

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

## In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

For 10,000 years now, man has been dependent upon the honeybee for food. In fact, until three centuries ago—before the advent of cane, beet and maple sugars—this sweet, amber fluid was the sole sweetening agent known to man.

Today there are about 6,000,000 honeybee colonies in the United States alone — all imported, because the Americas had only bumblebees. And from these imported honeybees approximately 250,000 pounds of honey and 5,000,000 pounds of beeswax are taken each year.



More important than the honey—thirty times as important, say agriculturists — are these honeybees' pollinating activities. Without them, many crops such as clover would perish and the yield of such diverse crops as alfalfa, apples and cotton would be drastically curtailed. In California alone, 800,000 acres of crops are absolutely dependent upon these important though highly organized social workers.

No scientist has yet discovered or invented a purer food, nor one that is sweeter—its chief ingredient is levulose or "fruit sugar" about twice as sweet as cane sugar.

Properly ripened, the concentration of sugar in honey is so high that bacteria harmful to humans cannot live in it more than an hour or so—some kinds of honey keep almost forever. Three-thousand-year-old honey was unearthed in the royal Egyptian tomb. Though darkened and thickened by time it was still pure honey and palatable. And no doubt still retained the fragrance of blossoms from which the nectar was collected during the days of the Pharaohs.

**\$7,000 Trips Required**

The work performed by these dedicated bees in collecting the honey is high incredible. Figure it out: for each pound of honey

it requires approximately 37,000 trips to the flowers and back. And it often takes 300 pounds of honey just to keep one bee colony alive which doesn't include the surplus which man collects to put on his hot biscuits. Averaging a mile and a half for the round trip, the colony may fly over 16,000,000 miles a year to supply a single city with its food! Now add several million more for man's surplus.

In this unceasing airlift, bees kill themselves with work. Literally. It is the destiny of all good workers (females, naturally) to die flying, struggling to bring back one last load to the hive. As a result, after 2-6 weeks' of peak exertion, the female worker drops unnoticed in some field or lake, her place taken at once by another.

Each drop of this precious golden cargo is highly nutritious, especially as a fuel for the energies of the body. Four-fifths of each drop's components are carbohydrates, the other fifth being proteins, mineral salts such as traces of iron, copper manganese, potassium, sodium and phosphorus; five coloring materials, aromatic bodies, enzymes, and some rare sugars.

**Hundreds of Flavors**

Unlike table sugar and salt which have but one taste, honey has hundreds of flavors. In this country alone there are some 2,000 plants from which bees collect nectar, each lending a distinct flavor and aroma.

Some, such as almond are bitter; others like prune honey, ferment readily; but the majority, made from the blossoms of red raspberry, buckwheat (in the darker honeys), white clover, vetch, alfalfa, blueberry from Maine, goldenrod from New York State, bluevine from Missouri, milkweed from Michigan, sourwood from the southern Appalachians, orange tree, and sage from the west—all make ambrosia. Which is best? That, I'd say, which you ate in your childhood!

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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 readers who send me the best true-life nature adventure.

Portland, in common with most other cities of its size, is having its mass transportation troubles. The burden of the public's complaint—in Portland and elsewhere—is that there aren't busses enough, that they don't run often enough, that they don't give adequate service to all sections of the city, and that the price is higher than riders want to pay.

The transport companies—in Portland and elsewhere—retort that the REAL trouble is that in these modern days people aren't willing to pay enough to make the business of public transport in the cities profitable enough.

If the business was profitable enough, they say, they could and would provide busses enough, that schedules could be and would be frequent enough and that all sections would be provided with adequate public transport service.

The upshot of it all is that in the big cities there is a continuous ruckus over mass public transportation.

THE real nub of the situation is that in Western America, at least, where nearly everybody owns an automobile, people would rather drive their own cars to and from work and to and from their shopping. The result of that is that in most of our bigger cities parking places are becoming almost as nearly extinct as the passenger pigeon.

GETTING back to Portland—where a popular political war cry back in the days when street car fares, along with other goods and services, were beginning to rise in price used to be: "Seven cents is too much for a five-cent ride"—the traction company is coming up for an extension of its franchise. The city commissioner whose department specializes in public transportation says it isn't going to

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# HORN BROOK Snowfall Sets New Record

Hornbrook, Calif.—The recent snowfall here of approximately 18 inches was something of a record for so early in the season, according to the recollection of several "old timers."

While it has forced a slowdown of operations at both the Hornbrook Manufacturing Co. mill, and the Black Mountain mill, and has practically halted logging operations in this vicinity, it is hoped the snowfall will result in the storage of enough moisture in the mountains to prevent the drying up of numerous private wells, and the restriction of use of the town water supply next summer, which was the case in the summer just past.

Mrs. Jess Cummins was honored at a bridal shower Nov. 14 at the home of Mrs. Loren Cummins, who was assisted by Mrs. Robert Cummins as co-hostess. Guests present were Mrs. Gus Larsen, sister of the honoree, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. John Silva, and daughters Vivian, Caroline, and Delia, Mrs. Gladys Jones, Mrs. Ardon Burns, Mrs. George McCann, Mrs. Lester Nye, Mrs. Henley Clawson, Mrs. Robert Farmer, Mrs. Nellie Cummins, Mrs. Lawrence Breceda, Mrs. Bill Wylie, Mrs. Ray King, Miss Myrna Cummins, Miss Jennifer Cummins, Miss Shirley Moffett, and Mrs. Wayne Cummins.

Gifts were also sent by a number who were unable to attend. Preceding the opening of gifts, games were played, and prizes were won by Mrs. Nellie Cummins and Mrs. Henley Clawson. Floyd Spearin and family, Dunsuir, Calif., were week end guests at the home of Spearin's sister, Mrs. Wayne Cummins.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Watt and sons, Ronnie and Tommie, made a combined business and pleasure trip to Portland the past week end. While there, they were guests at the home of Mrs. Watt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ruebisch.

The Contract Bridge club met Nov. 15 at the home of Mrs. Lester Nye on Henley rd. Following a dessert luncheon, the members playing were Mrs. Bertha Bradley, Mrs. Marshall Horn, Mrs. Duane Hamner, Mrs. David Holland, and the hostess, Mrs. Nye. Guests playing were Mrs. Stanley Butler of Yreka, Calif., Mrs. Fred Mills and Mrs. Laura Swinerton. First prize was won by Mrs. David Holland, while second prize went to Mrs. Marshall Horn.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Smith and daughter Dorothy spent the week end in Corning, Calif., with their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Smith and son Michael. Accompanying them as far as Redding were Mrs. Smith's mother, Mrs. Dora Marlahan, and Mrs. Rose Burton and son Ernest, all of Ft. Jones, Calif. In Redding they were week end guests of Mrs. Marlahan's other daughter, Mrs. Clay Williams and family.

# More Polio Vaccine Available To States

Washington — (U.P.)—The U.S. Public Health Service has made 1,773,485 more Salk polio vaccine shots available to states, territories and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Some 32,000 shots were reserved for the foundation. The rest will be allocated to the states and territories for commercial and public use.

The additional shots brought the total to 12,442,437 the amount of vaccine released for children under 15 and expectant mothers. It was the seventh allocation made under the voluntary control system which started July 1.

Portland — (U.P.)— The State Board of Health Saturday scored

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what it termed public apathy to obtaining Salk polio shots.

A spokesman said that the polio incidence still continues rather high in Oregon. There were 20 new cases last week making a total of 376 for the year. The board said some of the other states would like to have some of Oregon's excess Salk vaccine.

Tuberculosis is caused by a germ, the tubercle bacillus. It can be prevented and can be cured.

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