

# January Sky Review

By J. HUGH PRUETT  
Astronomer, Extension Division  
Oregon Higher Education System  
A new year is with us, and its arrival brings a skyful of celestial jewels for the early evening firmament.

Old Sol is now making his daily journey very low across the south. But Luna will be rising far north for several evenings yet. Full moon occurs January 8. The brilliant planet Jupiter clears the horizon far over toward the northeast about an hour after sunset, and is a splendid object high in the east a few hours later.

Red Mars is still conspicuous quite high in the sky somewhat west of south as soon as darkness descends. Mercury is now too near the sun to be observed.

### Two Planets Fairly Well Up

The early dawn finds two planets fairly well up in the southeast. The extremely brilliant one, now at about its best, is Venus. It cannot be mistaken or overlooked since it far outshines any star-like body in the entire sky. It glows like a little lantern hung on the blue wall of heaven. A little south of Venus yellow non-twinkling Saturn is easily spotted. Note the red star Antares very low in the southeast.

For the study of the brighter evening stars (planets are not stars) let us observe about 8 p.m. standard time. Over in the northwest the fine figure of the Northern Cross is standing upright. Deneb, at the top of the figure, is a bright star. A little below Deneb the crossarm of

the dimmer stars is easily located. Then running down almost to the horizon other faint stars outline the longer part of the cross.

### Bright Vega Flashing

Almost on the skyline, and to the right of the Northern Cross, note the flashing of the bright Vega in the Harp of Orpheus. And almost overhead the five stars forming the W of Cassiopeia are easily spotted. (It looks more like an M in this position.)

High in the southeast, the finest of all star groups, Orion, the Hunter, rules the winter heavens. Notice the short line of three moderately bright stars running down a little to the left of vertical. This is Orion's belt. Surrounding the belt and forming a large four-sided figure we find four prominent stars, two quite bright. The reddish one above is Betelgeuse in the hunter's shoulder; the brilliant white one below, Rigel, the shoe buckle.

### Sirius Lower

Considerably lower than and to the left of Orion there scintillates brilliant Sirius in the Big Dog. Somewhat higher and farther east, Procyon in the Little Dog is prominent. Above glowing Jupiter in the east Polux and Castor extend upward in the order mentioned. Very high in the east yellow Capella sparkles. South of Capella orange Aldebaran is one member of the V-shaped Hyades. A little south of overhead the tiny dipper of the little Pleiades stars is bewitching.

# Is That So?

By Eugene Burns  
Ranger-Naturalist

To live in desert and badlands, animals and plants have made fantastic adaptations. Surprisingly, their adjustments have much in common, as witness:

To avoid the drying heat of the sun, many desert animals spend most of the life below in the cool, damp earth. Many of these have become professional burrowers with limbs wonderfully well adapted for their underground existence.

Likewise, a good share of the stunted desert plants' existence, such as the sagebrush, is underground. It is not unusual for a



plant only two feet high above ground to have an enormous network of roots going down refreshingly cool, damp ground.

Animals such as the lion, coyote, hyena, desert fox, most insects, scorpions and spiders seek shade or shelter during the heat of the day when evaporation is at a maximum and become active when the comparatively dew-laden cool night air acts as a check to evaporation.

Desert plants of course, cannot find shade but they at least droop their leaves, turning them edgewise to the broiling midday sun. Come evening, their leaves unfold, blossom open, and their withheld fragrance is now poured upon the night air—when the night loving insects abound.

### Do Away With Leaves

Other plants do away with their leaves entirely and have thick stems which retard evaporation. Spines are frequent.

Just like the spiny cactuses, many lizards have developed thick impervious skins. Some reptiles, like the gila monster, have spines. Others, thick scales. Desert beetles have hard wing-covers which form a sheath over the greater part of the body to protect against the loss of water. As a result, like the cactuses, they do not mind the intense glare of the daytime sun.

