## SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

# PAGE OF READING FOR THE FAMILY



Prepared by National Geographic Society. | from which they appear to enjoy Washington, D. C.-WNU Service. | their manual the F AN imaginative child could landscape.

be transported from a visit to an American toy shop to the

midst of an Australian eucalyptus forest, and there shown for the first time the Australian native bear, or Koala, climbing among the branches and nibbling the leaves, he would be hard to convince that the teddy bears he had been inspecting had not been brought magically to life; for the Koala, with his round rolypoly body, short arms and pointed nose, is the living prototype of the jolly toy bear that helps make Christmas morning merry in many an American nursery.

Koalas are found in eastern and southeastern Australia, but do not occur on any of the neighboring islands or in the western half of the continent. They were probably once the most common animals in the Australian bush, but about 40 years ago a widespread epidemic overtook them and they died by thousands.

They also were hunted extensivesphagnum moss, perhaps as a tonic ly for the sake of their warm, thick or medicine. They never drink wa-War on Counterfeiters fur, and as a result are now ex- ter in a state of nature, but are tinct in New South Wales. A few apparently able to obtain enough hundred are still to be found in moisture from feeding on the juicy Victoria, in carefully protected lo- gum shoots from which the comcallties, and a fair number remain mercial eucalyptus oil is extracted. While the secret service, charged | counterfeiting when he found other in Queensland. Little is known of Make Delightful Pets. the nature of the disease that so with protection of the currency of operations lacking in profits. the United States, is always alert in In December, 1933 investigation renearly exterminated them, but Koalas are such quaint and atremains of this formerly numerous pets. They are very easily tamed, greater vigilance. a Chicago printer named Davis. The a yielding spring. but as they grow older they are species. Two factors have led to a substancareless of the fact that their claws search for the count extended into tial increase in counterfeiting. First, The koala is one of the most inhave needle-like sharpness, which there was the repeal of prohibition, several states, and ended in his arteresting of Australian animals. He THAT'S SOMETHING will easily penetrate the thickest with a resultant seeking of other rest in New York city, where he was has a thick, grayish-colored fur, a and strongest cloth. fields by bootleggers. Second, the depicked up. prominent black nose, and stands Although when living in the bush The trail terminated in a Times pression has caused the reduction of about two feet high. A good specithey take no liquid, in captivity Square subway station locker. There the "market" for "suckers" in conmen weighs about 20 pounds. He police and federal agents discovered they quickly acquire a taste for is one of the most inoffensive anifidence-game manipulations, and a collection of steel, copper and glass mals imaginable, doing no harm or weak sweetened tea and starchy therefore the necessity for the sofoods. This depravity is the cause plates representing many types of called "slickers" to turn to other damage to anyone or anything. of their undoing, for if given such methods of income. Acting Chief government paper money. He Lives in Trees. Sometimes unusual methods are things in mistaken kindness they Joseph E. Murphy, of the United soon begin to lose condition and in States secret service, says that, beused in passing counterfeits. Recent-Essentially an arboreal and maina few months die from indigestion. ly, when a woman in New York, who cause of the peculiar economic conly nocturnal animal, he spends his owed a \$2,500 mortgage, advertised time in the branches of certain Even when fed only on eucalyptus ditions, counterfeiting is today on the in a newspaper to sell a bracelet and species of eucalyptus trees, where leaves, they are difficult to keep high tide. Great success, however, has atsome diamonds, she was answered alive in captivity. he feeds at night upon the tender by facile-tongued crooks. They bought Because of their unique interest tended the efforts of the secret servyoung leaves. If approached, he her jewelry for 22 \$100 bills, which ice against the bogus-money entrewill sit and stare at the intruder and the difficulty of keeping them preneurs. The recent arrest in New with a surprised expression, and alive in confinement, and because were bogus. only if danger threatens he will of their now decreased numbers, York of Victor Lustig, alias "the climb to the topmost branches. He the Victorian government strictly Count," illustrates the thoroughness Highway to the Arctics is rather inactive, especially in forbids their capture. But, in orof the methods used. There are some very earnest adsummer, and often sits in the fork der that they may be seen under Secret service records show that vocates of the proposed highway education helps a man? in April, 1927, the Count, who has a of a tree, sleeping the daylight normal conditions, they are gradufrom the state of Washington to hours away. The adult males are ally being established in suitable long police record in this and Eurofond of perching themselves on a places where there is an abundance pean countries, escaped from the

their survey of the surrounding

They have five toes on each foot, and each toe is armed with a curved, needle-sharp claw. The toes are in groups of twos and threes, the two claws being in the form of a double thumb. They are thus enabled to climb easily and also to grasp the branches of a tree and pull them down for the purpose of feeding on the leaves.

Even an iron telegraph post offers no obstacle to their climbing powers, and they have been seen sitting among the wires on top of one, although it is difficult to say what motive took them into such a position. A tall flagstaff seems to present an irresistible temptation, and even in the windlest of days they climb such posts to perch on the top.

The leaves of certain kinds of the Australian eucalyptus (gum trees) form their staple diet, al-

dead limb at the top of a tall tree, and variety of their natural foods. Crown Point, Ind., jail. He turned to land along its length.

