



Tree Limbs Not Carried Upward

By EUGENE BURNS

"YOUR COLUMN giving great pleasure. Asking, please, how can duck keep from freezing feet in cold ice-water?" writes T.L. via the Tokyo (Japan) Asahi. H.R.T., via the Paterson (N.J.) News demands: "Got an argument on. I claim a tree's limbs get higher off the ground as the tree grows..." F.P.S.-M., a reader of this column in the Newcastle Upon Tyne (England) Chronicle asks: "Actually, can a fish survive after being frozen solid? I, frankly, do not believe it."

Cold Feet: Apparently bird's feet can come close to the outside temperature of their surroundings without affecting their body temperature, which, as you may know, is about five degrees higher than man's.

Observing northern waterbirds paddling about in icy water, or puffins and penguins standing barefooted on ice, it seems quite certain that their feet must be impervious to cold. Likewise, heat does not seem to affect birds' feet. I've seen pigeons strutting unconcernedly on near-melting asphalt and a Canada jay was seen standing on an almost red-hot stove and remaining there for eight seconds, showing a little nervousness but no discomfort.

It may be possible, T.L., that during severe weather extremes,



almost all blood circulation is withdrawn from the pedal extremities. At any rate, feet consist mostly of bones and tendons covered with scales, all of which contain little moisture to freeze or be affected by heat.

It has been calculated that if a bird in subzero weather had to keep its exposed feet at body temperature, it couldn't eat enough food to match the loss of heat.

Tree Limbs: Few myths hang on lighter than the one that trees grow in height from the roots up, by lengthening the trunk—and, in consequence, the lower limbs of a tree gradually are carried upward. Sorry, H.R.T., but there is not and never can be any upward growth in the trunk of a tree other than that which occurs from the tip-top with the annual extension of the terminal buds. After one growing season, wood

fiber does not grow in length. It becomes inert, mostly dead. In fact, 99 per cent of any tree is "dead," although this dead part acts as the tree's framework and plumbing system. The living, growing cells of a tree—less than 1 per cent, actually—are at the tips of roots, in a thin sheath just below the bark, at the tips of twigs, and in leaves where they work to make food for the tree.

That sheath of cells below the bark, however, does cause the tree to grow in circumference, you might say, grow bigger round. This forces the bark to stretch. That is why saplings are usually smooth. But as the tree grows older, this bark usually bursts apart and helps one identify a tree in winter when leaves are shed.

The red cedar acquires a shredded appearance. The elm, shallow ridges. The ash forms diamond-shaped crisscrosses. The shagbark hickory's outer covering breaks off like loose shingles. The sycamore's has so little give that the outer layer promptly breaks off and exposes white patches of the inner and more elastic bark. The beech's generally manages to keep from cracking and develops a beautiful silver-gray surface.

The reason limbs may appear to grow higher, H.R.T., is that

trees often shed lower limbs and in time the bark covers the wounds. But if a limb is 20 feet high, it grew that high to begin with—or the ground has been washed away!

As a timber cruiser, I have chopped base-line marks on trees and returned ten years later to find the marks at exactly the same level. Fence wires stapled to growing trees also are not carried upward. Had enough, H.R.T.? I could go on.

Fish Freeze: Yes, fish are cold-blooded and can survive being frozen. Fish which live in northern waters are sometimes ice-locked for months. And it is possible to chop frozen fish from the ice—frozen just as hard as stone. With the return of spring, after a whole wintertime of frozen immobility, these fish "come alive." But why not try an experiment yourself? Take some cold-water fish. To make it easy, a common little minnow. Keep it in cold water for a day and then put it in the freezing chamber of your refrigerator overnight and see what happens. (Better use a container that won't crack.) If you like keep him there for a week, or a month. If he doesn't thaw out and swim I'll eat him—and I'm not fond of stale minnows.

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LOS ANGELES 'WELCOMING COMMITTEE'

Police Fight 'Hoods' With Publicity

By RALPH HOVIS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A welcoming committee was on hand the day Anthony J. Accardo stepped off a plane at International Airport.

