

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Many and varied are the way mammals have solved their problem of locomotion.

The commonest method of locomotion among four-footed animals is on all fours although some of these had developed considerable agility in walking on their hind legs alone. Among these are bears, jerboas, jumping mice, chimpanzees, gorillas, gibbons and orangutans.

Deer, too, may fight in an upright position—most effectively—and I have seen several members of the deer family including elk and moose stand high upon their hind legs to browse.

In contrast, the wart-hog frequently walks on the "knees" of his forelegs when grubbing for food.

For championship agility in the upright position no animal can exceed the gibbon. This monkey walks easily upon hind legs alone but he rarely indulges in such locomotion. Spending most of his life in trees, he mainly employs his front limbs for progress, swinging from limb to limb, and tree to tree, his greater efforts hurling him through the air up to distances of 40 feet.

Ownership of a prehensile tail greatly improves arboreal locomotion. In the New Little can suspend himself by tail, drop from 20 to 30 feet, and then catch hold of another branch using tail alone.

The sloth, too, spends most of its life in the trees but it walks mostly in an upside-down position, holding on to the branches of the trees by means of its powerful curved claws.

The tarsier, a squirrel-sized member of the monkey clan, can walk up the sheer side of a cliff because fingers and toes end in round and flattened adhesive-

like discs.

Some Learned To Glide

A few tree-dwellers such as the flying-squirrel have learned to glide, supporting their weight in the air by stretching taut the flap of loose skin between hind and fore limbs. To help climb and hold to tree trunks, the African flying-squirrel's tail has even developed anti-skid scales on the underside. (But just why the lion has developed a thorn-like hook at the end of his tail has yet not been explained.)

Of mammals, bats alone have conquered the air, even better than any bird, being able to maneuver skillfully in the dark of night to pursue and capture insects. Once on the ground, the bat is almost helpless—the best it can do is a wobbling scramble in which it uses its wings.

For the present we will overlook the aquatic mammals. But among the ground dwellers there are several who progress by leaps and bounds. Of such are the Canadian jumping mice, the desert jerboas, and kangaroos—the latter using five members in walking—its tail playing an important role. Such travel may be fast. The jerboa, measuring but seven inches from tip of snout to root of tail, cannot be overtaken by a man on horseback.

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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, or 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.

Governor Answers Charges of 'Gag' on River Development

Salem—Charges that he has attempted to "gag" state agencies interested in northwest river development were answered Thursday by Gov. Robert D. Holmes.

The governor said his action requesting boards and commissions charged with various aspects of water use to submit testimony to the State Water Resources Board prior to introducing it had given rise to a good deal of misunderstanding. "Obviously Inspired"

Some of the misunderstanding was "obviously inspired by private power companies" the governor charged.

"I want it clearly understood that such a request no way means that I am now or have ever been in favor of Nez Perce dam," the governor said in a letter to wildlife organizations of Oregon.

"I think an examination of the record of all public officials in Oregon for the past decade will prove without a shadow of a doubt that I have been working as diligently to protect our great

fisheries resource as any public official, legislative or executive," he said.

