

Is That So?

By Eugene Burns
Ranger-Naturalist

These are the days that have music in them.

With dawn's early light, the robin begins his rolling carol. Next a blue jay makes a flute-like call, far from his jeering daytime rattle. As skies flush, the wings of a pair of teal whistle sharply. In loud clear voice, a brown thrasher tests the first run of his long repertoire.

A downy woodpecker raps out a furious beat on his favorite reverberating dead maple limb. Taking a strutting stance on a pine log, a ruffed grouse drums at five-minute intervals which he may keep up for an hour at once, wooing his demure hen and challenging all comers.

A velvet-suited bumblebee hums as the zigzags close to the ground searching beneath fallen leaves, roots, sticks, clumps of grass—a thousand and one places—to find a suitable hole in the ground to build a thimble-shaped waxen nest which will eventually grow into a colony of a thousand before the summer is over.

A pregnant snake, about to give birth to thirty young or so, hisses at an inquisitive skunk. From a rockpile, a woodchuck whistles.

High overhead, cutting great circles, a soaring male red-tailed hawk, much smaller than his hen, sounds a husky squeal. "Keeee-You!" over the swamp.

During its brief pause atop a lone tamarack, a meadowlark fills the air with a whistled melody.

A great blue heron, his neck folded in a flat S, flaps slowly and heavily on his solitary way to the beaver-pond to stand and see what gives.

An impertinent chipmunk sasses a passing doe, bulging with fawn.

Kingfisher Screecher

Patrolling his half-mile beat from a dry stub overlooking the course of the stream, a sharp-eyed belted kingfisher screeches insanely as an otter slips into the water not far from the ten-foot long tunnel which the kingfisher and his more colorful mate have dug out of the bank and where she is now incubating their eight white eggs.

Two red-winged blackbirds battle in the air. They claw and peck each other as they rise, up and up; and still they claw and peck as they drop to splash into the pond, only then to fly apart and voice triumphant "Kon-kerereee!" from different cattails.

With lengthening afternoon shadows, the amphibians of the marshy pond raise their song in



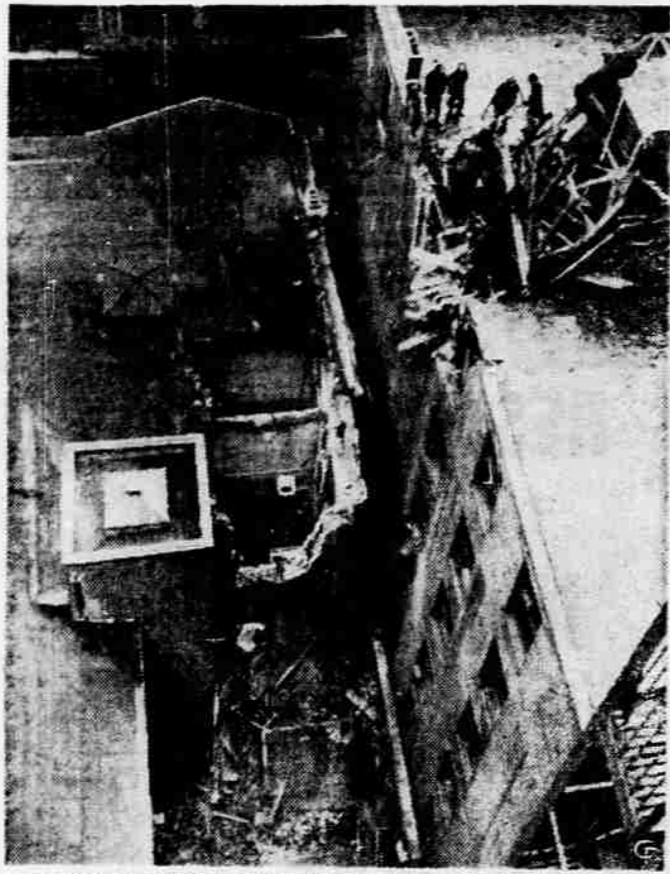
chorus. In the distance, the rising-falling inflections make an appropriate background to the eerie, aerial "winniwing" of the jacksnipe, the simple liquid songs of the descending woodcock, and when everything is dark, the unearthly scream of a dying hare carried aloft in the curved case-hardened talons of a great horned owl to become the fodder of a pair of noisy owlets.

Although the ruffed grouse and a few birds may occasionally break the night's silence, there is an underlying scheduled routine which links the day's sounds. From the first faint blush of dawn when the robin sings, through the noon-day buzzing of the bumblebee, to the late twilight winnowing of the jacksnipe, each sound seems to come at the appropriate half-hour.

