

## Chinchilla Fur Industry In U. S. Getting Sizable

By JANE EADS  
WASHINGTON—The chinchilla is a rare animal, its fur the most expensive in the world. You could count the number of American women owning chinchilla garments almost on two hands. Gloria Swanson and Mary Pickford were among the first to own such garments. Prince Aly Khan is said to have given Rita Hayworth one valued at \$75,000.

The chinchilla was first favored back in the 15th century, when Spanish conquerors of the Incas sent a packet of jewels wrapped in chinchilla pelts to their queen. Somehow the jewels were lost or stolen, but there was no prosecution of the messengers. The queen was so fascinated she requested the conquerors to hunt and trap chinchillas and send them to Spain.

At first chinchilla was reserved for royalty alone, but by 1800 the fur royalty alone, but by 1800 could afford it. Then in 1918 Chile, Bolivia and Peru, which had been exporting chinchilla, became alarmed at their depletion and forbade exportation of hides and animals.

The chinchilla nevertheless was brought into this country in that year by M. F. Chapman, an American copper mining engineer, who got special trapping permits from the three governments. Until recently the animals have been used entirely for breeding purposes. A pelt market now has been established through the National Chinchilla Breeders association, which was formed in the 30s and now boasts some 1,800 members.

**Profitable Business**  
It's a profitable business once you get it going, says S. W. Bangborn, a chinchilla breeder of Washington. You get around \$1,500 a pair for breeding stock. Pelts bring \$135 a skin.

Mr. Bangborn says there are now about 50,000 chinchillas in this country. However, not more than 500 skins a year are produced for the market. This is enough for about two or three garments. The breeders association will show for the first time a full-length coat, made of some 210 skins, at its meeting here in February. This coat, Mr. Bangborn figures, will cost more than \$28,000.

Mr. Bangborn himself got started in the business about seven years ago, when he and his wife Frances, who used to keep books for M. F. Chapman's son, bought six pairs. He now has around 250 animals and has sold about 60 pairs.

The Association expects to put on a three-day show at its February meeting. The competition for cups and ribbons will be open to all breeders from the person who has a pair in his basement, to Ray Hughes, Idaho Falls, who boasts some 2,000 animals.

## "Tick's" Tips On Veterans Hospital

By L. J. "TICK" MALARKEY  
Up on Ward 5 Friday morning, taking his ease in a rocking chair, sat Realtor Earl Wiley, digesting a good dinner while recuperating from an operation performed in our surgery the morning before.

Earl is a Greybeard from War I and with pride mentions the fact that during the second "Great Affair" he had sons Earl Jr. and Lawrence, plus daughter Evelyn, wearing the uniforms of Uncle Sam. The three kids got home all O. K. Legionnaire Wiley, Umpqua post 16, expects to be home in a week.

Dr. Harvey W. Kring has been added to the medical staff. He is a son of old San Francisco and graduated from the medical school at the University of California. Was in the Army for 2 years and has completed a residency at Stanford.

Mrs. King and daughter, 4, are with him at Roseburg.

"Tootin'" Toman drove the bus to the high school gymnasium Friday night for the patients to watch Myrtle Creek have it out at basketball with our Indians. Joe states that he does not toot just to be tooting but toots to tell the feds when they are committed.

How your reporter yearns to see one of those good old games when basketball was played for keeps down in Eugene when the States came to town. We never heard a whistle—doubt whether the one official ever had one. "Tootin'" Toman—call 'em as you see 'em—we like the game anyway. Yes, "your darn tootin'" we do.

Chaplain Philip Leinman of the Portland VA Marquam Hill visited here Friday. Rabbi Kleinman visited every department and called upon all patients of his Jewish Faith. Before stopping in Roseburg, Camp White, Medford, was on his itinerary.

Pete Miller is coming to town—will be here Wednesday, Jan. 25th., in his official capacity as assistant area supervisor for special and volunteer service, VA hospitals. San Francisco is headquarters by Mr. Miller has been assigned to Seattle and has all northwest VA stations as his particular field of endeavor.

Bob Kidder, our chief special services, states: "Assistant Supervisor Miller will review our present program and give us any ideas or suggestions that he may have obtained from other VA hospitals. He will attend the Veterans administration, volunteer service and hospital advisory committees meetings on the date of his visit."

During college days Pete was one of the all time great Pacific University athletes; after gradu-

## Reduction Order Court Test Seen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—(AP)—A recent federal order reducing passenger service by one-third on coal-burning railroads may be contested in court.

