

Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

Why does the common black bear retire along about now to sleep away the winter?

He doesn't sink into a lethargy like the woodchuck. He isn't concerned with the food supply like the chipmunk which stores up plenty to eat in his underground home. Being a meat eater, he would not find the problem



of food in winter difficult, and he certainly doesn't need to worry about the cold—thanks to an excellent fur coat.

Why, then, does he do it? One highly possible explanation is that he has eaten so much and become so fat there is nothing left to do but sleep it off.

If that isn't so, why is it that many black bears don't even bother to go to a den to spend the winter? Many of them have been known just to curl up behind a windfall, or in a dense thicket. And also, why otherwise are they known to eat very little during the last few days before they decide to retire?

Some maintain that the bear fattens himself so he can get through the winter by sleeping, but it seems to me that the real reason why he gets so fat is simply that he had rather eat than anything else and his food supply is no problem.

Thought he will eat almost any kind of meat from an ant up, the majority of his food is vegetable. Since early summer the great part of his diet consisted of berries, fruit, grasses and roots. All he has to do is find them, not catch them, and since the countryside contains vast quantities of that kind of fare, it is probable that his occasional eating of rodents, birds, fish and other animal forms is due more to a wish for variety than hunger.

Goes for Honey

Apparently there is only one kind of food for which he will seriously put himself out—honey. When he finds a hive of it, he stays there until there's nothing left, despite the angry bees.

He has nothing in the woods to fear but man, and because of his ease in finding food he puts on such a tremendous amount of fat that it is no wonder at all that many of them don't even bother to go to a den.

How fat bears get is clearly shown by the fact that in frontier times the reduction of bear fat to oil was an important business, so much so that for a while along the Mississippi containers of bear oil served as medium of exchange.

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Sorry, I simply cannot answer your many friendly letters individually, but I will be glad to answer letters of general interest through the column. Please address your letters to: IS THAT SO? care Medford Mail Tribune, Box 1069, San Francisco, Calif.

Williams Named Nurseryman Head

Jack Williams of the Ashland greenhouse and flower shop was reelected president of the Rogue Valley Nurserymen and Growers association during the recent regular meeting at the Ashland Greenhouse.

Also elected during the Dec. 10 meeting were Margaret Meadows, Crater greenhouse and florist, Medford, vice president; Montella Freeland, Central Point, sergeant at arms and J. Vernon Marshall, Marshall nursery and florist, Medford, was reelected secretary-treasurer and business agent.

Elected to the board of directors were Elwood Kendal, Valley Florist and Greenhouse, Grants Pass, chairman; Elwood Stansfield, S. and H. Landscape nursery, Medford, Tom Carter, Lithia nursery, Ashland and Kenneth Meadows, Crater Greenhouse, Medford, past president.

The association was formed in 1950 to establish minimum prices and create a mutual understanding among growers. J. Vernon Marshall, secretary explained. It now has most of the Rogue nurserymen and growers as members, he said.

4-H Club News

Howard Bake 'n Stitches, No. 2

Members of the Howard Bake 'n Stitches, No. 2, 4-H club made Christmas decorations and played games during their recent meeting in the J. Maehren home. Only four members were present.

Madelyn Jo Drennen, Reporter.

A demonstration on the proper way to scramble eggs was given at the recent meeting of the Rooky Cooks 4-H club held at Donna Bailey's home.

Members also talked about holding a Christmas party on Thursday. Each member has been asked to bring a small gift related to cooking. Darlene Thompson, Reporter.

Howard Bake 'n Stitches, No. 1

Members of the Howard Bake 'n Stitches, No. 1, 4-H club learned how to read recipes and measure correctly during the Dec. 11 meeting at the Howard school.

The next meeting will be held at Mrs. W. E. Drennen's home on Dec. 30. Joyce Drennen, Reporter.

Western American rivers could produce as much electric power in a year as would be generated by 600 million barrels of oil, the Bureau of Reclamation says.

Advice Given On Selling Autos

Hartford, Conn. — (UPI) — Connecticut automobile dealers were told at their annual meeting that prospective customers have a selling technique of their own.