Each in his way states the affirmation of spring: This is the season of triumph, of life over death.

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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 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



HITTING LIKE BOMB, big water tank falls from roof of six story building at right through New York Education building. It was a near miracle, said the police, that no one was injured. (International Soundphoto)

Participation in Home Inspections Urged by Barker

Medford Fire Chief Gordon Barker has urged home owners to take advantage of the 1956 home inspection program which starts tomorrow morning.

Firemen will contact homeowners located on streets extending east and west this year. They contact one-half the homes every other year, Barker pointed out.

Inspection will be conducted from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Home inspections are made only on the invitation and consent of the homeowner, Barker stressed.

Inspection Purpose—One of the purposes of the annual inspections, Barker said, is to point out to homeowners simply and briefly how to recognize and eliminate home fire hazards.

"Lack of understanding and human carelessness," he said, "are responsible for approximately 90 per cent of all fires." Public support of the home fire prevention campaign, he noted, will help eliminate needless waste and instances of individual misfortune.

Records show that during the past five years, Oregon home fire claims have averaged more than 77 per cent of all fire loss claims, and more than 70 per cent of the lives lost by fire were in dwellings, Barker said. He noted that 77 persons died in Oregon fires last year, and 54 of them were in dwellings. Twenty-eight fire casualties were children under five years old.

Causes of fires which resulted in fatalities during 1955 included careless smoking, 25; children playing with matches, 4; heat appliances, 22; electrical appliances, 1; gas appliances, 3; gasoline, kerosene, solvent, 6; open fires, 7; and unclassified, 9.

Camping Standards Discussed at Meeting

Camping standards were discussed at the American Camping association meeting, Southern Oregon section, in Klamath Falls last week.

Attending the meeting from Jackson county were Marjorie Hattan and Glenn Klein, county 4-H agents; Mary Aldrich, girl scout executive; Mrs. Lynn Hayes and Mrs. Maurice Ritchey, Medford, and Mrs. Mae Hoffman, Rogue River, girl scout leaders; Dick Lamb and Cliff Hanson, scout executives, Crater Lake area council; and Mrs. Al Smith, Mrs. Frances Krouse, and Mrs. J. W. Bigham, 4-H leaders.

Officers elected for the Southern Oregon section were Mrs. Naomi French, Klamath Falls, chairman; Robert Jones, Medford, chairman; Glenn Klein, Medford, first vice president; Dr. Elmo Stevenson, Ashland, second vice president; and Mrs. Gladys B. Amundson, Roseburg, secretary.

Committee chairman elected were Mary Aldrich, day camping; Jerry Thorne, Klamath Falls, public relations; the Rev. Al Merquam, Grants Pass, church camping; and Mrs. W. W. Stevenson, Medford, camping legislation.

Ontario province is larger than France and Spain combined.



DONA BROWN Receiving Watch

Applegate Girl Takes 1st in Essay Contest

Dona Brown, member of the Applegate Dairy-a-teers 4-H club, was recently presented with a watch in Boise, Ida., for placing first in an essay contest sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders association.

Presentation was made at the association's annual banquet last month at the Basque Center, Boise, Ida., in connection with the Brown Swiss sale.

Mr. Wilkie, General Mills representative who made the presentation, spoke of Dona's 4-H club work with Brown Swiss cattle and the essay she wrote to win the award. The contest was open to all junior members of the Pacific Northwest Brown Swiss association in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana who are engaged in 4-H or FFA club work.

While in Boise, Dona toured the capital building and attended the Pacific Northwest Brown Swiss Breeders 10th annual conignment sale. She returned home by way of Bend.

Medford Police Close 94 Per Cent of Cases

A total of 94 per cent of all cases reported to Medford police department have been closed, according to the monthly report of the police department. The total is the same per cent closed during April, 1955.

Police received 1,286 reports and 1,214 of the cases were closed, the report showed.

Of 62 major offenses reported, 32 per cent were closed, compared to 44 per cent closed last year.

Of 449 miscellaneous cases 93 per cent were closed, compared to 92 per cent last April.

About 80,000,000 motor vehicles are registered in the world.

Hospital Week Is Proclaimed by Mayor

Mayor Earl Miller has proclaimed the week of May 6 through May 12, as Hospital week.

He urged citizens to show their appreciation for hospitals by visiting them.

