



**ACROBATIC CAREER** looks like a cinch for little Ann Bentley of Mohawk. At four weeks of age, the tot could stand upright in her mother's hand. Her older sister, Gayle, was able to balance similarly at three months and walked at seven months.

## For Groundhog Not Too Reliable

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS  
United Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — You state it from high authority whoever picked Feb. 2 as "groundhog" day must have been smoking something strong-ly tea.

By through the files of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and found a statement re-ferred in 1932. It is credited to H. Howell of the Bu-reau of Biological Survey. He said himself an authority on groundhog, or woodchuck, at the time:

"Every sensible groundhog is soundly in his under-ground burrow on Feb. 2."

The legend across the years, every third-grader is sup-posed to know, is that if the groundhog on Feb. 2 casts his shadow and sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of rough weather. If it's not, there will be an early spring.

Howell, who had done a lot of work up to 1932, alleged that only little woodchuck turned out to be something like a "varmint" which might have happened. A groundhog, origin-ally, it may have been im-ported from Europe, where there is a long-standing super-stition about the significance of a hedge hog's appearance on Ash Wednesday (Christian feast of Purification) Feb. 2; early days may have transferred belief to the groundhog—entirely different animal."

A good friend and neighbor, Mr. Simpson, takes this the-ory along the trail. Stimp-son, who knows a little about groundhog, and the various legends, says this:

"Groundhog Feb. 2 is known as Ground Hog Day," the super-stition must have originated in southern states right here at home. There the animal is called

the ground hog. Up north it is known as a woodchuck."

George, who has done consid-erable research on the subject but never has gotten around to putting it on paper, claims How-ell was only partly right.

"Howell calls the animal a ground hog—which is the south-ern version. And he says that a sensible ground hog would be fast asleep in a burrow to keep warm. Ask Florida."

"He could sit in that fine sun and be comfortable asleep but top-side and not in a burrow and not give anybody anything to worry about the weather in early or late spring. Up north it's the woodchuck, and there he is un-predictable. Ask the weather bureau."

The weather bureau did keep track of the ground hog or wood-chuck for a long time. From 1908 to 1928 the ground hog saw his shadow 15 times. And during that period he had cloudy skies six times. According to the official record the ground hog was cor-rect about half of the time—which is batting .500, and isn't bad in any league.

The Department of Agricul-ture will tell you that when the little guy isn't out looking for his shadow he may be in the alfalfa field. A single woodchuck, it well and hungry, can consume half a ton of hay in one season or wipe out a family bean patch at a single sitting.

## Batteries Said Stolen

SALEM — (U.P.) — Oregon's state training schools for girls and boys are being run well, the State Ad-Visory Committee for the schools said Wednesday.

The committee said, however, that the state should see that boys and girls released from the two institutions shouldn't have to re-turn to unsatisfactory home con-ditions. It suggested use of foster homes for these paroled boys and girls.

The two schools are the Mac-Laren School for Boys at Wood-burn, and the Hillcrest School for Girls at Salem.

## Good Report Filed For State Schools

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## Evangelist Hits Capital's Sins

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — Evange-list Billy Graham says sex and sin have reached such heights in the nation's capital "we denounce these sins as a stench in the nos-trils of God."

He told an audience Thursday night his source of information is the best selling book "Washington Confidential" and letters from broken homes.

"Washingtonians should blush for their city," he declared.

Graham said no generation in history has been so sex-conscious as the present. "No age," he went on, "ever emphasized it more or enjoyed it less, according to the psychologists."

The evangelist derided modern authorities on sex. He said the Bible has the final answer to the problem.

That answer, he said, "is hell for those who transgress the moral law."

Graham's followers said that in the past three weeks here he has preached to more than 126,000 persons and won 2,371 converts.

## Logging Injuries Reported Higher

Safety Regulations Stressed at Meeting

REDDING, Calif. — (U.P.) — A safe-ty engineer Thursday warned the Pacific Coast lumber industry that if it doesn't cut logging injuries it faces federal safety regulations.

Safety practices in the lumber-ing industry was the main topic at the session of the Sierra-Cas-cade Logging Conference. It con-tinues Friday with a series of technical discussions.

Byron Oyster, safety engineer for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., Tacoma, Wash., told the confer-ence:

"ACCIDENTS in the forest in-dustries of California during 1950 increased 24 per cent over 1949," he said. "In 1951 there were 158 injuries for each 1,000 workers employed. Contrast this with the 1951 record for all other Califor-nia industries—48 injuries for each 1,000 men employed."

"If industry does not do every-thing in its power to reduce acci-dents," Oyster added, "it will be forced to do so by the government. You will face further government regulations."

BUT JACK Congo, a side-rod section foreman for a Redding out-fit, told the 1,000 delegates "you can stress this safety stuff too much."

"You get a chain on a log, and somebody hollers 'union.' You get the union and somebody hollers 'safety inspector.'"

"Then you have to talk to a guy in a tin hat with a \$250 a month job," Congo said. "High school ed-ucation—and college too—is all right. But you can carry the safety stuff too far."

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