Dealer Del Spitzer said, "They study prices by candlelight to save electricity and hold us up. They come in with a chip on their shoulder. They can'ticker about the list price which the government controls so their chief concern is the trade-in."

Spitzer advised, "Let him think he's the aggressor. Instead of trying to sell him extra gadgets like windshield squirts show interest in his old car."

"He'll tell you everything because he'll figure it'll increase the appraisal. Then make a reverse pitch and get him to take you for a demonstration ride in his old car. This will make him obligated to you."

"Then when you show him the new model contrast its features with the defects that you've spotted in his old model, instead of trying to run down the competitor's product next door. You'll have your customer following you around like a puppy dog."

Multnomah Judge Heads Association

Portland — (UPI) — Circuit Judge Paul R. Harris of Multnomah county Saturday was elected president of the Circuit Judges Association of Oregon at the group's annual meeting here.

Named vice president was Judge Charles H. Foster of Lakeview. Judge Robert C. Belloni, Myrtle Point, was elected secretary-treasurer.

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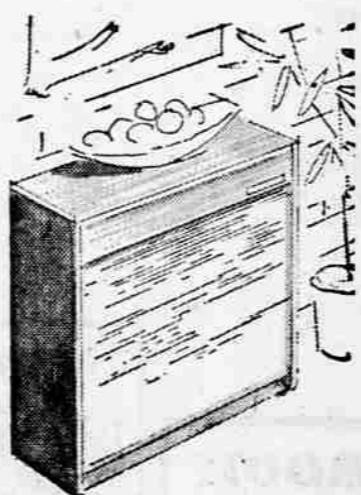
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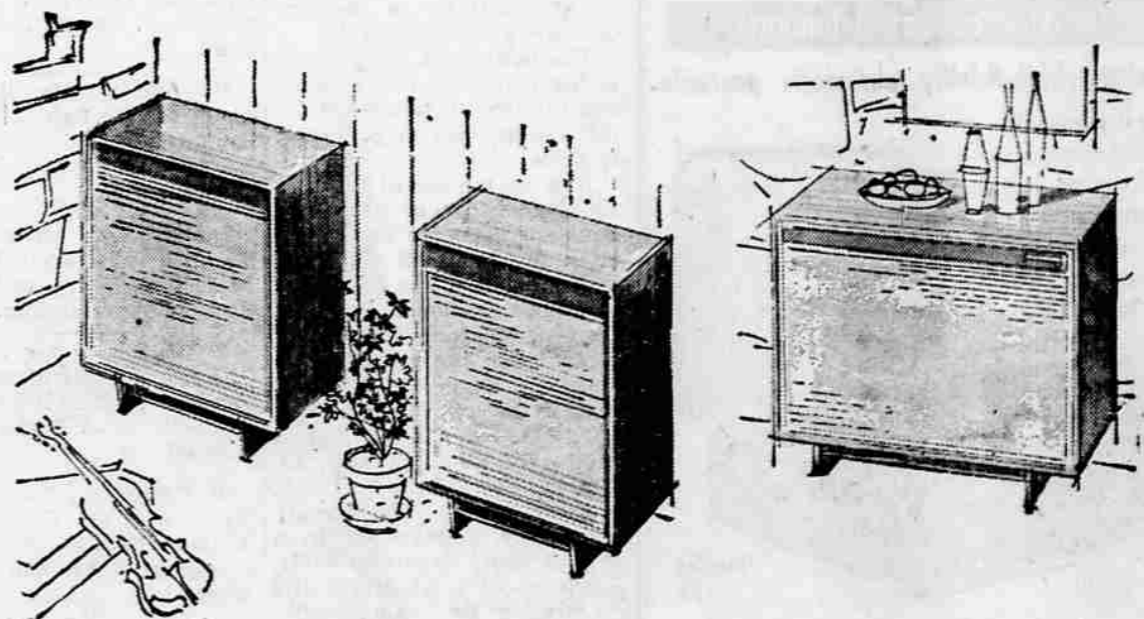
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