

Strange Story Revealed About Queer Actions of Groundhog

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington, April 13 (AP)—Groundhogs have been acting up in an unusual manner this year. Not according to tradition. The tradition is that if the little guys come out on Groundhog day and see their shadows, they'll hit for cover and you can expect six more weeks of winter.

This year, the sun came out some places; some places it didn't. Groundhogs all over defied the rules. They came out when they weren't expected to and holed in when they were supposed to stay out.

Near Natural Bridge, Va., James N. Hunter, the head man of the town, ordered an "investigation." He was worried about reports that some of the local groundhogs were showing mother-hen hides and had become bald in spots.

Hunter didn't get any place until old Joseph David Mitchell came forward.

Mitchell, who will be 79 come July 12, is the gardener at the Natural Bridge hotel.

He has been studying the habits of the flora and the fauna thereabouts for nigh onto 70 years, he says, and calls himself an expert on the lowly woodchuck.

Mitchell has the situation all figured out like this. And follow it closely.

It has been a tough year on foxes, which has something to do with the groundhog's unusual behavior.

Up north, the water shortage caused some of the foxes to get hydrophobia, and they went around like crazy biting people.

Down near Natural Bridge the warm weather gave the foxes fleas at the wrong time of year.

This sounds a little silly—but we're still quoting Old Man Mitchell, who said he didn't mind being quoted.

The foxes resorted to an ancient method of getting rid of fleas.

Mr. Fox would leg it through the brush and woodlands where sheep had been pastured. He would gather up little bits of wool the woolly creatures had shed onto burrs, brambles and other things sheep lose wool on.

When the fox had all the wool he considered necessary for his own relief, he would duck down to Cedar creek, which runs under Natural Bridge, keeping a ball of wool in his mouth.

There, he would wade into the cool spring water, and as he did so, naturally his companions, the pesky fleas, would keep alive by staying above the water line.

Finally, the wise old fox would be so deep that all of the fleas would be tickling his nose because there was no other place for them to rest without drowning.

The fox then would duck his snout, and spit out the ball of wool, which would float for a minute or so.

The fox would swim for shore, leaving the fleas and the

Freak Damage Suit Amended

Albany—Judge Victor Olliver in circuit court here has granted the request of Earl B. Snyder to amend his damage complaint against the Sweet Home Swimming pool association from which he is seeking \$15,000 damages because of an arm injury he received during the celebration last summer.

In his original complaint Snyder had named individual members of the swimming pool association as defendants, not knowing that the group had been incorporated.

In the amended complaint the Sweet Home Swimming Pool association, Inc., is named co-defendant, with names of members eliminated.

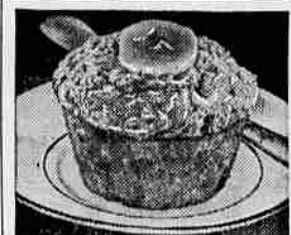
The other defendants are Frontier Days, Inc., of Sweet Home, and James La Londe, who in the role of "Jesse James" Snyder charges fired a pistol whose blank cartridge had struck the plaintiff on the forearm and inflicted upon him a permanent injury.

Club to Meet Thursday

Salem Heights—The Chestekmay Campfire group of Salem Heights met for a regular meeting on Thursday at the home of Mrs. Leslie Bates on Ratcliff drive. Mrs. Beatrice Merrill spoke on Her Pioneer Life, and the girls had a treasure hunt. Loretta Bates was hostess, assisted by Marjorie Randolph. Present were Becky Joe Templeton, Loretta Bates, Karen Anderson, Patsy Murray, Lelia Kapperman, Marjorie Randolph, Carol Margi and Barbara Bacon.

wool ball to drift downstream. The fleas, realizing they had been foxed, would wind up in a panic. The groundhogs, sitting on the bank and watching the performance, became unwilling victims.

Hence the bald spots on the silly groundhogs. Mitchell raises his right hand and swears the above is true.



