

Is That So?

Most of the winter sleepers are now awake. But this adaptation—to go into deep sleep during the stinging cold of winter and the scarcity of food and water—is a most unusual and wonderful adaptation of the warm-blooded animal.

It varies: with some it is a profound sleep, near death, for seven months of the year during



ing which time heart-beat and breathing stop for minutes at a time and the body temperature drops to within a couple of degrees of freezing.

The intensity of this winter sleep is a highly individual matter—family has nothing to do with it, but the geographic location seems to.

In the north the ground hog goes below decks earlier than his kinfolk of the deep south. In Quebec it may be the middle of September while in the south it may be late in December. In the high mountain tops of Idaho, the badger may hibernate by mid-October and not reappear until mid-April; in lower elevations, say from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, he may disappear by Jan. 1 and seldom reappear until mid-March; in the southwest, he may not hibernate at all.

Among the most profound sleepers are the ground squirrels (not the tree squirrels, close family relations), some woodchucks, some bats, the prairie dogs, jumping mice. With these, hibernation is almost a sleep of death.

Slept for 33 Weeks

Dig out a ground squirrel from its burrow and it will be as limp and inert as if its neck were broken. Respiration and heart beat are scarcely perceptible. It is cold to the touch—perhaps within a degree of freezing. It can be shaken and dropped on a table without waking. Cut a toe and it will not bleed—there's virtually no circulation. How long is this sleep of near-death? A female ground squirrel has been known to sleep for 33 weeks out of the year's 52! That leaves only 19 weeks for being awake.

Some of the non-migratory northern bats and the dormouse (the prefix "dor" means sleep) are also profound sleepers. Although the bats tend to hang themselves up, upside down, in great clusters of hundreds and thousands, the little dormouse builds himself a neat little house of dry grass and then, once inside, seals the entrance so carefully that there is not the slightest hint of a joint or a weakness. And then it sleeps roundly, and soundly.

The skunk, raccoon, badger, and opossum become torpid for several weeks but even so they often venture forth during mild weather. They are quite easily roused. Along with it, their respiration, rate of heart beat and body temperature do not drop as drastically as do those of the true hibernator. Even lighter sleepers are the squirrels and the chipmunks.

Bears in Middle

Standing somewhere in the middle are the bears. In the far north the female polar bear may go into seclusion under a mound of snow every two or three winters when she gives birth to a tiny young but the male plods stolidly about in the dark of the northern winter. Farther south, the female black or brown bear tends to den up at the advent of subfreezing temperatures while the adult males are less likely to go to sleep and when they do, usually for a shorter period of time.

University Menu Finds Varied Flavor

Knoxville, Tenn. — (U.P.) — A boarding house on the University of Tennessee campus probably has more foreign chefs dishing out meals of an international flavor than the swankiest New York restaurant.

Each Sunday, diners find a different menu varying from the pizza de bucy catalan of South America to a fried mixture of cabbage and eggs from India.

The chefs, representing about 10 foreign countries, are students at the school studying under the exchange system. The student chefs take turns serving dishes native to Iran, India, Pakistan, Honduras, Jordan, Colombia, Bolivia, Spain, France and China.

The custom originated with a graduate student from Mandalay who came up with such tasty dishes of beef curry, chicken curry and fried green beans that students practically demanded that the practice continue.

New menus are posted in both English and the language of the chef-of-the-day and guests are entertained with recorded music from the country identified with each chef.

By EUGENE BURNS

Ranger-Naturalist

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With the bear, temperatures do not drop drastically, breathing continues fairly rapid—perhaps necessary to give warmth to the immature cub which is born during the sleep and to transform fats and starches into milk for the newborn. These bears can be wakened quite easily, and wakened are understandably short-tempered. Better take my word for it!

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: Is That So? care of Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Four Illinois Valley Students Get Honors

Cave Junction—Four Illinois Valley High school students will receive honors and end-of-school awards, Principal Vernon Larson has announced.

Loretta Mayfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mayfield of Holland, and Eldo Swift, ward of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rausch, of Cave Junction will receive the Stem citizenship awards.

