

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

## PORCUPINES OF MIDEAST

Baghdad — Via MEA — One wouldn't expect to see porcupines in this country, but there are some, especially up near the Iranian border.

One that I saw was being held for sale to animal buyer who would resell him to a zoo. It was one of the crested variety that gets its name from



the crest of heavy quills which run down its back from the nape of the neck to the base of the stubby tail. Some of the quills on the captive were a good 15 or 16 inches long, but on those that are fully grown they may attain a length of 20 inches or even more.

Though our porcupines are known as peace-loving animals, content not to attack others, there is evidence that their Asiatic cousins have a somewhat different outlook.

### Attack Other Animals

The crested porcupine, on occasion, will attack other animals. How they do it is to erect their quills and then charge backwards on the enemy. The reason is almost certainly not for food. The crested porcupine is evidently as much of a vegetarian as our own. In addition to bark, bulbs and fruit, he is very fond of maize, potatoes and other crops.

An Iranian assures me he has witnessed such an attack. It was on a bright moonlit night, on the edge of some wooded country. The porcupine saw a civet cat, which the Iranian could easily recognize by the scent, assumed its stance and charged in reverse. The civet fled and the porcupine then went on about its business.

### Live in Burrows

The crested porcupines live in burrows. There are records of as many as eight of them sharing the same one, each with a different entrance some of which may be 100 feet from the living area. While this would indicate a

## Heart Attack Fatal To Circuit Judge

San Francisco —UPI—Michigan County Circuit Judge George Hartwick, 67, died from a heart attack here Tuesday as his name was being brought up in a racket investigation of the Teamsters Union in Washington.

Hartwick collapsed in a tailor's shop. Police ordered an autopsy, but the coroner's office said a laceration on the judge's forehead "undoubtedly occurred when he collapsed."

The Oakland County Mich. circuit judge, whose home is in Royal Oak, was mentioned in a Senate Rackets Committee hearing by former Teamster official Robert Scott.

Scott testified that Teamster boss James Hoffa asked him to see Hartwick about a new trial for Harry Fliester, known as the leader of Detroit's "Purple Gang."

Scott said he told Hoffa "it was no use" because Hartwick had been promised a state supreme court seat for laying a heavy sentence on Fliester.

## Gadgets on Autos Said Nothing New

San Francisco —UPI—People who install television and other new-fangled gadgets in their cars have nothing on the inventors of earlier years according to the National Automobile Club.

During the 1890's a Chicago man devised a mechanical horse that would run along on wheels in front of a car. Horses often bolted when they saw a "horseless carriage." The inventor was out to fool them.

Another inventor designed an automobile washing machine, simply a tank with a lid. The tank was filled with warm water, soap and dirty laundry. A ride over bumpy roads shook up and did the family wash.

The parking problems was a source of brainstorm even in 1926. An Iowa inventor came up with a car with a small wooden platform on the read end, furnished with casters. To park, the driver just up-ended his car until it stood on the platform, which he then rolled into the space.

Then there was the Texan who eliminated the need for eyeglasses by having his whole windshield ground to his prescription.

## Anti-Aircraft Talos Gets Target Missile

Alamogordo, N. M. —UPI—A deadly Talos anti-aircraft interceptor missile speared and "killed" one of the Army's supersonic target missiles over the White Sands range here Tuesday in a startling demonstration of U. S. air defensive might.

The victim was the Kingfisher missile, which a White Sands spokesman said is as fast as any known tactical jet.

A fire control officer, watching a radar "blip" which picked up the flight of the Kingfisher, pushed a button to rip the Talos into flight. It swooped down for the kill on a course calculated by the Talos' automatic ground tracking equipment.

At the point where the interceptor missile would have hit the Kingfisher a "kill" was recorded electronically and the Talos swerved away. This is done so the expensive missiles may be recovered.

The Kingfisher firing-error indicator transmitted a signal which showed Talos had struck home.

