

## Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

As I've said before, the best part of writing my column is the warm correspondence with our readers and the many outdoor experiences and observations you share with me. In today's mail, for example, I received a letter from Carl G. Whitney of Creswell, Ore., which I'd like to pass along for your reaction. It goes without saying that he pulls down this week's award of the 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana.

Beavers, writes Mr. Whitney, are among the most intelligent of small animals. As everyone knows much of their time is spent in building dams and storing water. In fact many cattlemen and ranchers have water holes today because of the beaver's work.

But there is more to their dams than appears on the surface. Two years ago while photographing beavers for a story, I found out about the safety valve on beaver dams.

This safety valve is the place on the dam where a certain amount of water is allowed to escape at all times. This keeps the water from running over the face of the dam which would of course wash the valuable mud and chinking away and cause the dam to leak. Besides, with this safety valve the beavers can raise or lower the amount of water in the dam by simply adding or taking away a few sticks from this escape gap. In event of flood, this safety valve might conceivably let that part of the dam wash out as this

part is not as strong as the rest of the dam — and, again, in this way beavers protect their house and the main part of the dam's structure.

### No Damage Allowed

I once removed sticks from the upper part of the safety valve widening the gap from 24 to 48 inches. In doing so, I removed only loose sticks which would be replaced again easily as in Oregon the law does not allow anyone to damage a beaver dam. Taking a position 10 feet away from the escape gap in a group of poplars, I waited to see if the beavers would appear.

Sure enough after five minutes, a large beaver started across the pond and once he hit the current of the escaping water he made a beeline for the escape valve where I had set my automatic camera — and I came away with a fine shot of a beaver! Then I replaced the sticks and drove back to the city, happy with my picture and the knowledge that the beaver discovered my work within minutes.

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

## TABLE ROCK School To Start Tomorrow

By R. E. NEALON

Table Rock — Monday morning, Sept. 8, school kids will be called to classes at the Central Point-Crater system, which is attended by students from this area.

It has been a long and joyous vacation as the summer has been minus the usual hot days. It reminds us of the song, "school days, school days, good old golden rule days, reading, writing and arithmetic, taught to the tune of a hickory stick."

The hickory stick seems to be a thing of the past, which some folks regret, and the big bell on the local school house, as in other country school districts, will be silent. Some think it still should ring.

The school children living within the boundaries of old district 44, some 25 in number, will be boarding big powerful buses which will quickly whisk them to the beginning of another nine month's term. Compared to the schools in our day, we sometimes wonder how so many of us lived so long and how we came to know what little we do know.

The two local 4-H clubs, Home-Living and Sewing, led by Mrs. Frank Myers and Mrs. Everett Brown, did well at the recent 4-H fair, winning many ribbons, according to Glenna May Brown, a club member. The only member from here showing livestock was Don Ryan, who was a prize winner with his polled hereford cattle.

Recent visitors at the J. S. Richardson's were Arden Tyrell, of the Rogue River district, and his daughter, Arletta, her husband, Denver, Bullock, and two boys of San Pedro, Calif.

Another visitor at the Richardson home was Clarence Wilhite, of Butte Falls, who dropped in Saturday to talk over old times. He was a resident of the Beagle and Sam's valley areas for many years, moving away some 40 years ago.

Frank Straus, Sams Valley farmer, and representative of the United Farm Agency, a nation wide organization dealing in farms and farm homes, was a brief caller here Monday. He says he gets many letters from people in other states asking about acreages for home sites in southern Oregon.

According to Mrs. Ed Robinson many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So? care Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

son, the Robinsons' son, Elgin has recently been taking in practice battle maneuvers said to be the biggest ever put on by the U.S. Marine corps. These were held in the Mojave desert near Camp Pendleton, where the temperature most of the time ranged from 130 degrees in the shade to 150 degrees in the sun depending on elevation.

Callers here Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mingus of Eureka, Calif. Mrs. Mingus, the former Vivian Ross, is a direct descendant of the pioneer Ross family who, in early days, had extensive land holdings on Ross lane, northwest of Medford.

