

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

This is one letter I must share with you who love the outdoors as I do.

The February air was crisp and cold, and snow was falling slightly in the stillness preceding a storm which was beginning a month of what is recorded as Montana's coldest weather.

Suddenly, thicker than the snowflakes, more beautiful than description, came the Cedar Waxwings. The bushes and trees of our yard were filled with them; the most beautiful and brilliant of all northern birds. Their brief visits to Montana are always a joy and on only our coldest days are they our annual visitors. The seeds of the elderberry bushes were their feast that day, when, suddenly, into their happy singing midst darted a neighbor's dog, and just in



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IS THAT SO!

time, we saw and rescued little "Frosty," as we later named him. When we picked him up from under the dog's paws, one wing hung limp and torn and helpless.

"Very gently we brought him indoors, a crushed, gasping, frightened little tragedy of the wild. The blood from his broken wing was not less bright than the tiny red wax-like tips of wing feathers that have given his species their name of Waxwing.

"As hopeless as the case looked, we swiftly held the wing in place, applied adhesive tape to the break, placed vaseline covered cotton on the torn underside of the wing, then leaving one wing free through a slit in a bandage, we wrapped his quivering little body. We then placed him in the handiest thing available, an empty apple box, and offered him water from a tiny cup. To our surprise and delight he drank eagerly and gratefully, and then took food from our hands.

**One Setting Alone**

"When next we looked out at the oncoming storm to see if the birds had returned, we saw only one, a beautiful, high-crested bird, sitting alone. We saw him often after that and came to wonder if it might be the mate of the wounded one.

"Daily we loved and fed our pet, searching to find him enough elderberries, and the seeds of the Russian olive trees which he liked best, for which he always gave us a little whistling song.

"As the days passed and the storms continued the wild berries were more and more difficult to find, and it was necessary to feed Frosty on bread-crumbs, apples, and bits of banana, with very frequent drinks of water or a dish of snow. From the very first he seemed to understand our love and sympathy, and repaid us with his fearlessness and gratitude.

"For two weeks the bandage held the wing in place; then we carefully removed it, and a few days later gave Frosty a bath to soak off the adhesive. The wounds were healed and the bone had knit. Little by little strength returned in the wing, and when the days became slightly warmer we would take our bird outside for what at first were pathetic efforts at flight, but he would fluff and preen himself in the snow and groom his beautiful feathers. The crest on his head would stand straighter than it ever did indoors.

"Occasionally glimpses would be had of flocks of birds, but very often we would look out to see one lone waxwing waiting. The days came when Frosty's flights would be longer, and only when he became tired was it easy, as it had been, to pick him up and bring him back indoors. Many times we wondered just how we would eventually give him his freedom. Would we put him in charge of a pilot on a plane going Northwest, and so give him a start on the long journey northward? Could we

bear to free him at all? We had come to greatly love him, and perhaps would decide to keep him for a pet. Surely his mate had departed and he would be quite alone.

**Chinook Caressing Land**

"But with returning strength came restlessness, and when the sun would shine little Frosty would struggle against the wind-owpane.

"It was March now. A soft chinook was caressing the frozen land with gentle fingers. One morning we took Frosty out for his usual exercise. For one brief moment he looked at us, a little whistling song coming from his throat—a song of triumph, and farewell. Then he flew straight upward and across the yards to a high lilac hedge.

"He sat there, feathers fluffed, crest erect; then, miracle of miracles, could it be—there beside him was the faithful mate. As we walked near hoping to get a last picture, once more we heard a thrilling note of song, saw a joyous lift of wings as they sailed upward, together and into the North.

This story brings to the writer, Carol Myers, Billings, Mont., the weekly award of the 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana.

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(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.

## Knights of Pythias Set Speech Contest

Talisman Lodge 31, Knights of Pythias, will hold the final speech contest for this area at 8 p.m., May 18, in Pythian hall.

The winner of the contest will go to Portland for the Northwest area contest. The winner of the latter contest will go to New Orleans for the national finals.

There will be a speaker from Grants Pass and Medford at the Medford contest. The public is invited to attend. Speakers will talk on "Threats to Freedom and How to Meet Them."

Brooks, Ore.—(U.P.)—Damage from a fire which destroyed the three-story workshop and storage building of Don Metheny Thursday has been estimated at \$3000.



**AMERICAN BEAUTY**—That goes for both Roberta Brown and the blooms framing her. Both will be on hand at the Luther Burbank Rose Festival in California's Redwood Empire city of Santa Rosa May 19-20. It is an annual affair honoring the internationally known plant wizard.

## Tokyo Rose Awaits Deportation Hearing

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Tokyo Rose arrived from Chicago Friday as her hopes of escaping deportation from the country she betrayed in World War II faded.

The former Japanese radio propagandist, "very depressed" and holding out little hope of winning her fight, was driven immediately to the home of her attorney, Wayne Collins.

Tokyo Rose declined comment on her case at the airport but planned to hold a press conference later. She will make San Francisco the headquarters of a last-ditch fight to stay in the United States. If she fails, she could become a woman without a country.