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- 1 cup Kellogg's All-Bran 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup mashed, fully-ripe bananas 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sifted flour 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg 1/4 cup soft shortening

- Combine All-Bran, milk and bananas in mixing bowl.
- Sift flour, baking powder, soda and salt together into same bowl. Add sugar, egg and shortening. Stir only until combined.
- Fill greased muffin pan 3/4 full. Bake in moderately hot oven (400° F.) about 25 min. Makes 12 tasty muffins.

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2 Farmers Held, Bank Robbery

Great Falls, Mont., April 13 (AP)—The federal bureau of investigation said today two young farmers had been arrested in the robbery of a Valler, Mont., bank. Both admitted their part and all but \$900 of the \$16,100 was recovered in a garbage can, the FBI added.

Agent W. Guy Bannister identified the pair as Maurice Arthur Holm, 24, and Lewis Andrew Peters, 26. He said they were captured during the night at Conrad, only 20 miles east of Valler.

A complaint charging the two Conrad farmers with armed robbery is being prepared for filing with the U.S. commissioner here, Bannister added.

Printed and broadcast descriptions of the getaway car sent tips to authorities which put them on Holm's trail. Bannister said the arrests were made 12 hours after two masked men robbed the Farmers and Stockmen's bank at Valler.

Bank President Nels Swanson was forced to open the safe for the robbers, each carrying two guns, when he opened the bank yesterday morning. After scooping up available currency and some silver, the men tied up Swanson and fled.

Maclean — Helen Shaw will give a demonstration of fancy sewing machine work at the grange Home Economics club meeting to be held at the grange hall Wednesday afternoon, April 12. Hostess will be Mrs. Harry Prunk and Mrs. Gus Grimm.

Doberman Pinscher Howling Success in Singing Debut

By JACK MEEHAN

Frankfurt, Germany, April 13 (AP)—Clara Sang Rachmaninov's "Prelude in C sharp minor" for an admiring audience today. It was quite a feat for an 11-year-old, especially a dog.

For Carla is a Doberman Pinscher.

"Been singing like this for almost a year now," said her owner, Lt. George Alles, a former Berlin airlift pilot stationed at the nearby Rhine Main air base.

"Before that, you know, she just howled like any other Doberman Pinscher."

Carla bounded back into the room for an encore. It was "when you and I were young Maggie." Just the melody, no words.

Alles accompanied her at the piano. After it was over, Carla acknowledged the guests' applause with what might be the canine version of a bow or a curtsy. Then she ran away.

I noticed whenever I played the piano, she began to yell. Later she began to follow the music."

So far, she sings only the two songs, he said. Later he may try to teach her more.

Alles used to be an interior decorator in Palm Springs, Calif. He wonders whether he might take Carla to Hollywood after his air force hitch is up.

"If Carla improved a little, she might be good enough for Hollywood," he said. "Then I could go back there and retire."

At present, Alles and Carla live with Alles' wife Wanda, a former Palm Springs model, and their 10-year-old daughter, Linda.

The newest product in the wiener line has a tuna fish filling. These new "Sea Dogs" have been developed by a firm in Massachusetts.

Appeal Granted to Convicted Murderer

Charleston, W.Va., April 13 (AP)—Harry Burdette has another six months, at least, to live. The 28-year-old carpenter who helped stomp a man to death in a drunken rage was granted an appeal by the state supreme court yesterday.

Burdette's attorneys contended that Burdette was too drunk to be guilty of premeditated — first degree — murder. He was convicted of the charge and was sentenced to die in the electric chair Friday night.

Burdette took up religion in his cell after his conviction and several Sundays ago was baptized in an icy creek. He said then that if his life were spared, he would devote the rest of it to God's work.

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- Is this method safe for fabrics? Yes, it is safe... skipping the rinsing and extra wringings actually saves wear and tear on clothes.

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