

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

What's the best in outdoor clothing for rain, scorching sun, or raging blizzard? Some experts will tell you, "Wear what the natives wear."

For the long haul — I'm thinking in terms of several generations so one can get accustomed to it—that may be all right. But for the shorter visitor, better take another sharp look at that pat statement.

So the boys who know will tell you. "Take the Eskimo. After our government conducted a lot of research, it found out that the Eskimo's loose-fitting parka which came down to the knees was best for the bitter cold. In the tropics, we found abbreviated shorts the answer. For comfortable living, perhaps the native breechcloth might be even better."

All right—let's analyze this business of native dress.

So in the Arctic during the cruelest weather the native winter suits consist of a two-ply outfit. An outer and in-



ner jacket—the outer parka reaching to the knees; two pairs of trousers; two pairs of stockings; mukluks; and gloves. The clothes next to the body being of fine polar rabbit, soft and warm inside; the outer having the rougher reindeer or seal hair on the outside.

## Bodies Rubbed With Fat

In these clothes they live through some of the world's cruelest weather. But look what happens at the southern extremity of the poles. The farthest south natives are the Selk'nam people living on the southernmost inhabited islands, off South America. There in one of the windiest, most disagreeable spots on earth, the men and boys do not wear clothes. They rub their bodies with fat mixed with red earth. If the violent, snow-laden wind is unbearably cold, they wrap around a guanaco (a type of llama) skin. Women, slightly warmer dressed, wear a loose skin around their middle, fastened with sinews. Around their shoulders they may throw a second skin. So, care to go along with the native dress for the cold?

Similarly in the hot tropics, you'll get vast variations among the natives. True, in most places they are not over-dressed. In Australia the aborigine is naked except for a little apron. In the Upper Amazon, a loincloth suffices—and, incidentally, it is spun from cotton by the father. In the Sudan, a string of beads around the middle does the trick. Farther south, the Bacos wear a loincloth woven of bark fibre.

## Heavy Clothes in Heat

But in contrast to these abbreviated hot-weather outfits, go to the southern Sahara where the weather is extremely hot. Perhaps the hottest of all are these peoples. And there the men wear heavy clothes. The main garment is a sleeveless black or white tunic. Under this he wears wide cotton trousers and sandals made of zebra skin stitched with dyed red goat leather. On his upper arms are bracelets.

They are the only men in the world as far as I know who wear veils over their faces so their mouths never show leaving only a narrow slit for the eyes. To go with this seemingly effeminate attire, they carry a very masculine sword. Their women in contrast are never veiled. They wear wide woolen cloaks and rich jewelry—even their thumbs are be-ribboned. Should the women invite young men and girls to hear them perform on the violin, the husband would be banished for the length of the entertainment.

Still think the experts are right: native dress is always the best for the climate? (Copyright, 1958, By Eugene Burns) (Distributed by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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# Canine Actuary Gets Facts on Dogs, Men

By MARGARET RICHARDS  
United Press Correspondent  
Kansas City, Mo. — (AP) — A fat dog is likely to have a fat master.

Gathering such bits of information about man's best friend almost put Cordon Reabe out of business.

Reabe, the first canine actuary in the United States, has temporarily stopped writing insurance on the health of dogs until he can find out more about them and come up with new and not-so-liberal policies.

"If you're fat yourself and your dog is fat," Reabe says, "the chances are that your dog has caught your psychosomatic desire for too many calories."

It was two years ago that Reabe founded Canine Shield, with the backing of the Mutual Casualty Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, as underwriter. Canine Shield became the first hospitalization and veterinary insurance program for dogs.

For \$15 a year, a dog owner could insure his pet against almost all known dog disorders. Reabe confesses that when he started this program, he had no idea how many disorders can affect a pooch.

"The pace at which the insurance sold was exceeded only by the rate at which the dogs got sick," he says. Reabe's Canine Shield took its first beating less than a week after it opened for business. A German shepherd dog with a fondness for flowers unsettled him.

The dog stuck its nose into a flower that a bee had beaten him to and wound up with an infection of the salivary glands, among other things. Canine Shield paid \$75 to get the dog back into flower-sniffing shape again.

"Every dog is the country apparently comes up with a case of tonsillitis as soon as it's insured, not to mention leukiemia, assorted tumors and a multitude of skin diseases Reabe said.

"Nothing But The Best" "Skin diseases" used to be called "mange," but Reabe says that's an expression to be avoided in selling dog health insurance.

"Believe me," he adds, "today's dogs get nothing but the best. They get cortisone and ACTH, male hormones and female hormones, antibiotics, blood transfusions and fancy surgery."

