

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Did you know that . . . there are some 235 different kinds of sharks ranging in size from three feet to about 60 and they live in almost all oceans. A few run up into fresh waters of tropical rivers and three or four are inhabitants of fresh-water lakes in Central America and Thailand.

Most sharks give birth to living young but a few lay eggs with horny cases. Fertilization is always internal. Most dangerous to man is the great white shark which injures and kills swimmers and sometimes attacks boats. Its appetite is huge; sea lions, seals and other large creatures have been found in its stomach. But as fish go, the little piranha of South America is more dangerous.

Bats possessed a natural system of radar when man was still lying in caves. In flight, a bat's mouth is open and it utters a continuous rhythmic of sounds, pitched in a key far too high for the human to recognize. These sound waves are thrown back to the bat by objects around it. Thus, by the echo, it can accurately determine its relation at all times to these objects, whether fixed or moving, and maneuver about in the dark as efficiently as a bird can in broad daylight.

The Texas armadillo always gives birth to four look-alikes of the same sex and the same amount of hair. Reason? They develop from a single cell which divides about 14 weeks after mating.

Exudes Soapy Liquid
While sucking the sap from a plant, the froghopper or spittle bug exudes a soapy liquid into which it pumps air by means of a curious bellows-like apparatus in its abdomen. As the bubbles are formed, the insect pulls and pushes them over itself in an orderly fashion until its soft body is completely covered.

For its size, the hero shrew certainly must possess the strongest of all backbones. This shrew, some six inches long, can easily support the weight of a 160-pound man standing on it with one foot for several minutes. How come? It has more than twice as many vertebrae as other shrews and these are enormously enlarged and staunchly interlocked.

Although the cottontail appears timid, the female will open the attack with marvelous courage when a snake threatens her naked, immature brood. So quick and fast are her actions that even a large snake will turn and seek safety in flight to avoid being ripped to ribbons by claws and teeth.

The slowest mammal on earth is the sloth. It is so lethargic that a green algae, which looks like moss, actually grows in its coarse fluted hair. In the rainy

season, when the sloth's hairy "garden" is well-watered, its fur often has a distinct greenish tinge due to the luxuriant growth of algae. When the hot dry season rolls along, the "garden" dries up.

Throughout the world there are thousands of kinds of bees all of which pollinize flowers, enabling plants to fruit.

Mole Closes Doors
A mole never leaves any outside door open to its labyrinth of underground highways. From time to time a pile of excavated earth is pushed up through a hole but once the job is done the exit is firmly plugged.

The cheetah, a big cat of Asia and Africa, swiftest of all land mammals, can cover a 100 yards in four and a half seconds. For hundreds of years, tame cheetahs have been used in India to bring down game.

The gorilla is considered a poor third in the rank of mental ability among members of the monkey clan. The chimpanzee is first, the Orangutan a good second.

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PTC Planning Court Move Against Order

Portland—(U.P.)—An official of Portland Traction Company said today the firm planned to go to court over an order of State Public Utilities Commissioner Howard Morgan.

The order required the firm to restore interurban service to westside Portland. It directed the firm to furnish within five connecting busses from the east side of the Hawthorne bridge to the west side.

E. E. Vonderahe, vice president and general superintendent of PTC, said "we are going to exercise our lawful rights to ask the courts to determine whether or not the commissioner has authority to issue such an order."

Garden Notes

By C. B. CORDY
County Extension
Agent for Horticulture

Acid loving plants rarely do too well in this area for two reasons. One is that the soil is too high in lime and the other is that summer weather is too hot and dry.

Using acid forming materials to counteract the lime in the soil is a partial answer to the high lime content. But this in itself rarely gives satisfactory results unless carried on over a long period of time.

The principal acid loving plants in this area are azaleas, rhododendrons and blueberries. Camellias prefer a slightly acid soil but are not as particular as the others.

Prefer Nitrogen
It so happens that the acid loving plants also prefer nitrogen in the form of ammonia and are damaged by nitrate in the form of nitrate. This means that ammonium sulfate should be used as the fertilizer on all acid loving plants. This material has a strong acidifying effect and has only ammonia nitrogen in it.

Most other fertilizers are more neutral in reaction and have the nitrate nitrogen which is actually detrimental and will cause chlorotic areas to develop in the leaves.

As the ammonia in the ammonium sulfate will be converted to nitrate by soil organisms it should be applied lightly but frequently so that the plants will use the ammonia and not have it changed into nitrate. This conversion of ammonia to nitrate can also be materially slowed down by keeping the soil cool. The cool temperatures slow down bacterial action. The best method of keeping the soil cool is to apply a thick mulch and sawdust is the cheapest and one of the best mulching materials.

Applied to Soil

To summarize this information acid loving plants should be fertilized during March, June and September with a handful of ammonium sulfate applied to the top of the soil under the branches of the bush but not against the stump.

Subsequent water will carry the material into the root zone. The bushes should also receive a mulch of sawdust from 4 to 6 inches deep and this should be left on top of the soil and not cultivated into it.

