

MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE

First Wheeling rattlesnake hunt was held on Father's Day of June 1955 by Ed Bellmore - Wheeling Barber and Lt. Arnold Krause of Wheeling Police Department and every year since then snake hunters go on the annual hunt, led by these two veterans of the snake hunts.

Rattlesnakes have been in the wheeling area as far back as any old timer can remember. The snakes are the Timber rattler or Massasauga, the pigmy rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius*) of the southern United States. They are also called the ground rattlesnake. If bitten by one of these snakes, one can become very sick.