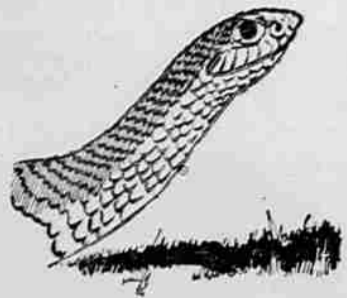


Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Everyone must be familiar with Aesop's wolf which went disguised in sheep's clothing. But some harmless sheep-like animals parade in wolf-like costumes, too, and in doing so become accomplished mimics. Thus the fearsome bees and wasps have become "models" for many inoffensive flies. Even in plants, the stinging nettle has become the "model" of a harmless deadnettle. But of all mim-



ics perhaps the greatest actor is our common hog-nose snake which lives in both Eastern and Western America.

This stout-bodied, slow-moving faker can put on such a fearful display of ferocity that in many places, particularly through the South, he is the most widely-feared of all American snakes. And yet, this little serpent — seldom exceeding three feet in length, is as harmless as an anglerworm.

Unlike most snakes, when encountered he will not scurry away. Instead he holds his ground and while coiling his thick body inflates his lungs. With it, he flattens his head and the fore part of his body, assuming a most formidable triangular outline. Then he rears dangerously.

Should you continue to approach, the "monster" opens his mouth and, as he expels air, hisses loudly. Those unfamiliar with his antics swear that he expels venomous fumes. Then, to back up his act, he feints at striking boldly.

However, regardless of the provocation, he will not bite—he strikes with his mouth closed. Persons more bold than I have told me that in striking he does so with his head, always keeping his mouth shut.

Goes Into Next Scene
If this has not struck terror into the molester, he then goes into the next scene: he appears to be attacked by convulsions. He writhes in what seems agony with his head twisted to one side, mouth gaping open with the tongue lolling out. Particularly in the South, and I say, particularly in the South, because there the spread-out jaws are seemingly in direct imitation of the local water moccasin, a deadly snake, also known as the cotton mouth because it makes a display of the whitish lining of its mouth.

Should all this—the flattening of the forepart of his body, the rearing, the hissing, the writhing—not have impressed you, the faker will now go into his final act: he plays dead. After contorting his body, he rolls over on his back, mouth agape and tongue hanging out with dirt and debris sticking to it. To make it even more real, he may give a few feeble twitches and then remain perfectly motionless.

Will Remain Limp
Pick him up and carry him away if you like he will remain limp, seemingly lifeless, tongue out. Perfect play acting, you'd say. Well, yes, except for one thing: roll him over with your foot on his belly, or put him on the ground right side up, and he will promptly roll onto his back. As far as he is concerned, apparently, the only correct position for a dead snake is to be on his back. Then leave him undisturbed for a few minutes and he will cautiously raise his head and with no further danger being in

sight, roll over on his belly and slowly wiggle away. As fitting testimony to this faker's play acting, consider the names paid this hog-nosed snake: flat-headed adder, blowing adder, hissing adder, puff adder, checkered adder, and sand viper.

Will this hoaxer play to a gallery? Not he. Taken into captivity, he quickly loses his inclination to perform—fact is, it is virtually impossible to stimulate him to go through the act. He saves that role for where it counts most: out in the wild.

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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, 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.

4-H Club News

Antelope Club
Antelope Sewing and Cooking clubs met at the home of Donna Geren January 7.

The sewing club held a business meeting. Donna Geren demonstrated how to put a plastic cover on our sewing boxes. The next meeting will be January 21 at Linda Malloroy's home at 10 a.m.

After the cooking club's business meeting, Linda Malloroy showed the girls how to set a table for a formal dinner. Their next meeting will be January 30, at Alice Woolfolk's home and will be a potluck dinner at 7 p.m.

Both clubs decided that each member should bring a contribution for the March of Dimes to these meetings.

Reporter,
Georgia Hubbard

Ruch Livestock Club
The Ruch Livestock club met at the home of their leader, Ed Fossen, Monday. Officers elected were Noel Dunlap, secretary; Nancy Redhead, vice-president; Shirley Dunlap, secretary; Romelle Fossen, treasurer; Robert Ziegler, reporter, and Lona Buffington, song leader.

There was a discussion about designing stalls at the fairgrounds barn, and the projects for the coming year were planned. Miss Kay Adams was a visitor.

