

Is That So!

HERE'S ANOTHER passel of Facts vs. Fallacies.

Fallacy: An early frost produces the brilliant autumn-leaf colors.

Fact: The most beautiful colors occur during those autumns when the frost comes late and the colors arrive long before the frosts come. Actually, autumn colors are best when the fall days are bright and sunny.

Fallacy: There will be an early spring if the ground hog appears on Groundhog Day.

FACT: Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, is much too early for any sensible groundhog to make his appearance. He usually pokes his head out of his burrow late in the spring—long after warm weather has already arrived.

Fallacy: Little boys are warned that they will get warts if they handle toads.

Fact: I have handled hundreds of toads and have yet to get a wart on my hands. As for the toad, he himself has a rough and wrinkled skin but it is not covered with warts. Because he is cold, many people dislike to touch him. A toad, by the way, is absolutely harmless and is a valuable friend to the gardener, devouring huge numbers of insects. In some countries, toads are prized—they are bought and distributed in gardens to catch harmful insects.

Fallacy: As a boy, I was told that earthworms rained down during a heavy storm.

Fact: Certainly, after a rain-storm sidewalks and streets may be crawling with earthworms. But they did not rain down. Instead they crawled out of their flooded burrows to escape drowning.

Fallacy: An earthworm can be cut in half and grow into two separate animals.

FACT: Strangely enough, the half which has the head is usually able to grow a new tail and continue to live. The severed tailed half, however, usually dies. It does not have the power to grow a new head.

Fallacy: Porcupines can hurl their quills at their enemies.

Fact: A porcupine cannot throw his quills any more than a rooster can throw his tail feathers or a fish can hurl his scales. Sure, if a porcupine is attacked, he may rush at his foe with his quills standing out every which way on his body. Should the enemy leap upon him, these quills, barbed like a fishhook, may stick him badly and pull out of the porcupine when the enemy retreats. Occasionally a porcupine may have some loose quills which will shake out, but they are not thrown.

Fallacy: Snakes swallow their young and when the danger has passed spew them out.

Fact: On the whole, this is not so. In the first place, a mother snake has no motherly love for her young. Even if she is an egg-laying snake, she will not usually stay by the eggs until they are hatched. In the second place, all snakes have extremely powerful digestive fluids which can even dissolve the teeth of the prey they swallow!

HOWEVER, I have already received several letters from people saying they actually saw the mother snake swallow the little snakelets—saw this with their own eyes. My guess is that the snake was eating some young snakes. In fact, quite a number of snakes are cannibals. When such snake-eaters are

disturbed at their meal, they may disgorge their dinner. (A not uncommon thing. Snakes can eject what they are eating if anything comes along to trouble them).

Or, what my correspondents may have seen was a mother snake giving birth to some young. When the mother is killed, a brood of living youngsters may emerge. Naturally, one might suppose they had been swallowed for safe-keeping. But, as I said, I have several letters on hand, so to be careful, I'll say: It's not common practice for a mother snake to swallow her young for protection.

Fallacy: The common expression "blind as a bat," stems from the fact that a bat cannot see.

Fact: Bats have good eyes, especially built for night vision. In daylight, their sight is oftentimes poor—as poor as an owl's which also has good night sight.

Along with this fallacy, it is commonly believed that bats like to fly into a woman's long hair. Nothing that I know of substantiates such a belief; in fact, bats are most careful not to become entangled in anything. At times they may fly quite low over people's heads to pick up flying insects and I have had them pick up my tiny dry fly when I was fly fishing late at dusk—but I have yet to hear of a bat getting entangled in anyone's hair.

(Copyright, 1954 by Eugene Burns) **FRB:** By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best question on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Snodgrass binding. Each week, new questions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer so many friendly letters. Please address your questions to: IS THAT SO! c/o News-Review, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Buffaloes Guard Goal-line Well

NEW YORK (AP)—The University of Colorado stood alone Thursday as the only major college football team in the land with an uncrossed goal-line.

The Buffaloes have blanked Drake, Colorado A&M and Kansas, and rate as the eighth ranking team in total yardage yielded, according to statistics released by the National Collegiate Athletic bureau.

Richmond leads in total defense leadership despite giving up 233 yards to VMI last week. Syracuse heads the pass defense list.

Mississippi heads the country in defense along the ground, having given up only 18 yards to VILLANova last week for an average of 44.7 per game.



GRANDFATHER—Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery fondly cradles grandson, Henry David, in his arms at Tilbury, England after seeing the infant for the first time. The tot was born in Malaya, where his father David Montgomery works for an oil company. (AP Wirephoto).