Canine Shield even paid for psychiatric treatment. One Pomeranian had an anxiety neurosis that compelled him to overeat. Turned out the dog sensed the anxiety tensions of its master and developed the same symptom, Reabe says.

Things like this caused Reabe to shut the door in the face of new business. Dogs already carrying policies will continue to get their bills treated. And Reabe hopes to get back in business with a revised policy—one that will allow him to make some money.

"We may stipulate that if the dog requires psychoanalysis, the dog's owner must pay for it," says Reabe.

# Canning Industry Marks Anniversary

By PETER HAYES  
United Press Correspondent  
San Francisco — (AP) — California's billion dollar canning industry is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with a sweeping bow to the grizzled miners of the fabulous Comstock Lode.

A Bostonian and a New Yorker launched the first food canning operations in San Francisco in 1858. Shortly afterward the industry got its big push when the Comstock Lode was discovered in Nevada and tinned food became a premium item to miners who were more interested in digging for gold and silver than in tilling the soil.

By 1862 Francis Cutting of Boston and Daniel Provost of New York were canning more than 5,000 cases of fruit a year in their separate operations.

Juicy peaches grown in the San Francisco area were canned by Cutting and sent around Cape Horn to Boston's Parker House and New York's Fifth Avenue hotel.

The industry mushroomed as California became the No. 1 agricultural state in the nation. Last year the state produced 217 million cases of food in cans, glass jars and fibre containers — one third of the nation's supply.

Today's California pack in-

cludes many fruits besides peaches, vegetables, fish, olives, juices, citrus, dairy and formulated foods such as soups.

The can of Cutting's day was a simple affair. All foods had to be cut into strips and stuffed by hand through a small hole in the top. A cap about the size of a half dollar was then hand-soldered over the vent to close it.

Shortly after the turn of the century the canning industry was revolutionized by the development of the modern open-top "sanitary" can. It permitted airtight closing by crimping on a full lid by machine and paved the way for complete mechanization of production lines.

The "Tinless" Can Today an automatic can line produces as many as 27,000 containers in an hour — the same time it took an early-day canmaker to fabricate five cans by hand.

Cannery men are always looking for new improved containers. One possibility is the "tinless" can that would make the United States independent of foreign countries in time of war as well as be insurance against the day when the world's dwindling tin supply is exhausted.

Possible substitutes for tin are aluminum or steel chemically treated to resist corrosion.

Researchers also are experimenting in radiation processing of foods. This may one day allow the housewife to choose virtually fresh food from cans and cook it according to her own ideas and recipes.

The radiation process consists of subjecting canned meats and other foods to gamma rays that would kill spoilage bacteria without hurting the taste.

Washington — President Eisenhower Saturday proclaimed the week of Jan. 26 to Feb. 1 as National Junior Achievement Week "by honoring junior achievers and their volunteer adult advisors through appropriate ceremonies."

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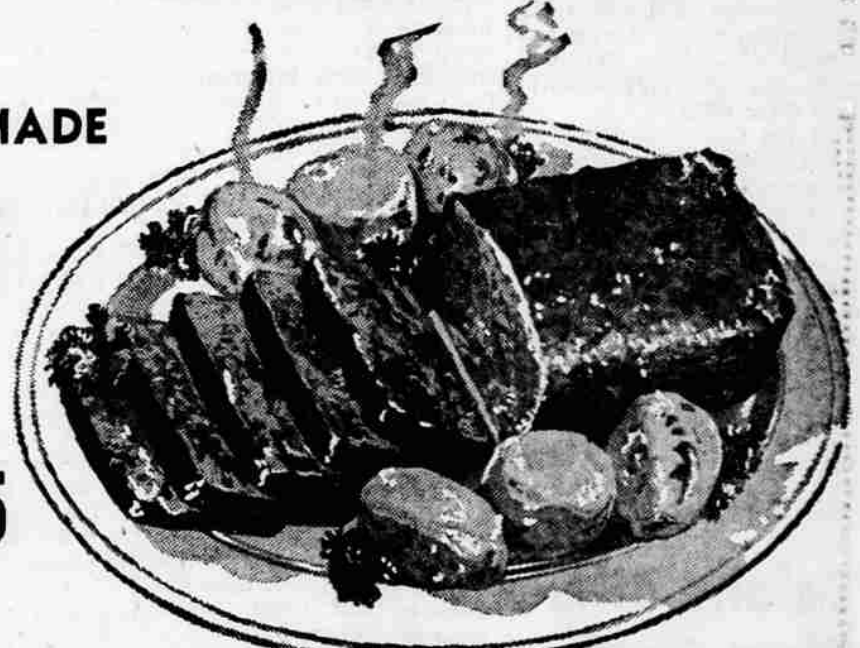


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