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Boone and Crockett Club

John A. McGuire - Publisher, Sportsman, Conservationist

In 1918, John A. McGuire embarked on a two-month hunting trip to the White River country of northeastern Alaska and Yukon Territory. His companion was Harry C. James, who, along with his

sister, had donated the funds to build a new wing at the Colorado Museum of Natural History. McGuire, who was the founder, owner, and editor of *Outdoor Life* magazine, was a trustee of the Colorado museum. The purpose of their trip was to secure specimen family groups of sheep, goats, moose, and caribou for the new museum wing. These would be displayed in habitat groups, a concept being embraced by museums to display animals as they appear in their natural surroundings.

In his book, *In the Alaska-Yukon Gamelands*, McGuire tells the story of this trip, conducted in the days when hunting on horseback with a pack train in remote wilderness areas was a great adventure. He narrates some exciting hunting

episodes as the hunters stalked sheep and other specimens for the museum groups. Game was plentiful in those days in the unspoiled wilderness.

McGuire's book was introduced by William T. Hornaday, the legendary director of the New York Zoological Society. Both of these men shared the view that the outlook for big game in the lower United States was bleak. McGuire felt that the Alaska Territory was a wildlife nest egg that could supply the United States when all the game down here is killed off. To that end, he urged increased financial support for Alaska's Fish and Game Department. It could then increase the number of game wardens to cut down poaching and unrestricted slaughter of game.

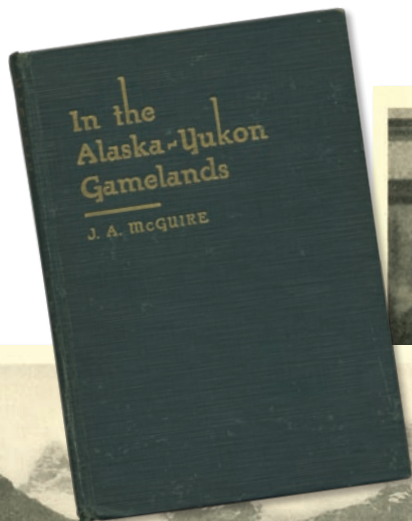
During the hunting trip, a few sheep were killed late in the day and had to be left overnight before skinning. Eagles picked at them spoiling their possible use in the habitat group. Eagles were also blamed for carrying off numerous young lambs, and there was a bounty of fifty cents paid for killing them. McGuire thought the bounty should be raised to \$5.00. What a difference from today's attitude toward our national bird!

BOOK BY JOHN A. MCGUIRE

In the Alaska-Yukon Gamelands (1920)

John McGuire founded *Outdoor Life* magazine in 1898, and he was its owner and editor until 1931. He pioneered the idea of a magazine for sportsmen, written by sportsmen, covering all aspects of the outdoor arena. As technology improved, *Outdoor Life* was an innovator. In 1903, the first cover with a black and white photograph appeared. A short time later, in 1906, the first cover in color appeared. McGuire strongly urged sportsmen to write of their experiences. Over the years many well-known luminaries contributed writings to *Outdoor Life*. These included Zane Grey, Ernest Hemingway, and Theodore Roosevelt.

John McGuire was a pioneer in the idea of giving protection to bears in the United States. He was a member of several sporting and conservation organizations in addition to the Boone and Crockett Club. He died in Los Angeles in 1942. ■



Good-bye to home for seventy days



Photos from *In the Alaska-Yukon Gamelands* ■ ABOVE:

John A. McGuire at home before leaving for trip. RIGHT: (Top) J.A. McGuire and 45-inch moose. (Middle) Grayling fishing on Harris Creek, Y.T. (Bottom) A fly came in handy to sleep under at Skolai Pass.



Crossing, 'midst grand surroundings, a glacial stream—the Frederika