

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

"There are birds like the albatross which remains on the ocean for days at a stretch without touching land, right? And seals that stay in the ocean for months at a stretch, right? And the whale who spends his whole lifetime at sea, right? Well then, where do these animals get their fresh water to drink? Particularly the birds," writes J.R.T.

You are right, J.R.T. But besides these birds, seals and whales, there are many other warm-blooded animals that spend days, weeks, months and



years at sea. Sea snakes, too, for that matter. Several in the Indian and Pacific oceans spend all of their lives at sea except to come ashore to lay their eggs. As for the whale, it may touch shore a few times in its lifetime to rub the huge barnacles off its rough hide.

As for drinking water, all these—whales, birds, snakes and

seals drink ocean water with impunity—water which might make a strictly land-bound dweller sick.

How do these animals avoid illness? Quite likely it has been a long and gradual adaptation. They may have started drinking ocean water millions of years ago when the sea was still fresh. Or at worst, slightly brackish. And as it became saltier during the eons, they made the adjustment generation by generation until today they thrive on it.

But the reverse can be true, too. Animals accustomed to salt water can gradually adapt themselves to fresh water. This happened in Central America. There a large body of salt water was cut off from the ocean and became a lake. With the torrential downpour of the tropics and the heavy overflow, the captured salt water became diffused, then brackish and finally an almost fresh water lake as it is today. And in it, there were several imprisoned water fish, including sharks, which gradually made the transition from salt to fresh water fish.

But then, salmon, trout, and sturgeon make the run from fresh water to salt and then back again to fresh during their lifetime—in fact, some may make it several times.

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 true-life nature adventure, or the best nature observation, or 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 submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: IS THAT SO? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

San Francisco (U.P.)—Crown Zellerbach Corporation said today it would build a \$2,000,000 multiwall bag plant as a companion to its projected Kraft paper mill at Antioch, Calif.

On The Side

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

By E. V. Durling

Dream Team

Am still figuring out my all time men born under Leo ball club. When completed it will definitely prove the best ball players are born under Leo. I originally had Leo Durocher at shortstop. I have replaced him and now have the name of Joe Tinker at that position. I need three other infielders then I will have my Leo dream team.

Making Change

In Los Angeles it is a rule of bus and street car companies that operators are required to make change for all bills up to \$5. However, the operators are not furnished with change at the start of a run. If the \$5 bills are presented early in the run the driver has to make the change out of his own funds. Give the drivers a break whenever you ride the bus or street car. Have the right change ready. Also consider the delay caused by an operator of a one man bus making change for \$5.

Sidelights

In a fourteen year period over 2,000,000 Irish left their native land to come to this country and stay here. That was between 1846 and 1860. Add to famous house numbers in Manhattan—221 West 26th st. That was once a film studio. Mary Pickford worked there in the production of the hit film, "Tess of the Storm Country."

Says She

It was Deborah Kerr who said, "As to what is a desirable woman I do not believe in the popular conception of a bosomy wench with a leer and a wiggle and very little else. Some of the actresses who are most like that on the screen or stage are privately about as passionate as a bucket of ice cubes. Being warm and alive and human—that's what makes a woman desirable. A human woman is a sexy woman and a truly sexy woman is human."

PORTLANDER KILLED

Wausau, Wis. (U.P.)—Axel W. Swanson, 65, of Portland, Ore., died at a hospital here yesterday of injuries received in a two-car collision near Shawano, Wis., last Friday.

Eye Catcher

An advertisement including a recipe always attracts feminine attention. So I have heard it claimed by those who should know. Might be a good idea for a hotel or restaurant to give this angle serious thought. For example, I believe an advertisement that would attract much attention would be one headed, "How Do You Make Shoo-Fly Pie?" The recipe to be in the advertisement. Another eye catcher for a similar advertisement would be "Does Your Wife Know How to Make Angels on Horseback?" With the recipe for that delightful dish in the advertisement.

Asking

Queries from clients. Q. How old was Harry Thaw at the time of his death? A. Thaw died in 1947 at 76. . . . Q. Who was the producer of the burlesque troupe of the past known as the "Beef Trust"? What was the average weight of the chorus girls in this show? A. Billy Watson was the "Beef Trust" producer. His chorus girls weighed an average of 200 pounds. . . . Q. Has there ever been a one-armed professional ballplayer? A. Pete Gray, who played professionally about 10 years ago, had only one arm. He was a very good hitter.

Asides

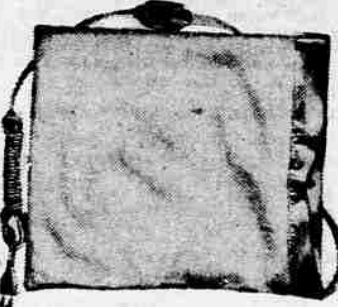
Pay Gay and Motion Horton of the My Name Is a Poem Club each recently wagered on a noble animal with the rhyming name of Weed Seed. The horse, running in Chicago, came in first paying \$50.80 for \$2. . . . John Werth of Brooklyn has been a member of Typographical Union No. 6 (Big Six) for 65 years and has never worked outside of New York City.

Friday, September 16, 1955

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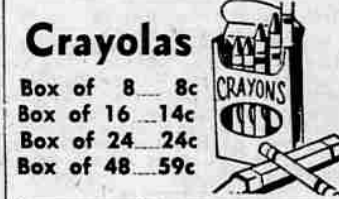
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