Most desert plants have devised methods of storing water in their thick-skinned stems, notably the candle-like cactuses of Arizona. Likewise many animals such as tortoises and lizards and a few frogs store water in various organs and cavities within their bodies. A better-known one, of course, is the camel which drinks deeply when water is available and then can live for a considerable time off the water stored in its body (not the hump).

In contrast to most broad-

leafed trees of the rainy areas, desert plants give off comparatively little water through transpiration.

### Most Dry Skinned

So, too, few moist-skinned animals live in the desert. Most are dry skinned, such as birds, reptiles, some mammals such as antelope, gazelles and several small rodents, and many insects. To all practical purposes, these have no sweat glands to cool off their body surfaces.

In areas where there are seasonal rains with long intervening dry spells, both plants and animals crowd tremendous activity into the short damp season and then become dormant during the draught or die leaving behind them seeds to carry on their species. During the rainy season, some of these plants, such as the watermelon, produce succulent leaves and sometimes fruits containing considerable amounts of water despite the dry surroundings. Others send buds into the soil, then die out as the surface dries out. Other short-lived plants, true ephemerals, run through their entire life history from seed to seed with incredible rapidity.

Again, what do animals do? Like the plants, some have a tremendously accelerated growth during the rainy season. Their reproductive stage is reached rapidly and they lay eggs or reproduce their kind, then bury themselves in the clay or baked mud where they become dormant during the draught—perhaps even for several years as do some snails, when necessary. Certainly, not unlike the underground-stored buds. Other animals lay eggs and die—thus despite the shortage of food and water, the species lives on as do the plants' seeds.

(Copyright 1954, by Eugene Burns)  
(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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 30-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 Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

### President To Recommend 90-Cent Minimum Wage

Augusta, Ga.—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower will recommend in his State of the Union message to Congress on Jan. 6 that the national minimum wage be increased from 75 cents to 90 cents an hour.

Sen. Wayne Morse (Ind.-Ore.) recently recommended that the minimum wage be boosted to \$1 an hour.

117 SO. CENTRAL

Montgomery Ward

PHONE 2-6241

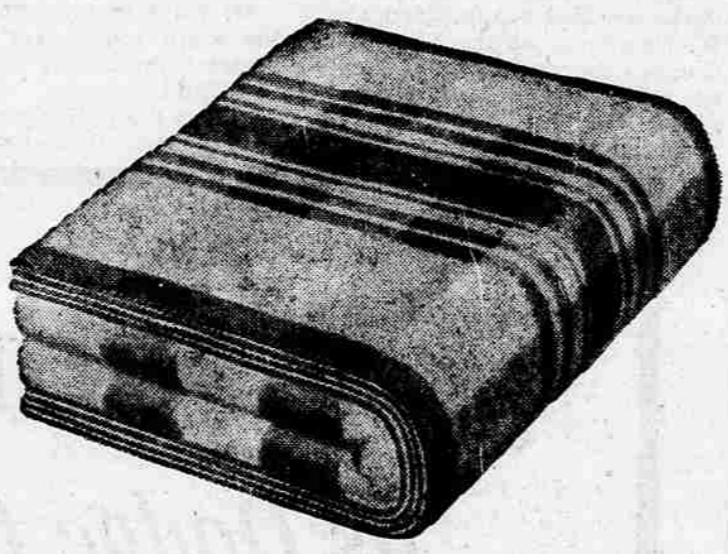
# WARDS WHITE SALE

**SAVE ON WARDS OWN SHEETS**

<b>1.63</b> 81x108"	<b>1.97</b> 81x108"
LONGWEAR—Made to Wards strict standards. 132 thread muslin bleached snowy white. 81x99" SHEET—Stock up now <u>1.53</u> 72x99" SHEET 1.47; PILLOWCASE, 42x36" 37c	TREASURE CHEST—Our best white muslin sheets woven with 145 heavy cotton threads per sq. in. 72x108" SHEET—For this sale only <u>1.77</u> PILLOWCASE, 42x36" <u>43c</u>

