



CARRYING BANNERS AND CHEERING followers of Vice President Richard M. Nixon greet him and his wife at San Francisco International Airport. (International)

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Although it takes the horizon but two minutes to swallow up our sun, twilight lingers on during these August nights, making an easy transition between day and night. But gradual as it may seem to us, a tremendous transition goes on each evening in the animal world. Virtually, a whole new shift goes to work: in the vast majority are the animals which remain active by day and night.

By nightfall, most daytime animals are already asleep:



In season, a deer has a sour-sweet smell; an elk, much stronger; a moose is rancid; a bear almost pig-like; and a peccary can be positively nauseating downwind.

More informative perhaps are the sounds of the night. At close and break of day they follow a regular, timed repertoire. There are the calls of frogs and toads; the shrill, strident rubbing of legs and wings of insects; the calls of night birds; the challenge of mammals. (Yet an interruption of all sounds—a sudden silence—can be even more pregnant with meaning.)

Of course, the human's range of hearing excludes many night sounds. After all, each animal has its own hearing spectrum. Rats and bats, for example, communicate in a pitch far beyond ours which is pretty well confined to six octaves above middle C. Others are very tiny—a foraging family group of mice will small-talk in a pitch which is not alone inaudible to many predators but also carries but a few inches.

But best of all night sounds are the calls from high overhead, the honkings of a wedge of wild geese in the night sky. Or the howl of a coyote on a frosty night when his breath is steaming.

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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 your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: It That So! c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Most daytime birds go to sleep promptly: cardinals may cease activity 10 minutes before sunset; crows settle their noisy affairs by sundown; robins and mocking birds may continue their song a half hour into twilight. But once daylight dwindles, out swoop the nighthawks to patrol their beat of sky while bats commence their crazy writing in the sky.

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The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, a newspaper editor, a women's page editor and two newspaper writers. They consult with clergymen of all faiths and denominations. All letters are held to complete confidence.

TOM—My wife's sister thwarts my boy.
LOIS—He has indoctrinated the boy.

TOM—My wife has an older sister who is past her 45th year and has never been married. She has a high position in the school system and earns a good salary. She has always said that she would provide for the education of our three children and make them her sole heirs in her will. This, plus the fact that my wife feels that her sister gave up any hope of marriage because she wished to help her after the death of her widowed mother, gives my sister-in-law quite a bit of weight in our home.

As a matter of fact, I like my sister-in-law. I not only respect her for her accomplishments, but I am fond of her as a person. I am not therefore disposed to be jealous of her influence or argumentative.

Of late, however, I have begun to be resentful of her attempts to argue our oldest child, Frank, out of his ambition to become a West Point man. It so happens that this was my boyhood ambition, but I could never make it. I think Frank has a good chance because our Congressman makes his appointments as the result of competition, and his school principal seems to think highly of his chances.

My sister-in-law sees no point in this. All she can see is that I am trying to get him a free education, and she points out that she is ready to finance him. She will not admit that Frank would be as frustrated as I was if he fails to get to West Point.

LOIS—It isn't at all that I think my sister is the boss because of her money. I would side with my husband if I did not feel he was wrong. He has indoctrinated Frank without realizing it. I cannot see Frank spending his whole life as a soldier.

THE COUNCIL: There are some misconceptions to be cleared up. A West Point education is a good education. While it imposes moral obligations upon its beneficiaries to serve their country, it does not necessarily mean that he must be a soldier in the narrow sense. West Point training can lead to careers, in and out of the Army, in engineering, law and other related professions. As for the obligation to serve in uniform, it is now a common obligation imposed on all youth, although it applies with greater degree to those educated at West Point.

Now, as to the father's alleged indoctrination. Career choices are most often made as the result of indoctrination. Little boys are impressionable, and they are stirred to their ambitions by factors that cannot always be traced, but they get most of these ideas through what they hear and see about them. Frank obviously has been subject to his aunt's influence as well as his father's, and it is admitted that the father did not consciously hammer the West Point into his son's head. If his aunt can stir the boy's interest in specific matters, well and good. But she should not set herself against West Point if that is the boy's desire and has such strong approval from the father.

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Cars Are Problem to 70-Year-Old Stroller

Clifton, N.J. —(U.P.)—To William Hanson, 70-year-old Clifton hiker, solicitous motorists are a problem.

Hanson, to whom a 30-mile jaunt on foot is just a stroll, has this bit of advice for well-meaning motorists who keep stopping to offer him a lift on his annual hike to Greenwood Lake from his home here: "If you see some one walking at a steady pace toward Greenwood Lake, please keep right on riding."

Hanson, in addition to his annual walk on the lake, walks between 10 and 12 miles every week end. He says his zest for hiking goes back to 1909 when he won a five-and-half-mile road race.

To round out the year, Hanson visits relatives on Christmas Day in Clifton, Paterson, Totowa Borough and West Paterson—on foot, naturally.

Salem —(U.P.)—Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton's office has declared that sales tax receipts derived from automobile retailers and parts dealers need not be allocated to highway and park purposes.

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Per Capita Income In State Sets Mark

Portland —(U.P.)— Per capita income in Oregon rose to an all time high last year, according to a federal report.

Harold K. Cherry, manager of the Portland field office of the United States Department of Commerce said that the per capita income of Oregon residents in 1950 was \$1834, the highest mark since records were started 27 years ago.

Business also enjoyed a record year in Oregon, the report said. Manufacturing contributed the most to the state's record per capita income with 656 million dollars, or 21 per cent, of all personal income coming from that source.

Airman Cleared In Assault Charge

Parks AFB, Calif. —(U.P.)—Airman 2C William A. Ott, 22, Selah, Wash., was found innocent Tuesday of charges that he assaulted three trainees during a barracks inspection at Parks Air Force base in Alameda county.

A court martial cleared Ott of four assault counts after 40 minutes of deliberation. Testifying against Ott were Airman James W. Milford, 19, Apalachicola, Fla., John Odom, 21, Beaumont, Tex., and Donald J. Ainsworth, 17, Lincoln county, Ida.

Milford testified that Ott, a tactical instructor at the base, poked him in the eyes and

shoved him against a bunk during a barracks inspection July 28.

Odom and Ainsworth testified that Ott pushed their foreheads when they looked sideways dur-

ing the same inspection. At the time, they had been in the Air Force only two days. Three of Ott's superior officers came to his defense. One of them, M./Sgt. Charles W. Petty, Ott's immediate superior, said Ott is "one of the best tactical instructors I have ever known."

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