Woman Claims Husband Beat Her With Sticks

FORT SCOTT, Kan. (AP)—A 28-year-old mother told authorities here her husband whipped her with sticks, gun butts and a rubber hose and chained her in bed with him at night.

Mrs. Doris Blackmore was hospitalized in serious condition. She is the mother of five children ranging in age from 2 to 8.

Her 33-year-old husband Cecil pleaded innocent at his arraignment to charges of assault with intent to do bodily harm. He was held in county jail after failing to post \$5,000 bond.

In a signed statement, Mrs. Blackmore said the beatings took place over a two-month period, "sometimes twice a day." She said her husband twice broke gun stocks in beating her over the head and shoulders.

Undersheriff Claude Emrick said Blackmore orally admitted beating his wife but denied breaking the gunstocks on her.

Early-day American bison herds had one white individual for about every 500,000 animals and the Indians considered the white ones sacred.



MEETING OF THE MINDS—Billy Kilgore, right, of Miami Beach, Fla., and Moses Ward of Detroit meet headon in fifth round of bout at New York's St. Nicholas arena. Ward gained a unanimous decision in ten rounds after dropping Kilgore in the first and second rounds. (AP Wirephoto).

24 FOR WILLIE—Willie May, Giant to win the National League batting crown in 24 years. Bill of his uniform and who will be 24 Terry was the last to do it. He on his next birthday, is the first won the title in 1939.

Deer Hunting Good In Other Parts Of State; About Same In This Area

As in the past, the reports on the opening day of deer season have varied from "red hot" to "mighty slow."

Generally speaking, however, the word is that the hunting throughout the state has been better than average with most hunters quite satisfied with the results experienced.

From the northeast regional office at La Grande comes the word that hunting in that part of the state was excellent opening day, and all of the lockers in La Grande are full. The weather has been clear and cold, and thus far all of the roads are open.

Hot spot of the central region with headquarters located at Bend, was in the Prineville-Ochoco forest area with many bucks taken from the area. One other favorite area, the China Hat region, southeast of Bend did not produce as good as last year. In other areas of central Oregon including the Sisters, Metolius, Cascade regions, hunters reported seeing plenty of deer.

In the other region east of the Cascades, the Burns office of the game commission reported hunting as being good with good numbers of deer being taken. One old buck with seven points and weighing 254 pounds hog dressed was taken near Seneca. As elsewhere on the east side, the weather is clear and cold.

West of the mountains the report was slightly different in some areas, and the commission office at Roseburg summed up the

hunting as about the same as last year. North farther, however, the hunting was good according to personnel at the Corvallis game commission office, with success in certain areas excellent. Lane county came through with a high success while the Linn county ratio was lower.

Prospects are that hunting should hold up during the season fairly well, providing the weatherman cooperates.

RAISES HOPES

Brooklyn (AP)—Despite their failure to win the National League flag, the Dodgers ended their season with an air of optimism. And all because of the splendid hurling of 23-year old rookie southpaw Karl Spooner.

Spooner perked up the Dodgers by pitching two successive shutouts and chalking up a strikeout record at the same time.

By fanning 15 Giants he established a major league mark for rookies in their first game. He added 12 more strikeouts against the Pirates and thereby set a National League record for two consecutive games.

Brooklyn brass expects Spooner to lead the Dodger hurling parade in 1955. Together with another lefty, Johnny Podres, plus veterans Carl Erskine, Don Newcombe, Russ Meyer and Billy Loos, the pitching staff could be the strongest in the league.

Thurs., Oct. 7, 1954—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 7



—NEA Telephoto

TOP ROOKIE—Twenty victories won for Bob Grim (above) of the New York Yankees the title of American League Rookie of the Year. He received 134 votes in the poll.

GAME MOVIES SLATED

A quarterback Club meeting is scheduled Friday at 7 a. m. in the Hotel Umpqua. Moves of the Roseburg-Eugene game will be shown.

Gold fish are closely related to carp.

Beaver Baseball Club Trades For Southpaw

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals and Seattle Rainiers completed a player swap Wednesday—right-handed pitcher Elmer Bearden, No. 13 and lost 13 for San Francisco last season. Bearden had an 11-13 record at Seattle.

SCORING LINE

OMAHA—In the opening two football games this season for the Boys Town High School football team, the one-two punch for the first touchdown came from a tackle and an end.

In each game Boys Town shot out in front when end Glenville Hepburn blocked a punt and tackle Ed Rander grabbed the ball to carry it into the end zone. The first time Rander went 30 yards and the second 25 yards.

Secretary Of The Interior

McKAY SPEAKS TONIGHT
Roseburg Junior High
8 P.M.

Ed. Pol. Adv. - Gordon For Senator Committee, J. P. Dillard, Chairman, Roseburg.

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