Future meetings were planned for Jan. 23, Feb. 13, and Feb. 27.

Robert Ziegler,
Reporter.

Busy Bees 4-H Club
Our meeting was held at Janet Karjala's house. We played games before the meeting. Janet Karjala and Judy Andresen made muffins. The next meeting will be canceled because of a program.

Diana Ellis,
Reporter.

Finnish Patriotism Changes Flag Display

Lawrence, Kan. — (U.P.) — The patriotism of four Finnish students at the University of Kansas has transformed the "flags of United Nations" display on the campus to "Flags of the nations."

Finnish students protested the absence of their flag. They argued with the university administration that Finland had earned its place in the community of free nations, "even though

They'll Do It Every Time



Laughs of the Day . . .

Indianapolis, Ind. — (U.P.) — A delinquent taxpayer, signing his name "John Doe," mailed \$550 to state officials with the explanation:

"I think the tax is fair but I despise the inconvenience and red tape . . . so I just don't do it. When will this damned method of this tax collection be changed and simplified?"

London — (U.P.) — London's buses apparently have been livelier than the pubs the past few days. In three separate court cases Monday:

A bus conductor was fined \$1.40 for settling an argument between two passengers by pushing one of them down in his seat . . .

A girl paid an \$8.40 fine for pushing a bus conductor down the steps of his double-decker vehicle . . .

And, a man paid a \$28 fine for slugging a conductor on the jaw and knocking him the length of the bus.

New York — (U.P.) — Some 150 out-of-town fashion writers attending a showing of spring dresses Monday thought nothing unusual about one dress featuring a wildly plunging neckline and a high back, but Paul Parnes, the designer of the dress, did.

He pointed out to the embarrassed model that she was wearing the dress backward.

New York — (U.P.) — Patrick K. McLoughlin, 46, of Brooklyn, a \$63-a-week bank teller, was sentenced to 18 months in jail Tuesday on charges of embezzling \$3,500 from a branch of the Chase Manhattan bank where he worked.

McLoughlin told the judge he didn't like subways and had used part of the bank's money for taxis between his home and the bank.

Iowa City, Ia. — (U.P.) — An absent-minded journalism professor escaped with a scratch on his nose Tuesday after walking through a floor-to-ceiling plate glass window.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 9649
NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF JACKSON
In the Matter of the Estate of BERTHA MABEL KEEGAN, Deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the Administrator of the within estate, pursuant to an Order of the above entitled Court dated November 2, 1955 will proceed to sell in the offices of Van Dyke & Dellenback, No. 8, Goldy Building, Medford, Oregon, on or after February 6, 1956, at private sale for cash for the best obtainable price the following described real and personal property belonging to said estate, to-wit:

Lot One (1) Block twenty-two (22) as shown on the official plat of the town (now city) of Jacksonville, in Jackson County, Oregon. Certain miscellaneous furniture presently located in the house on the above-described real property. Dated and first published January 4, 1956.

Oscar C. Lewis, Administrator.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
No. 9723
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF JACKSON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF S BON CORDIER, DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executor of the estate of S Bon Cordier, Deceased, by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me at 704 South Oakdale Avenue, Medford, Oregon, with vouchers and duly verified, within six months from the date hereof.
Dated and first published January 11th, 1956.
Last publication February 1st, 1956.
Irene Elizabeth Cordier
Executrix of the Estate of S Bon Cordier, Deceased.
TOLBERT H. McCARROLL
Address Pacific Building
Portland 4, Oregon
Of Attorneys for Executrix.

German Ship Jams Traffic in Portland

Portland — (U.P.) — Traffic in Portland was jammed for an hour last night—by the German freighter Anita.

The ship was buffeted by swift currents in the Willamette river just as river tugs were about to ease her through the open drawbridge of the Broadway bridge. For an hour the tugs fought to steer the Anita stern first through the open span that halted traffic on Broadway.

The harbor patrol boat Mulkey and the tug Manzanilla, one on each side of the Anita finally succeeded in steering her through the bridge opening at 9:03 p.m.

