

# POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

A friend tells us he was sitting in a local coffee shop last week, sipping at a cup. Only the waitress, another customer and one other big guy were around.

The big guy made a remark to the waitress which, because this is a family newspaper, we can't print. The waitress calmly asked him to repeat his statement. He did. She then hauled off with a strong right arm and slugged him on the side of the face so hard he spun around and his coffee cup flew the length of the counter.

He looked at her in surprise and sheepishly shambled off.

That we would like to have seen. Our friend said it made him feel good all day.

**Spotted Friday evening:** One of Medford's better-known television set dealers, standing in line to see a late movie, listening to the basketball game from KYJC on a small portable radio.

Two staff members, talking shop last week, were discussing another daily in the state which seems to have a proclivity for long and involved "leads," or first paragraphs, in its local stories. So, when the time came for one of them to write a story about the Bigham family (which appears on Page 12 of today's paper), he decided to try his hand at this type of writing. This is what he came up with:

"The Bigham family of Jackson county, which is believed to have a record unsurpassed by any one family for 4-H club leadership in the state of Oregon, was given special recognition at the 21st annual 4-H leaders conference in Corvallis this past week which two of the family, Mrs. Mary Bigham Myers of Central Point and J. W. Bigham of Eagle Point, were able to attend as heads of the Jackson county delegation and at which tribute was paid to Mrs. Myers, who has had 20 years of leading 4-H clubs, and J. W. (Bill) Bigham, with 16 years, who today is the most active member of the family, which has established a record of 74 years of 4-H club leadership in this county, a record to be justly proud of."

That's a real sentence. And he managed even to end it with a preposition.

City Engineer Ed McKinstry, whose red tie and red vest were mentioned in this space recently, has a new addition—his new bowling ball is red and black.

If anyone has some real red shoes for sale, we think we know who might buy them.

One of our printers is also a part-time farmer. Last week his cow had a calf, but the baby was born dead. To take advantage of the milk situation, our printer bought another calf, but the mother cow would have nothing to do with it.

So what did the printer do? He hauled out a jug of molasses and coated the new calf liberally with it. The cow proceeded to lick the molasses all off.

She's now thoroughly convinced that good-tasting calf must be her own. Everybody's happy.

Not long ago Conger-Morris funeral home was assigned a new telephone number. It so happened that this number recently had been relinquished by the United Air lines office here.

Last week the C-M's phone rang, and City Public Works Director Vern Thorpe dutifully reported:

"I'd like to cancel my reservation for tomorrow, please."

The long arm of coincidence: We just learned that two Medford families at Christmas received identical fine German-made 400-gay clocks from abroad from their respective sons. Second Lt. Bill Perl sent his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perl, one of the glass-enclosed timepieces from England, where he is with the Air Force, and Second Lt. Fitzhugh Brewer Jr. sent one to the senior Brewer from Germany, where he is with a heavy artillery unit.

Coincidence enters the picture through the fact that although the young officers are close friends, and graduated from Medford High school together, they had not discussed their choice of presents, and neither knew the other had chosen the same object until much later.

During city council meeting last week, discussion was centered on signs prohibiting right - turns at certain hours. Councilman Jack Fitzgerald asked City Attorney Frank Farrell how drivers who violate the rules will be punished.

"We'll draw and quarter 'em," said Farrell.

"That's all I wanted to know," Fitzgerald replied.

A lady who moved here recently from the midwest not long ago remarked how friendly and generous and neighborly people are in the Rogue valley.

She's right. This fact has been borne out in recent weeks, with rather startling impact. Two families, burned out of their homes, have been swamped with gifts of needed articles as soon as a hint of their need appeared in the paper.

Another family in the Eagle Point area, who lost their house and almost all their possessions, will be helped by a church benefit social.

The Assembly of God church has been overwhelmed with gifts of old Christmas cards and stamps, which they use in overseas mission work, after a small item told of the need.

The Dorcas society of the Medford Seventh-day Adventist church gave out some 300 garments, 3 quilts and 5 blankets on a single day not long ago, and later, also in one day, gave out 142 more garments, a quilt and material for two more quilts, and a blanket.

This has about depleted their supply of bedding materials, and they need more. In view of the record, we have a hunch that if that need is made known, they will get more. They also need clothes for children—particularly shoes.

