Is That So!

By Eugene Burns
News-Review Staff

It's an amazing world.

When hatched from its egg, the grasshopper is a miniature grown-up and like all insects has a hard shell skeleton on the outside of its body which it must break if it is to gain adult size. However, the grasshopper does not just break its skeleton once, but five times, walking away from each one!

ON THE INSIDE, muscles are attached to this outside shell and the body is filled with a pool of pale-colored blood with the internal organs floating in it. (unlike mammals, insects' blood does not circulate.)

Naturally, to contain itself, the grasshopper must always have a rigid outside covering. Hence before breaking and shedding its old rags, it grows a new undersuit—one which is soft an dcan expand before hardening.

Another astonishing thing: should the grasshopper meet with an accident and lose his head—the front part; or his belly—the rear part, he can still navigate without trouble. That is because his legs, attached to the middle part, the thorax, are controlled by locally-operated nerves.

Ever notice how evenly-spaced many desert plants are, with large bare areas between? Take greasewood, also known as creosote brush. Oftentimes it looks as though it were planted by hand.

Northing of the kind. Actually, what we see is only a small part of the answer—the top side. Underneath the surface, there is a tremendous network of roots, extending from plant to plant. In fact, most of this plant's wood is underground in its root system. The reason is the scarcity of water. The plant is forced to go deep and far to get what little moisture is available. As a result each plant, like a roly-poly, has most of its being downstairs. Hence, the orchard - like spacing between plants, all done naturally through terrific competition.

SPEAKING of competition, consider the star fish. The female produces over 200,000,000 eggs a year, enough to overrun the sea in a couple of centuries. Fortunately, only a few ever reach maturity because thousands of other fishes prey upon them. But the starfish in turn preys upon the oyster, and well that it does. The offspring of one oyster and her living descendents total right around a mere 6,600,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 and if it were not for the starfish, the sea might soon be overrun with oysters.

Compared to warm - blooded mammals, the starfish is a curious dish. Most have five arms under which are hundreds of feet. At the tip of each arm is an eye, a small red disc. So, regardless of what direction it takes, it has one weather eye looking ahead, two to the sides, and another pair covering its retreat. Should it lose an arm, it can grow a new one, replete with eye.

As for its nose, or noses, they are carried where they are handiest and needed most—in the feet, of course.

Among the hundreds of feet, a certain few are designated for smelling. The foot, provided with the sense of smell, moves about, feeling and sniffing each object which might serve as chow. Being in the shape of a foot, it can be used as a foot, too. Handy nose.

But speaking of smelling organs, some male moths can smell out a virgin moth three miles away! But more of that at another "amazing" session.

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FREE: 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 3-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding.

Each week, new questions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your questions to: IS THAT SO! c/o the News-Review, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Western College Skiers To Compete

NORTHFIELD, Vt. (AP) — Skiers from seven Western colleges including defending champion Denver are on hand to compete in the three-day NCAA ski championships which begin Friday.

Eastern champion Middlebury, New Hampshire, Dartmouth, Vermont and Williams report Thursday to host Norwich University to round out the field.

Denver brought an eight man team led by Wilris Olson, winner of last year's jumping competition and headed for the 1956 winter Olympics in Italy.

Also among the Denver entries is Paul Wegeman, a member of the U.S. 1952 Olympic team. Wegeman is a specialist in jumping and cross country racing.

John Gerggren, a former national champion of junior cross country competition in Norway, leads a seven man delegation from the University of Utah.

Beside Denver and Utah, Western teams include six man squads from Colorado and Wyoming, four skiers from Washington State, three from the University of Washington and one from Whitman College, Wash.

Sports In Brief

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASEBALL

BELLEAIR, Fla. — Commissioner Ford Frick fined the Kansas City Athletics $250 and six team members a total of $275 for practicing before the March 1 starting date.

GOLF

NEW ORLEANS — Leo Biagetti of Sandusky, Ohio, fired an 8-under par 64 to lead the qualifiers in the Baton Rogue Open.

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. — Defending champion Pat Lesser of Seattle defeated Mrs. George Noble of Washington, 5 and 4 in the first round of the women's South Atlantic Amateur Tournament.

RACING

ARCADIA, Calif. — Karim ($11) won the $22,400 Christopher J. Fitzgerald Handicap at Santa Anita.

GIANTS START ROLLING—The World Champion New York Giants, eager to get back into action, swarm past a big sign welcoming them to their spring training home, the Phoenix Municipal Stadium, as the first practice session got underway, March 1.

Spring Training Plagued By Bad News

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball's spring training season has been under way only three days but already bad news, both physical and monetary, has started to seep out of the camps.

The physical bad news, for the most part, concerns players who were nursing ailments when the 1954 campaign closed. From a monetary angle the Kansas City Athletics absorbed the latest financial pains as punishment for disobeying baseball's law forbidding any form of organized practice before March 1.

Physically such well-regarded players as the Phillies' Curt Simmons, the Cardinals' Tom Alston, the White Sox's Cass Michaels, the Athletics' Wilbur Shantz, the Tigers' Ferris Fain and the Dodgers' Don Hoak caused their bosses concern. And the New York Yankees received the bad news that second baseman Billy Martin will not be available this year since he isn't slated to get out of the Army until Oct. 6. Originally, the Yanks had hoped to have Billy the Kid in uniform by early July.

Simmons reported his pitching arm, troublesome last year, is still bothering him.

Michaels was forced from yesterday's workouts at Tampa with an attack of dizziness. The veteran infielder suffered a skull fracture last August when he was struck by a pitched ball. He was advised to rest a few days.

