

Hello David,

Since you've been so generous sharing your adventures I thought it might be nice for me to do the same.

My wife Linda accompanied me and the two pointers you met earlier this season, Kate and Annie. We didn't arrive until around 10:00 as we made a rather leisurely drive out and stopped for breakfast. We started the day just south of the check in station you lead me to next to the bean field road on the west side of the fort in section A. We walked about 150 yards down when it became obvious the smart move would be to have my wife drive around to where I'd come out if I hunted down the hedge then turned west and hunted up the creek bed. She was most happy to do so since she doesn't shoot but is a good sport and goes to keep me company and watch the dogs. I think she also knew she would have ample opportunity for more walking as the day wore on. I got about 300 yards down when Katie went on point. The only problem was she was about 125 yards out and the rooster she was pointing tired of the game when I was still 75 yards away. At least I got to see him fly away and Katie got to point him, so it was a victory of sorts. Its part of the price one pays hunting with pointers, but I do so love watching them and feel they are a great choice as I've killed many pointed roosters over pointers in the past. At times, though, they just won't hold until I arrive for the shot. We continued down the hedge and turned west at the creek bottom. About half way down there was an eruption of deer as four does boiled out of the bottom. One was coming right at me and didn't see me until it was around 20 feet away and then veered off. I've had that happen before and it never fails to get ones blood pumping at an alarming rate! Annie was quite taken with the "large, fast dogs" and decided to join in the chase. She found it to be a shocking experience as the boss activated her necklace. It was her first encounter with deer and I believe next time she'll be an observer and not a chaser. We continued down to the end with no further excitement.

We next went south to the tank road and started around the first bean field where I had found the pheasants before. We walked down about 1 1/2 miles. A hen got up about half way down in front of the dogs. That was all the activity for that section.

We next walked a long draw about 2 miles east of there. It looked like a good place to see a covey of birds, but if they were there they managed to evade us. The cover is so heavy it's hard to tell exactly where they might be as they could certainly be setting out in the heavy grass. At any rate, we didn't see any birds.

We ate lunch then drove over to the other side. I took Vinton School road over, but they gate was locked so we drove up and around the impact area. Once we got over there I visited with a group of three guys that had been out in that area during the



Don Hansen
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morning. They had 1 pheasant and 5 quail. I did notice there were bean fields around there but didn't hunt it as I figured they had already done so. We backed up and hunted another very long draw down one side and back up the other to no avail. It too looked like a good area. (Where out there DOESN'T look like a good area?)

We stopped in one other place on the way back which was on the east border towards the Manhattan airport. There was a bean field there but it came to a rather deep creek that we didn't cross. It was muddy and steep and wouldn't have been very easy to get up the far side so we headed back to the truck. Am sure there would have been birds some where around those beans had I crossed the creek and continued down. It will be a place to try in the future.

We took the scenic route back going further north before cutting back east. Many of the fields had been burned off. I thought of you as we saw a flock of turkeys that didn't seem very concerned with our presence, although I'm sure that would have changed if we'd stopped and started to pursue them.

By the time we got back over to the other side it was getting late and Katie had cut her leg in the day's adventure and I knew she'd require a trip to the vets before Monday. So we decided to head back and go the emergency clinic in Kansas City on the way home. After a \$400 dollar vet visit we arrived home around 2200 hours.

Except for the rather stiff vet bill it had been an exciting day. I would have liked to have seen a few more birds, but it is so beautiful there one couldn't possibly have a bad day based on the lack of bird activity. Much of it must have changed very little from the time Indians occupied the fort area. It is simply breath taking to view a piece of native Kansas the way the settlers first saw it many years ago. All in all, it will be a long wait for next fall. I hope we'll be able to enjoy a day or two together next year.

Take care,

Don Hansen