But the Chicago hoodlum—described by the director of the Chicago Crime Commission as the head of the old Al Capone syndicate—got no hearty handclasp or keys to the city from this committee.

Instead he received a curt order: "Get out of town."

And Accardo did.

That's a good example of the unfriendly gesture being extended to all bigshot hoods and "muscle men" who come here planning to make Los Angeles a base for Western operations.

Accardo's welcomers were three members of the 34-man intelligence Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, an unusual organization set up four years ago which has received bouquets of praise from city commissioners, criminologists and the U. S. Senate.

'UNIQUE'

"Our division is unique," explained Capt. James E. Hamilton, its chief, "because our main responsibility is to see who is trying to get big in the field of crime and to find a means to stop him legally."

"Our job is to gather information about every big hood in the nation and keep him out of Los Angeles."

How does the division get its information?

It has its own files, cross-referenced with those of the full files of the police department. As a whole, it subscribes to 18 major city daily newspapers and clips every major crime story in those papers.

'HIT PARADE'

A black notebook—dubbed "the hit parade"—contains pictures of the gangsters, their addresses, aliases, criminal records, automobile descriptions, jobs and avocations. Even the names and addresses of their pals.

The division has informants in every large city. They give tips about the trips of hoods to California. Among the informants are city crime commissioners, district attorneys, narcotics officers, federal agents, detectives and newspaper crime reporters. And a constant watch is kept at transportation terminals.

NO PUBLICITY

"The basic premise of the intelligence system is simple," Capt. Hamilton says. "A hood

can't stand publicity. He works like a kid. When he knows the police are wise to him, he'll back off and start somewhere else. He seldom operates in a place where the publicity and heat are on."

The division operates on a budget of \$112,000 per year. Its officers fall in no single category. Most of them have 6 to 10 years of work in narcotics or other units. Some, however, are younger, with less specialized background but plenty of drive, the chief reports.

In contacts with gangsters and racketeers, the officers follow a strict non-fraternization rule. "We don't accept so much as a cup of coffee from a hood."

"We don't use clubs over their heads. That's out. And we don't make a pinch unless we have a case. These hoods fight time. We face an appeal with every one of the top racketeers."

Putting on the heat takes various courses.

"If a hood is here while his family, friends and home are all elsewhere—if he is more than just vacationing—then that man, to us, is a potential hazard to the community. Our job is to discourage him."

"We may tail him bumper to bumper all day. Stop when he stops. Get coffee when he does. Shake down his pals. Stay with him. Publicize him in the papers. Keep the pressure on."



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Seminole Knew How to Build

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A University of Florida professor says architects have learned a lot of valuable lessons from the Seminole Indians about the right way to build a house in Florida.

Dr. William T. Arnette, dean of the College of Architecture, explained that the traditional Seminole houses get the full advantages of Florida's climate by providing a living space completely open to the breeze and at the same time protecting the interior from sun and rain by a wide palmetto thatch roof.

Dr. Arnette added that modern architecture in Florida is following the same principle by disregarding the "customary distinction between walls, windows and doors. Walls on the south or east side of the house are of the folding or roll-back variety so that the house can be completely opened to the breeze."

"We are seeing the prototypes of what may well be a new, but yet ancient, architecture," he concluded.

Carol's Widow Denies Ex-King Left Fortune

LISBON (AP)—The widow of ex-King Carol of Romania, the former Magda Lupescu, has denied reports Carol left a fortune when he died here suddenly more than a year ago.

"What has been said in this respect is pure legend," she added in an interview with the Lisbon newspaper, Diario de Noticias. With the title Princess Helena, Carol's widow has continued to live quietly at the nearby Estoril chateau, Mar o Sol, since the former monarch's death.

"The king carried hardly anything from Romania," she said. "All he had is there. His life in exile was always modest and honorable."

A three-way legal battle is under way in Lisbon courts for Carol's estate. Besides his widow, the contestants are Carol's son by his second marriage, ex-King Michael, and Mirca Lambrino of Paris. Lambrino filed claims on grounds he is Carol's son by Carol's youthful morganatic marriage to Joanna Lambrino.

