They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

Let's have a look at a pair of mid-September items of news from Washington, D. C. They are of interest to anybody who is on a logging or sawmill payroll. The earliest one said:

"Mortgage credit continues to be tight. Housing starts have dropped to an annual rate of less than 1,100,000 per year. For the full year, a decline of around 12 per cent from 1955 is now probable."

The later story had this to tell:

"A meeting at the White House yesterday resulted in administration approval of steps to be taken to insure a freer flow of mortgage money. Action will not be sufficient to open gates wide but should be of substantial help."

Of course government can never do anything more than "help" to correct a hiatus in the American system of private business enterprise. The government's concern is that, at a time when other major divisions of our economy are going steadily forward, home building has slumped.

New homes are where the lumber goes, in the main, and homes are where the lion's share of revenue comes from to pay wages, taxes, dividends and forest conservation costs.

The average home-building family raises the money for the job through a modest down payment and a long-term mortgage. When mortgage finance money tightens, lumber sales are choked off.

Remember 1938 . . .

I remember 1938 right well, because a pay cut came along in May, just when I'd signed the papers for a new second-hand automobile, then yet more papers for a garage, which happened to have a house attached. Mortgage finance money was frozen. Then came "the recession."

The lumber industry, nationally and regionally, had taken strong leadership for two years, in organizing programs to make the National Housing Act of 1934 do a job. The machinery of the act was that of the Federal Housing Administration's plan for insurance of long-term home loans, with cost, interest and charges amortized in equal monthly payments for the term, which was limited to no more than 20 years. The down payment on a home, new or old, could be no less than 20 per cent of the price of the home—house and lot. Interest rate was 4½ per cent. The government's charge for insuring a home to protect the lender was ½ of one per cent.

It was a fair partnership of business and government, with the business kept under private management and control. Uncle Sam has made some money on the FHA home loan insurance all the way through. So have the bankers. I know it has worked wonders for one family, my own, as it has for millions of others. FHA has made mighty mountains of business for the lumber industry.

A Hoover Plan . . .

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was a plan by President Herbert Hoover. A related program took form as the Home Owners Loan Corporation, saving millions of homes through insured refinancing from mortgage foreclosure—after a hostile Congress had rejected it in 1931-1932. . .

After 1932 the Hoover "HOLC" was passed as a "new deal"—without credit to the real author, of course. The idea was next applied to the need to implement the construction of a new home with small down payment and under long-term loan financing.

In 1936 the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, cooperating with the National Retail Lumbermen's Association, built six FHA-plan homes at Bethesda, Md., to demonstrate how well the plan would work with small, low-cost lumber dwellings. In the Pacific Northwest the West Coast Lumbermen's Association carried on a similar promotion.

For a long, long time mortgage finance money was tight, even on loans that were insured by the Federal Government itself. This brought on a "recession," with related causes, in 1938. The trouble then, as now, was with authorities that held on like grim death to the ancient, discredited system of multiple short term mortgages on a single home, with bloated down payment of "no less than 35 per cent"—a system that all but ruined the country in 1932, when Herbert Hoover's practical plan of loan reform was rejected by irresponsible opposition in Congress.

Guards Removed At Sturgis, Clay

Sturgis, Ky.,—(U.P.)—Kentucky National Guardsmen were withdrawn from Sturgis and Clay, Ky., Saturday after court action was asked to enforce school integration, which brought the troops into the area earlier this month.

Gov. A. B. (Happy) Chandler ordered the 500 guardsmen pulled out of the area Saturday on his return from Chicago. Maj. Gen. J. J. B. Williams, state adjutant general and commander of the troops, recommended Thursday that they be withdrawn.

The governor was believed to have taken the action largely because the The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed petitions in U.S. District Court for permanent injunctions to force integration at the Sturgis High school and Clay consolidated school.

Legal procedure leading to the possible issuance of permanent injunctions is expected to take several months, whereas temporary injunctions could have been issued much sooner.

