

CHURCHGOERS WANTED
Scituate, Mass.—(UPI)—Seeking to boost attendance, the North Scituate Baptist church put this classified ad in the local newspaper: "For immediate occupancy. One slightly used pew, 660 Country Way, North Scituate. Phone Linden 5-0058 for viewing. Transportation provided."

Twenty-three states have cities and towns named Springfield.

Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

Does an owl, hunting a mouse at night, spot the rodent by means of radiation. H. P. Lyon, of Sacramento, Calif., suggests that as a possible explanation of the owl's remarkable ability to kill mice at night. That possibility certainly exists, but the probability is that the owl's chief method

of detection is his hearing. When he flies low over a field at night, his flight is generally soundless. The



mouse inevitably makes some noise. The owl's ears are big and far apart. And since owls have been known to kill mice in barns from which all light was excluded, it is very likely that the ears are used as a sonar detection device to locate the prey.

Nonetheless, though tests have shown owls to be color blind, it is not yet determined that owls do not use radiations to locate their prey.

One strong possibility is that the owl spots the mouse by means of infra-red radiation which the rodent gives off in the form of waves of body heat.

And since it does not seem that the tests for color blindness are necessarily conclusive, it might be that owls are sometimes guided to mice by either fluorescent or phosphorescent light. The rodent's fur could acquire fluorescent or phosphorescent material by either eating or rolling.

Different Light
Fluorescence occurs when an object gives off a light different from that which it is illuminated. There could be occasions when an ultraviolet ray, invisible to man, might fluoresce a rodent. Phosphorescence occurs when light is given off by an object after its source of illumination is gone. Therefore, ultraviolet rays would not be needed.

There is a third possibility. Rodents might have bioluminescence. That occurs when

Fifth Test Shot Fired in Nevada

Atomic Test Site, Nev.—(UPI)—The Atomic Energy Commission early Monday exploded the fifth and most powerful nuclear device in its current test series, a 10-kiloton blast dangling from a balloon 1500 feet over Yucca Flat.

Because of the height and size of the blast it was visible for several hundred miles over the western desert wastelands. Motorists were halted between nearby Las Vegas and Beatty, Nev., and advised not to look directly at the fireball.

The experiment with a force of 10,000 tons of TNT was the halfway point in the AEC's weapons development effort. It originally was scheduled to go Sunday but "technical difficulties" caused a postponement.

the animal itself generates its own light.

The fact that man may not have observed any of these three cases does not disprove the possibility. An owl's eyes are marvellously efficient light-gathering instruments. A low degree of luminescence, not detectable to man, might be visible to an owl.

One important thing to remember is that owls have been concentrating on mice for untold thousands of years, but only a few men have studied rodents and owls deeply, and for only a few years.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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 the wild life 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? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 1069, San Francisco, Calif.

Average of 200 Letters a Day Received by Fairbanks C of C

Editor's note: This is the second of four dispatches on Alaska's cities and what they hold for visitors or would-be settlers.

By HAL WOOD
UPI Correspondent
Fairbanks, Alaska — (UPI)—Since Congress voted Alaska to be the 49th state, the Fairbanks chamber of commerce has received an average of 200 letters a day from state-side families or business firms regarding opportunities in the area.

It's just an example of what statehood has meant for this oft-maligned land of the midnight sun.

Optimism runs high over the future and great plans are being made and huge sums of money expended preparing for the day when the tourists start pouring in next summer.

"I wouldn't be here in the first place if I wasn't optimistic," said Bill Snedden, publisher of the Fairbanks News-Miner, one of the better small dailies in the country.

"But I expect Alaska will have a population of between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 within 15 to 20 years; Fairbanks will have 100,000 to 120,000 by the same time. We have figures that justify this expectation. I have installed a press that will handle a circulation of 50,000 with this in mind.

"We in Alaska think that the Alcan highway will be paved all the way through Canada in the next five years. Alaska already has good paved roads."

Right now about 70 per cent of the economy of this city depends on government spending. And the future is bright in that department because plans were recently announced for the expenditure of \$250 million to build an ICBM detection base near here.

But if government spending ever should slow down, then the businessmen are looking for the tourist trade to pick up the slack.

Some money still flows in from the mines that made the city fabulous during the gold rush days—but not much.

"At \$36 an ounce and the present price of labor and equipment," said an old-timer, "it pays better to just work for the government."

Right now the major prob-

lem here is food, most of which is imported. But extensive experiments have proved that the land here will grow anything that can be grown in the Matanuska Valley, 300 miles south.