Arrangements to make such donations can be made by telephoning Mrs. A. J. Miracle, 2-7206, or Mrs. E. F. Archer, 2-6546. If they don't get them from this mention, they may have to organize a house-to-house canvass, because there is a constant call on them for such things by those in need.

## HUNTERS DUCK GOLD

St. Louis—(U.P.)—Four duck hunters made good use of their duck blind in a recent cold snap. Marooned in nearby Alton Lake when their boat was sunk by high waves, they burned the blind piece-by-piece while awaiting rescue.



ANGERED over newspaper article on tax reduction, Edgar Faure (above), who became French Foreign Minister when Premier Pierre Mendes-France gave up post, challenges Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, editor of weekly "Express" to duel. Editor accepted. (International)

## Unusually Light Snowfall Reported From Crater Park

Crater Lake National Park has experienced unusually light snowfall so far this winter, Park Superintendent Thomas J. Williams reported from park headquarters Friday. The snow pack is far behind that recorded last year.

Figures compiled by the ranger department and based on monthly snow surveys made by park rangers in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, show the total depth of snow at park headquarters to be 79 inches compared to a depth of 142 inches at this time last year. The water content of the snow pack is only 27.1 inches, fully 16 inches below that which was recorded for 1954. The unusually dry snow which fell early in the season contributed to the low moisture total.

## Two Courses

Two snow courses are located in the park and are carefully measured each month. The resultant figures are sent to the Soil Conservation Service in Portland, where, with other such survey data, computations are made which permit an accurate estimate of water stored in the major watersheds and from which the summer runoff can be predicted. These figures are of tremendous value to the farmer, industry, and recreationalist alike.

Although many months of winter are yet ahead of us, including the normally heavy snowfall months of February and March, the early snows are the ones that assure the best water storage. The reason for this is that the early snows are compressed almost into ice by the weight of succeeding snowfalls, with the result of slower melting in spring and summer. Late snowfalls are generally "rotten" because of lack of compaction, melt rapidly, and provide no long term storage.

## Walla Walla Paint Shop Hit by \$200,000 Blaze

Walla Walla—(U.P.)—A fire fed by gas and paint broke out in the paint shop of the Tex Brotherton Motor Co., here early Saturday and caused damage estimated at \$200,000.

All the city's fire-fighting equipment was called out to battle the blaze which was discovered at 12:30 a.m. and raged out of control for about two hours.

## Is That So?

By Eugene Burns  
Ranger-Naturalist

For those of the wild, every passing cloud exerts some influence — even more do prolonged sunlight or darkness, unusual warmth or cold, flood or drought, wind or calm. To some, the change of weather may insure life: to others, it may bring death.

Snow, too, can be either beneficial or harmful.

Being at least nine-tenths air, snow is a wonderful insulator—keeping out the cold and holding in the heat. As a result, it provides protection for many small animals that are covered by it. A snowshoe rabbit, for example, will hump himself and let the snow cover him. In humping himself, he fluffs out his hair, already winter-thickened, and it provides more air spaces close to his body. Then the snow covering adds the double insulation against the cold—air-filled fur and air-filled snow. As well, a large assemblage of small animals, notably rodents, tunnel under the blanket of snow among or near the underlying mosses or grasses to reach buried food, besides getting protection from winter's

## Auto Test, Repair Shop to be Opened

N. L. Thompson has opened a new test and repair shop at the corner of 13th st. and South Riverside ave.

Thompson has installed equipment to make tests necessary to inform the car owner the exact condition of his motor. He will test and repair all makes of cars.

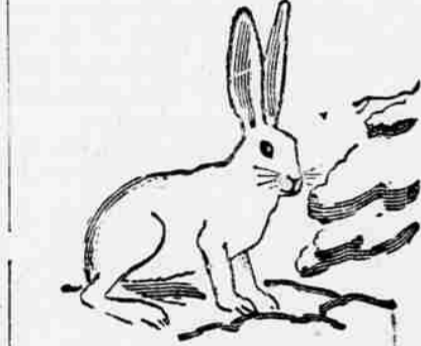
For the past two years Thompson has travelled extensively to train service men to operate testing equipment. Before that he managed automotive dealers service departments for 15 years. The new shop is located with the Associated Service operated by B. J. Staats Jr.

sharp bite. Some of these tunnelers, such as the lemmings of our far north, keep active all winter beneath the snow, even mating, giving birth, and rearing young. Serves as Stepladder

To a number of animals who run across its top, like the cottontail, the rising snow serves as a stepladder—a reach higher after each snowfall—enabling them to browse on otherwise unfavorable twigs and woody stems.

