# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Notwithstanding its shortness, February can well be called the snowiest month of the year in America with such widely separated weather stations as Gander, Nfld, Blue Hill, Mass., Mesa Verde Park, Colo., and Lake Tahoe, Calif., consistently reporting this their heaviest month. Besides, during this month the snowpack over most of the land is at its seasonal peak with about four feet in northern New England, five in southern and eastern Quebec, and as much as 20 or more feet in the High Sierra.

It is here on the windward slopes of the High Sierra that the greatest American snowfalls are recorded. Here falling snow-

flakes unite in the air to come down in masses two inches across, easily piling up several inches an hour—the heaviest, in 24 hours, being five feet which was recorded at Giant Forest. Regularly the seasonal snowfall at Tamarack, Calif., averages 451 inches (37 feet, 7 inches) and once during the winter of 1906-1907, an all-time high of 884 inches (73 feet, 8 inches) fell. Of course this is the total season's accumulation, but even so, at one time during the winter the snow pack stood at 348 inches (29 feet).

Although some snow is light and fluffy and may take up to 15 inches to melt down to an inch of water, another sleety, crystalline snow may take less than 7½ inches to melt down to an inch. Averaged, about 10 inches of snow make one inch of water. Hence, the 884 inches represented 88.4 inches of rain, perhaps more because the Sierra pack tends to run heavy.

**Few Spots Free of Snow**

From Mexico northward, few spots in America do not have a one-inch cover of snow for at least two days of the year although about one-fifth of the U.S. is not subject to regular snowfalls. Roughly, this snowless area lies south of a line which runs across from Raleigh (mid-North Carolina) to Birmingham (central Alabama) to San Antonio (south central Texas), and thence along the Mexican border to almost the Pacific coast where it veers northward sharply to Eureka (northwestern California).

Ignoring mountain peaks, north of this line the depth of the snowfall rises steadily up to about 140 inches at Fort William, Ontario, near the U.S.-Canada border. Thereafter, it tends to taper off until it reaches the Arctic where no more than 50 inches fall. Farther north, near the North Pole, there is still less.

Again omitting the mountain peaks, the longest snowbound area is in Yellowstone Park where the snow lies on the ground for fully half the year; but in northern Canada, on Baffin Island, the snow cover may last 10½ to 11 months, even at sea level. Parts of Greenland, of course, have perpetual snow, forming glaciers.

When the temperature is low or dropping rapidly, accompanied by gale force winds whipping the snow before it, we have blizzards and on this continent the most blizzard-swept area is north and west of the upper Great Lakes where a season seldom passes without an average of one a month for the five months, December through April.

**Occasional Thaws**

As days grow longer in February, there may be occasional thaws—but not as often as in December or March. Then, contrary to popular belief, the sun may not be the efficient destroyer of snow as its reputation affirms. Fact is, on a clean surface, most of the sun's radiation is reflected straight back into space. With a dirty surface, it's another matter—then each little dirt speck acts as a heat receiver and transmitter, hastening the melting of the snow. And while we are at it, let's combat another popular fallacy, that which says a heavy rain melts snow quickly. Actually, if unaided by warm, windy weather, rain seldom succeeds in melting the snow appreciably. For example, a heavy 5-inch downpour with a temperature of 9 degrees above freezing, is unlikely to release more than one-third of an inch of snow water. But it's another matter entirely when such a heavy rain is accompanied by a warm wind. Then look for a heavy run-off, and if the ground is frozen, perhaps a flood.

During the bitter cold of northern winters, the snow of course is a wonderful insulator to plant life and to the earth to say nothing of hibernating animals. Should the ground be frozen, the snow blanket will prevent the soil from being frozen any deeper. But should the ground be unfrozen when the snow falls, then the melting snow-water of spring will drain into the soil. And with it, the snow brings down from the sky fertile elements, especially nitrogen and sulphur, to enrich the soil as it absorbs the winter's snowfall.

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## Gov. Knight Reported 'Definitely on Mend'

New York—(U.P.)—Gov. Goodwin J. Knight of California was reported "definitely on the mend" today from an attack of influenza which has confined him to a Waldorf-Astoria hotel suite since last Wednesday night.

Knight's aides said he was out of bed most of yesterday for the first time with a temperature down to about 99 all day. They said they hoped he would be able to return to California Thursday.

# New York Police Raids Break Up Call Girl Ring

New York — (U.P.) — Police today held a platinum blonde and a brunette ex-show girl, picked up in two raids that broke up a $100-a-date call girl operation.

The 21-year-old blonde, who identified herself as Jane Stacey of Buffalo, was arrested yesterday as she and a male "date" cavorted in the nude in an expensive hotel suite. The girl told reporters she was a Vassar student taking a holiday in New York. Vassar denied she was registered there.

The brunette, Jane Cook, 33, was charged with running the love for money ring. She was arrested in a police raid on her fancy apartment, which featured a plush, custom-made bar.

**Arranged for Drink**

Police said they learned of a telephone call in which Mrs. Cook told the man she had a "nice one for you this time." Mrs. Cook arranged for the "date" and Miss Stacey to meet at the Cook apartment for a drink before their tryst, police said.