Santz, considered to have a chance to become the transplanted A's first-string catcher, complained of periodic pains in his side yesterday and was sent to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. He may undergo surgery for removal of a growth between the ribs. If so, he'll likely be out of action at least two weeks.

The Cardinals are awaiting a physician's report on Alston, the club's $100,000 first baseman who was a disappointment last season. An examination was scheduled to determine if he has overcome a thyroid deficiency.

Hoak, Brooklyn third baseman, lost a nail on his right toe when he was hit by a batted ball during yesterday's workout at St. Petersburg and will be out a couple of days.

Manager Bucky Harris has waived regular training routine for Fain. The Veteran first baseman's injured knee has been bothering him in early drills at Lakeland. Harris is going to let Fain be on his own for a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Ford Frick fined the Athletics $250 for violating the opening date rule and slapped penalties of $50 each on five regulars — Arnie Portocarrero, Charlie Bishop, Forest Jacobs, Louis Limmer and Wilbur Shantz. Rookie pitcher Bill Oster was fined $25 and club house man Yip Crompton $50 for making club house facilities available.

On Monday Frick fined the Milwaukee Braves $500 and 14 players a total of $625 also for starting the training season before the scheduled date. And Frick said his investigations are "far from finished." He didn't indicate what other clubs might be involved, but reports say the Detroit Tigers and Brooklyn Dodgers are likely to be hit with similar penalties.

The commissioner said he fined the Athletics less than the Braves because "Kansas City officials were not present at the workouts, they knew of no workouts and authorized no workouts."

Seattle U. Snaps Idaho State Mark

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) — Seattle University pulled away from a 36-33 halftime lead to defeat Idaho State 73-69 in their fourth basketball meeting of the season Wednesday night.

The victory snapped Idaho State's home court winning streak at 33 games and gave Seattle 3-1 edge in their 1954-55 series. Seattle won twice on its home court in December and Idaho State beat the Chieftains here 74-65 Tuesday night.

The teams have one more contest scheduled: at San Francisco next Tuesday with a berth in the NCAA western regionals at Corvallis, Ore., the stake.

Seattle's 6-7 center, Dick Stricklin, paced the Chieftains' attack Wednesday night, collecting 26 points and dominating the backboards.

Prep Playoffs

Oregon Prep Basketball Playoffs

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

District A-6

St. Francis (Eugene) 49, Springfield 44

Eugene 72, Junction City 46

District A-10

Astoria 48, Warrenton 40

Seaside 65, Neahkahnie 47

District A-11

North Marion 58, Silverton 33

Cascade 36, Mt. Angel 32

District B-7

Irrigon 66, Prairie City 62

District B-8

Enterprise 62, St. Francis (Baker) 47

Portland Playoffs Set For Saturday, Tuesday

PORTLAND (AP) — Arrangements were made Wednesday for a playoff to determine the Portland league district 16 entry in the Oregon high school class A basketball tournament.

Cleveland, ranked No. 6 in the Associated Press poll, won the league championship and the district 15 berth. Jefferson, ranked No. 8, Franklin and Grant tied for second.

Jefferson and Franklin will meet Saturday night at Linclon High School. The winner will play Grant, which drew a bye at a meeting of administrators, Tuesday night for the district championship.

COLEMAN TO TRAVEL

CORVALLIS (AP) — Ralph Coleman, Oregon State baseball coach and president of the National College Baseball Coaches Assn., will leave March 12 for Germany to take part in an Army baseball clinic there.

Wake Forest Star Sets Scoring Mark

NEW YORK (AP) — Records are made to be broken and this seems to hold true as far as major college basketball career scoring marks are concerned.

Dick Hemric of Wake Forest has set an all-time goal for other collegians to shoot at when he finishes the season's tournament play.

Statistics from the NCAA service Bureau revealed Thursday Hemric has accumulated 2,539 points in four years of competition. Figures include games through last Saturday.

Hemric collected 29 points against Clemson last week to beclipse by one the 2,538 points amassed by Furman's Frank Selvy during his fabulous three-year assault on the collegiate record books.

Darrell Floyd of Furman virtually clinched the 1955 individual scoring title last week when he found the range for 90 points in his last two regular season games. He is averaging 36.5 points a game, having scored 877 points in 24 games.

One individual category changed hands last week. Manhattan's Ed O'Connor, a lanky center, hit on 19 of 27 field goal attempts to boost his shooting percentage to a near-record 59.0. He displaced Stan Glowaski of Seattle as the field goal accuracy leader. Tye all - time record is 59.5 per cent, set by Vernon Stokes of St. Francis (NY) in 1953.

HOT BIRD BATH

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP)—James L. Wick Jr., retired industrialist, provides the birds with a winter bird bath. The water temperature in the garden-variety bath is kept above freezing by a thermostatically controlled heating element.

Cuban Negro Becoming Heavyweight Favorite

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Julio Mederos, an unheralded Cuban Negro who had flunked his two previous tests against American "name" fighters moved strongly into the heavyweight picture Thursday after a smashing knockout victory over Roland LaStarza.

The powerful Mederos gave LaStarza, once a top - ranking title contender, the worst beating of his career before knocking the New Yorker unconscious with a booming right to the jaw in the fifth round of a schdeuled 10-rounder Wednesday night at Miami Stadium.

HIGH HOPES?—Dr. Phog Allen, Kansas basketball coach, looks up at Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain, 7-1 Philadelphia Overbrook High cage star, and wonders how he'd look in a Jayhawk uniform. (NEA)

BE WISE! watch for the BIG SURPRISE!
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At Ashcraft Jewelers
See Page 2 Friday

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