

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

In the outdoors, death always stalks the living—but never more mercilessly than in the snow-covered lands during this month of February.

Mainly it is starvation—starvation induced by the weather which is biting cold, demanding more food than ever to keep warm; the depletion of stored bodily fats; and the covering-up by deep snow and ice of what little natural foods may have been available.

In the fall, deer were fat and round. A heavy layer of tallow was beneath their hides, perhaps two inches thick across back and hips; the muscles of the shoulders, neck, ribs and belly were also covered; and within every spare space in the body cavity there was fat stored. But now, in February because the daily food is insufficient, nearly the last ounce of these fuel reserves will be burned. As snow deepens, they will gather and "yard" in small herds of five to twenty to seek protection in numbers from wolf, coyote, mountain lion, lynx, and wildcat, and they will be reduced to nibbling bark and branches of firs—a starvation diet.

Snowshoe Rabbit
Thanks to his fantastically wide paws, the snowshoe rabbit has been using February's rising snow pack as a stepladder to reach high up on willows denied him in summer and fall. But even he may find these completely covered and he is forced to nibble fir needles in which there is little nourishment.

Below the deep snow, scampers mice have left no square foot unsearched, scurrying here and there in search of seeds, berries or any other edible thing. As they dispute the possession of what little food they find, there is fighting, scuffling and squeaking as the weakest one goes under and falls prey to his companions. But even with mice, hunger is not assuaged long. Then should a hungry survivor venture above to the surface of the white snow, his dark body will be clearly outlined to the sharp-eyed hawk, the prowling

wildcat or coyote. Those that huddle below fall prey to tunnel-running weasel and shrew—the latter, a voracious feeder, has such a high metabolism that he must eat his own weight each day or die. But should the un-



dernourished mouse escape these, then he may succumb to disease. Of the thousand that lived through December, perhaps ten will remain through March.

Like the shrew, most birds such as the chickadee have tremendous appetites and they too must eat prodigious amounts of food or die. But with snow covering seeds and ice coating buds, what is the chickadee to eat? Hence, should you find his remains in the snow, quite likely he died of an empty stomach.

Coyote Howl
But the frozen body of the chickadee will prolong the life of the weasel; the weasel that of the coyote who will go to the top of the ridge and climb the highest boulder to howl to a mate.

On a still, cold moonlight night in the high Rockies that song is positively entrancing. On a sliding range of two octaves, he barks, whines, howls and wails. One low bark begins the mournful dirge, then it swings slowly into a long drawn-out quavering wail that reaches, seemingly, into the very tips of the stars and out into the far beyond.

In that call of the coyote is expressed the need for a mate, and more—the assurance that life, despite February's starvation, must go on. And it does, everywhere, despite death. Within the slack-hided doe, a new life

is lying secure within the womb, for the present its development arrested. But by a remarkable provision, when the female deer regains her strength, whether in one month or three, the arrested fetus will resume its development so that birth can take place when the time is most propitious.

As February moves on, each day the life-giving sun will shine two or three minutes longer, bringing with it subtle changes—gradually becoming more pronounced. Before you know it, the elm's buds will enlarge, the sheaths of the skunk cabbage push out of the half-frozen ground, the males of the red-winged blackbirds return to the marshes to stake out their territory. Despite blizzard and biting cold, the cycle of life moves on and the wild has again conquered death—as it has since life first began.

(Copyright 1956, by Eugene Burns) (Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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 can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to IS THAT SO! c/o your paper, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Presented Awards

Portland — (U.P.) — David H. Larsen, general engineer at Bonneville dam, was presented a \$250 cash award yesterday by Cal. Jackson Graham, Portland District Engineer.

The award was for suggesting a change in the lighting system in the generator room at Bonneville dam. Four other engineers' employees were given cash awards totaling \$1,000 for superior performance.

Medford Library Receives 147 Gift Books In January

Of the 698 volumes added to the Medford Public Library during the month of January, 160 were transfers from the rental collection which had repaid their costs in rental fees, and 147 were gifts from friends of the library, it was reported Saturday.

The American Legion donated four books as memorials for departed members: for Dr. Robert W. Sleeter, "Childbirth Without Fear", by Grantly Dick Read; for Alfred E. Stoehr, "Prospecting for Atomic Minerals", by Alvin Knoerr; for Harry J. Kaplan, "The Gods Were Kind", the story of a solitary trans-Pacific journey by raft, written by William Willis; and for Harry H. Hart, "We Die Alone", by David Howarth, a story from the annals of World War II.

Funds were also provided for a book to be a memorial to John C. Greb, but the volume selected has not yet been received.

Central Point Gifts
Mrs. Marie Dizney and Mrs. William Colley of Central Point donated large selections of books which have been added to the collection of the Central Point branch of the library.

Other honors of library books during January were Dr. and Mrs. William Miller, Mrs. Henry Feller, Mrs. Don Hickey, Miss Ann Livingston, and Mrs. William H. Fluhner. The Veterans Administration domiciliary library at Camp White donated a number of duplicates.