Albert Allen, builder and designer of the Roguewoods boats, Table Rock's latest business enterprise, reports a good demand for his type of boats which are handled through the Johnston stores in Medford.

George Loftin, former Texan and optimistic Democrat, reports the sale of his 760 acre Beagle ranch to Johnnie Orsak of New Mexico, who will take possession about the first of next January. At that time he says he and his wife will move to a home with smaller acreage as they have sold everything, including 110 head of cattle, with the ranch, reserving only two suit cases and a collie dog. The Loftins report more inquiries this summer from out-of-state people for large farms in this section than during their entire 17 years residence here.

Charley Sanderson of Sams Valley was a recent business visitor here. He and his wife had just returned from a motor trip to Canada resorts. Sanderson says he sold his farm because for the last few years he never made a cent trying to operate it.

Mr. and Mrs. Milas Richardson of North Bend, Ore., were recent visitors here with relatives at the J. S. Richardson home.

Milas Richardson was born near Medford, close to the present site of the Lone Pine school. The land was donated to the school district by Richardson's father. Milas worked at the transportation game for many years, driving motor driven buses and stages, after his beginning with horse drawn livery rigs of many kinds. He remembers back in 1908 driving a span of coal black stallions kept in Dr. Helm's Nash livery stables in the block just across the street from the First National bank, and used by under-

takers to pull the hearse in funeral processions.

James W. Bayliss, of the Siskiyou Veterinary hospital on Barnett road, was a business visitor at the Table Top ranch Wednesday.

The Rev. Jea M. Shelley and wife, Central Point, were callers here Wednesday.

Larry Pirkey returned Sunday from Yakima, Wash., where, as a reservist, he took two weeks of basic training with Headquarters company second battalion 413th infantry regiment of Medford.

The shotgun blasts heard here morning and evening come from the scattergun of Bill Glass as he tries to salt the tails of pheasants that pick holes in watermelons, and scare the blackbirds out of Sam's corn patch.

Table Rock people attending the state fair at Salem this week were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Brown and daughter, Glenna May.

Mrs. Arthur Doty is convalescing at her home here after undergoing major surgery in a Medford hospital.

Mrs. Elizabeth Grogan has returned to her home in Larnarada, Calif., after a month's visit here with her niece, Mrs. Bert Pierce and family, at the Bert Pierce home.

Little Jimmy Fleischer is carrying his right arm in a sling with two fractured wrist bones, caused by a fall from a shade tree in the Fleischer yard.

We used to pride ourselves on our sales resistance, especially if we didn't want what the salesman had to sell, but we must be slipping as a young rebel from down Alabama way has succeeded in breaking it down. He started about a month ago telling us we needed a new car, we had managed to keep him off with good reasons and alibis, until the other day he appeared with "an exceptional value" which he said he had reserved for good folks like us, and if he didn't know it was a 100 per cent value he wouldn't think of selling it to us.

Late in the evening he managed to get in the house to use the telephone, where he proceeded to put on a southern filibuster which ended up with us having a '55 Ford, and him with our old "forty niner" and about all the loose and tight money around the place. Believing him to be a loyal southerner we tried to pay him with a confederate bill. He looked at it yearningly and said, he was afraid it

Sunday, September 8, 1937

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—NINE

## Irish Setter Owner Sought in This City

Kelly, a red Irish setter who wears a dog tag identifying him as from Medford, is in the Orphans of the Storm animal refuge in Chicago, according to an article clipped from the Chicago Tribune.

The animal was left by an unidentified man at a Chicago gas station several days ago, the clipping said. The dog license tag bears the owner's name as "James G. Elken, Medford, Ore."

Owners of the shelter have tried to call the name in Medford, with no luck. The name is not in the Medford telephone directory or the city residential directory. The shelter will keep Kelly a few weeks in hopes his owner can be found.

The Mail Tribune learned of the Chicago paper story through clippings, one mailed by Dr. F. L. Unmack, Plaza apartments; the other mailed by David Holmes, Hillcrest-Phoenix rd.