The growing season is 105 days a year. Temperatures climb to the high 90s, but they also drop to 60 degrees below zero. The days are long—running as much as 23 hours in the summer months. The city is only 160 miles from the Arctic Circle.

Fairbanks possibly has the finest summer weather in Alaska—very much like the midwestern U.S.—without any winds. But it also is the most expensive city in which to live in Alaska.

Prices are astonishing to the visitor. Electric lights for an average two-bedroom home cost about \$35 a month in the summer, when the days are long; much more in the winter. Bananas are 49 cents a pound; fix a flat tire, \$3.50; car wash \$6; piece of pie and glass of milk at a counter restaurant, 60c; milkshake 85 cents. Most hotels charge from \$3 to \$5 extra for a room with bath.

Salaries High
But salaries are high. For instance, a grade school teacher, who works nine months, starts at \$6,000 a year and may reach as high as \$1,000 a month. Laborers make \$4 to \$5 an hour, plus a lot of overtime. Musicians get \$6 an hour.

The housing, as in most Alaska cities, is critical. I was shown a two-bedroom home which was sold just a few days before for \$40,000. In most state-side cities it would cost no more than \$12,500.

This is a good territory for

girls looking for husbands. Statistics show there are three men for every two women in Fairbanks.

"But don't come up here planning to stay unless you have a bankroll in your pocket or the promise of a job," says the chamber of com-

merce. "Like most other cities in the states, we have a surplus of labor."

The city has 12 churches, and it also has the only institution of higher learning in Alaska—the University of Alaska. With a beautiful all-modern campus overlooking the city, the university has an enrollment of 600, with 150 of these being extension students in Anchorage and Juneau.

(Next: Keetchikan.)

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This is typical of the novel techniques used in our quest that last year took us to 21 states, Canada, Alaska and ten Latin American and Caribbean countries. In all, we drilled 120 exploratory wells. Although the cost ran to many millions, the successful ones helped us locate more new oil than we withdrew from the ground.

Actually, this benefits you as well as Standard. It means an adequate reserve of our most valuable national resource, to be drawn on in days ahead to provide the thousands of products from petroleum so essential for your daily needs.

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School Teacher New State Officer

Eugene — Medford High school newspaper adviser Vern F. Wollhoff was elected vice president of the Oregon Association of Newspaper Advisers at their annual meeting Saturday in the Erb Memorial student union at the University of Oregon.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the 32nd annual High School Press conference at the university. Other officers elected were Marv Evans, newspaper adviser for David Douglas High school in Portland, president; and Mrs. Harriet V. Langmas, newspaper adviser for Bend High school, secretary-treasurer.

Oregon Labor Force Object of Study

Salem — (UPI)—Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen said Monday he has started a study to determine the skills and adaptability of Oregon's labor force.

The project will be under the direction of Dr. Eric J. Weiss, the department's research director.

Nilsen said he hopes the study will prove that Oregon has an unusually well-skilled and versatile labor force to offer employers coming to the state.

"Such skills represent the state's most valuable asset in attracting new industry and encouraging expansion," the commissioner said.

Radiation Band Seen Less Serious Than Expected

Washington — (UPI)—Scientists reported Monday that preliminary findings from America's moon rocket indicate the band of radiation around the earth is less serious than expected from the standpoint of future space travel.

Had a human being been aboard the rocket in its ascent to an altitude of nearly 80,000 miles the space traveler would have suffered less than 50 "roentgens" of radiation, they said.

Lethal Dose
A roentgen is a unit of radiation. A lethal dose is about 450 roentgens. Atomic workers are not permitted to sustain more than 15 roentgens a year, but there have been cases when up to 50 were sustained by accident without any illness resulting.

Previous calculations had indicated that passengers on board a space ship might suffer a lethal dose before escaping the radiation band even if they left the earth at the rocket's speed of 25,000 miles per hour.

The radiation readings from the rocket's radiation counter showed however that activity was at a rate of four roentgens per hour at 5,000 miles, three roentgens per hour at 10,000 miles and two roentgens at 17,000 miles.

Shielding Cuts Radiation
If the amount of radiation continues to decrease with altitude, the scientists said the average would certainly be less than two roentgens per hour during the 24 hours a space ship would be subject to a substantial amount of this time of radiation.

Moreover, they pointed out this calculation was based on the assumption that space passengers would be completely unprotected. A reasonable amount of shielding, they said, would greatly reduce the amount of radiation sustained.

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