## National Maritime Day To Be Observed May 22

Salem—(U.P.)—American men and women, both afloat and ashore, who have contributed to the nation's position as the world's leading maritime power, will be honored May 22, a date designated Friday as National Maritime Day by Gov. Elmo Smith.

Minden, Nev.—(U.P.)—Ty Cobb, 69, one of baseball's greatest players, has been granted a divorce from his second wife, the former Mrs. Frances F. Cass.

## Morse Says Action By IPC 'Condoned'

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) charged Friday that Army Secretary Walter M. Brucker and the Justice Department have "condoned" an

"unlawful action" by the Idaho Power Co.

He said the power company built a bridge across the Snake river without the required license.

Morse noted that it is unlawful to construct any bridge across any navigable river until the plans have been approved

by the chief of Army Engineers and the secretary of Army.

Morse said he has received a letter from Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney II stating that construction of the bridge was begun without prior approval of the plans by the chief of engineers. But at the same time, Olney told Morse,

Brucker has advised the Justice Department the Army has no objections to the bridge and recommends against any legal action.

"This is further proof of the administration's favoritism toward private utilities and the Idaho Power Co. plan to scuttle the high Hells Canyon Dam," Morse said in a statement.

"Brucker's action is open approval of an unlawful action."

Portland—(U.P.)—The worst price cut in two years has hit the plywood industry in Oregon and sharp production cutbacks were predicted unless lower prices spur sales.

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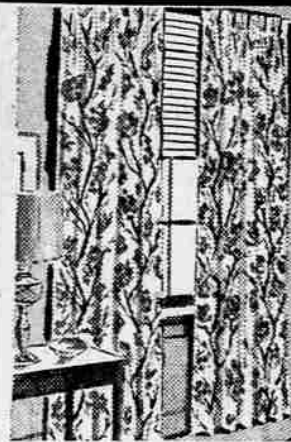
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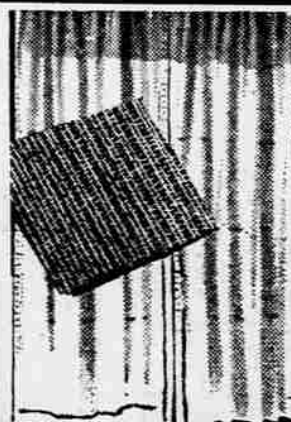
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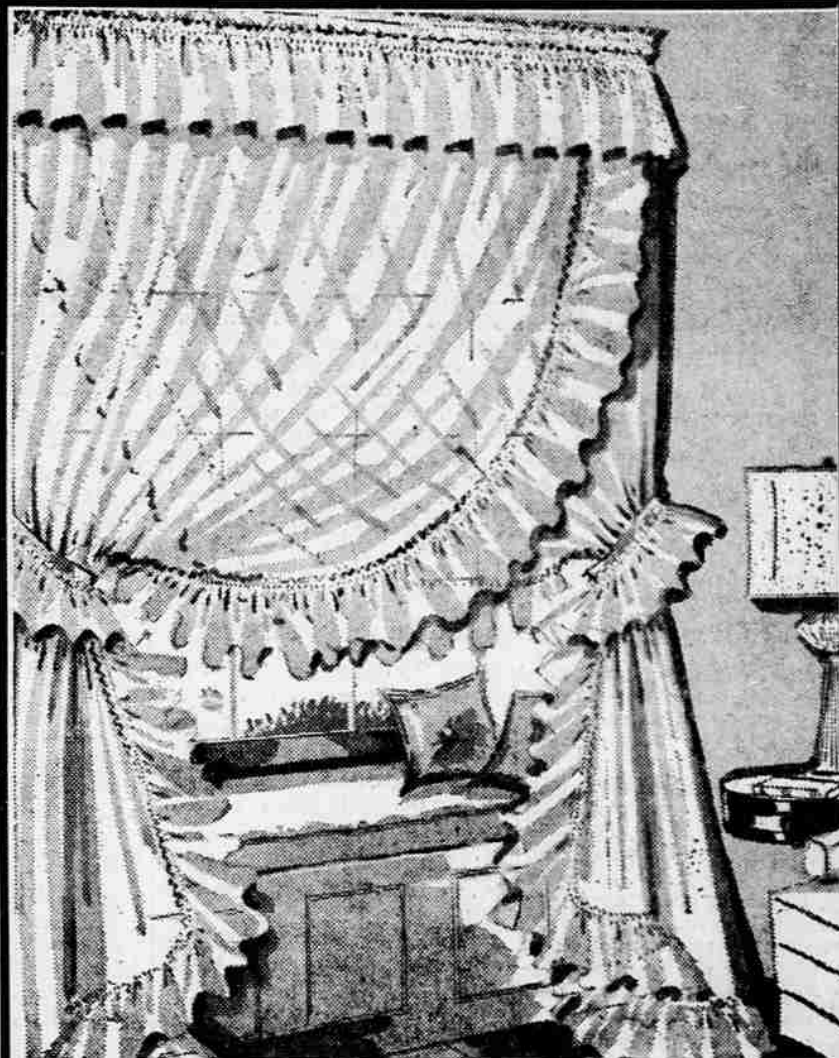
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