

December 15, 2001

Dear Bill & Kathy,

I've delayed writing so I could include the column I wrote about Big Spur Lodge for the Citizen's Advocate.. I also want to thank you for your caring and attentive manner in which you serve clients. Everything was first rate. Also, the way you made us feel part of your family was special. Bill the way you serve your clients in the field is commendable. Through snow, ice, thicket, shelter belt, cane and cat tails, you wer always right there with us. Thanks for being a great outfitter. The birds are in the freezer and will adorn our Christmas table when baked and smoked. Many thanks to Kathy for her suggestions on how to prepare the birds. We've told all our friends about Big Spur Lodge and your great hunts.

**Bill, every time I look at my dog, I think of Crockett and how he took us through some difficult terrain and weather. What a wonderful dog! Certainly he is a testimonial to your kennels and the field training you provide.**



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**Commentary**  
by Lou Duggan

## **Pheasant Hunt for Wild Birds is Best**

Two weeks ago, I joined some friends for a three-day pheasant hunt in South Dakota. This was a great hunt! Hosted and guided by Bill and Kathy Dillon at Big Spur Lodge in Armour, South Dakota, all elements of the stay were first rate: excellent food, great sleeping accommodations, a very comfortable lodge, a very important, outstanding pheasant hunting. Our hunting package included a bird processing, dogs, and lodging.

Dillon has approximately 11,000 acres of private range land available for pheasant hunting. Thus, he offers a unique hunting experience—wild birds, not planted. In today's world of game ranches and released birds, this is an important distinction for hunting at Big Spur Lodge. You spend all day in the field going after wild pheasants. Pheasants are plentiful if you know where to find them and Bill does. During the hunt, we put our threesome on 200 to 300 birds per day. The legal limit is three birds per hunter or nine each for the three-day hunt. Our group of three brought home 27 birds.

At this time of year weather in South Dakota can be unpredictable—ranging from 50 degrees to sub-zero with snow. In our case, 8 to 28 degrees with a foot of snow. However, in the snow, the birds tend to group up; so the action can be exciting when you find them. The birds sit so tight that they come up right at your feet.

Hunting with Dillon's well-trained dogs was an amazing experience! They would find the pheasant, point, retrieve the bird after the shot and put it right in your hand. Several times a wounded bird would hide under heavy cover; yet they would find it.

In retrospect, preparing for bird hunting by shooting trap or skeet just does not compare when compared to the action of wild birds. I missed some easy, close shots but made some difficult longer ones. In my opinion, the best way to train for pheasant hunting is to get out and hunt them.

What an adventure! I cannot say enough good about the hunting experience at Big Spur Lodge. Because of heavy snow this South Dakota pheasant hunt was a very physical challenge; however, it was one of the most rewarding hunts I've had in 32 years of chasing ducks, deer, dove, and elk. If you want such an experience, contact: Upland Sporting Co. Ltd., C/O Big Spur Lodge, Bill Dillon, 3849 Street, Armour, SD 57313; telephone: 605-724-2358.

*Our thanks go out to Lou for a great testimonial. We enjoyed having them with us!*

*You can read more testimonials by clicking on the link below.*

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