

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

These are the nights when the mystery is compounded: mammals, birds and insects are again making their fantastic annual migrations, mostly by dead of night.

These nocturnal trips, undertaken even when the moon is dark, the stars are cloud-covered and the ground is hidden by fog, are unexplainable. Consider: a mother tern arises in the night, disappears in the fog bank, flies to the water and within a few hours returns from her gyrations over the sea with a crop full of fish to gorge to her ravenous, clamorous young. Mind, returning through darkness and fog to the exact square foot—for there are countless other nests nearby, most containing equally clamorous, ravenous young.

As snow moves down the sides of the Rockies with the coming of winter, so too do the elk herds move down little by little each night to winter-feed in the bottoms. In Canada's northland, lemmings may be making their suicidal westward drive, on and on, again mostly by night, down the valleys, through the tundra,



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past the spruces, all in one mighty frantic rush. Not one will come back; but the population will start again almost from scratch parented by a few stay-at-homes.

From somewhere in Central America, no one knows where—the cotton worm moths fly by night to arrive in our southern states and after breeding for several disastrous generations, fly on again by night to the north reaching as far as Canada in such numbers as to slow traffic. Of these millions, not one survives.

Bat Migration

But greatest of the mammalian overland migrators is that of some of the bats which both feed and migrate at night. They go trippingly, stopping here and there, over day and eating and drinking on the wing.

But the most amazing migrations of all—if no more than reckoned in numbers and kinds—are our birds. Of the migrants, the majority are night flyers, among them being shore birds, rails, flycatchers, orioles, most of the great family of sparrows, wood warblers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, in fact almost every one of the small birds.

With some of these night flyers, adults depart first to be followed in a fortnight or so by the

young-of-the-year who have concealed within themselves full-directions for joining their parents in the southland.

Why fly by night? Perhaps because their vision is limited by night. If they were to migrate by day, settle in early evening and rest for a short time before starting to eat, the night would be upon them and they would be shut off from their food supply of seeds, fruits, insects, and little fish. Physical exhaustion without the lift of a full stomach would be fatal. So, night-feeding insectivorous birds such as night-hawk add whippoorwill migrate by day; and day-feeding insectivorous birds, such as phoebes and flycatchers migrate by night.

Migration Speeds Vary

How fast are these migrants? They vary. A lone goose tracked by radar for 90 minutes averaged 55 miles an hour. Radar has proved another thing: until recently it was believed that most migrants flew at about 15,000 feet. In flying over mountains, radar shows that they may exceed even 20,000 feet but immediately after they have crossed, they tend to descend to their normal traveling altitude which is well below 3,000 feet. In crossing oceans, many fly only a few feet over the waves, apparently in an effort to avoid adverse winds.

The moon, of course, is a great help in observing bird movements at night. By fixing on its light, an observer equipped with a telescope or field glass can see the silhouetted migrants. Unlike their daytime flockings, now most seem to rest in the early evening, spiral upward and strike out in the proper direction well after dark. In fact, the greatest number are migrating by midnight. Before dawn most settle down to rest before daylight. With light, they feed—preparing for their next hop.

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Klamath Falls—(UPI)—About 200 Klamath basin lumbering workers will be out of work for an indefinite period beginning tomorrow when Kalmine Plywood Company shuts down.



SPECIAL VALENTINE—Actress Jeanne Crain gets a special "Steve Canyon" type valentine from cartoonist Milton Caniff. Caniff made the drawing in Washington, where he was appointed by the Treasury department to the cartoon committee of the President's People-to-People campaign. "Steve Canyon" appears in the Mail Tribune daily and Sunday.

Community Solves Protection Problem

Houston, Tex.—(UPI)—Hunters Creek, a pint-size community west of Houston with only one paid policeman, has solved its problem of getting police calls at all hours without straining the taxpayers' pocketbooks.

Marshall Parker, the one-man police force, now pushes a button on a recording machine.

"Help!" comes a voice from the machine. "A dog is digging up our flowerbed." The voice adds a name, address and telephone number.

"Somebody just knocked down our mailbox with a brick," complains another voice. And another: "Someone just stole the hubcaps off my car." And another: "I want to make a complaint..."

Parker listens to all the voices, takes down the names and calls the people back.

"Sometimes a voice will add 'urgent' and I take right off for that address," Parker explained. Here's the way it works:

Incoming calls are answered mechanically and a voice tells the caller Parker is out but will be back in a few minutes. Then the caller is asked to state his problem, name, address and telephone number.