**CANNON SHEETS CUT-PRICED**

<b>1.97</b> Full Size	<b>2.47</b> 81x108"
FITTED BOTTOM SHEETS—Fit smoothly, stay wrinkle-free, save you precious time too. 132 thread muslin for plenty of long wear. Buy now & save. TWIN SIZE—Big Savings now <u>1.77</u>	PASTEL COLORED SHEETS—beautiful shades of blue, green, lilac, pink or yellow to brighten the bedroom. 132-thread muslin for wear. Save now. 72x108" SHEET 2.27; PILLOWCASE, 42x36" 53c



## SAVE 20% ON BLANKETS

### REGULAR 1.69 BLANKET

For this sale only you save 20%. Fleecy cotton, woven with a soft nap for comfortable warmth—ideal as an extra blanket on cold nights. Choose decorator pastel plaids. 70x80".

**1.27**

### REG. 1.98 SHEET BLANKET

A real value—soft, warm cotton sheet blanket now bleached snowy-white. 70x95 inches. 80x95", Reg. 2.49—Now only 1.97 72x95", Reg. 2.89—Pastels 2.17

**1.57**

### REG. 4.98 10% NYLON

Save over \$1 on this famous Pepperell blend of 90% rayon for lustrous color, 10% nylon for added strength and wear. Deep-napped for cozy warmth when winter winds blow. 72x84.

**3.97**

### REGULAR 7.59 10% WOOL

Now you save 1.41... really an outstanding value—its high brushed nap makes this pastel plaid blanket look far costlier. 90% rayon with 10% wool added to give extra warmth. 72x90"

**5.97**

## BEDDING—DOMESTICS

Reg. 3.29 Mattress Pad of quilted muslin over cotton. Bleached. Full size **2.84**

Reg. 2.29 Mattress Pad of quilted muslin over cotton. Bleached. Twin **1.94**

Reg. 3.98 Mattress Cover. Twin or full. Zippered. Sanforized. **2.97**

Reg. 6.98 Fitted Mattress Pad. Save 22%. Bleached white. Full. **5.44**

Reg. 5.98 Fitted Mattress Pad. Save 26%. Bleached. Sanforized. Twin **4.44**

Save on Pillow Tubing that's woven seamless. Bleached muslin. 42 inches **54¢** yd.

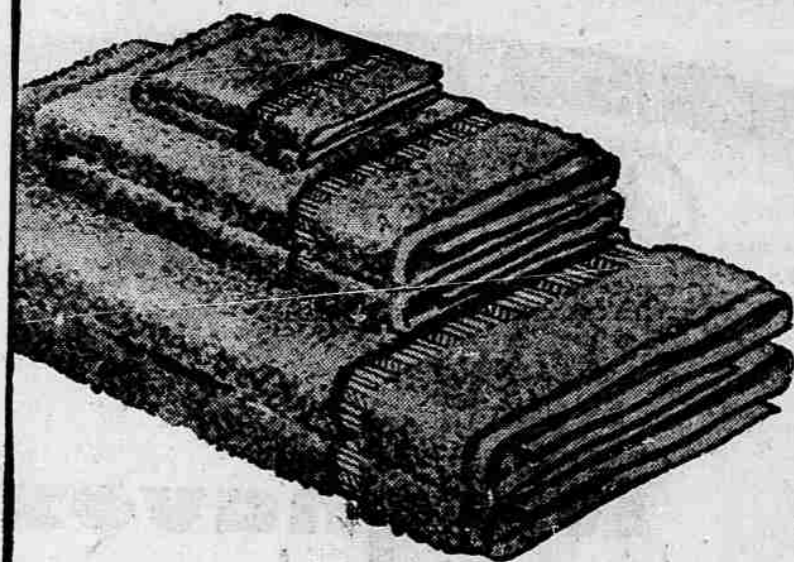
Unbleached Muslin for many uses, including pillowcases. 36 inches wide. **17¢** yd.

