

Ajay Walker Tew  
Age 8

## Lots of Mean Geese

A few days after Christmas 2013, mother loaded my 2 brothers and I in the car for a trip to Oklahoma. We drove 6-7 hours to get there. My Mimi was visiting her family, farmers in Oklahoma, and there was lots of geese which were eating the wheat fields. The farmers wanted the geese gone. It was very cold, in the 30's with a wind of 60 miles per hour. The wind was so strong that the car doors had to be held tight to keep them from being ripped off the hinges. We even got a hail storm, with some hail the size of golf balls.

When mom was letting Dare, my older brother (13) out at Uncle Charlie's house and all the boy cousins were there, and going to spend the night, I got my bag out and decided that I was big enough to be with them. You should see Uncle Charlie's house, he needs a wife bad. His house is filthy with only a path to the room with a wood heater, stuff was everywhere. The bathroom had a dozen rat traps and old and mildew bad. He didn't even lock the doors, with lots of guns in the house. He really needs a house keeper or wife. We slept on cots and got up real early to go goose hunting.

There were 6 or 7 of us boys who climbed into the pickup truck to find which field the geese were sleeping on. We would crawl on our knees to within shot of the geese and the big boys would shoot. I was given a 20 gauge single shot gun to use, it had been modified for small kids. The big boys had used it when they were my age. There was a lot of mean geese. I shot the crippled geese that the older boys had hit. We threw the dead geese in the back of the pickup and went to look for other fields. There were many to pick from. Cleaning the geese wasn't bad cause there was so many of us to do the job.

One day, Uncle Max called to say that the hog trap on his place had two wild pigs in it. He wanted us boys to come down and kill the pigs. Dare shot one pig and killed it. I used the 20 gauge and shot the other pig in the nose. This only made the pig mad. Nathan helped me steady the 20 gauge and together we shot the pig between the eyes. Who was going to get the pigs out of the trap? Cousin Daniel (Boone, IS) crawled into the pen and pulled the pigs out. We took the pigs to Uncle Charlie's house and he winched them up on the bucket of the front-end loader. After we skinned them out, he just left them hanging out in the open. It was in the 30's and high enough that dogs and other critters could not get to them. When we were on our way home, Uncle Charlie cut off hind quarters and threw them into the ice chest for us to take home, along with many goose breasts.

This hunting trip was a new experience for me. I am a neat freak. Mom keeps a very clean house and I can really appreciate her for this now. My cousins are awesome. It was so much fun hanging out with them. Uncle Charlie's house was dirtier in the kitchen, it looked like a dish had never been washed in years. Thank God the older cousins (20-30 yr. old) would come and take us out to eat. Mom found us at Churches Fried Chicken one night. We had been invited to come eat at a church where a meal of wild game had been prepared for prisoners ready for release. We were so caught up in our adventure that we forgot about the dinner. The prisoners were served goose breast over rice. I hear it was really good. Mom fixed us some after we got home and she did good. I can't wait to return to hunt with my cousins.