The week commemorates humanitarian service of hospitals, and celebrates the birthday of Florence Nightingale May 12. The annual observance has as its theme, "Your Hospital... For You and Your Community." Emphasis this year is on hospital services to communities.

The U.S. has two-thirds of the world's motor vehicles.

High School News Notes

By NELLIE RAWLINGS

Special days were set aside this week for election of next year's club officers. Phy-Chem announced its 56-57 officers this week: President, John Reeder; vice president, Steve Wisely; secretary, Kay Nicodemus.

The Order of M officers were elected and Gordon Owlsley will be the new president, with Terry Miller, vice president; Larry Perkins, secretary-treasurer; and Larry Cranston, sergeant-at-arms.

Charles Acker will head the Ski club next year; Pete Kershaw will be vice president, and Jean Alley, secretary.

"La Tertulia" will be led by Linda White as president; Jim Funston, vice president; Art Putney, secretary-treasurer, and Ellen McIne, point keeper.

The Future Nurses of America elected president, Ann Garner; vice president, Linda Rob-

ertson; secretary, Edwina Zawislak; and treasurer, Bernice Skoog.

Torch Honor had its elections Wednesday and the following Honor Roll students will serve the club as officers next year: President, Bill Frake; vice president, Marilyn Parsons; treasurer, Sue Donna Doolen; and secretary, Sally Greaser.

Musical groups who have elected officers are, band, president, Jay Mullen; vice president, Gary Guss; and secretaries, Martha Campbell and Leroy Knight.

There are still a few clubs who have not elected officers yet, but will have elections next week.

All senior students who participated in city government on student government day were invited to be guests of the Elks at their annual Youth Day award ceremony at the Elks Temple Thursday evening.

The date of the Junior-Senior Prom is swiftly approaching. Junior class leaders are making plans to make this dance one of the nicest proms we've ever had.

The following girls were elected to be prom princesses: seniors, Pauline Bliss, Molly Walker, Delora Dunn, and Nellie Rawlings; and juniors, Sally Ross, Dianna Getchell, Jean Alley, and Jan Schliep. A queen will be elected from the group of senior princesses to reign at the big event. The queen will not be announced until the night of the prom, May 12.

Invitations for students to attend the prom who are not students at Medford High may be secured from the deans.

Auditions for next year's choir are being held every night after school in the vocal music room. All students who plan to be in choir next year must audition.

Homer Lyon Gets Washington Job

Salem—Homer G. Lyon Jr., reforestation director for the state forestry department, has been appointed assistant to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture E. L. Peterson, former director of agriculture for Oregon. He leaves for Washington, D. C., May 12.

He will be assigned to duties associated with various agencies of the department under Peterson's jurisdiction. They include the forest service, soil conservation service, extension service, farm cooperative service, agricultural research service and the agricultural conservation program.

Lyon is a graduate of the school of forestry at Oregon State college. He was with the Civilian Conservation corps in 1933 and later was employed by the Coos County Forest Protective association.

In 1937 he was transferred to the Sale office of the state forestry department as reforestation director and took over the administration of the forest fee and yield tax law.

Central Point Man Retires From Business

Central Point—C. L. Munn, owner and operator of Munn's Shoe Repair in Central Point, has announced his retirement from business.

Munn has been in the shoe repair business in Central Point for 13 years. The building on East Pine st. has been sold to Carl Nelson, who took possession May 2.

your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: IS THAT SO? care Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Five states have towns bearing the name California.



PHIL HITCHCOCK

Announcing PHIL HITCHCOCK FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

WILL VISIT JACKSON COUNTY TUES. and WED. May 8th and May 9th

PROGRAM

- TUESDAY:**
4:00 P.M.-4:45 P.M.—Tour Elk Lumber Co. View Expansion Program.
4:45 P.M.-6:00 P.M.—Reception, American Legion Hall Central Point. Meet public and answer questions.
7:30 P.M.-8:45 P.M.—Attend Candidates' Night at Y.M.C.A. Meeting of Young Republicans. PUBLIC INVITED.
9:30 P.M. Telecast: KBES-TV
- WEDNESDAY:**
8:00 A.M.- 9:30 A.M.—Ashland Hathaway House. Candidate Hour Over Coffee and Rolls.
9:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.—Visit Tucker SnoCat and Bear Creek Orchards.
10:30 A.M.—At Airport. Take Off for Eugene.

Jackson County Phil Hitchcock for U.S. Senator Committee, Robert Rukovina, Chairman. Pd. Pol. Adv.

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