



**Lone Tree . . .**  
Halfway down the mountain a shoulder of granite jutted so as to be visible for many miles. On the shoulder's point a tree grew out of loose rocks. It was probably more than two hundred years old, yet it was no more than twenty inches through the trunk, while its wind-beaten crown was but sixty feet aloft. The roots of the tree on the point were numerous and they were powerful and large and their spread was exposed far out from the trunk. There the roots swelled in bulges, as with mighty muscles, reaching on to grip the rocks before thrusting down to water sources.

Here the tough and strong tree had stood and held its own for 200 years against the worst winds and rocks could give it, and so it had served as a landmark for the pioneers of the 1840s. They had named the spot Tough Tree Point.

The Douglas fir clung to the rocks, drank through its roots, breathed and was fed through its leaves, and by the magic of its natural chemistry working with air, sunlight and water, it had lived through two centuries. The snag . . .

Among the thousands of trees on the mountain slope above Tough Tree Point was a dead Douglas fir, a hollow, standing snag. Its trunk was ten feet through. Foresters reckoned that it had towered three hundred feet and more in its prime. Early settlers had noted the big fir at a turn in an Indian trail as far back as 1848. Then it was still alive, except for a snag top.

Around 1898 the great Douglas fir had lost its last sprig of green. The giant trunk stood on, dead timber, the top crumbling away year by year. Now in 1955 it was broken down to a mere 50 feet in height. At its bottom a fire scar had eaten into an opening that a man could enter without stooping.

Six hundred years and more ago, the foresters said, the big tree had been but a tiny seed, a grain with a glider tail, in flight from a ripe Douglas fir cone that a dry east wind of late fall had opened. Where a lightning fire had made a clearing the seed found life in soil exposed to sunlight. Bracken fern, fireweed and salal had nursed this seedling with others on the burned land. In time a family of young Douglas firs crowded out

**Gum Diseases, Other Teeth Disorders Pose Problems**

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles on dental health in connection with the observance of National Children's Dental Health Week. The series was prepared with the cooperation of the Southern Oregon Dental society.

Gum disease and irregular teeth in children seldom receive the public attention given tooth decay, but the disorders pose a threat to children's dental health.

Few people realize that disorders of gums and other tooth-supporting structures actually occur in children. According to one study, two out of three children between the ages of 5 and 14 have some degree of gum disorders.

**High Disease Rates**  
The study revealed that the disease rate reached its peak in children between the ages of five and seven when the permanent molars and the front teeth were erupting.

Although the causes of the ailments are complex, poor oral hygiene and other dental neglect are usually involved.

The best offense against such disorders is a good defense, which should include brushing the teeth and gums properly and promptly after eating, having

the dentist clean the teeth regularly, and eating a well-balanced diet so that the gums will be sufficiently nourished.

Still another dental disorder which is widespread among children is malocclusion, or failure of the teeth to meet properly.

**Bad Positions**  
One study indicated that as high as 30 per cent of the children in any age group need some form of orthodontic treatment for badly positioned teeth.

The results of this disorder can be varied and broad. In some cases, it may interfere with chewing and possibly cause periodontal diseases later in life. In others, it may contribute to speech defects and cause facial deformities.

Again, prevention is far simpler than correction. Regular dental examinations will uncover warning signals and the condition can be corrected while it is still in its early stages. Prolonged treatment can thus be avoided and the chances for complete correction of the condition will be greatly increased.

**'Pheaskin' Result Of Experimenting**

Chicago—(U.P.)—An Illinois farmer reports he has crossed a pheasant and a chicken into a new meat bird he calls the "pheaskin."

The bird is being raised on the Hawthorn-Melody farms near Libertyville, north of Chicago.

A. W. Heinson, who manages the 3000-acre farm for millionaire owner John Cuneo, said "we just got to experimenting" four or five years ago, and have been producing pheaskins ever since.

The bird is a cross between a ring-necked cock pheasant and a cornish hen. Full-grown it weighs about five pounds. This is about the same size as a cornish hen but bigger than a pheasant.

**World Almanac for '56 Publishes 71st Issue**

The World Almanac and Book of Facts for 1956, released recently, picks the Soviet Union's "new look" lessening tension in world affairs, as the biggest news of 1955.