\$89,000 Slated For Cape Arago Station

Washington — (U.P.) — An appropriation of \$89,000 has been requested by the Coast Guard to replace ancient family dwellings

Fluoridation Endorsed By Area Labor Council

The Medford Central Labor council endorsed fluoridation of Medford water Wednesday at a regular meeting in the Labor temple. Members heard Mrs. Edward Sickles, Dr. Duane Nelson and Dr. John Vendenburg discuss fluoridation.

The council also announced that it is advising members of organized labor that it does not endorse "Americade," an exhibit prepared by the National Association of Manufacturers which is currently being shown throughout the United States to school children, civic organizations and other interested groups.

Two Escape From Jail At Pendleton Friday

Pendleton — (U.P.) — Police and sheriff's officers were searching Saturday for two Washington men who sawed their way out of Pendleton city jail Friday night. Officers described one of the men as dangerous.

They were Albert E. Carver, 25, Yakima, Wash., and Robert Henry Palmer, 31, Walla Walla, Wash. Carver was being held for assault with a dangerous weapon and was described as dangerous. Palmer was being held for burglary.

Police said the men escaped between 4:15 and 6:15 p.m. A dragnet was set up immediately and motorists warned not to pick up hitch hikers.

now used by personnel at the Cape Arago light station at Charleston, Ore.

The House Appropriations Committee said Vice Adm. A. C. Richmond, Coast Guard commandant, had testified that the money would provide quarters for four families. He said the present wood frame buildings were built in 1895. They are endangered by erosion and have deteriorated from termites and dry rot.

Sunday, February 5, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—NINE

Attorney Resigns From Convention

Juneau, Alaska — (U.P.) — R. E. (Bob) Robertson, Juneau attorney, arrived here Saturday afternoon from Fairbanks after resigning from the Constitutional convention and refusing to sign the document. The official signing ceremony

is scheduled for this afternoon.

Robertson's resignation, believed to be the only one, was mailed to Convention President William Egan.

The attorney specifically found fault with the referendum process, and the legislative apportionment process. He also felt that in many instances it discriminated against Southeast Alaska and Nome.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

SAVINGS
Invested by the 10th
Earn from the 1st

At
Jackson County Federal
SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
126 E. Main Medford

FREE

PAPER-MATE PEN

WITH YOUR FREE ESTIMATE (no obligation)

ROOF NOW FOR THE LAST TIME!

WITH LIFETIME GUARANTEED...

Aluminum Lock SHINGLES

No Down Payment

Take 3 years to pay on easy FHA-Approved terms.
Phone 2-7500 or MAIL NOW!

Aluminum Shingle Sales Co., 220 So. Central, Medford, Ore.
Gentlemen: Please send me a free estimate and more information on ALUMINUM-LOCK Shingles for my roof... plus a new Deluxe Model PAPER-MATE Pen, complete with refills, absolutely FREE and without obligation.

NAME _____ State whether present home new home
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____ PHONE _____

Look to the Future! Choose GAS Appliances!

NEW HOME OR
OLD HOMESTEAD

Watch your "DREAM KITCHEN" come true

with ready-to-install
O'KEEFE & MERRITT
BUILT-IN GAS RANGE UNITS

Units may be custom-placed to suit your kitchen design

At your finger tips, these luxurious O'Keefe & Merritt features:

- Exclusive Grilleator Broiler with Speedray Element
- Giant center-simmer top burners
- Oven-on, oven-ready lights
- Automatic clock control
- Low-temp oven
- Low heat PinPoint pilots
- Thermostat oven heat control
- "ABC"—Automatic Top Burner Control

CHOICE OF MANY COLORS TO SUIT YOUR KITCHEN SCHEME

Convenient Terms
GAS IS BEST!

CALIFORNIA
UTILITIES
UTILITY
Medford, Oregon

PACIFIC
COMPANY
SERVICE
Phone 2-5284

Cadillac

His Favorite Investment!

"It's the wisest investment I ever made!"

"I've owned a great many makes through the years, but Cadillac wins my vote as the finest investment of them all!"

"In my book, it is the best dollar investment on the highway today!"

We can't tell you how many times we've heard it. In fact, Cadillac's value and economy have become favorite topics of conversation among Cadillac owners everywhere.

And their sentiments are based on some very real facts about the "car of cars."

First of all, there's the economy of

buying a Cadillac. Many models are actually priced competitively with the so-called "medium-priced" makes.

Then there is the economy of operating a Cadillac. Cadillac's gasoline mileage is simply phenomenal for a car of its size and stature... and its dependability and freedom from repairs are truly extraordinary.

And, finally, there is the economy that comes from Cadillac's great value. In resale markets all across the land, the Cadillac car traditionally returns a higher percentage of its original cost than any other automobile built in America.

And consider, for a moment, what gener-

ous dividends Cadillac owners receive from their investments.

... the great pride they derive from Cadillac's beauty and luxury... the pleasure that comes with Cadillac's performance and comfort... and the satisfaction they take in Cadillac's reputation among the world's motorists.

We suggest that you pay us a visit soon and investigate the latest and finest Cadillac investment of them all.

We have the car... and the keys... and the facts—and we'll be happy to give you all three at any time.

SKINNER'S GARAGE

143 South Riverside • Medford • Phone 2-6264