Reg. 35c yard Bleached Muslin. Finest quality for long sturdy wear. 36" **27¢** yd.

Reg. 6 for 59c Cannon Dish Cloths. Open mesh weave cotton. 15x17". **6 for 47¢**

Reg. 25c Flour Sack Towels. Bleached, absorbent. Many uses. About 30x30". **5 for 97¢**

Regular 42c Yc. Stevens Toweling. Sturdy, bleached linen. 17 in. wide. **34¢** yd.



## SEE THESE TOWEL SPECIALS

### USUAL 98c BATH TOWEL

Only a Special Purchase makes this 35% savings possible. Famous Cannon's fluffy, absorbent bath towels. Decorator colors. 22x40".  
USUAL 59c FACE TOWEL.....44c  
USUAL 29c WASH CLOTH.....24c

**64¢**

### REG. 1.59 BATH TOWEL

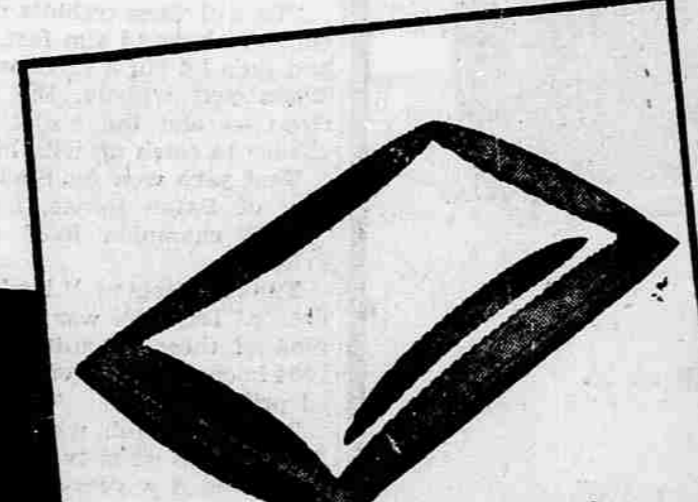
Here's your chance to save on famous Callaway's "Chatham" pattern: fluffy, absorbent terry, with a neat dobby border. 22x44".  
REGULAR 89c FACE TOWEL.....74c  
REGULAR 35c WASH CLOTH.....27c

**1.24**

### USUAL 49c BATH TOWEL

Buy now and save. Wards Special Purchase saves you important money during this event only. Choose from bright gay plaids to decorate your bathroom decor. Absorbent, fluffy cotton terry dries you in a jiffy. 20x40".

**37¢**



## LOWEST PRICE EVER! 5.95 FOAM LATEX PILLOW

**4.95**

Lowest price in Wards history for this 18x26-in. Pillow with 5-in. thick pure rubber core. Never mats down. Percale zip cover. Buy a pair now—sale ends soon!

6.95 FOAM LATEX PILLOW  
19x27-in. size with 6-in. pure rubber core. Never mats down. **5.88**

7.95 GOOSE DOWN PILLOW  
Filled with European Goose Down for restful comfort. 20x26-in. **6.88**

### REG. 5.98 CHENILLE

**4.37**

Our lowest price ever... save 1.61. Bring new color into your bedroom with this fluffy, floral-scrolled Chenille Spread. Floral on white or colored ground, or all solid in modern design.

Not Shown: Reg. 3.98. Plain Chenille. Save over \$1 now.

**2.87**



## RENT A New PIANO or ORGAN

### On A Rental-Sales Plan

You may rent a new Baldwin or Wurlitzer Piano or a Hammond Chord or Spinnet Organ for as long as six months and have the rental apply on the purchase of the instrument if you so desire.

## PURUCKER PIANO HOUSE

111 North Central • Phone 2-5702