Although howling blizzard and freezing rain may spell doom to many, including grouse which hurl themselves into the soft snow for their night's sleep, these disasters may be a boon to others. The wind tears off tips of boughs, and the sleet, forming loads of ice on branches, bends them to the ground or rips them off. The abundance of twigs, buds, and bits of bark which break with the storm, combined with the bent-over saplings and boughs may supply starved deer enough food to make them plump within a fortnight. Besides, the twisted tangles of bent or broken trees and shrubs give the small wild-life countless new hiding places.

For the hibernators, the snow acts not only as a protective



covering, but it also makes a much for plants which are thus preserved for food when the sleeping animals wake.

To turn the leaf now, snow claims a fearful death-toll. The

rigors of the cold which accompanies snow—and particularly the scarcity of food often create unsurmountable hardships and death.

## Toll Becomes Larger

To begin with, migration and hibernation—really induced by the rigors of winter, including snow—have taken many mammals out of circulation for the meat-eaters. Hence, for the meat-eaters, which are not given to migration or hibernation, the prey remaining is relatively scarce in winter; so a much greater concentration is exerted upon the small group available. As a result, day by day, the toll of the small mammals becomes larger. And as each individual is withdrawn from the living to become food for the predators, so much greater the pressure upon those remaining.

With the first heavy snowfall, food for most birds becomes relatively scarce. For the seed-eaters, almost all seeds are covered. Without food, their bodies cannot be kept at their relatively high temperatures for long. Hence, should you find a dead bird on a cold morning with heavy snow on the ground, you may be almost certain that its stomach is empty.

## Heavy Crust Saves Lives

Thawing and freezing and a fall of sleet may produce a hard crust of snow. If it is hard enough to carry heavy game, it may save their lives in forested areas where they can reach higher for food. On the prairies and tundras, however, it may be difficult for them to paw through to the food.

Where they break through, often their large-footed predators can run over it—bringing death. At such times, white-tailed deer and moose may band together in a group of a dozen or more, to break trails and get to a small feeding area, called a "yard," in which the snow can be kept packed down wholly or in part.

Taking advantage of the yarding of caribou, the willow ptarmigan often keeps near the herd during winter months to

get food that is often deeply buried under snow.

So too with other weather changes—flood or drought, wind or calm, warmth or cold. Each casts its shadow of destiny, favorably or unfavorably, upon those of the wild.

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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.

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But the big, handsome automobile you see here swept by without so much as a sign of recognition! For it is a new 1955 Cadillac—and its owner knows that he can travel from his morning's start until his evening's stop without a single refueling.

Of course, when a motorist decides to order his first Cadillac, he isn't usually aware that the car is so economical to operate—or that it is so practical to own.

He wants a Cadillac for what it is and represents—and for the great pride and pleasure it will bring him.

But it isn't long before he discovers where his pride has led him!

He discovers it first when he prices the Cadillac of his choice. Invariably, he is surprised at its relatively modest cost. Not infrequently, he finds that it actually costs less than the car he is currently driving.

And then, once his Cadillac is delivered, he discovers how frugal it is with a gallon of gasoline. He finds, as we said, that a full tank is sufficient for a full day's drive.

Next, he learns of Cadillac's extraordinary dependability. In fact, he often has to be reminded when the time has come for routine service.

But not until he surrenders his Cadillac to its second owner does he discover the full wonder of Cadillac's economy. For then he learns how amazingly it holds its value—and how little a year's service affects the public's regard for the car.

All this is to say, of course, that you don't have to follow your pride to the "car of cars." You can, if you prefer, make your decision solely on the basis of economy—and still buy a Cadillac!

Come in soon—and see for yourself! We've got the facts—and we'll be delighted to see you at any time!

## SKINNER'S GARAGE

143 SOUTH RIVERSIDE — MEDFORD PHONE 2-6264