It is now possible, within a twohour run of Melbourne, with its more than a million inhabitants, to see the Koala in his native gum trees, and it is hoped, through the exercise of strict protective measures, to preserve this interesting little animal for posterity. "Joey" Reared In Pouch.

The Koala is a marsupial, having a pouch in which the single cub-"Joey," in the language of the bush-after birth in a very immature state, is sheltered and fed for some months. When about six inches in length, it gradually leaves the pouch and spends its time in its mother's arms, not clasped by the mother, because she needs all her toes for hanging onto the trees, but clinging to her thick fur by means of its own sharp little claws. This is the usual position of the young until it is big enough to look after itself; but if danger threatens, necessitating active climbing on the part of the mother. the youngster quickly clambers around upon her back, so as not to hamper her movements. There it hangs on securely while she climbs to safety.

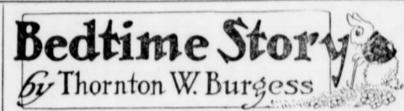
Koalas are, as a rule, silent, but when frightened or annoyed will cry very much like a child. In some of their habits they closely resemble human beings. A mother bear has been seen to cuff her little one. probably for some transgression of bush law, until it cried as if brokenhearted.

Contrary to what one might think, the bears are very unsociable among themselves. It is extremely rare to find more than one in a tree, unless it be a very large tree. Even where they are fairly abundant they seem to prefer a solitary life.

A few years ago a number were placed on an Island for their better protection, and when visited later had scattered over the whole extent of the place, none being closer than 200 or 800 yards to another.

#### Sparrow Hawk's Diet

The sparrow hawk's diet consists of less than one-fifth of 1 per cent of game birds and no poultry. More than 50 per cent of its diet is composed of insects and 25.4 per cent of mice and other small mammals.



### WHAT DANNY MOUSE WAS DOING

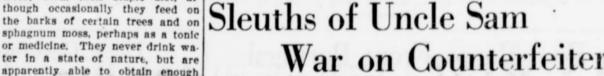
A LL the time Nanny Meadow Mouse at home on the Green Meadows was worrying herself almost sick because Danny Meadow Mouse didn't come home, Danny himself was too busy with his own troubles to even think of Nanny. He had been trapped in a hollow log by Billy Mink and then Billy had been frightened away by Mrs.



Buster Stopped and Raked Over Some Leaves With His Great Paws.

Hooty the Owl, who had then flown away to hunt for a meal in another part of the Green Forest. This had been Danny's chance to get out of that hollow log and he had made the most of it.

He had run his fastest until he just had to stop for breath and to rest a little. You know Danny's legs are short, and though he can run fast for a short distance, he cannot run far without resting. He crept under a plle of leaves to recover his breath and think what to do next. It is hard work to think when you are out of breath. Danny found it so. When at last he had stopped panting he began to consider what to do next. Never



had he been in that part of the Green Forest. He didn't know a single hiding place. This gave Danny a most uncomfortable feeling.

"I will have to trust to luck," thought Danny, "Yes, sir, I will have to trust to luck. 'There isn't anything else I can do."

Just then he heard heavy, shuffling footsteps. Now, who was coming? Danny's heart began to go plt-a-pat, as he peeped out from under the leaves. What he saw made his bright little eyes almost pop out of his head and his head and his heart almost stopped beat-Shuffling along straight toing. ward him was a huge black form. Never in his life had Danny felt quite so little and helpless. He knew who it was. There was no mistaking that great black fellow. It was Buster Bear,

What to do Danny didn't know, so did nothing. He simply crouched right where he was under that little plle of leaves and wished that he could shrink into nothing at all. Yes, sir, that is what Danny wished. Buster stopped and raked over some leaves with his great paws, at the same time sniffing among them with his nose. Every shift sent a shiver over Danny, Buster plcked up something and ate it. What it was Danny didn't know, but he did know that if Buster should find a certain little Meadow Mouse under the leaves he would treat it in just the same way.

Danny wanted to run. Never in all his life had Danny wanted to run as he did right that minute. But there was nowhere to run to. He didn't know of a single hiding place. Buster Bear hadn't found him yet and didn't know that he was anywhere about. If he should run, Buster would be likely to see or hear him, while, if he sat still, Buster might not rake over that pile of leaves. So Danny sat still, C. T. W. Burgess -- WNU Service.

#### The First Sewing Machine

The first sewing machine was probably made by an Englishman named Thomas Saint, who received a patent on July 17, 1790. Thomas Saint's patent was discovered within recent years by a searcher among the patent archives of the British patent office, where it had lain unnoticed for almost a century. Isaac M. Singer, in 1851, patented a sewing machine having a fixed

Romans.

study is being given the subject, tractive little creatures that they the war against counterfeiters, pres- vealed that Lustig was interested in overhanding arm and a vertical now, with a view to preserving the are much in demand as household ent conditions have necessitated even the output of counterfeit notes, some needle, but his most important conof which were found in the home of itribution was the presser foot with Frosh-Do you think a classical Soph-Surely. It helps him to Alaska. It will be 2,225 miles long forget his own troubles by thinkand will open up 370,000,000 acres of ing about those of the Greeks and