The lowest temperature ever recorded in the U.S. was 69.7 degrees below zero at Rogers Pass, Mont., on Jan. 20, 1954.

## Small Colleges Boosted By Interim Group

State Rep. Robert Duncan of Jackson county has returned to Medford after attending the meeting of the legislative interim committee on education at Seaside recently. Day and night sessions were held as the committee prepared its report to the next session of the legislature.

The committee is charged with studying the problems of school districts in Oregon, including minimum standards, school reorganization, and school finance; the problems

of post high school education in Oregon, including vocational education, community colleges, and the Oregon Technical Institute; and problems of curriculum development and teacher training.

Hearings have been held in many parts of the state and the committee has prepared tentative drafts of reports, together with legislation to accompany them in many fields.

### Boost Community Colleges

Duncan reports that the use of community colleges will be

encouraged and made easier to form as the need increases; The school district reorganization bill will be tailored to eliminate problems and objections that have arisen since its passage; provision will be made for distribution of assets an liabilities of the non-high districts as they are terminated in 1960; and recommendations to improve the school standards and administration, together with recommendations strengthening the department of education and the state board of education will be made.

Report on school finance and Oregon Technical Institute are not yet completed. Duncan reported a continuing and growing movement, particularly in the eastern Oregon areas, to reduce equalization payments under the basic school support formula to the O and C counties by requiring O and C revenues to be taken into consideration in determining the eligibility for equalization. This is a serious problem which directly affects Jackson county.

The next and final meeting of the committee is scheduled for September. Any suggestions on the committee's final report should be made to Representative Duncan as promptly as possible, he said.

## Young Ensign Faces Six Years at Labor

San Diego —UPI—Navy ensign James L. Johnson, 23, Long Beach, Calif., today faced six years confinement at hard labor and dismissal from the Navy for damaging a Navy vessel so he wouldn't have to go to sea.

Conviction of the young officer in a court martial last week was disclosed Tuesday by the Navy.

Johnson was found guilty of cutting oil lines and of dumping tools in a reduction gear box on the landing ship tank St. Clair County in Long Beach last January while waiting to put to sea.

Damage to the ship was estimated at \$3,100. During the court martial, it

was indicated the ensign did not want to leave port because his wife was so upset he was afraid she might commit suicide.

His wife said she had not been feeling well and did not want Johnson to leave her side but she had not planned to kill herself.

### US OFFICIAL HONORED

Berlin —UPI—Martin J. Hillenbrand, political adviser to the U.S. Mission in Berlin who is returning to Washington, was honored with a farewell party in the West Berlin city hall Tuesday night. He was presented a white porcelain bear, Berlin's heraldic figure.

## Air Traffic Resumes Over Pacific Area

Honolulu —UPI—Airline service resumed over the Pacific today as radio communications returned to normal following a nuclear blast over Johnson Island.

The blast, which took place early Tuesday, grounded all flights and disrupted radio communications. The Civil Aeronautics Administration warned beforehand that radio reception might be poor or nonexistent at the time of the blast.

About a dozen planes were grounded in Honolulu for periods up to 12 hours. Radio teletype circuits on several frequencies were snarled by static.

The blast lighted the skies over Honolulu 700 miles away for a fraction of a second. A grey-white mushroom cloud appeared on the horizon and was visible for less than three minutes.

After the explosion, several freight planes took off from Honolulu but returned later when their pilots reported radio communications were spotty.

More than 12 per cent of all single-family homes sold in the U. S. now contain at least some prefabricated parts.

## New Type Hay Fever Shot Developed

New York —UPI—A New York scientist has come up with a new type of hay fever shot described as 98 per cent effective.

It differs from the conventional anti-hay fever injections in two ways. Only one shot a year is needed, in contrast to the from 15 to 70 annual injections of the old type shots. And it is made of min-

eral oil and ragweed extract. The shots now being used are made of a water base and extract.

Dr. Mary Loveless said the medication is not now generally available and is still in the experimental stage. She added, however, it has been used with good effect on hundreds of patients in five university medical centers.

