BAD LUCK &GOOD LUCK

with Mule Deer

- Larry's Short Stories #162 -

here are many variables that can come into play on a I hunting trip; they're called variables because they're unpredictable and uncontrollable. Hunters call this luck; when the variables go our way it's called good luck - and of course there's bad luck. That's hunting! Determined hunters, when they experience bad luck, just keep their spirits up and keep on hunting.

There were four of us on this five-day hunt; it was a very limited draw area and the hunters and guides were all looking for "Mr. Majestic." Mule deer are pretty territorial and this country was quite open, so unless we saw "The buck," we were all just checking things out. For the first two days we glassed till our eyes hurt and looked our

respective territories over pretty well. As we were

making plans for the third

day, each hunter/ quide team was ready to shoot the best buck they had seen.

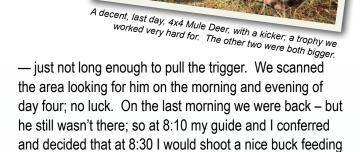
Mule deer country in the foreground, with north edge of Salt Lake City visible on the far right and the great Salt

Lake on the far left. Beautiful view!

From our observation point, my buck was on a narrow

ridge, a few hundred feet below us and about 800 yards out – an easy stalk on the morning of day 3. We stalked to a point on the opposite side of the ridge and were just about ready to carefully crest the top and take a 250 yard shot; but someone, higher and to our left had spooked a bull elk. He came running down the opposite ridge and up ours - running right through the herd of mule deer and of course they ran for cover.

We decided to let that area rest for the afternoon but at nearly dark, a couple of miles away, we saw "Mr. Majestic"



about 350 yards in front of us. But, more bad luck, a ranch

pickup drove between he ran, game over.

Driving to another area and coming around a hill, there was a nice

us and the buck - away "...ready to shoot the best buck they had seen."

buck and some does crossing a ranch road. Bailing out, we scaled the near hillside and made the shot – all in about 60 seconds from site to shot - bad luck, bad luck, good luck. That's hunting!



Larry Potterfield

Kennecott Ranch Salt Lake City, Utah 5 November 2016