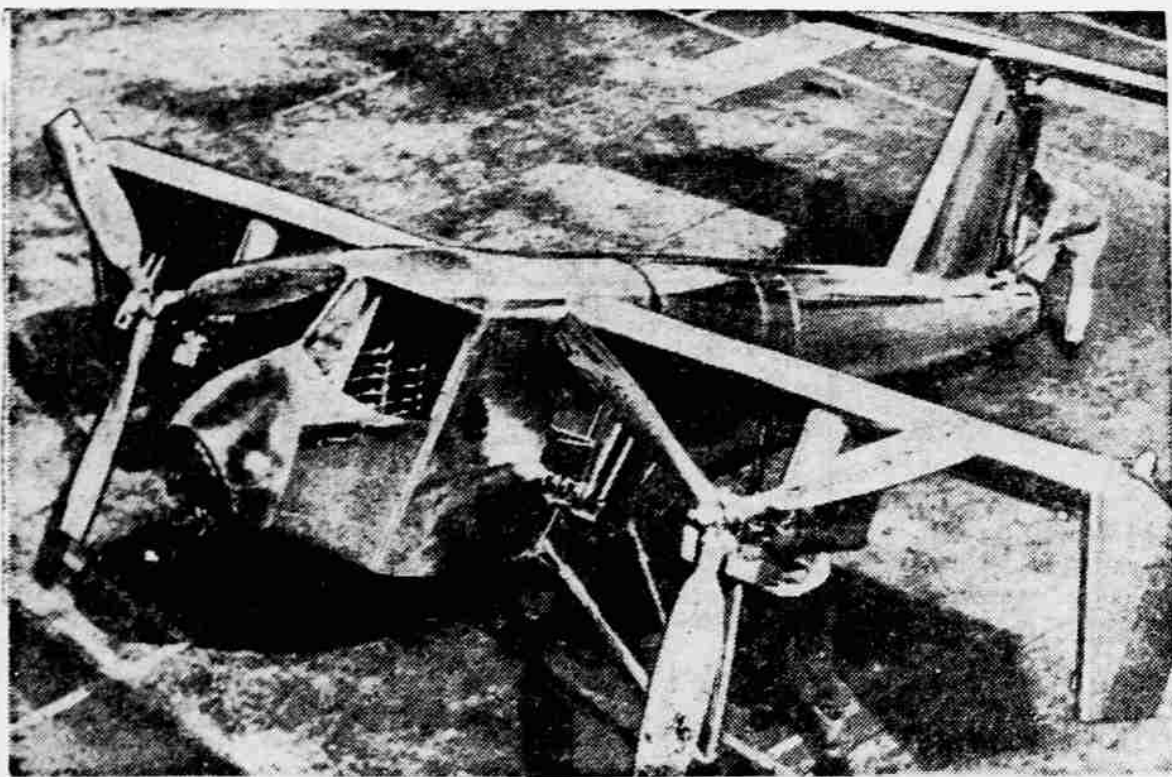
Gov. Holmes said fish and game interests, especially, were being led to the conclusion by private power interests that the only alternates for dam building on the middle Snake were the "small, single-purpose dams they propose," or Nez Perce.

Private Companies Accused

The governor said he feared that vigorous opposition of the State Fish and Game Commissions to Nez Perce carries with it the almost automatic implied consent that licenses be granted for private utility dams on the middle Snake.

The governor accused the private power companies of being interested in "power alone." He said he was hopeful that the companies would not be able to convince conservationists that "I am willing to sacrifice our fisheries resource in any manner."

Dead Line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day; except 10 a.m. for Monday; for Sunday, noon Saturday



VERTIPLANE—Mechanics check over unique research plane designed and built by Ryan Aeronautical Co. of San Diego, Calif. The strange looking craft has been designated the

VERTIPLANE and is designed to take off and land vertically, hover and fly forward. It was built for the Army and employs the deflected "slipstream" principle.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Gerald R.—I want to keep up my relationship with my family.

Louise R.—He's too tied to them.

Gerald R.—My wife and I are in the first year of our marriage and we are having a big controversy over the role of parents in our lives.

It happens that I come of a very close-knit family. My kid brother and sister and I always went places with the folks and we've had some wonderful times. I don't want this relationship to end with my marriage. I stop in to see them at least two evenings a week and usually on Sunday afternoon.

I want Louise to come with me on these visits and be one of the family. She says it's too much for her, but then she objects if I go by myself.

Louise R.—It seems to me that the whole thing is a matter of Gerald's deciding exactly who is his family—me or his parents. When he is alone with me, he often seems restless and bored, but I notice that when he is with his parents and brother and sister, he keeps laughing and talking and never seems to tire or to want to go home.

I love my parents too, but since I am married I prefer to spend as much free time as possible with Gerald—alone. I don't like being with a mob.

I think Gerald is quite babyish to be so tied to his family. Some of my friends say it shows that he's devoted—but to whom?

The Council—Well, we wouldn't exactly call it "babyish" for a man to want to see a great deal of his parents, and Louise doesn't present much evidence to show undue dependence of her husband upon his parents. But we can't blame her for be-

ing rather anxious about her husband's restlessness when he is alone with her.

This seems to be the crux of Louise's dissatisfaction and she is foolish to pit herself against Gerald's family, creating a jealousy issue where none need exist. It would be much better if Louise tried, through positive measures, to make her time with her husband a little more pleasant.

Possibly Louise and Gerald did not know one another very long before they married. They didn't have a chance to deepen their common interests. They don't have a long chain of associations in common—friends, incidents from the past, ideas, daydreams.