Fertilizers other than ammonium sulfate should not be used unless they contain only the ammonia form of nitrogen. It should be stressed that these recommendations apply only to the acid loving plants.

Neuberger Commends Eisenhower's Stand On Forest Decisions

Washington, D. C.—(Special)—The following statement of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) was recently issued:

"The decision by the Department of Agriculture to sell 75,000,000 board-feet of sub-alpine timber in the Umpqua National Forest will help greatly the ultimate establishment of a wide-spread pulp and paper industry in Oregon.

"The verdict sets a precedent, because on wise use of this sub-alpine timber depends the possibility of adding pulp manufacturing in substantial measure to forest payrolls in our state—a state which is hit again this winter by one of America's highest regional rates of unemployment. South Less Hard Hit

"The South has been less hard hit than the Pacific Northwest by the current lumber market decline, and one major reason has been the vast expansion of pulp and paper production in the South. Oregon must likewise take advantage of full and diversified utilization of its forest products.

"The decision of the Department of Agriculture in this matter is a complete vindication of the identical stand which I took in June of 1955, nearly two years ago. This recommendation had also been made by the Oregon State Water Resources Board and the regional forester.

"Since that time, certain Republican party spokesmen have used my advocacy of this sale as grounds for questioning my integrity. The basis of this political charge was that several of my supporters during the 1954 election campaign had sought a competitive-bid sale of this sub-alpine timber.

Ice Statue Falls Killing Young Girl

Duluth, Minn.—(U.P.)—An eight-year-old girl was crushed to death Thursday night when a 10-foot high ice statue toppled over on her.

Lisa Rosenthal was watching the Snow Week celebration with a group of other children on the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus after a St. Valentine's day skating party.

As the youngster gazed up at the icy replica of a skier, it suddenly tilted from its base and crashed down on her. Authorities said the statue weighed several hundred pounds.

Friday, February 15, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Janet Gaynor, one of Hollywood's few living legends, has broken an 18-year retirement from movies and returned to the screen to play what she is in real life—a chic mother of a teen-age boy.



Aline Mosby

It's not a great "Sunset Boulevard" type drama that brought the wealthy wife of designer-artist Gilbert Adrian back to films, but a part in a youthful comedy, "Bernadine," starring Terry Moore and Rock 'n' roll singer Pat Boone.

"Naturally I had no thought of acting again, but the producer, Sam Engel, is a friend and sent me the script," Miss Gaynor said. "I read it and thought, well, I'm just going to do it."

Part Delights Actress
"I couldn't be more delighted," she continued. "Everybody is so charming—giving me a party at the studio. I feel right at home acting again. As the director said, once you learn how to swim, you always know."

The memories the name of Gaynor brings back include a tiny, big-eyed girl with dimpled chin, cupid's bow mouth and fluffy red hair. She is 56 now, and her hair is streaked with gray. But the rest is still there—

the sparkle in her brown eyes, the gaiety and sweetness.

Janet Gaynor was the first Oscar winner in 1928, for three pictures "Seventh Heaven," "Sunrise" and "Sweet Angel." Except for a radio version of "Seventh Heaven" with Charlie Farrell and a couple of TV shows, she retired after "Young in Heart" in 1938.

Business Consumes Time
"I had no intention of going back," she explained. "The fashion business was just as hectic as the movie business and for the 10 years Adrian was a designer I was always with him. I did not want to do anything that would disrupt our life together."

FREE MOVIES

Greenfield, Mass.—(U.P.)—Under the will of the late Louis Rosenzweig, some 500 Greenfield children under 12 will be admitted free to the Victoria Theater one day a year. Rosenzweig operated that playhouse for half a century.

"Now he only designs men's shirts and is painting really seriously so an occasional role does not disrupt our life," she added.

The actress, the designer and their 16-year-old son, Robin, now spend eight months of each year on their coffee plantation in Brazil.

"Our Brazil home is creative," she said. "It is unbelievably beautiful and not lonely at all."

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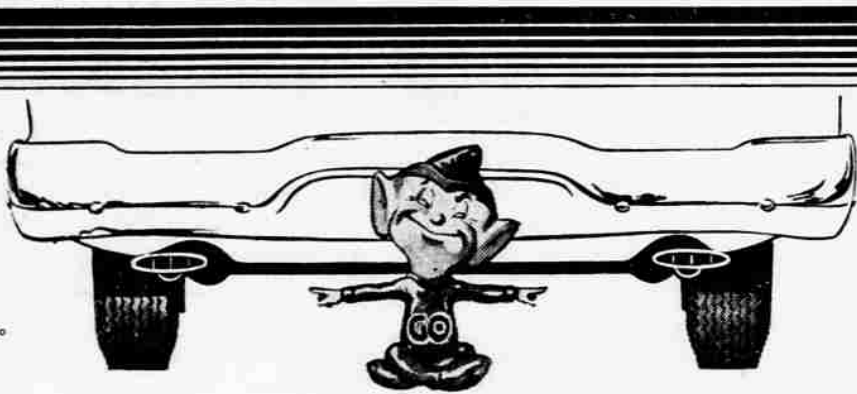


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