Williams said that federal injunctions, if granted, "would be carried out by the U.S. Marshal, supported by the majesty and full power of the federal government. I suggest that all concerned, especially certain individuals, ponder well the import of that fact."

The guardsmen were ordered here Sept. 4 by Chandler after menacing crowds prevented eight Negro pupils from enrolling at Sturgis High school.

Poker Spot Closed By Labor Dispute

Gardena, Calif. — (U.P.) — One of six poker palaces in the city was closed Saturday by a labor dispute which threatened to erupt into violence and an attorney for the gambling houses said the five other establishments might be forced to close.

Pickets formed outside the Normandie club yesterday and witnesses said verbal comments and chants were made to patrons of the club. The manager, George Lyster, closed the club at noon.

The pickets were reported to be members of the Culinary Union of Santa Monica which represents workers at the six establishments. The union and club officials have been negotiating a wage reopening clause of a five-year work contract.

Attorney Albert Pearlson, who represents the clubs, said he knew of no reason why the one club was struck. He said the other establishments might close voluntarily.

Fall Near Timberline Lodge Kills Woman

Timbeline Lodge — (U.P.) — A Portland mother of two children stumbled on a rock and plunged over a 50-foot cliff to her death near Timberline lodge yesterday.

Officers identified the woman as 32-year-old Mrs. Lou Ellen Simko.

Her husband, John L. Simko, 37, said that they had started to hike a short distance from Timberline lodge when his wife stumbled on a rock and fell down the cliff. Two University of Oregon medical school physicians reached the woman several minutes later and said she had died instantly.

The couple's two daughters, ages 12 and 8, were home at the time of the tragedy.

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Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

What do you have when you lace these things together: one of the world's most widespread mammals; for its size, one of the most courageous, pugnacious and fiercest; an appetite which demands food every three hours

and requires up to four times its own weight in a day; a heartbeat which may run up to 1,200 a minute as compared to man's normal 65-90; and a poisonous bite.

You have a shrew of course—the world's tiniest mammal—it may weight less than a bright penny; and surely one of the most interesting.

Shrews live on all continents except Australia, and although often the most abundant in a widespread region, are seldom if ever seen. Our American shrews, of which there are more than 30 species, resemble small moles to which they are related and earless mice, to which they are not related.

The noses of these tiny insectivores are long and pointed with whiskers near the end of the nose; their eyes are tiny and hidden in dense velvety fur—the plush-like quality enabling them to run forward or backward in their shallow burrows without missing.

Yet these abundant creatures are so elusive that even experienced woodsmen seldom see them in the wild. However, barn owls and hawks take a heavy toll.

These little mites are a bundle of jumpy nerves, always on the go, with a passion to get somewhere, in a great frenzy. Always restless. Being the smallest mammals, they have the highest rate of metabolism, burning up energy at a furious pace, four times as fast as that of a mouse, that is, per gram of tissue.

To support this fantastically high rate, shrews are forced to devour enormous quantities of crickets, ants, moths, slugs, centipedes, snails, lizards and mice—more than three times their own weight each day!

Three Confined

To give you an idea, A pioneer American mammalogist, C. Hart Merriam, confined three under a glass tumbler. Two promptly attacked and devoured the third, hair, bones and all. Eight hours later, only a single shrew remained with a slightly bulging stomach—the tiny cannibal had transmuted both of his fellows into a small heap of droppings and a few calories of heat.

Frequently, this ravenous butcher will kill and devour animals twice and three times his own size—and quite likely is an important factor in reducing mouse populations.

Not only does this demoniacal killer have sharp teeth but a few also have a poisonous bite. Unlike poisonous snakes, these have no hollow fangs—the poison seeps into the bite from a groove between their long lower incisors.

The poison is strong enough to kill animals two and three times its own size. In fact, Oliver P. Pearson in Twentieth-Century Bestiary states there seems little doubt that the venom from one Blarine shrew if injected intravenously could kill a human.