This long chain isn't created in a day and it isn't created by evading the fact that human beings need more than physical interests or daily routine to hold them together. Gerald and Louise should make an active effort to find things they can share with one another that will enrich their married life. If they more fully enjoy their time together, it is quite possible that the issue of "the role of parents in our lives" will simply dissolve.

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LATEST IN TRAINS

Paris—France has a new self-tilting railroad car which officials claim can whip around curves at 80 miles an hour without spilling food in the diner or bothering passengers with sensitive stomachs. Unveiled in a test run Wednesday the 32-passenger experimental model tilts automatically to offset exactly the centrifugal forces that generally throw passengers toward the outside of the curve.

Welfare Department Seeks Foster Home

The Jackson county public welfare department is seeking a foster home for a 12-year-old boy who is now a hospital patient.

Department spokesman said that the home must be in Medford or the immediate vicinity and must be certified by the public welfare department.

The boy has physical therapy treatments three times a week in Medford. The local Red Cross chapter furnishes the transportation for the boy for treatments and whenever needed as the boy is at the present confined to a wheelchair.

The boy receives his schooling from a home teacher at the hospital which would be continued in the foster home.

Welfare officials said there are some physical problems involved in caring for the boy as he has to be lifted in and out of bed and his wheelchair. These problems will be discussed with the foster parents, a spokesman said.

The foster parents would be paid by the University of Oregon medical school, Crippled Children's division, and supervised by the public welfare department. Any interested families are asked to call the welfare department at Spring 2-5261 and ask for Miss Virginia Floyd.

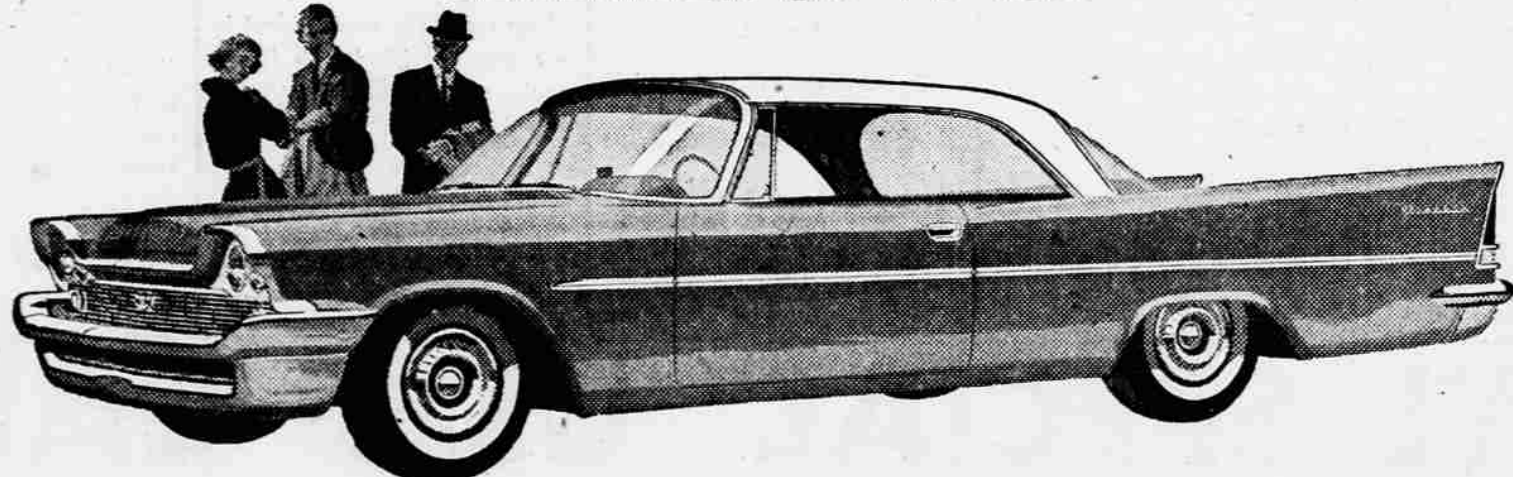
Camp Fire Girls

Finish Project
Crater Lake Camp Fire Girls have finished their Christmas overseas project.

They bought manuals and notebooks from their profits of the recent "Beanhole dinner" and new members are starting Camp Fire memory books. At their next meeting, Monday, December 9 at City hall, the girls will draw names for their Christmas party and work on their books in preparation for a ceremonial.

