



CAT RESCUE — Mrs. Elsie Chavez of Los Angeles emerges with her cat, Tommy, from the crawlway under her house. The cat had been trapped for three days between two walls, until Mrs. Chavez crawled under the house and tunneled under a wall to release him. Dirty and hungry, Tommy was otherwise unscathed.

Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

Several kinds of land snails, such as the special French types served in luxury hotels, are good eating, but what about those found in your garden or the countryside?

The likelihood is that many of them are edible. At least, that is the suggestion in the following account by A. V.



Mitchell, of Oakland, Calif., concerning his experience with an Ecuadorian snail.

Mr. Mitchell, while in the East Ecuadorian rain forest a few years ago, not far from the savage Auca Indian area, found that he and his party had to live off the country for a few days. When the rain let up, the Indians went hunting, returning in an hour or so "with two frogs, a snail as large as one's fist, and eight orioles, including five chicks." They had bagged the lot in one tree.

"The Indians were quite elated about it," he writes. "There were few culinary preliminaries. Cooking as an art had not evolved from the

primitive. The snail was shell and thrown into the fire. The frogs, undressed, were wrapped in wild banana leaves and placed in a rake-up pile of coals. The big orioles were skimpily plucked, spitted and partially roasted, and the chicks were wrapped in leaves and placed on the hot embers.

"The snail was a curiosity to me, although I had seen their shells all over the jungle. In spite of a lack of appetite, I forced myself to try a taste. It must have been in the fire all of five minutes when they thought it was ready. I asked an Indian to cut me off a small piece. He cut a cube about three-quarter of an inch thick.

Undercooked Gristle
"To start with there was no taste, unless of an undercooked gristle. But, I reasoned, the taste would come with the chewing. The taste, however, did not develop and the sensation was like nothing I ever felt. The particle would give a little when I bit down on it. The instant the pressure was released, my jaws would spring back and the cube would start a hide-and-go-seek game with my tongue. I kept on until nausea overcame me.

"That I did not accept any further of their offerings did not offend the Indians. They finished the meal, not full — an Indian never gets full — but just as happy as if they were, and completely contented."

Mr. Mitchell's feelings are easy to understand. The snail, though edible, was not good eating for him. Very likely, as he suggests, the fault lay in the extremely primitive Ecuadorian Indian cuisine.

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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, 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 your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 1069, San Francisco, Calif.

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Going Under Polar Ice Claimed Easier Than Surface Trip

Editor's note: The rigors of polar travel above and under the ice are compared in this dispatch by a correspondent who did it the hard way—on top—while covering "Operation Deep Freeze" in the Antarctic.

By CHARLES R. MOORE UPI Correspondent

San Francisco —(UPI)—It's a lot easier to go under the polar ice than through it. This was obvious from accounts of the men who sailed the atomic submarines Nautilus and Skate under the North Pole.

They lived in air-conditioned comfort and neither rocked nor rolled as the subs glided beneath the ice cap.

In addition to their military significance, the trips opened up interesting possibilities of year-round contact with scientific bases on the edge of the vast Antarctic continent. These now are isolated during the long months of winter darkness.

I've never gone under the ice in a sub, but I made two trips through it, and from the Antarctic aboard the icebreaker USS Glacier, and made many flights above it.

The Glacier does it the hard way. South from New Zealand through turbulent seas, then battering through the ice.

The passage of the Glacier through the ice has been described accurately as "like riding a hay wagon over a frozen cornfield." Rough, hard going for ship and crew.

Last season the Glacier lost a propeller blade to the ice. The resulting vibration brought part of a mast, loaded with electronic gear, crashing to the deck.

Later a tough floe jabbed a hole in her bow. It was necessary to "beach" her on the 15-foot ice of McMurdo Sound for repairs.

The open areas in the ice reported by the Nautilus and Skate exist also in the Antarctic during the summer season. Some are many miles wide.