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wouldn't pay his little boy's hospital bill.

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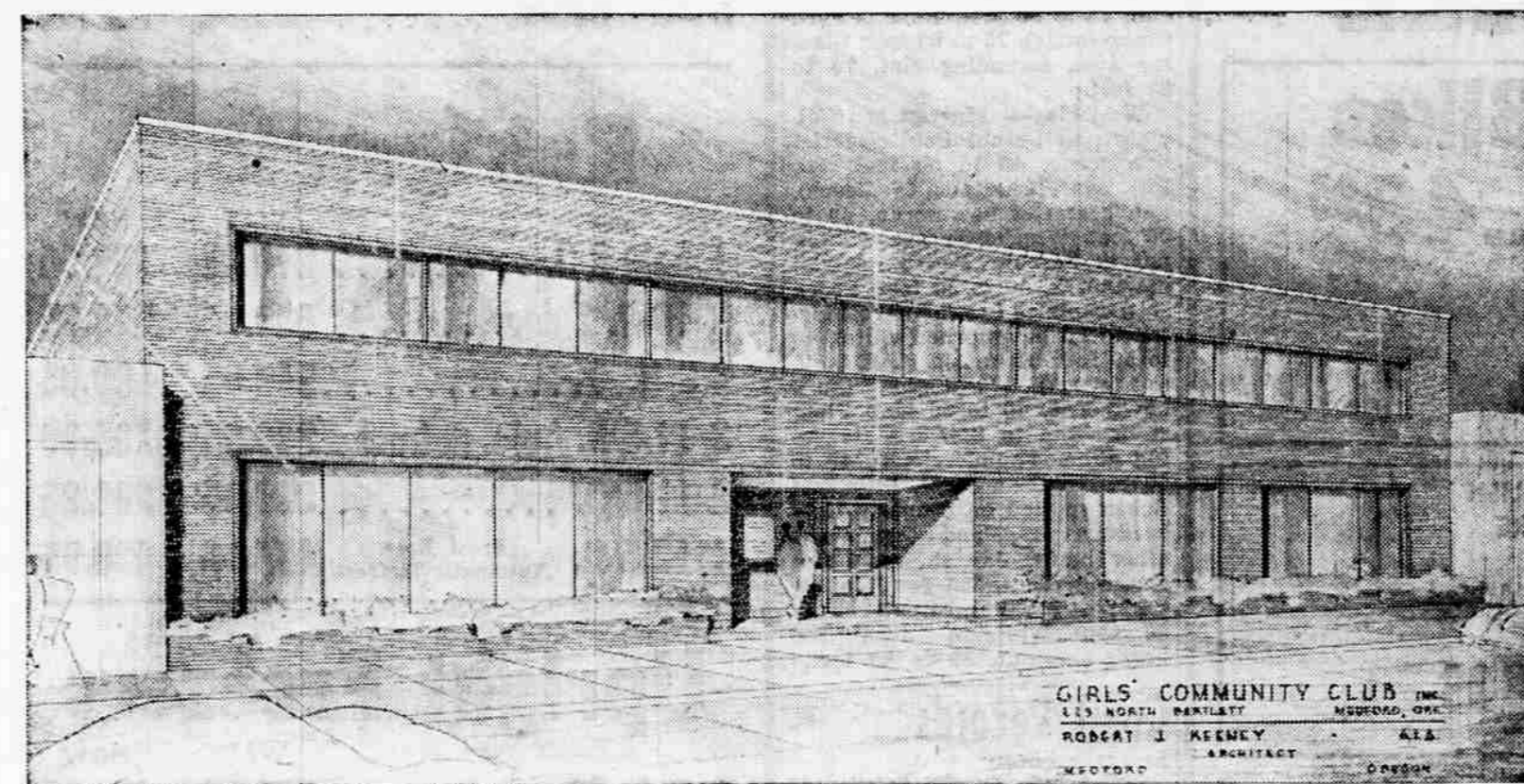
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