

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

Now that our backs are turned on winter, would you care to look over my shoulder at the all-time cold records of the world as officially accepted by weathermen? Naturally there are a lot of places where no official records were kept—including, more than likely, your own backyard. All the following temperatures are in Fahrenheit.

The world's lowest is 90 degrees below zero at Oimegon, Siberia, February, 1933. (Since then this same station has claimed 103 below zero in 1938 but this figure has not been officially accepted as yet.)

It is quite possible that the coldest spot on the earth is in North America—Greenland. A spot temperature reading taken Dec. 6, 1949, on Central Greenland's mile-thick icecap read 89 below zero. And we have yet to



As for the U.S., the lowest ever recorded is 70 below at Rogers Pass, Mont., Jan. 20, 1954. These all-time temperatures usually require deep snow conditions; an atmosphere which is dry and calm; and a clear sky. Look for them mainly in February.

The weather station with the lowest mean annual reading in the U.S. is Mount Washington, N.H., which has a year-round mean of 5 degrees below freezing. Excluding mountain peaks, the lowest average in the U.S. is at Hannah, N.D., with 28 degrees below freezing.

As for the coldest spot on continental North America that honors goes to Canada. At Snag Air Station, Yukon Territory, it was 81 degrees below zero, Feb. 8, 1947.

But friends, winter and ear-muffs are over, so next Wednesday I'll warm up your frost-bitten pinkies with a discussion of the hottest recorded days on the face of the earth. It'll be a scorcher!

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the readers who send 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 Sea-craft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

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## House Clears Way for Drive To Get Vote on Civil Rights Measure

Washington—(U.P.)—The House today cleared the way for a drive to get a vote on the Civil Rights Bill.

But the bill's supporters were pessimistic about getting fast action.

Filing of formal reports for and against the administration program cleared the way for a drive to get it through the House Rules Committee and onto the House floor.

But supporters feared that the Rules Committee, headed by Rep. Howard W. Smith (D-Va.), would not clear the bill before late May or early June. That could easily kill any chance of getting Senate action this year.

Foes of the program in the Senate would argue that it was then too late to begin debate—and in all probability cause a filibuster that would block passage of other legislation.

Other congressional news:  
**Budget:** The House economy fight continued over the administration's \$2,900,000,000 budget for the Labor and Health, Education and Welfare departments. The House called up an amendment to cut off funds for the government's new sewage disposal plant program.

**Newsman:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee sought to decide whether to invite representatives of the three major U.S. news services to testify on the State Department's ban against newsmen visiting Red China. Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) suggested representatives of United Press, Associated Press and International News Service be invited to testify.

**Powell:** Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. disclosed he is soliciting House members for money

## Bankruptcies Set All-Time Record

Washington—(U.P.)—Congress was told today that bankruptcies have surged to a new peak this year that will surpass the record high set in the depression year of 1932. A Democratic congressman called the situation "alarming."

The revised forecast was made by Edwin L. Covey, chief of the federal courts' bankruptcy division in testimony made public by a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Covey said his "present estimate" is that the number of bankruptcy cases filed during the 12 months ending next June 30 will reach a record high of 72,000.

That compares with 62,086 in the year ending last June 30. The present record of 70,049 was set in the year ending June 30, 1932.

Covey said he was still sticking "for the time being" to his months-old forecast that bankruptcies will not exceed 74,000 in the new fiscal year which starts July 1. But he agreed that forecast will have to be revised upward too if the trend continues.

In Boston, Edén will be examined by Dr. Richard Cattell, the American abdominal specialist who performed the 1953 operation.

to help rebuild Montgomery, Ala., churches bombed during racial strife. The Negro New York Democrat is telling House members their contributions will be kept secret.

**Judges:** The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would require chief judges of federal district and circuit courts at the age of 75 to turn over their top posts to younger judges. However, they would remain judges.

**Lawyers:** Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.) introduced a bill that would prohibit alleged Communist lawyers from appearing before Congress or federal agencies unless they swore the charge was false. He said more than two dozen lawyers identified as Communists have appeared before his House Committee on Un-American Activities in recent years.

## Truck Driver Dies in Freezer

Columbus, Ohio—(U.P.)—Detectives today investigated the death of Bradley Kincaid McDonald, 24, a bridegroom of 17 days, who was found Tuesday evening in his freezer compartment of his ice cream delivery truck.

Police ordered an investigation after Dr. Robert A. Evans, coroner, said a preliminary examination showed death was apparently caused by suffocation. The coroner ordered an autopsy.

McDonald, married in Akron March 16 to the former Miss Shirley Corley, Akron, was last seen alive Tuesday morning.