Few Feet Thick

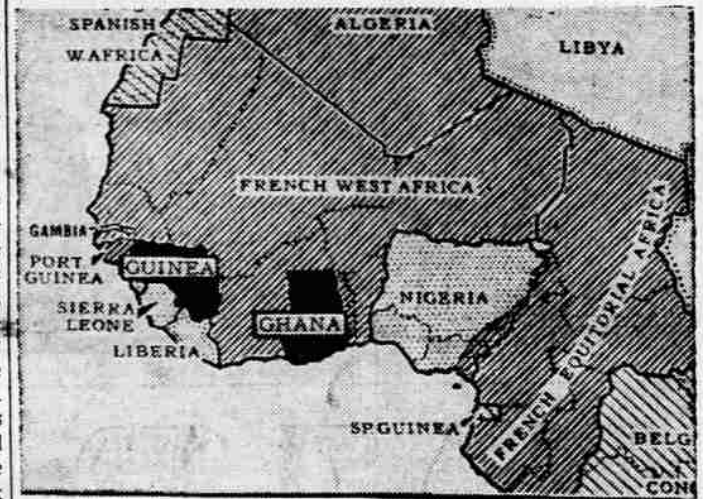
Whether means can be found for a sub to break through the solid ice sheet in winter is a question. But in most places it is only a few feet thick and it seems likely this problem can be solved.

Killer whales already have suggested a possible method. Where the ice is not too thick, these submarines of nature sometimes smash it from below to reach a tasty seal or penguin.

The submarine voyages under the ice are only the beginning of polar atomics — but a comfortable beginning for those who have done it the hard way.

The United States contracted for about 145,000 Mexican farm workers this year.

Ores and minerals represent 6 to 8 per cent of the total value of world trade.



FEDERATING—The two independent states of Ghana and Guinea, recent withdrawals from the British and French empires, respectively, have announced an agreement to merge, as "the United States of West Africa." The agreement is subject to ratification by the national assemblies of both states. In the announcement it was stated that the confederation is intended to be the nucleus of a nation of West African states. Liberia, adjoining Guinea, is also an independent country.

Medical School Undertakes Study

Portland —(UPI)—The University of Oregon Medical School has announced that it is undertaking, in cooperation with a South American university, a study of the role of the adrenal glands in toxemia of pregnancy.

The U.S. Public Health Service has awarded a four-year, \$82,300 grant for the work. The project is under direction of Dr. Howard J. Tatum, association professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

Cooperating in the study will be the University of Valle School of Medicine in Cali, Colombia.

The school said that toxemia, which occurs in three to five per cent of pregnancies in northern United States, is characterized by hypertension, or high blood pressure, and retention of water and salt in tissues, leading to an abnormal, puffy swelling. The disease is a leading cause of maternal death in the United States, the school said.

Eisenhowers Host Son and Family

Augusta, Ga. —(UPI)—President and Mrs. Eisenhower played host Thursday to their son and his family.

The scene was "Mamie's Cabin," the local term for the relatively small, but highly comfortable Eisenhower house on the grounds of the Augusta National Golf Club.

The President's son, Maj. John S. Eisenhower, his wife Barbara, and their four children, David 10, Barbara Anne 9, Susan 6, and Mary Jean 2, arrived from Washington early Wednesday evening. They flew here aboard a government plane bearing official papers for the President and members of his staff.

Dr. Graham Named Chairman of Group

Ashland —Dr. Alva W. Graham, director of graduate studies at Southern Oregon college, has been elected chairman of the college chapter of the Oregon Education association. Miss Florence Allen, post chairman, was elected secretary-treasurer of the group.

Dr. Graham will represent the college chapter at the OEA Representative Council meeting in Portland Dec. 5 and 6. The council will consider reports on federal legislation, state legislation, school economic welfare, as well as hear and act upon reports and recommendations of the Centennial action program committee.

Helicopters Join Hunt

Murfreesboro, Tenn. —(UPI)—Helicopters joined ground parties Thursday in a wide-ranging hunt for Spence Edwards, 35, a convicted killer who fled from a Georgia road gang, kidnaped and wounded a hostage, bound a highway patrolman to a tree and stole the patrol car.

South Bend —(UPI)—The Studebaker-Packard strike which idled 6,200 workers since Monday was settled Thursday.

The Shady Valley area of Johnson County, Tenn., has mined manganese continuously since 1883.

Crater Lake in Oregon, with a depth of 1,996 feet, is the deepest in the United States.

Robert Raikes of Gloucester, England, founder of the modern Sunday school, opened his first school in 1781.



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