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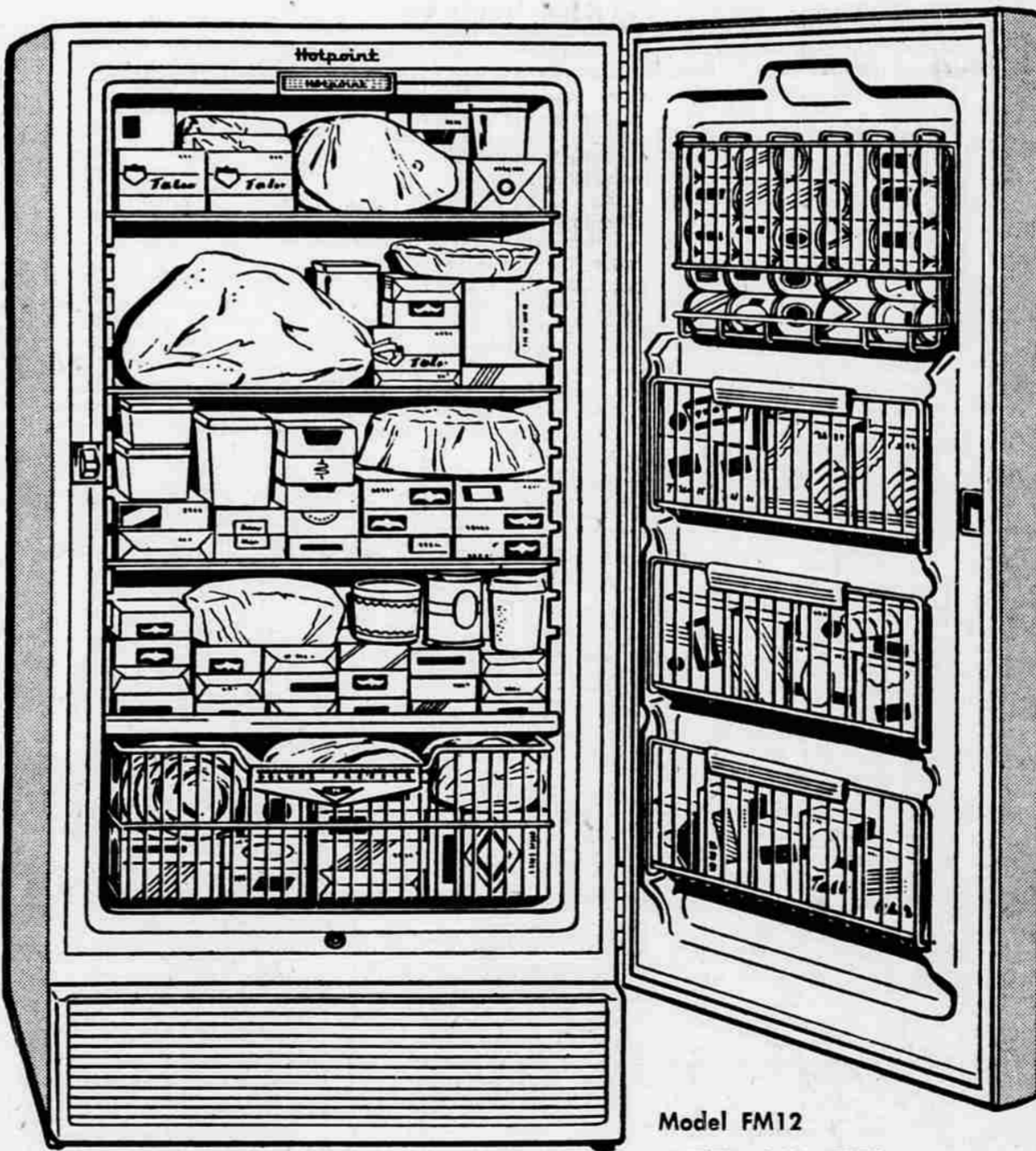
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