

# Is That So?

By Eugene Burns  
Ranger-Naturalist



While we toast before warm fires during winter evenings, the warm-blooded animals of the outdoors have made marvelous adjustments to the stinging cold of winter and the scarcity of food.

Many have migrated from mountains to valleys, others have gone to warmer climes where food is plentiful; some have undergone a bodily change putting on heavier fur or feathers — sometimes of a protective color; others have insulated themselves with a layer of fat; countless others have entered into a big sleep.

The most unusual adaption, perhaps, is the one we are least aware of — the deep sleep. It varies: with some it is a profound sleep, near death, for seven months of the year during which time the heart-beat and breathing stop for minutes at a time and the body temperatures drop to within a couple degrees of freezing. And despite the added cold, most mammals eat less.

The intensity of this winter sleep is a highly individual matter — family has nothing to do with it, but the geographic location seems to.

In the north the groundhog goes below decks earlier than his kinfolk of the deep south. In Quebec it may be the middle of September while in the South it may be late in December. In the high mountain tops of Idaho, the badger may hibernate by mid-October and not appear until mid-April; in lower elevations, say from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, he may disappear by January 1 and seldom reappear until mid-March; in the southwest he may not hibernate at all.

Among the most profound sleepers are the ground squirrels (not the tree squirrels, close family relatives), some woodchucks, some bats, the prairie dogs, jumping mice, etc. With these hibernation is almost a sleep of death.

Dig out a ground squirrel from its burrow and it will be as limp

and inert as if its neck were broken. Respiration and heart beat are scarcely perceptible. It is cold to the touch — perhaps within a degree of freezing. It can be shaken and dropped on a table without waking. A female ground squirrel has been known to sleep for 33 weeks out of 52. Perhaps she out-classes all other mammals in this sleep marathon.

### Other Deep Sleepers

Some of the non-migratory northern bats and the dormouse (the prefix dor means sleeps) are also deep sleepers. Although the bats tend to hang themselves up, upside down, in great clusters of hundreds and thousands, the little dormouse builds himself a neat little house of dry grass and then, once inside, seals the entrance so carefully that there is not the slightest hint of a joint or a weakness. And then it sleeps soundly.

The skunk, racoon, badger and opossum become torpid for several weeks but even so they often venture forth during mild periods. They are quite easily roused.

Even lighter winter sleepers are the squirrels and chipmunks. The chipmunk wakens quite often and gets something to eat and the red squirrel goes into winter seclusion only as a last resort, preferring to remain abroad all winter.

Bears in Middle Standing somewhere in the middle are the bears. In the far north, the female polar bear may go into seclusion under a mound of snow every two or three years when she gives birth to a tiny young but the male plods stolidly about. Farther south, the female black or brown bear tends to den up at the ad-

# Bloodmobile Visit Slated Feb. 8th

The next blood collection in Medford will be on Tuesday, Feb. 8, it was announced Saturday by a Red Cross spokesman.

The goal to be sought during the visit of the bloodmobile is 300 pints. Since the bloodmobile visits every other month, and since the use of blood in Jackson county amounts to about 100 to 150 pints per month, the amount sought here is only about enough to take care of local needs, the spokesman said.

As in the past, the blood program will be at the Elks temple from 1 to 6 p.m. Appointments can be made starting later in the week by calling 3-3813.

vent of sub-freezing temperatures while the adult males are less likely to go to sleep and when they do, usually for a shorter period of time.

The beginnings of hibernation are apparent in birds: nearly all eat about two-thirds less in winter than in summer — as do most mammals, and very many, like man's domesticated poultry, store up fat prior to winter's cold.

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Celery seeds are light brown in color and small in size, rarely exceeding 1-16th of an inch in length.



**FOUND GUILTY**—Claude Lightfoot and his wife, Gertrude, wait outside Federal Court in Chicago during a recess. Lightfoot, executive secretary of the Illinois Communist Party, was tried on charges of being a Communist under an untested section of the Smith Act which makes membership in the organization illegal. It was the government's first attempt to prove that mere membership in the Communist Party is a crime. After eight hours deliberation, the jury found him guilty.

# Heavens and Heaven

BY J. HUGH PRUETT  
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The one who studies the starry skies is often expected to give information which is entirely outside his field of endeavor. Some feel that he should be able to solve theological difficulties since his telescopes extend vision seemingly almost to where the waters of time lap on the shores of eternity.

The vast expanse of the starry universe is absolutely incomprehensible to mortal mind. A ray of light travels a distance in one second equal to over seven times the circumference of the earth. From the moon, light comes to us in about 1 1/3 seconds; from the sun, in eight minutes; from the most distant planet, in five hours. These distances involved are enormous.

But beyond our solar system light from the nearest star, itself a sun, requires 4.3 years; from other parts of our own star system, in 100, 10,000 and even 100,000 years. The largest telescope brings light to us from outside galaxies in one million, 100 million and even two billion years. And there is no indication that the end has been reached.

It is unfortunate that "the heavens" and "heaven" are terms almost alike while they are so different in meaning. What we can see above us without optical aid appears to be a blue dome, not very far away, which is set with multitudes of stars. Many ancient peoples considered this firmament to be a solid dividing surface. Below it birds flew and clouds

floated; above it was the abode of the Deity and the spirits of the blessed.