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MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Hearing Scheduled in Yreka on 99 Freeway

Yreka—H. S. Miles, district engineer of the California division of highways at Redding, has reminded area residents that a public hearing will be held in Yreka in the county supervisors' chambers Tuesday, Dec. 10, to acquaint local officials and the public with a tentative proposed Highway 99 freeway route between Henley lane and the state line.

The proposed project is being planned on the basis of a four-lane freeway to interstate standards with a 60-foot width of median between lanes. It is about 6.7 miles in length and will follow the present alignment.

Brisbane, Australia — Lt. Gen. Sir John Dudley Lavarack, 71, the victorious defender of Tobruk, Libya, in World War II, died here Wednesday. Lavarack and the Australian infantrymen

in his command successfully held Tobruk in a three day battle beginning April 11, 1941, against German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. He was knighted the same year.

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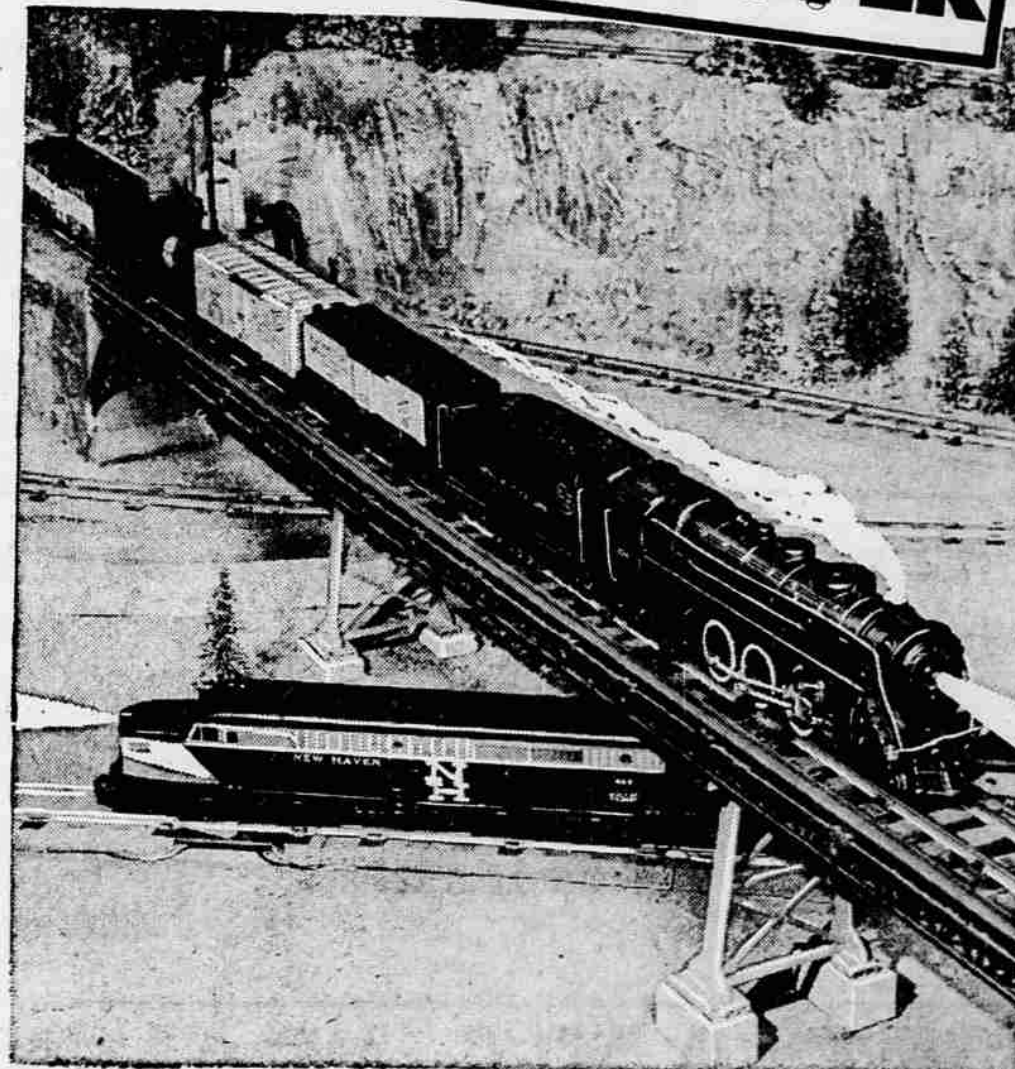
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