The publication chose President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the outstanding personality of the year. Other major events starred by the World Almanac were the restoration of sovereignty of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany; the Afro-Asian conference at Bandung; the first international atomic conference in Geneva; the purchase of Soviet arms by Premier Nasser of Egypt; and the overthrow of President Juan D. Peron in Argentina.

The World Almanac is now in its 71st year of publication.

**Arthritis-Rheumatism Vital Facts Explained**

FREE DESCRIPTIVE BOOK  
As a public service to all readers of this paper, a new 44-page highly illustrated book on Arthritis and Rheumatism will be mailed ABSOLUTELY FREE to all who write for it.

This FREE BOOK fully explains the causes, ill-effects and danger in neglect of these painful and crippling conditions. It also describes a successfully proven drugless method of treatment which has been applied in many thousands of cases.

This book is yours WITHOUT COST or obligation. It may be the means of saving years of untold misery. Don't delay. Send for your FREE BOOK today. Address The Ball Clinic, Dept. 2609, Excelsior Springs, Mo.



**SOLE SURVIVOR** — Albert Woolson, last surviving member of Abe Lincoln's Union Army, celebrates his 109th birthday quietly at Duluth, Minn. Despite several trips to the hospital during last two years for lung congestion, the Civil War drummer boy of Company C still enjoys his favorite pipe and cigar and follows news on the radio.

**Appeal Notice Filed In Sherry Fong Case**  
Portland—(U.P.)—Irvin Goodman, attorney for Mrs. Sherry Fong, has filed notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court from her Circuit Court conviction of the second degree slaying of Diane Hank.

**Is That So?**

"Ranger Burns: Would it be practical and morally right to introduce the deadly virus disease Myxomatosis into the jackrabbit population on the Snake River plains of southern Idaho (or for that matter in any other region where rabbits are a pest) in an attempt to destroy the wild rabbits to aid farmers and stockmen? I realize there may be danger to domestic rabbits and possibly other rodents but I submit that the situation here in Jerome county is serious enough to warrant discussion of this question."

"My wife and I are farmer-sheepmen, making our living on one of the small farms opened to drawing by World War II servicemen in 1949 by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation."

"My wife and I are farmer-sheepmen, making our living on one of the small farms opened to drawing by World War II servicemen in 1949 by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation."

For two of our six years here, the jackrabbits have been highly destructive, rating as the worst drawback to ranching here. This past year, they again built up to enormous numbers—two neighboring farms lost at least 10 per cent of their irrigated crops. And if past experience is any criterion, the rabbits will continue to increase until natural disease or starvation decimates their number and then they will almost disappear for a year or two, only to come back again in another terrifying cycle.

"The nine farms in this section of the project are surrounded by sagebrush which is won-

**By EUGENE BURNS**

derful rabbit breeding ground with lush grass in the spring. In July when the range becomes dry the rabbits are driven in upon our irrigated section by hunger. And with the price squeeze now pushing the farmer anyway, even a small loss of irrigated crop or range grass hurts seriously. It is estimated that six large jackrabbits will eat as much as one sheep.

Millions of Rabbits  
"And there are literally millions of rabbits breeding around us. Three years ago when winter snows covered the dry grass



they came upon us in unbelievable numbers. During the daily invasion, just before dusk, I would stand at our haystack and shoot the oncoming rabbits as fast as I could pump a 22 rifle borrowed from the county agent for that purpose. Their death struggles and screams went unnoticed among the starving live rabbits as they came around and over the bodies of the dead to get at the hay in our stack.

"These invasions would start at dusk and continue throughout the night. I have gone into the corral by moonlight, pointed my shotgun into a corner and killed as many as nine rabbits with one shot, they were that thick. Finally, my neighbors and I decided that shooting was useless against such hordes and half a dozen of us resorted to poison, using strychnine furnished through government agencies. We had to overcome our distaste for using poison in order to save the last of our hay. When spring came, we estimated that we had killed at least 12,000 rabbits. The stench of rotting bodies pervaded the whole valley.

**MERCY FLIGHTS NEEDS YOU!**

**DO YOU NEED MERCY FLIGHTS?**

Anyone in Southern Oregon—at any time—may find himself in immediate need of the services of Mercy Flights. Ask any of the more than 430 patients who learned this from experience.