Thought Material Place The dividing surface was called "the heavens"; the space immediately above it was "heaven." Heaven was thought to be definitely a material place above the world, and was divided into various heights. One new Testament writer spoke of the "third heaven." The Mohammedan Koran was said to have come down from the "seventh heaven."

Some today believe this earth will finally be heaven. Others conjecture that this honor will fall to one of the planets or to some region far beyond the Milky Way in the region of another galaxy—or even beyond all galaxies. There are limitless possibilities for locations in our vast universe.

Entirely Spiritual A second view is that heaven is purely a superstition of child-like faith without any reality of any kind. A third group holds that heaven is not material but entirely spiritual in nature. They believe that after "crossing the bar" we move "from out our bourne of time and place."

The Study of astronomy is primarily concerned with material locations, although wonder aroused may well lead to interesting speculations. But never has astronomy been able to give any light on the location of "heaven." No telescope has detected such a place. Such discussions surely belong mostly in the realms of philosophy and religion.

# Fire Damages Old Jacksonville House

Jacksonville — Fire originating from an uninsulated stovepipe damaged the E. E. Evans home at 410 East California St. Saturday morning, Jacksonville volunteer firemen reported. Damage from the fire and water was confined mainly to the west end of the large two-story frame house.

Most of the furnishings were believed to have been saved, according to the report.

About 10 firemen and others assisted at the blaze.

The residence is one of the big, old homes built during the heyday of Jacksonville as gold rush town and county seat.

# Two-Year-Old Wounded By Accidental Gunshot

Oregon City — (U.P.)—A two-year-old was accidentally shot in his leg by his father here Friday night.

Victim of the shooting was Arthur Dale Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Edwards of Boring. Edwards told police he had just cleaned his gun and was showing his wife how to operate it when it discharged.

# Northwest Machinists Study Negotiations

Tacoma — (U.P.)—AFL Machinists from Oregon and Washington met here Friday to map a program for coming negotiations with employers in the two states.

J. L. McBreen of Portland, general vice-president of the AFL International Association of Machinists, said action was taken to request a minimum wage increase of 15 cents an hour and to correct inequities wherever they exist.

# Woodworkers Give OK To Wage Boost Plan

Spokane — (U.P.)—CIO International Woodworkers union members employed by seven Spokane firms voted Friday night to accept new contracts including wage increases of 7 1/2 cents an hour.

O. D. Armstrong, union business agent, said the firms employ about 500 union members. The contracts are retroactive to Jan. 1 and extend to April 1, 1956.

# EMPLOYMENT UP

Salem — (U.P.)—Employment in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area increased 1300 to 239,800 last month but remained 2900 below December, 1953, the State Unemployment Compensation Commission said Saturday.

# Overnight Response to Aid Appeal for Family Reported

Valley residents responded overnight to a call to help the Belle Akins family, whose home at 547 Effie St., burned Thursday.

The family now has a home in the same neighborhood, and most of the needed furnishings for it. Mrs. Akins and her four children lost everything in the fire except the clothes they were wearing at the time.

Though the family may still need some more furnishings and apparel, they have been generously aided, according to the sister-in-law, Mrs. Charles Akins, Jacksonville, in whose home the

family stayed after the fire. Sheets and pillow cases, and shoes for the boy, Bill, 9, are still lacking.

The other children are, Nancy, 12, Martha, 10, and Frances, 6. "Everyone was wonderful," Mrs. Charles Akins, remarked. Many brought clothing, bedding, dishes and other items to the Jacksonville home, and others delivered items to neighbors on Effie street in Medford.

Many of those who gave to the family are neighbors and school friends of the children, but many were persons unknown to the

family. Schoolmates of one of the children divided their clothing for the child.

**BANDITS GET \$1,000**  
Portland — (U.P.)—Two bandits held up a supermarket here Friday night and escaped with loot estimated near \$1,000.

**WEATHER** By United Press  
Northern California: Increasing high cloudiness tonight and Sunday.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

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## Limited Privilege Fees

Hi Y or Tri-Hi-Y Clubs (Teenagers)	\$1.00 per year
All Youth Council Socials	1.00 per year
(Classes as Follow Available for Those Enlisting for \$1.00 or More)	
As Basic Membership Dues	
Women's Swimming Instructions, 10 lessons	5.00
Men's Swimming Instruction, 10 lessons	5.00
Women's Gymnasium Class, 10 lessons	5.00
Men's Volleyball	2.00 per month
Men's Basketball	2.00 per month
Craft Instruction	5.00 per course
Square Dance Lessons, 10 lessons	5.00 per couple
Square Dance Club	5.00 per year
Tot's Swimming (with mothers) 10 lessons	5.00
Young Adults Group	5.00 per year

## Full Privilege Membership Dues

Boys and Girls (9-14)	5.00
High School Boys and Girls (15-18)	7.00
Young Men (18-21)	15.00
Women (18 up)	15.00
Senior Men (21 up)	20.00
Family	30.00
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