Harry Wolman, owner of the Oak St. Pharmacy, one of McDonald's stops, told police he found the truck parked nearby and forced open the door of the freezer. He said he first noticed the truck parked more than four hours earlier.

McDonald was found on the compartment floor, his head resting against the wall. The temperature inside was 20 degrees below zero.

The door was unlocked and there was an emergency release inside. Efforts to revive McDonald failed.

## Edén Rests Up for United States Trip

Wellington, N.Z.—(U.P.)—Sir Anthony Edén laced in the sun on the last day of his shortened New Zealand vacation today resting for his arduous trip to the United States.

The 59-year-old former prime minister will leave here Thursday (2:45 p.m. today PST) on the first leg of his flight to Boston for treatment of the intestinal ailment which forced his resignation Jan. 9.

Edén will fly aboard a New Zealand Air Force Sunderland flying boat specially provided by New Zealand Premier Sydney Holland.

In Boston, Edén will be examined by Dr. Richard Cattell, the American abdominal specialist who performed the 1953 operation.

## Baby Fowl as Easter Novelty Discouraged

Chicago—(U.P.)—The Anti-Cruelty Society today urged parents and merchants to stop using live chicks and other baby fowl as Easter novelties.

J. J. Shaffer, managing editor of the society, said few people know how to care for the chicks. He said children often "rough-handle" them until they either die or are sent back to farms and shelters.

Shaffer said the society's campaign last year brought good results. He said fewer chicks, bunnies and ducklings were used as novelties than any previous year but it was hoped the number would be even smaller this year.

## Medford Bank Lists \$20 Million Deposits

The Medford branch of the United States National Bank of Portland showed deposits totaling \$20,518,744.03 as of March 14, according to Allan Perry, manager.

Loans and discounts for the Medford branch now stand at \$10,339,753.48, Perry reported.

The U.S. National Bank of Portland showed deposits totaling \$735,818,188, as of March 14, according to figures recently released.

Total resources for the statewide system stood at \$812,538,496, it was reported. Loans and discounts have increased about \$10 million since spring a year ago and now total \$330,154,438, bank officials said.

Hiroshima was about three-fifths destroyed by the atomic bombing attack which occurred on Aug. 6, 1945.

## College Crowd Gathered on Beaches of Florida Seek Coed With the Sexiest Toe

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—(U.P.)—The college crowd, which two years ago went on a furniture-breaking, window-smashing rampage here, has put its head in the sand this season.

"We're looking for the coed with the sexiest toe," explained John Bailey, a Cornell University student whose Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity is sponsoring the "Miss Toe" contest.

"It's just a routine we give the girls," he said. "It's a good way to get acquainted. We have an all around ball down here. Florida is great."

The townsfolk are just as glad that the youths who annually swarm the "college beach" section of Fort Lauderdale's ocean-side strip got the rough stuff out of their system in 1955.

**Nearly Wrecked Town**  
That year they almost wrecked the place and even put sharks in a swank hotel swimming pool. The city debated whether to allow them back.

"Sure they get away from home and they bust loose," said lifeguard Howie Wheale. "But recently they haven't caused any real trouble. They get together and have their parties at night. They sing and make a lot of noise, but nobody seems to mind."

The biggest troupe this year, 1,200 students, came from Michigan State University, Cornell, Ohio State, Northwestern, Duke and Rutgers also contributed

large contingents on spring vacations.

"We just come for the fun and the sun, to get away from the old college grind. You know, books and all that," said Sandy York, a Michigan State coed.

**Send More Dough**  
The wires to dad to "send money" have mushroomed with the prices this year.

"The hotels along the waterfront are really steep," reported Don Garrett, of Cornell University. "Most of us stay three or four to a room in rooming houses or motels. Even then, the best you can do is around \$25 apiece a week."

"The guys get together and buy beer. Then we throw a party and invite the coeds, only they have to bring food and cook it. And beer's cheaper than food."

Florida's ban on drinks for boys and girls under 21 has spelled trouble for some.

"Most of them don't try to get in unless they're 21," reported Don De Steiger of the "Elbow Room" bar, who checks identity cards and notes from mom saying it's okay for daughter Susie to have a beer.

"If the identity card says she's an estimated 825 million gallons of benzene could be manufactured from the annual United States crude oil output, or about three times more than the current demands.

**A FIFTH WHEEL**  
Mount Clemens, Mich.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Mary Hunter, 58, had a tense moment Tuesday when what looked like a flying saucer sailed through the air and struck her car. The saucer turned out to be a rear wheel that had slipped off a tractor-trailer.

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