The Railway Labor Executives association, which represents the heads of 20 rail labor unions, disclosed Saturday that it is considering such a move. A decision is expected within a few days.

Arthur Lyon, executive secretary of the association, said his group doubts that the Interstate Commerce commission had the right to order the reduction in service. Lyon was member of a delegation which conferred with ICC Chairman J. Monroe Johnson.

ICC ordered the cut back in train service because of the coal shortage which it blamed on John L. Lewis' order for a three-day work week in the nation's coal mines.

Lyon contended that the authority to curtail train service expired with the wartime office of defense transportation.

He said the rail unions believe the railroad companies are taking advantage of the cutback order to lay off workers and abandon unprofitable passenger service.

ation he coached there. During War II the navy claimed him in its recreation fields and upon discharge he joined up with the VA.

Weather conditions, which postponed last Monday's dance is giving a garlic bread committee a chance to function. A delegation of the ladies—who come to dance—the patients who love to dance and nurses who help to dance are possibly meeting with Dietitians Joyce, Hall and Pobar in an effort to bring the situation to a happy ending. Garlic is healthy.

The March of Dimes bottles, 25 in all, are beginning to rattle. Wednesday, pay day, the ghost walked and the employed personnel really showered down.

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## 10 To 20 Years Given Marine Gun Duelist

MINEOLA, N. Y., Jan. 23.—(AP)—Dewitt F. Combs, the 23-year-old former marine who killed his sweetheart's father in a midnight gun duel, will go to sing prison for from 10 to 20 years. Combs was convicted of first degree manslaughter Jan. 6, and Nassau county judge J. A. Collins handed down the sentence. Rita Fay, the tall, slender brunette Combs said he loved, was not in court to hear the sentence, although she attended much of the trial and testified she comforted him after the killing.

Combs blamed his slaying victim—58-year-old Francis B. Fay—for blasting his romance. Combs went to the Fay home the night of last Nov. 16, carrying a shotgun and intent on a reconciliation talk with Rita. Instead he and Fay met in the basement darkness and shot it out, pistol against shotgun, with Fay falling.

When the ground is snow-covered, mix sand with bird seed for birds need to eat gravel.

Procopius, a sixth century historian, gave an accurate description of the symptoms of plague.

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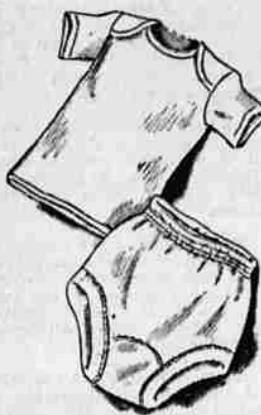
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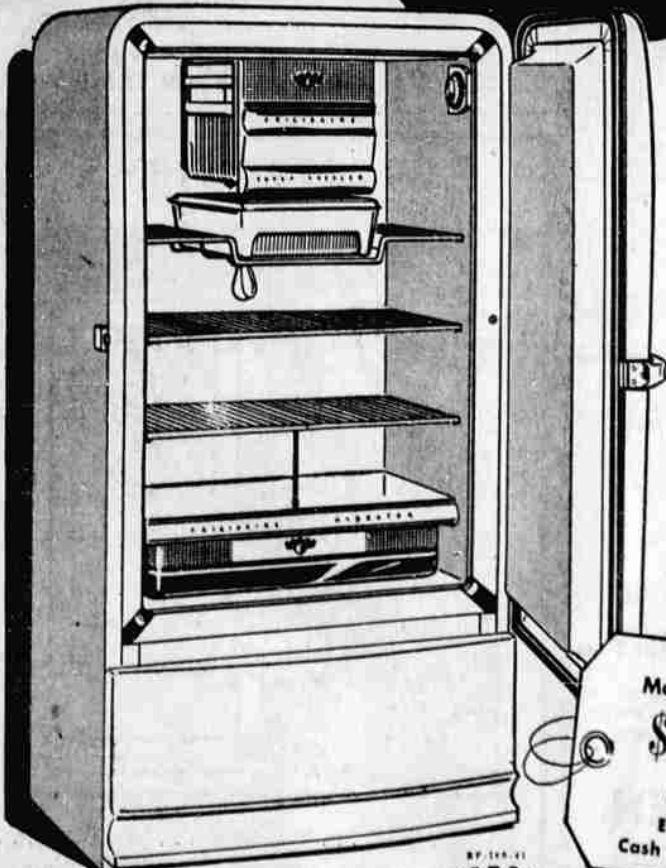
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