Shortest-Lived Mammal

As to be expected, the furious pace of this wisp of an animal wears it down in a hurry. In fact, he's the world's shortest-lived mammal. The normal life expectancy is only a few months—many perish before they are weaned; a few live to be a year old; and quite likely less than 6 per cent enjoy a ripe old age of, say, two years. The survival of the species therefore depends largely upon the immature, inexperienced, generation that manages to survive the onslaughts of a cold winter. But cold doesn't particularly bother them. They live through temperatures of 60 and more below zero Fahrenheit, but food—that's the all-abiding problem.

Whether shrews die more of old age or of violence is debatable: some woodsmen contend that they find quite a number of uneaten bodies—hence they reason they die of old age. But despite this, many carcasses, beneath the fur, show evidences of violent death. A better explanation of the uneaten carcasses is that shrews are unpalatable to many predators: they have powerful offensive scent glands and their odor seems to become stronger when they are excited or angry as in combat. Of course this doesn't bother owls and hawks which have no sense of smell.

To make up for the heavy toll of predators and its short lifespan, a female born in spring will give birth to five bee-sized young that same fall—and thereafter, if she lives, three more litters the following year.

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Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS

Denver—Adlai E. Stevenson in proposing greater security for the aged:

". . . In this age of abundance, in this land of plenty, a person should be enabled to maintain, when life's regular duties are completed, his or her accustomed standard of living."

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia—Indian Premier Jawaharlal Nehru on Egypt's President Nasser and the Suez situation:

"Nasser had a right to nationalize the canal, but he did it the wrong way. If we were to do it, we would have dealt with the question differently."

Washington—Rep. Sterling Cole (R.-N.Y.) proclaiming United States still leads in atoms race:

"We will continue to maintain that leadership if the atom remains free and is not put in the straight-jacket of government ownership and operation."

Washington—Lt. Gen. James M. Gaven, deputy Army chief of staff for research and development, on necessity of air support for troops:

"You can have everything in the world you might need to win a war, but if you can't get it there you get second prize, which means you have lost."

Washington—Sen. George Aiken (R.-Vt.) on Adlai E. Stevenson's charge the administration led the nation into a farm depression:

"Adlai Stevenson has set out to create a farm depression. By his gloom and doom approach, he is trying to talk farm prices and income down for his own selfish political benefit."

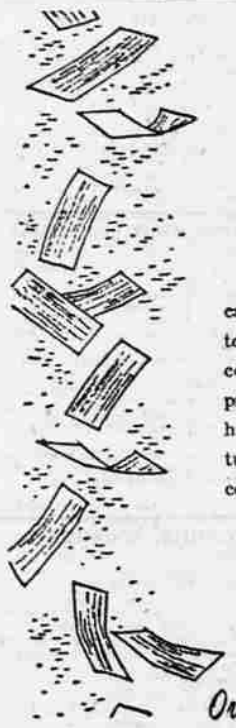
Self-Admitted Sex Maniac Rapes Girl

Daly City, Calif. — (U.P.)—Police are searching for a man who bragged he was a "killer and a sex maniac" while kidnaping, raping and robbing a 19-year-old Daly City girl.

The girl told police the man forced her into his 1953 Buick sedan at gun-point when she came out of a phone booth at the Westlake shopping center park late Friday night. She said he ripped off her blouse and tied it over her head so she couldn't get a good description.

Then, she told police, he drove her to what seemed to be a farm or ranch about 10 minutes away and attacked her twice, took $100 in $10 bills from her purse, put her out of the car and drove away. The girl, who is a machine operator, was picked up later by a passing motorist in Westlake and taken to Junipero Serra hospital where doctors confirmed that she had been attacked.

She described her assailant as being a blond man about 35, five feet nine inches and weighing 150 pounds. She said he was quite talkative and told her he was a sex maniac and was sought by police, adding that he was "going to die anyway, my time is running out."



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