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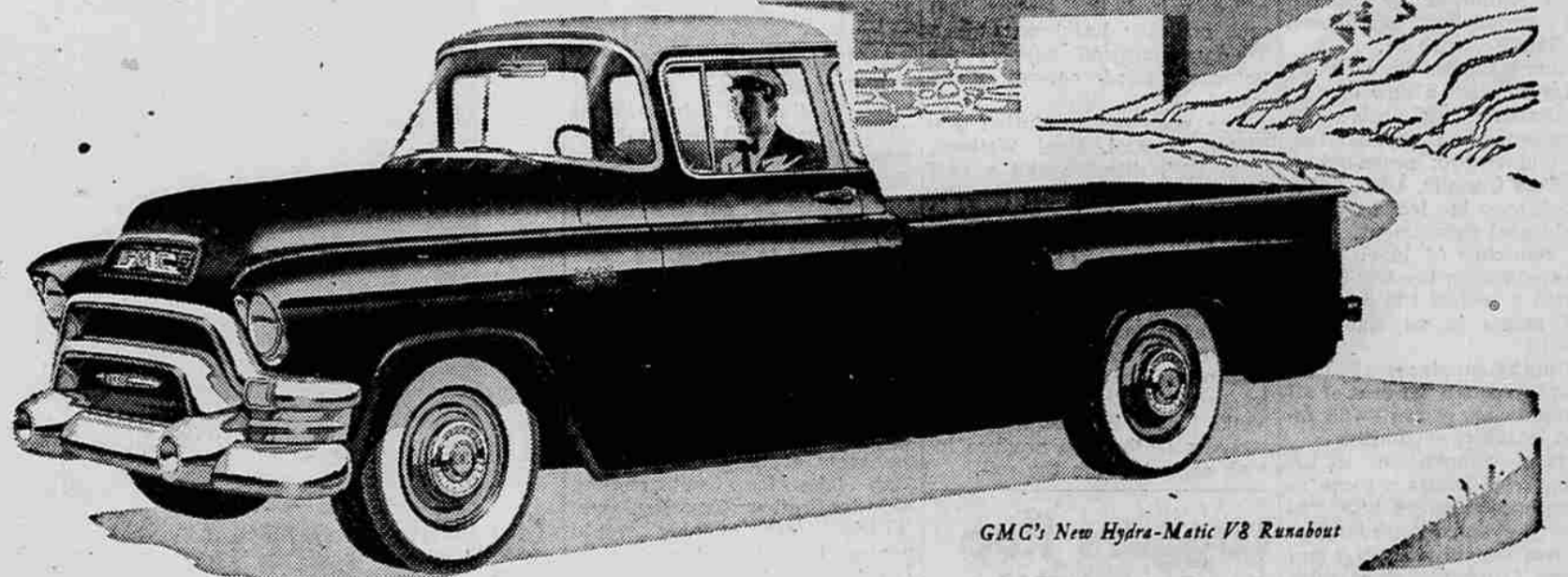
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Its sheer modernity—highlighted by that sweeping panoramic windshield—steals attention everywhere. It's proof-on-wheels your business is ready and able to invest in top-drawer tools—the better to reap long-term benefits.

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You luxuriate in Hydra-Matic* operation that banishes

drudgery from driving. And you anticipate its savings in brakes, tires and repairs over thousands of miles.

And while you're marveling at the way its massive frame and axles shrug off tonnage and time—you figure the extra return this GMC will bring at trade-in.

But words can't detail the list of Blue Chip GMC advantages. These you have to come in and try on for size—yourself—tomorrow!

*Hydra-Matic standard on many models; optional at extra cost on some others

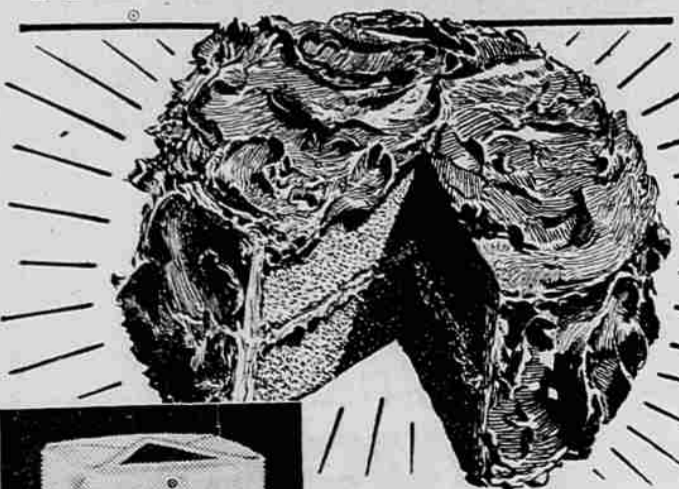
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