Chosen as delegates to Beaver Girls State are Linda Marshall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Marshall of Holland, and Delores Reinhoel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Reinhoel of Kerby. The two girls will join other high school girls from Oregon June 16 to 18, at Salem where they will elect officers and set up a State legislature.

POSTAL PROGRESS REPORT

Amarillo, Tex. — (U.P.) — Mrs. M. A. Howell thinks the threatened cut in postal service has already gone into effect. She complained that a birthday card she mailed to Mrs. George Thomas three days before her birthday arrived three days late. The women live less than three miles apart.

On The Side

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Do women understand men better than men understand the women? The females usually have the opinion that their sex is the most difficult to understand. This is an erroneous belief. Get it right. It depends on the individual. Experienced women understand men very well.

Inexperienced females such as co-eds, bachelorettes and the females who have led sheltered lives, do not. That's why young widows and divorcees usually win in husband hunting competition with a woman who has never been married. Experienced men understand women just as well as experienced women understand men. An experienced man usually wins a battle for a beauty from a fellow whose knowledge of the female sex is superficial. In this connection, it might be well to advise all male subscribers who feel baffled by the alleged mysterious workings of the female mind to pay close attention to the findings of our world famous Horses and Women Department.

Am constantly buying new types of cigar holders, safety razor blades and ballpoint pens. I must have about 50 different kinds of cigar holders and at

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

least 15 types of ballpoint pens. My most recent ballpoint pen acquisition is one which can be quickly adjusted to write in any of three colors — red, green or blue. Very handy.

So They Say

Men born under Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) like women who are hard to get. They don't want a girl to say "I surrender, dear," too soon. . . . The lucky number of Cancer (June 22-July 23) people is two. Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) men have a wonderful sense of rhythm and are the best dancers. Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) men generally have a highly developed sense of humor. Or, so say the stargazers.

Records

What's the record for length of residence in the same hotel? Can you top the record of Mrs. Clara Bell Walsh who, on Oct. 1, this year, will have lived in the Hotel Plaza, Manhattan, for 50 years. Speaking of records, who is the oldest active dentist in this country? How about 82-year-old Dr. George Cunningham Sharp of Pasadena, Calif., who has been practicing dentistry for 60 years and is still going strong?

Idols

Teen-ager females going wild

over crooners is by no means a recent development. Twenty years ago, in 1937, a teen-ager named Julie Cruse wrote a song titled "I'd Like To Be The Buttons On Your Vest." It was dedicated to Bing Crosby.

Asking

Queries from clients. Q. Has Puccini's opera, "Madame Butterfly," ever been sung in English? If so, where. A. Opera you refer to was sung in English in this country before being rendered in Italian here. That was by the Savage Opera Company, Washington, D.C., in 1906. Was first sung in Italian in this country at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1907 with Farrar, Caruso, Homer and Scotti in the cast. Q. The quotation as to a man "building a better mousetrap" was by Emerson. You should know that? A. Should I? All right, you tell me exactly where in Emerson's works this quotation can be found.

Sidelights

It was Dwight Morrow, who said, "Any party which takes credit for the rain must not be surprised if its opponents blame it for the drought." . . . Has your city an official flower? The official flower of Brooklyn is the forsythia. Keep that in mind. The next time you call on a Brooklyn beauty bring her forsythias instead of roses.

Stoltz Transferred To Ward's Store Here

Montgomery Ward has transferred Kenneth H. Stoltz from Grants Pass to the Medford store to assist J. J. Materie, manager. Stoltz, who has been with Ward's for four years, was assistant manager of the Grants Pass store for 1½ years. Mr. and Mrs. Stoltz and their four children have moved to 424 Fairmont st.

Stoltz replaces M. B. Haggerty, who recently was transferred to Eureka, Calif., store.

Nickel is distributed widely but in only a few localities is mineralization sufficiently concentrated to form ore bodies.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Hollywood — (U.P.) — The Capitol Records Building leases a small portion of its office space to business firms. One of the firms is an advertising company which handles the RCA Victor records account.

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