

Big Future Is Predicted For Cashmere

By WALTER LOGAN

New York — (UP) — Nimble-footed goats with long silky hair have been scrambling about on the lower reaches of the Himalayas for years, leaving a trail of goat hair hanging onto the brambles and bushes waiting to be turned into cashmere.

It was a lot of trouble to pluck it off the brambles and weave it into something wearable but Robert Blakewell predicted way back in the 1790s that if enough were found the British industry would soon convert the down into fabrics "of more value than their weight of the purest gold."

It was almost that way for awhile. A coat of cashmere sold for hundreds of dollars—it takes 30 goats to turn out one coat. It still is expensive, but not that much, and is just as hard to find. A lot of it still comes from Iran, Mongolia and areas bordering China.

Cashmere Coat

Marco Polo wore a cashmere coat when he returned home from his travels in the Far East. The world was impressed with the soft and luxurious fabric but it cost so much that for years only a few kings and princes could afford it. Caesar's toga was made of cashmere.

Eventually the combination of oriental luxury, shrewd British trading and fine Scottish spinning brought the price down. Sir Robert Dawson, a Scottish industrialist, had a monopoly on the downy fleece for many years but that changed in the 1920s.

A Frenchman invented a dehairing machine and in 1954 it was introduced into Woonsocket, R. I., and a man named Marcus Weisman began producing his own fine virgin cashmere. Eventually he produced so much he became known as the King of Cashmere along Seventh Avenue in New York.

Weisman, a Briton who became an American citizen, used it for making cashmere coats for women through his firm, Country Tweeds, Inc., which is how he got to be the cashmere king. But women's ideas often influence men's and Weisman predicts a big future for cashmere in the men's field.

Imports Yarn

Weisman, who imports Cashmere yarn from a firm in Belgium, said use of the fabric in men's topcoats, overcoats and sports coats is increasing. This year alone, he said, 8,000 pieces of goods are going into men's wear and he predicted total output at about 100,000 overcoats and 50,000 topcoats—a big jump over previous years.

Weisman acts as cashmere adviser for a number of men's clothing manufacturers such as Botany and he is constantly working to create new patterns. In the old days there was one pattern—plain. But he displayed a number of twill weaves, one a grey and black diagonal stripe, destined for the world of men's clothing.

Weisman insisted cashmere is as practical as many other fabrics and demonstrated the tensile strength of some of the threads. Men wear their coats lots longer than women, so they have to be stronger, he said.

Exams Available For Federal Posts

Examinations have been announced by the U. S. Civil Service commission for filling the positions of student trainee—veterinarian and for occupational therapist.

For additional information contact L. B. Nelson in the civil service office at the Medford post office.

Converted Bus Used As Families' Hotel

Natick, Mass. — (UP) — Richard J. Parace's family "car" sleeps eight. Actually, the "car" is a 27-foot bus which he bought secondhand for \$500 and converted into a home on wheels.

He tore out the seats and put in folding bunks over the rear wheels. He also equipped the vehicle with a refrigerator, shower, 50-gallon water tank, heater, gas stove and oven, sink, generating plant and most of the other conveniences of home.

Parace, his wife and three small children take long trips in the 1948-model bus with a maximum of comfort.

10-TON BELL

Niagara Falls, N. Y. — (UP) — The 55 bells in the Rainbow carillon on a point just below Niagara falls weigh 43 tons. The heaviest bell is 10 tons and the tiniest weighs a scant nine pounds.

THUNDER BIRD'S BIG ANNUAL STOREWIDE

Christmas

SHOPPING

Sale

Thursday, Dec. 6, thru
Wednesday, Dec. 12



7 Big Days

1000's of Specials In All Departments

PLENTY OF
FREE
PARKING



BIG SAVINGS ON APPLIANCES, TOYS & GIFTS

HAMILTON BEACH MIXETTE

PORTABLE MIXER

- 3 Speeds • Beater ejector
- Lightweight but powerful

Reg. \$15.95
\$9.99



2 Year Guarantee

SYLVANIA

LIGHT BULBS

• 100-75-60 Watt Reg. 50c

Pkg. of 2
23c

Men's Long Sleeve Woven Dan River SPORT SHIRTS

Reg. \$3.98

- Wrinkle shed with Dri-Don
- Wash and Wear
- Permanent collar stays
- Sizes Sm., Med., Lg.

**3 for
7.99**



REG. \$5.95 FOSTORIA

HEATING PAD 3 Heats

REG. \$2.98 DAMASK 50"x50"

TABLE CLOTH With Napkins

REG. \$1.19 CRAFT MASTER

OIL PAINTING SET

REG. \$1.00 MEN'S BOTANY

ORLON SOCKS Sizes 10 1/2-13

REG. \$4.95 WAGNER CAST IRON

CHICKEN FRYER

REG. 69c ROYAL RUBY

CANDY JAR

REG. \$1.29 DEBBY

DOLLS & DOLLIES

REG. \$1.98 CRAYOLA

CRAYONS With Book

REG. \$1.29 BONGO

RACE GAME

REG. 59c C-7 1/2

TREE LIGHTS Pkg. of 5

REG. \$8.25 REVERE

2-QT. SAUCE PAN

REG. \$5.69 3-QT. REVERE

TEA KETTLE

REG. 29c LIBBY'S

Old Fashioned Glasses 2 for

REG. \$1.19 CERAMIC

ASH TRAY

REG. \$1.49 CHRISTMAS

Snowball Candles

REG. 98c RUBBER INDOOR

Horse Shoe Game

20 INCH VINYL

KISS ME DOLL

- Rooted Hair
- Moving Eyes
- Fully Jointed

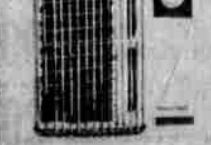
\$6.77
Reg. \$17.95



ELECTRIC HEATER

Tropic-Aire Automatic

Reg. \$19.95



12.44

GIANT 6 ROLL PACK

Gift Wrap

6 Assorted Rolls

Reg. \$1.98

99c



FLOOR POLISHER

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Reg. \$29.95



\$19.97

PENN-CHAMP

SPRAY DE-ICER

- For Car Windows
- Instant defrosting

Reg. 98c

44c

TREE LIGHTS

at Tremendous Savings

Indoor Multiple—if one burns out rest stay lit

Reg. \$1.49 7-Lite Set 69c

Reg. \$2.98 15-Lite Set \$1.69

Cashier Window Services

FILM DEVELOPING

- YEAR AROUND LAY-AWAY PLAN
- Free Gift Wrapping and Greeting Cards for All Occasions
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- Checks Cashied • Money Orders
- Postage Stamps • Bottle Return
- Philco TV & Radio Tubes at 40% Discount
- G-E Polisher & Waxer Rental 77c a Day



THE

Thunderbird

Discount MARKET

CORNER JACKSONVILLE HIWAY AND LOZIER LANE