Yet—without the subscriber system—Mercy Flights could not keep their planes available to meet the urgent requests. It's a fact. Mercy Flights planes are operated at a yearly loss of more than \$10,000 and this loss is covered by the subscriber fees of \$4 a year per family. However, those subscribers who do have need of a flight, more than get their money's worth. In a medical emergency, they can be taken anywhere within a 400-mile radius of Medford, and still not have to pay a cent.

We urge every family in Southern Oregon and Northern California, within a 150-mile radius of Medford, to join Mercy Flights now. We believe it is safe to say that there is not a resident in this area who does not know someone who has been flown as a patient by Mercy Flights.

If you want to say "thanks" for that service, and at the same time protect yourself and loved ones, join today. Mercy Flights, Inc. is a non-profit corporation serving you. Simply send your name, address, and \$4 to

**Mercy Flights, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 522 — Medford, Oregon

Your subscriber card, good for one year, will be sent to you.

Without us here, they would also die the slow death of starvation by the thousands. D.J.P., Jerome, Ida."

To the reader sending me the best reply to forward to D.J.P., I'll make the weekly award of the 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana. Address your letters to: IS THAT SO! c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

(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 observation, or the best true-life nature adventure, 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, Sausalito, Calif.

all lesser plant life from the burn and fought each other in thrusting up yearly spears of growth to the sun.

Six centuries of tree life come to ruin. Seeing it, one remembers that six hundred years ago trees were felled in Norway and staves from them were used to build churches. Today the woods of these churches live on in beauty and service.

**Baby Tree . . .**  
Down in the youngest growth at the foot of the mountain and near the county road stands a five-year-old Douglas fir. Branches, dead and dry, from trees that had been cut and then discarded by Christmas tree thieves lay among the small, high stumps. Above the wreckage the baby tree stood alone.

It stood until there were days of heat and dry east winds. Then a car sped up the road in a cloud of dust, bound for a fishing stream. A live cigarette was flipped from the window of the car. It dropped in the debris left by the Christmas tree thieves—into mats of needle-like leaves that had become brown, tinder-dry in the parching weather. Soon smoke boiled up in the drifting dust.

The fire crept on, there was a lift of the licking flames into a torch for a minute, and then the little lone tree was left standing, smoking, with every needle leaf burned into a black shred. There it stood, dead.

**GREYHOUND CARRIES PACKAGES too!**

with these big benefits to you:

- Frequent schedules—your shipments leave promptly.
- Valuable hours, even days, are often saved.
- Careful handling — weather-proof compartments.
- Shipments to almost anywhere in the U.S.A.
- Exceptionally low rates.

For information and rates, call Greyhound Package Express

212 N. Bartlett Phone: 2-2202

**DO IRON CURTAIN NATIONS HAVE AN UNCENSORED "PRESS"?**

Now they do! It is the watchful, dependable, truthful voice of Radio Free Europe. Twenty-nine powerful transmitters, plus the far-reaching operations of Free Europe Press and the Freedom Balloons send a steady flow of truthful news and information through Red censorship barriers.

Radio Free Europe broadcasts up to 20 hours of truth a day to five key satellite countries—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. Millions listen . . . then pass the truth along.

Free Europe Press floats the truth over the Communist border—past powerless Red fighter planes and anti-aircraft.

These agencies need your help. Each dollar sponsors a Minute of Truth. How many minutes will you pay for? Send your Truth Dollars to—

**CRUSADE for FREEDOM**  
c/o Local Postmaster

live better electrically

YOUR PERFECT SERVANT, Raddy Kibowatt says . . . .

**FOR LESS THAN 2 CENTS**

I can dry your family wash . . . anytime!

Sounds ridiculous—but it's true!

My wages for running your new ELECTRIC CLOTHES DRYER are less than the cost of ONE FOOT of old-fashioned clothes line!

Besides, I'm fast . . . I work any time . . . in any weather . . .

\* I'm easy on clothes . . . and I'm clean

ASK YOUR FAVORITE APPLIANCE DEALER about me and the Nation's No. 1 Wife-Saver THE ELECTRIC CLOTHES DRYER!

**THE CALIFORNIA OREGON POWER COMPANY**  
A Western Company owned and operated by Western People

**COPCO**