



Evening News photo by Ron Montri

NEVER TOO OLD — Felix Swehla of Dundee is 75 years old. He has a bad back, only one good eye and an old shotgun, but he bagged an 8-point buck not far from his home.

Felix Swehla thought hunting luck was gone

By **RON MONTRI**
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DUNDEE — Felix Swehla was beginning to wonder if he would ever get another deer.

He's 75 years old and had gone 17 autumns without bagging one.

But Swehla, who lost his right eye in a carpentry accident 35 years ago and must shoot left-handed so he can use his good eye to squint through the sights, keeps hunting.

He took his shotgun — the one he bought from a friend 30 years ago and never sights in before hunting season — and downed an 8-pointer Thursday afternoon north of Dundee.

His wife was surprised when he telephoned her to summon help bringing back the buck.

"I told her I needed help and she thought my car broke down," he said with a laugh.

"He was so excited when he told me I was afraid he was going to have a heart attack," she said.

The buck dressed out at 190 pounds and is the largest in his career. He has been hunting since 1939.

"I've had an operation on my back and hip. I don't get around so good anymore. I wouldn't have gone hunting if it wasn't a nice day," he said. "I enjoy being outside, but I don't

hunt up North anymore."

Swehla went out two hours in the morning without success. He returned home for a short rest and something to eat, then went out again.

"There was a nice log there I could lean against for my back. I sat down and hadn't been there 3 or 4 minutes when some other hunters shot and flushed him out," Swehla said.

The buck came in his direction but still was a long distance away when he shot.

"Any farther and I don't think this old shotgun would have dropped him," Swehla said.

"I haven't shot a deer in a long time. I figured I'd never get another one."

The Dundee man has been retired 12 years and spends most of his time gardening and working in his backyard, which overlooks the River Raisin.

He went to the barbershop the following day to relate his experiences and nearly hit a deer with his car on the return trip.

"That would have been a real story. Two deer in two days with a gun and a car," he said.

Eugene Knueve, who is 68, also scored for the senior citizen group. The Newport man was hunting in Manchester when he shot a spikehorn.