

Is That So?

Peaceful, placid as a snow-covered mountain slope may seem, inherent within the piled-up snowfield are tremendously destructive forces; and this coming winter and spring tens of thousands of avalanches made of this soft yielding snow will carry trees, rocks, houses, animals—everything before them to destruction.

Against the fury of these thunderbolts of snow, man is suddenly reduced to a matchstick.

The makings of these destructive snow torrents are simple: a slope steeper than 20 degrees; an accumulation of snow, layer upon layer, heavy enough so that the force of gravity is stronger than the force of adhesion; and an impulse. That is all—and the snowfield wrinkles, slides and grows in size and speed with frightening rapidity.

The slightest impulse can trigger this terrible fury: the tread of a snowshoe hare, the thud of a falling pine cone, the happy shout of a skier, a puff of wind, a train whistle, the vibration of the steel rails, or a distant roll of thunder.

Once started, nothing can hinder this sliding mass from falling with tremendous force and burying everything beneath it. The speed often exceeds 100 miles an hour; the mass, in some avalanches, has been estimated to contain five million tons of snow. If the valley into which it slides is narrow, its level may be raised hundreds of feet by a single slide.

The snow's swift down-rush generates its own wind—a terrific wind, the force of which, at its worst, may surpass that of any tropical hurricane. It is strong enough to up-root trees and blow down houses a hundred yards beyond the avalanche itself. Such a wind has been known to topple stone church steeples and annihilate villages, like Randa in the Alps, the blast scattering houses like chaff, even lifting stones and carrying them 200 feet up mountainsides.

As to be expected, this tremendous force is accompanied by sound: first, far up, as the white surface crackles and begins to move, there is a whispering hiss which quickly grows in volume. Within seconds, as the

thousands upon thousands of tons of snow come hurtling down with ever-increasing terrifying speed, the hissing grows



into a deafening roar in which even the snapping of great tree trunks goes unheard. And then as the snow settles, within minutes, all is engulfed in tranquility, a silence in which an escaped chameleon's call comes loud and clear.

Of the many avalanches, two are most common: first, the so-called dust avalanche of winter which is due to an overloading of powder-dry snow and is often started by winds; and, second, the even more common type which occurs in the spring when melting snows make the mountain slopes so slippery that masses of snow, ice, rock and earth are carried down by their own weight. Of the two, because it comes unexpectedly, the dust-powder avalanche is the more dangerous—it is difficult to guard against it.

Most of the earth's avalanches occur in the European Alps. In the U.S., the eastern mountains have few because snow seldom lies deep enough and most of the slopes are wooded with few open slopes long enough or steep enough to be dangerous, but in the west, particularly in the high Rockies, hundreds of slides occur each season. It is nature's way of disposing of heavy snowfalls. Fortunately, most occur in uninhabited areas.

Trains Swept Away
Curiously, I have been a ranger in two widely separated areas in the U.S. where two of the most dangerous avalanches occurred: one in Franconia Notch, N. H., which wiped out a resort area; and a second in the state of Washington, at Wellington, where two trains, three large locomotives, the station building and a water tank were swept over a ledge into a canyon 150 feet below with about 90 people killed. During this same winter, 1910, 17 avalanches involving destruction of life or property, or both, were reported in the mountains of Washington, Idaho and Montana.

The greatest avalanche disaster occurred during World War II. On December 13, 1916, while Italian and Austrian troops were maneuvering against each other in the Dolomites, a warm wind sprang up and within a single day, 105 avalanches occurred, bringing death to 10,000—most of whose bodies were not recovered until the melting snow uncovered them the following summer.

In the open path of a big avalanche man can do little to save himself. If he finds himself on top of it, however, he should make swimming motions with arms and legs in order to reach the edge of the avalanche—a few have ridden them down, and lived.

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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, 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 cannot answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letters to: IS THAT SO? care Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

CIRCUIT COURT
Margaret T. Smith, vs. Clarence L. Smith, divorce complaint.
Winifred Maxine Weikel, vs. Theodore Weikel, divorce complaint.
Virginia Rita Shilzov, vs. Victor Arpad Shilzov, divorce complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Sidney Fred Rapp, 24, Spokane, and Shirley Phyllis Sullivan, 20, of 713 Oak st.