Shortly after the couple left the Cook apartment for a $20-a-day suite in the nearby Sulgrave hotel, police launched raids on the hotel suite and Mrs. Cook's apartment.

A few hours later police also arrested Frederick Rosenberg, 26, who they said was living with Mrs. Cook. He was charged with living off the proceeds of prostitution and with possession of narcotics.

Mrs. Cook was booked for procuring and Miss Stacey for "loitering for purposes of prostitution." Police said Mrs. Cook was arranging for a number of girls.

## Man Shot in Head, Klamath Coroner Says

Klamath Falls—(U.P.) — Coroner George H. Adler said today that Edison Duffy, 50, whose body was found a mile and a half north of here last week-end by two young boys, had been shot in the head.

Duffy's frozen body was found at the bottom of a 25-foot embankment alongside Highway 97. It had been there several days.

Duffy was a resident of the Klamath Indian reservation.

Sheriff Murray Britton was conducting a full-scale investigation.

**WEARING** winged crown, Muffett Webb, Dallas, Tex., is all smiles after winning "Miss Skyway" contest from air stewardesses of the United States. *(International)*

# Sackett Purchases Labor Paper String

Oakland, Calif.—(U.P.) — Sheldon Sackett, prominent West Coast newspaper and radio station owner, has purchased the Olympic Press, Inc., of Oakland, publisher of 11 northern California labor papers.

Among his numerous enterprises Sackett owns the Coos Bay (Ore.) Times and radio station KROW, Oakland.

The Oakland publishing firm was purchased from Joseph Bredsteen and Winnard Tosh. It publishes the Labor Review, official weekly paper of the Bay Cities Metal Trades council, and nine other labor weeklies and one monthly in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and Marin, Monterey, Merced, Santa Cruze, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

Sackett named Langdon Post as editorial director of Olympic Press. Post was former regional director of the Federal Public Housing authority and was northern California manager of Sen. Estes Kefauver's presidential campaign in 1952.

## Corvallis Masons Set Emergency Session

Corvallis—(U.P.)—The Masonic lodge of Corvallis will meet in emergency session tomorrow night to plan reconstruction of the temple gutted by fire Sunday.

Latest damage figure was placed at $300,000, including expensive regalia used in rites of the Masonic order. Most of the loss was covered by insurance.

# Alabama University To Appeal Lucy Case To U.S. Supreme Court

Birmingham, Ala.—(U.P.)—The University of Alabama Monday night announced its intention of appealing the "Autherine Lucy case" to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Attorney Andrew Thomas said the university definitely intends to try to overthrow a federal district court decision under which it was forced to admit its first Negro student.

**Separate Action**

The appeal is a separate action, however, from two federal suits brought by the student, 26-year-old Autherine Lucy, protesting her exclusion from the campus because of danger of further mob violence.

The university trustees barred her from further classes after three days of rioting last week, saying she would be reinstated as soon as officials feel it would be safe to do so.

When she brought dual suits for immediate reinstatement and for full use of campus facilities the university declared it would leave the question of her return to class entirely to the courts.

A hearing is set for Feb. 29.

Thomas said the university will appeal the basic decision, handed down last fall by Federal District Judge Hobart Grooms, under which Miss Lucy was admitted at first.

The decision was upheld Dec. 30 by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Thomas said it was the university's intention from the start to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court in this event.

**University Granted Injunction**

Grooms granted the university an injunction barring Miss Lucy from class until final determination of the case by the Supreme Court and the Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the injunction. However, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled the injunction.

Thus was set the stage for Miss Lucy's three days of classwork starting Feb. 3. There were nightly mass demonstrations and finally, hails of stones and eggs aimed at the Negro woman herself.

A legal observer said that so long as all court decisions to date stand Miss Lucy cannot be barred from classes solely because of an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Barring her for her safety is an entirely different matter, however, university authorities said.

## College Freshman Object of Search

Cambridge, Mass. — (U.P.) — Anxiety mounted today for the safety of a college freshman who disappeared four days ago during a fraternity initiation.

Thomas L. Clark, 18, son of Bell Telephone Co. executive Alfred R. Clark, of Harvey, Ill., vanished after he was left in an isolated wooded section near Lincoln Friday. Members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity said he had been in "good spirits" when they last saw him.

The youth, a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was instructed to return to the school by 8 p.m. Nine other pledges returned without difficulty, school authorities said.

**PAROLE OFFICER QUITS**

Roseburg—(U.P.)—Jake Leicht, Roseburg area parole and probation officer, has resigned the position to enter the life insurance field. Leicht was a star halfback at the University of Oregon from 1945 through 1947.

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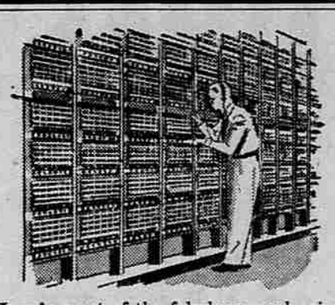

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