

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Editor's Note: In this authoritative sampling series written expressly for the Medford Mail Tribune, Ranger Eugene Burns devotes two pieces to sleeping. The first, good for housewives, too, deals with bedding, the second, with making your bed in the woods. Other camping articles, in clip and paste up, will keep coming.

Few subjects can stir up more campfire discussion than: "What's best in camp bedding?" Rightly, too, it's very important to get the most practical, adequate and comfortable bedding. First, though, let's get this straight: no outdoor bedding of itself generates heat. The body alone furnishes heat. Although this may be helped along externally by a campfire. Bedding's main problem, therefore, is to insulate the sleeper—keep



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in body heat while his heartbeat is down and prevent too much of it from escaping. To insulate the body properly means your bedding cannot neglect any side of the sleeper. (And you'd be surprised how many people don't know this; they still believe the answer is to keep heaping on more covers. Haven't you seen the tenderfoot sleep on a thin mattress or blanket and keep piling on blankets until their very weight exhausts him by morning?)

As for insulation, that does not depend so much on the material itself as on the minute air cells which it contains: the fluffier the material, the smaller the air cells, and the more of them, the better the insulation. But there's another thing comfortable bedding must do: that is, carry off the body's perspiration. Each night, even though he may "sleep cold," a man's body will give off a pint of perspiration. Now some materials absorb moisture readily—and then give it up more reluctantly.

Cotton Worst Offender
Usually the worst offender is cotton. Haven't you reached out of your camp bed, on a cold morning, for your cotton underwear and socks and found them cold and clammy from the moisture gathered from the atmosphere? Apply this to cotton-covered and cotton-lined quilts

and you've got the obvious result. To compound the fault, the cotton quilting compresses, driving out even more air space. See now why you can slip into your cotton quilt when it's dry and be warm enough but wake up during the night with the blanket cold and clammy?

Some wool blankets are better. I say "some" because wool comes in several types: fleecy, fine, medium, and coarse, besides tightly woven or fluffy.

Disregard Bulk
If you want the best, avoid the coarse with big air cells and get fleecy, fluffy, or fine woolen blankets, despite the obvious drawback of bulk. And avoid the closely woven army-type: sure they reduce bulk, but brother they are so tightly woven that they are just about the coldest covering per pound that you can find. Camel hair and llama are best—but price makes them almost out of the question.

As a rule, down quilts are best—at least, most experienced woodsmen prefer them. Of the down quilts, elder duck is by far the best, but these are hard to come by. However, there are other downs and the finer they are the more minute and lacy, the better the insulation because of smaller air cells. And, because down does not absorb moisture, the bedding will be dry when the camper wakes in the morning.

These same basic principles hold true for a sleeping bag. These bags, incidentally, have their good points and bad. Good: they can be unfurled almost anywhere with little trouble. In really cold weather there's almost nothing better for warm sleeping. For small children, there's no fear of them tossing off blankets in the night with dangerous exposure. Bad: they give a feeling of restraint—being too confining. Besides most bags cannot meet the night-to-night changes of temperature, to say nothing of just one night's changes. Another drawback: if the bag is water-tight and the quilting is sewed-in and difficult to air in the morning, your sleeping bag may be fine at first but damp and uncomfortable thereafter.

We'll discuss how to overcome some of these faults, in addition to how to get a good night's rest in next Monday's column.

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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

Timberwolf Division In Field Training

The Second battalion, 413th Infantry Regiment, southern Oregon's unit of the Northwest's "Timberwolf" division is presently in field training at the Yakima Firing Center, Washington.

The unit consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company from Medford and "E" Company, Grants Pass, is made up of men from virtually every community in southern Oregon. Commanding officer is Maj. Robert A. Elliott, Medford.

Review Held
The highlight of training for the battalion thus far had been participation in the Governors Day review on Wednesday, Aug. 15. Many visitors were present for the review including Gov. Elmon Smith of Oregon, Gov. Arthur B. Langlie of Washington, and Maj. Gen. William J. Ennis, deputy Sixth Army commander.