POLICE COURT
Pearl Eileen Anderson, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Joy Olivia Benson, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Charles S. Stevenson, disregarding traffic signal, \$5.
Ralph Lincoln Lohse, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Ray Harvey Unruh, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Lloyd Edna Dyer, failure to stop at stop light, \$5.
Ernest Math Goldt, failure to stop at stop light, \$5.
John William Childers, violation of basic rule, \$10.

DISTRICT COURT
William Thomas Britt, failure to display PUC plates, \$15.
William Ralph Morgan, truck speeding, \$15.
Dwain Allen Richardson, overload, \$17.
Glen Ames Langdale, no mud guards, \$15. (Bail forfeited).
William Hosken Hansen, failure to operate on the right side of the highway, \$10. (Bail forfeited).
Rochester Theodore Arent, passing with insufficient clearance, \$10.
James Curtis Donahue, overload, \$36.
Woodrow Wilson Coxwell, drunk on a public highway, \$15.
Hugh Donald McClure, failure to tag venison, \$3.00.
Elmer Lee Gooker, no clearance lights, \$10. (Bail forfeited).
Delmer B. Gillispie, no emergency brake, \$10. (Bail forfeited).
Ernest George Bursing, no emergency brake, \$10.
Richard Kilmek, overload, \$27.50.
Carl Adrian Nickelson, violation of basic rule, \$30.

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Margaret T. Smith, vs. Clarence L. Smith, divorce complaint.
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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Russian building experts—who are presently touring the United States—visited a housing development in the Boston suburb of Braintree. They were fascinated by an electric oven built into the wall at eye level to make things easier for the housewife.

They gathered around the gadget and Oh'd and Ah'd and pointed and talked and admired. It was obviously as strange to them as a man from Mars would be if he showed up unexpectedly in the middle of an American Main street.

THIS IS the point:
The wall oven idea was thought up by some American free enterpriser who wanted a new selling point for HIS OVEN, so that he could sell more ovens than his competitor.

Nobody would ever have thought up such a thing in Russia.

WHY NOT?
In Russia all the ovens are the GOVERNMENT'S ovens. You take 'em or leave 'em. The government doesn't HAVE to think up new selling points for its ovens because it has all the ovens there are. If you don't like its ovens you just DO WITHOUT an oven.

That's the difference between socialism and free enterprise.

INCIDENTAL information:
The census bureau says the fastest increasing segments of America's population are children, older people and non-whites. It adds that the number of women continues to grow faster than the number of men.

(In the golden days there were about 99.4 men for each 100 women. There are now, according to the census bureau's statisticians, about 98.5 men for each 100 women.)

WHY CHILDREN are increasing is perfectly simple. More babies are being born. Older people are increasing because people live longer in these days. Non-whites are increasing because on the average they have larger families than whites.

Why are women increasing? It may be Divine Providence. The men have made a mess of a lot of things. More women may be the answer.

SPEAKING of population:
A Sacramento dispatch says California's population is mounting so rapidly that the state statisticians are having trouble keeping up with their own predictions.

The California department of finance has taken another look at prospects for 1960. The report says the outlook is for 14,500,000 residents five years hence as compared with the prediction of



REUNITED WITH DAUGHTER YASMIN, Prince Aly Khan shows her around his Paris house after she arrives in France with mother, Actress Rita Hayworth, who divorced prince, then married Crooner Dick Haymes from whom she is separated. Aly refused to discuss reconciliation.

Funds Coming In For Youth Drive

Ashland—Contributions for the Ashland-Talent Youth Activity drive are coming in steadily but the cooperation of every citizen is needed to reach the goal, according to Gordon C. Hays, drive chairman.

Goal for the drive is \$14,300 which will be divided among the Girl scouts, Boy scouts, Campfire girls and YMCA of Ashland and Talent.

Hays pointed out that youth groups such as the Boy scouts provide a good way to combat juvenile delinquency and to encourage better citizens of tomorrow. Money, collected by the drive, will aid such groups to include more youngsters, Hays said.

14,000,000 made last year. At the same time, figures for 1965 were upped from 15,500,000 to more than 16,250,000.