Friday, October 26, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

Products, Services Fair Due in Chicago

Chicago—(UPI)—A Chicago fair featuring exhibits of products and services created in the Chicago area will open in the International amphitheater early next June, it was announced by John W. Evers, Association of Commerce head.

The fair is also designed to acquaint young people with the job and career opportunities in the Chicago area.

Thomas H. Coulter, chief executive officer of the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry said conservative estimates show that five years from now Chicago will need 513,000 new workers.

He said that much of the industrial expansion will be due to increased shipping activity after the St. Lawrence Seaway is completed.

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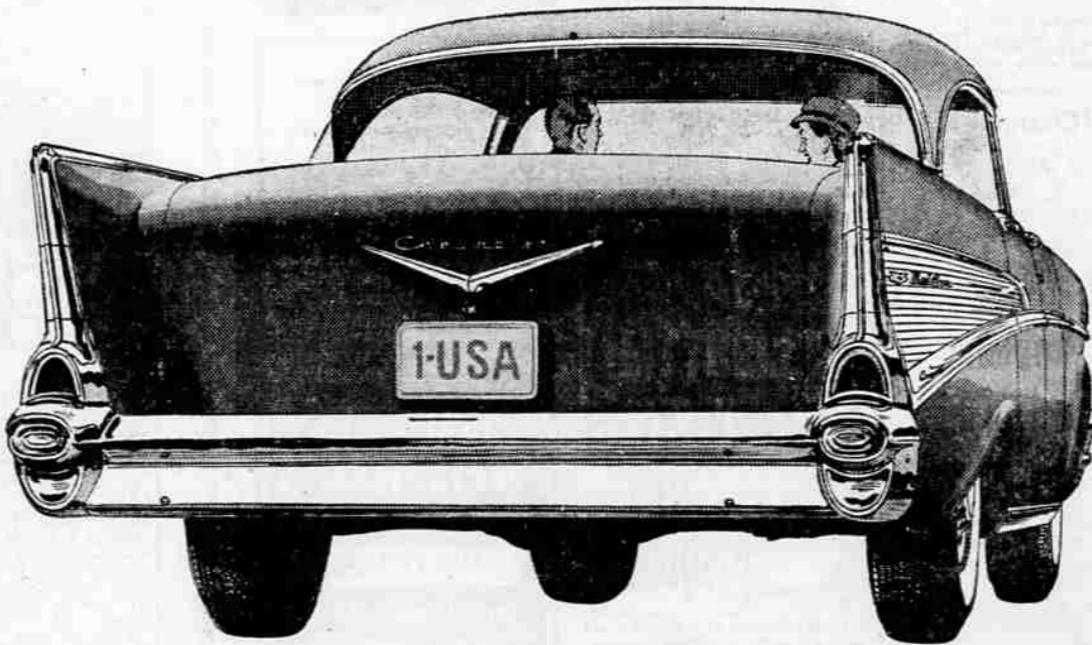
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up to 245.* Like the bold front end that combines bumper and grille in one beautiful unit, the 14-inch wheels for lower, softer riding tire pressures, the scores of smart details like the ventilation air intakes that cap the headlights. There's too much to list here... so come see it all for yourself!



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READ—

What the Editor of the Ashland Tidings
Has to Say About Tom Reeder

Reprint from Issue of October 20

The results of a preferential poll taken among members of the Jackson County Bar association to determine their opinion on the candidate best qualified for the office of district attorney reflects most favorably on Thomas Reeder, the Democratic nominee.

Mr. Reeder received 36 votes while the incumbent Walter Nunley, candidate for re-election on the Republican ticket, received 15.

The ballot was conducted by secret vote with almost all members of the legal profession in the county sending in their ballots so the result may be accepted as fully representative of the opinion of members of the Jackson County Bar association.

This preferential poll, with its very conclusive vote in favor of Mr. Reeder, is likely to have considerable bearing on the decision reached by many voters who have not yet made up their minds on how they will vote for district attorney. It indicates that a substantial majority of the members of the legal profession in this county do not believe that Mr. Nunley has done a good job as district attorney and that they feel the office would be better conducted under the direction of Mr. Reeder.

There are, in the bar, as in any profession, groups and cliques and undoubtedly some of the attorneys taking part in the preferential poll have tangled with the district attorney in court. This could account for some opposition to his re-election, but certainly not for the preponderance of opposition shown by the ballot.

Mr. Reeder, who has made several visits to Ashland in behalf of his campaign, has made an excellent impression with those he has called on and he is likely to pick up a good many Republican votes in this end of the county for his evident sincerity impresses those he contacts.

ELECT
A Responsible
District
Attorney
**THOMAS J.
REEDER**

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