

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

A nature puzzler. Identify me by No. 2 and you are an Outdoor Expert; by No. 4, a Woodsman, by No. 6, a Dude Wrangler; by No. 8, a Drugstore Cowpoke. The answer is stowed away in the last paragraph.

1. For size, I am the world's most solitary animal. Some of us may live a lifetime without seeing a blade of grass. My soles are covered with hair. My dense fur coat appears a size or two overlarge. Swift of foot, I can outrun a man; fast of stroke, I can outswim him. My tongue is black. When five, the female may dig a burrow.

2. Although I live in the coldest regions in the northern hemisphere, where man seldom treads, I am fairly abundant. I may spend my entire life on the ocean although occasionally some of us may come ashore, but rarely, and roam inland a hundred miles. I have been sighted 200 miles asea. Sometimes I lie in wait for my prey.

3. Nine months after pairing, two or three young are born—a scant ten inches long, weighing around two pounds. Immature, they are blind and naked. For



warmth, they snuggle into the soft fur of the mother's abdomen and front legs. When eyes open at six weeks, the young are covered with a soft down fur. As days lengthen, the offspring come out in March and when 17 months old, and weighing about 200 pounds, they are put out on their own. Fathers take no interest whatever in their family.

**Sharp Hearing**

4. What I may lack in vision, I make up by sharp hearing and my nose is particularly keen. Comparatively speaking, my head is so small for my massive 700-pound body. Should I rear, I tower 10 to 13 feet. My fur is coarse, long and shaggy. My five long claws on both front feet and back are nonretractable. My ancestry is closely interwoven with the dog.

5. My long tapering body, with long head and neck, is built for the water—I am a six-mile-an-hour swimmer and an excellent diver, rolling over and over in the water for pleasure. Unlike any other quadruped, I can swim rapidly by using only my two forward legs and trailing my rear pair. My walk is shambling, because I lift both my right feet together and then both my left. I have no tail.

6. Although among the world's largest carnivores, I devour much less meat than my much smaller relative, the wolf. Nonetheless, most of my time is spent stalking seals and walrus, hunting caribou and fish, and stealing birds' eggs. During summer, I may augment my diet with seaweed and terrestrial vegetation, grazing like a cow.

**Two-Year Cycle**

7. My family life is geared to a two-year cycle: when five, the smaller female will pair with a look-alike mate during June or July after a brief courtship and then they part. The female does not mate again for two years. When with young, the female may tunnel into a snowbank for protection from the wintry gales while the male keeps on stalking through the Arctic wastes like a wraith. We are old at 30.

8. Advisedly, man considers me dangerous—and I have been known to stalk him with remarkable persistence and attack his small boats at sea. Unlike my near cousin, the grizzly, I tend to kill by biting, not swiping. My skull is heavy and my jaws are powerfully hinged. On padded feet, I stalk my prey. With lack of cover, it takes doing.

9. Mighty is the Eskimo hunter who can bring me down! And for them, I am indeed a valuable trophy. My pelt is used for mukluks, clothing, robes and rugs; my blubber for oil; my sinews for sewing thongs; my claws and teeth for ornaments; my flesh, except for the liver, for food; and from my bones utensils are made.

10. Once seen, no one could possibly mistake my kind for any other kind of animal—and because I am a creamy white to match my background—even in summer it is often ice and snow. Everyone knows I'm a polar bear although in some places I am called an ice bear. Need I add, I am a favorite in zoos!

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## Queen Starts Royal Tour of Nigeria

London — (U.P.) — Queen Elizabeth II left today for her first royal tour of Nigeria, which may be her last as outright ruler of the equatorial territory.

## Pickin' Pears News and Notes From Camp White

By BILL HURN  
Grants Pass BPOE 1584, headed by Lester Pearson presented a show at Camp White Friday night. Attending was Emil Kroeger, VAVS state hospital chairman.

A full house saw the two-hour show by three groups of Grants Pass youngsters. Daryle's studio opened with eight dance acts,

Gold Hill — Glenn Miller, chairman of the March of Dimes for the Gold Hill area wishes to remind everyone who has received March of Dime envelopes through the mail and has not as yet returned them with their contribution please do so soon as possible.

followed by the Valentine Music studio with five numbers by the five members.

The Redwood Public schools of Grants Pass fifth and sixth graders, under the direction of Mrs. Ola Mae Simpson, presented 10 vocal numbers. A group calling themselves The Nonettes participated.

The Lady Elks served 48 layer cakes and coffee.

Medford American Legion auxiliary and post 15 sponsored a game party Monday night at the Camp White theatre building. Prizes of cigarettes and merchandise were awarded. Mrs. Thelma Williams of the Legion's Camp White office, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ginn and Ed Russell were in charge.

# Wind Delivering Uncensored Paper Into East Germany

Munich, Germany — (U.P.) — The Communists in Eastern Europe are shaking their fists at the wind.

The wind is delivery boy for some merchandise the Communists didn't order—a truthful, uncensored newspaper from the free world.

Red officials in Czechoslovakia recently have stepped up their criticism of the regular balloon barrage that carries 2,000,000 copies of a bi-weekly paper into their country and Hungary and Poland.

**Aircraft Said Menaced**  
Although the Free Europe press has taken elaborate steps to insure the safety of its "winds of freedom" operation, the Com-

## German Provinces

### Plan Atomic Vessel

Hamburg, Germany — (U.P.) — Germany's four maritime provinces have decided to pool their assets for the development of an atomic-powered ship, it was made known today.

The prototype vessel is to be developed at a research site.

ended from the boxes determines the range of each balloon. When the ice evaporates, the boxes are upended and dump their contents.

The discharge of the cargo shoots the balloon skyward and at the same time flips it over. The sudden rise usually rips the balloon and its inverted position virtually guarantees that all the gas will be discharged before it hits the ground.

Free Europe Press officials say the balloons float at altitudes over 18,000 feet and are "well within the specifications which U.S. civil-air regulations define as not hazardous to aircraft."

not yet designated. The project will be financed by contributions from Bremen, Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and Lower Saxony, all of which depend primarily on sea transport for their economic well-being.

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# Nothing without wings climbs like a '56 Chevrolet!

The new '56 Chevrolet handles hills like they aren't even there! Aim it up a steep grade... and you'll see why it's the Pikes Peak record breaker!

Ever level off a mountain with your foot? Nothing to it. Just point this new '56 Chevy uphill and ease down on the gas.

In the merest fraction of a second you sense that big bore V8 lengthening out its stride. And up you go with a quiet rush of power (hydraulic-hushed valve lifters now in all engines—V8 or 6) that makes a mountain seem as flat as a road map!

For nothing without wings climbs like a '56 Chevrolet! This is the car, you know, that broke the Pikes Peak record. The car that proved its performance on towering grades in the thin air of altitudes up to 14,110 feet. The car that proved its cat-footed cornering ability and nailed-down stability on Pikes Peak's vicious switchback turns.

These are built-in qualities that mean more driving pleasure and safety for you. You can also have seat belts, with or without shoulder harness, and instrument panel padding at extra cost.

You've a choice of 19 frisky new Chevrolets all with Fisher Body and with horsepower ranging up to a new high of 205. Drop in, when you have a chance, and drive the new record breaker!



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