shared a crate of beer on the jetty afterwards.

Billet Bars Competition:

Each of the five judges was allowed to give up to 30 points, covering three sections - decor (10), layout and comfort (10) and bar stocks (10).

At the end of the judging Block No.59 (GEF) was level on points with Block No.52 (SIGS) at 142 points. The Commanding Officer's casting vote decided in favour of GEF whose theme was a Manhattan Roof Bar. Signals' theme was an Hawaiian inn.

In third place was Block No.60 (ATC) who built a South Sea Island Bar.

The prizes were -

First Prize - Three Crates of Beer

Second Prize - Two Crates of Beer

Third Prize - One Crate of Beer

The fact that the prizes did not reach the winners until late on Friday night was not due to a POSB PSI or POSB Padre but was caused by a breakdown of communication through over indulgence.

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"THE LONELY MEN OF CORAL COMMAND"

The Anglia Film of Gan has been very well received by those of us who have seen it, although there have been one or two critics.

Those Airmen who feel that they are going to breakdown or run amok and wish to reserve a cell for the night of New Year's Eve, should contact the Provost Section in order to make a firm reservation.

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Suggested New Year Resolutions:

1. Not to swear at our Postman when there is no mail on the aircraft, for they will not have any either - and strangely enough, they have no control over the postal services at Brize Norton.
2. Not to moan at the NAAFI Manager about the prices of his wares, since he has no control over the United Kingdom Committee.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

ASTRA PROGRAMME

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Sun 29 Dec	At 1830	Natalie Wood, Ian Bannen	
	&	in	
	2045 hrs	"PENELOPE"	Crazy Comedy
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Mon 30 Dec		Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleaf	
	&	At 1930 hrs	in
			Western
Tue 31 Dec		"FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE"	T/Colour, C/Scope
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Wed 1 Jan	At 1830	Yul Brynner, Britt Ekland	
	&	in	Spec Agent Adventure
	2045 hrs	"THE DOUBLE MAN"	T/Colour
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Thu 2 Jan		Christopher Plummer, Charles Gray	
	&	At 1930 hrs	in
			Black Magic Drama
Fri 3 Jan		"THE DEVIL RIDES OUT"	T/Colour
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Sat 4 Jan	At 1830	Eric Morecambe, Ernie Wise	
	&	in	Technicolour
	2045 hrs	"THE MAGNIFICENT TWO"	Farce

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NOTE: SEATS MAY BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE, SEATS SO RESERVED MUST BE CLAIMED BEFORE THE SHOW COMMENCES. PHONE: 314