Also present were several young women including two of the Seafair princesses from Seattle, Miss Yajima, Miss USAR, Miss Marine Corps Reserve and Miss Peaches and Cream.

Prior to the parade the young women toured the post visiting the troops in the field. After the parade Governor Smith, along with the girls, visited the recruit area. The girls even stayed for evening chow.

The training at Yakima consists of basic training for the men who have had no prior military service, plus advanced and on the job training for previous service men.

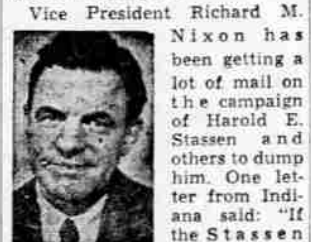
Start Training
Basic trainees on their arrival were billeted in "tent city" along with basics or the rest of the division. After being settled Sunday evening they started full time training Monday morning. Their first training consisted of general subjects such as dismounted drill, military courtesy, first aid and customs of the service. They then started full time training with the rifle learning mechanical training then going

on to the preliminary rifle instruction circle to practice dry firing. The rest of the last week in camp will be taken up with tactical training. While the basics were going through their phase of training the advanced men were working at their regular jobs or were attending various schools to assist them in their work. The unit will finish training at Saturday noon, Aug. 25, and arrive home on Sunday, Aug. 26.

A Nichol's Worth of... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — What's new in Washington.



Harman Nichols, United Press writer, is in town, I'll let the air out of the tires.

Nixon has been getting a lot of mail on the campaign of Harold E. Stassen and others to dump him. One letter from Indiana said: "If the Stassen train comes through our town, I'll let the air out of the tires."

On Capitol Hill, there is no oratory. Nothing but tourists touring the empty hallowed halls, and painters putting brush to ceiling and walls. Across the Capitol Plaza, there are amateur painters, doing their best to put a likeness of the Capitol on canvas. Some of them dress like they do in New York's parks and Greenwich Village—smocks and berets.

Things were pretty quiet at the Pentagon, too. On one eight-hour trick during the dark hours, only two telephone calls came in and none went out. "Golly," one operator said, "all there was to do was drink coffee and play solitaire."

The United Mine Workers Journal has a cute cartoon. It shows a fat miner coming home from work, iron hat cocked. Mama is standing at the window with guests watching his approach. She says: "Here comes 18 tons now."

Brig. Gen. Dale O. Smith has written a book called "U. S. Military Doctrine." It was for circulation here and the Air Force.

Concrete ties are being introduced on British Railways with the rails fastened in position by rubber washers which absorb vibration and add to the comfort of passing trains.

Tuesday, August 21, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

Oregon Will Have Several Governors

Salem — (U.P.) — Oregon will have several governors this week.

House Speaker Edward Geary, Klamath Falls, took over as acting governor Monday in the absence of Gov. Elmo Smith at the Republican National convention in San Francisco.

However, Geary was to leave on a business trip to California Tuesday night and State Treasurer Sig Unander will serve until Gov. Smith returns from the GOP convention Thursday night.

Oregon law provides that succession to the governorship shall run from president of the Senate to speaker of the House to secretary of state to state treasurer. However, Oregon has been without a senate president since Gov. Smith advanced from that post upon the death of Gov. Paul Patterson.

WATER WELLS SPOOTS OIL
Georgetown, Tex. — (U.P.) — Mrs. W. H. Percy of the draught-hill community of Jonah, seven miles east of here, wasn't too happy for a woman who had drilled for water and struck oil. The draught had already ruined her grass, shrubs and trees. And now, she said, she can't even run her air conditioner on oil.

Judge Tooze Said 'Much Improved'

Salem — (U.P.) — Mrs. Walter Tooze, wife of Supreme Court Justice Walter Tooze, reported today that her husband was in "much improved" condition at Salem Memorial hospital.

Mrs. Tooze said the ailing jurist had not required oxygen for several days. He has been under treatment for what was described as a stomach ailment.

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. (Mass.) who will serve his fifth consecutive term as Republican convention chairman, received six gavels as gifts Sunday.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

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LETTERS TO PERIODS 25

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