WHAT DOES that add up to?
It adds up to this: MORE CLOSE - AT - HAND CUSTOMERS FOR THE PRODUCTS OF SOUTHERN OREGON.

Cordy Recommends Peach Spray Use

Peaches should be sprayed before Oct. 22 for control of leaf curl and peach blight, C. B. Cordy, county horticultural extension agent said Saturday.

Where leaf curl has been a problem, the spraying process should be repeated in mid-winter.

Instructions for mixing spray are as follows: For each 100 gallons of spray use seven pounds spru-cop, or five pounds COCS, or five pounds ortho-cop, or five pounds copper A. In air blast sprayers increase the dosage of fixed cop per 50 per cent.

For small sprayers use one quarter pound of any of the above materials in three gallons of water.

A good sticker is essential, Cordy said. Use two quarts of summer oil or one third pint of spreader depositor per 100 gallons. Mix sticker and neutral copper with a little water and pour into partly filled tank with the agitator running.

Where peach blight was a serious problem this year, trees should be sprayed immediately and again in early November.

Sunday, October 9, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Deadline Oct. 19 For Applications

Applications for competitive examinations for Naval Reserve Officers Training corps candidates must be filed with the Educational Testing service in Princeton, N. J., prior to Nov. 19, 1955.

The 10th annual examination for high school seniors and graduates interested in attending college and training for careers as officers in the navy or marines will be held at Medford high school Dec. 10. Successful candidates will start training in 1956 at 52 colleges and universities throughout the country.

Examinations here will be for valley youths interested in NR-OTC as well as for those from Yreka to Roseburg. Some 40 applicants participated in the tests last year here. About 1,800 candidates will

Annexation Hearing Scheduled Nov. 1st

A public hearing of annexation of property owned by Benton Smith and Odell Larson on the northeast and southeast corner of Murray st. and Columbus ave. will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1, instead of Nov. 8 as previously published.

The hearing was originally to be scheduled for the first city council meeting in November, but through an error, Nov. 8 was inserted in the ordinance calling for the hearing. The date has been corrected to read Nov. 1.

be selected for appointment as midshipmen from those eligible between 17 and 21 years of age. Application blank are available naval reserve and recruiting offices here.

Geysers exist in many volcanic regions of the world such as Japan and South America, but their greatest development is in Iceland, New Zealand and Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

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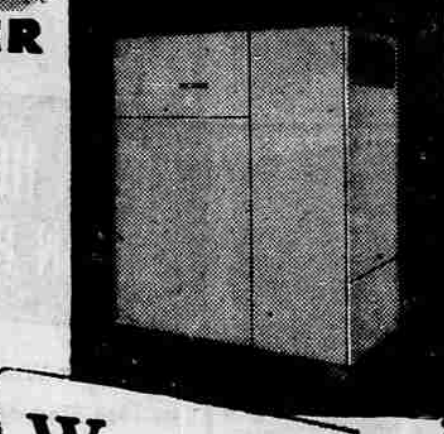
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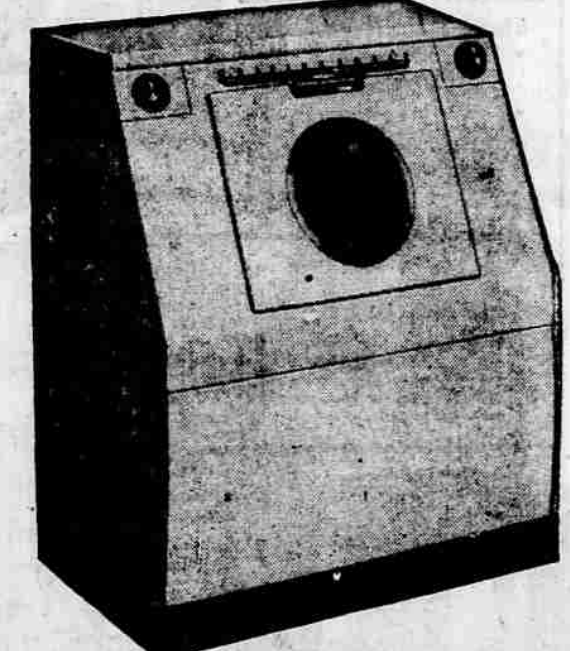
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WATCH FOR

WARD WEEK Preview Night