



A FINE HUNTER



Kenneth L. Kieser is a 25-year veteran outdoor writer with several thousand bylines in newspaper and magazine articles.

A flock of mallards made a right turn and flew straight in to see what their sister was quacking about 100 feet below. Four greenheads were taken in by the amazing caller who was well hidden in a duck blind on Smithville Lake, about 30 miles north of Kansas City, Missouri. Highballs turned the ducks and now a series of lighter quacks and feeder chuckles sealed the deal.

The mallards made another circle before setting their wings and settling in to land in an opening between three hundred decoys. Nicole Jeannin, a 17-year-old high school student swung on the first drake and dropped him. He had scarcely touched water as a second shot dropped his wingman.

A quick glance at her watch showed it was time to leave for school. After all, makeup had to be touched up. She would simply wear her hunting camouflage—a fashion statement her classmates had become used to seeing. They realize that Jeannin is a duck hunter.

A ROUGH START

Beautiful young Jeannin had a rough start of abuse and other problems. Her mother did the best she could, but help came from an unexpected source, a man she had dated who happened to be an accomplished hunter.

Duck hunting guide and competitive duck caller Danny Guyer along with his business partner, Luke Rhoads, saw something special in the young lady and decided to share their outdoor world. Guyer provided his many years of duck hunting and calling experience and Rhoads shared his gift of taxidermy.

IT DIDN'T STOP AT DUCK AND GOOSE HUNTING

Guyer and Rhoads now have another lifelong hunting partner. Rhoads, a professional hunting guide, takes her turkey and deer hunting. Jeannin understands the importance of school and has to settle for what is called "feather reports" from both Guyer and Rhoads between classes.

You can bet that she will be in a duck blind even more often for the rest of her life. Her grades in high school will eventually get her into college - not bad for a girl who had a rough start.

Nicki Jeannin is a good example of how the outdoor experience can help youth during their difficult teenage years. Guyer and Rhoads' positive influence gave one young lady the opportunity to be a leader in the outdoor world, some-

thing that will soon be sorely needed.

This remarkable high school student has become an accomplished duck and goose caller because of Danny Guyer's teaching. Luke Rhoads started her in taxidermy, and now Nicole is a fine taxidermist in her own right. Recently she was part of a team demonstrating duck and goose calling techniques in front of 500 people. Some of her taxidermy was displayed as well.

It is my extreme pleasure to help publish her first outdoor short story, hopefully the first of many. Below in Nicole's own words is an expression of her affection for waterfowl hunting and the people that introduced her to the outdoors.



My Love for Hunting

By Nicole Jeannin

People do not always understand what hunting is. Many think I am crazy for waking up at 5:00 a.m. to go hunting. Yet if those same people understood that pulling the trigger is a small part of hunting, they would enjoy some of the best times of their lives.

It is unbelievable how many wonderful relationships are felt between hunters. The bond between my hunting partners is strong like brothers and sisters. You develop a deep trust for each other.

They are there through the tough times. My life would be very dull without my partners, Danny, Luke, Pard and Al. But the two people who brought hunting into my life, Danny and Luke, are very special. I will never forget them, and will one day tell my kids how they affected my life with so much pride and love.

They gave my confidence level an extreme boost. Anyone can talk to me and see the pride. I can't express in words how much my hunting buddies mean to me. They all bring different qualities to my life.

