

The Herald and News

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Basement Fun

By BILL JENKINS

As the do-it-yourself craze gains momentum around the country we are told by the magazines, the radio and television outlets that there is a wonder world of pleasure and profit in our basements. The list of things you can build, repair and remodel in your basements covers many pages and adequate instructions are available on every side.

Since no one has yet come out with a do-it-yourself medical project that would treat such subjects as the dressing of saw cuts, chisel slashes, hammer-smashed thumbs and the splinting of toes broken by falling planks, I have had to find other means of enjoying the basement.

The most satisfactory is mouse hunting. I got started at it a couple of years ago when wet and cold weather drove literally hundreds of field mice out of the pastures and swamps around the place onto our lawn and then into the basement. Trapping them was a major chore since you could set as many traps as you wished and have them all full in a matter of minutes. The falling out of catching them and learning to love them, apparently, the dog was useless since he's too clumsy to catch anything that moves faster than a slow human. So I took to shooting 'em with an air rifle.

If you've never tried it and you have a basement that attracts mice now and then I can highly recommend the sport. The equipment is simple—all you need is an accurate, high power pellet gun, endless patience and the ability to make the gun hit where you point her. Good practice to sharpen the old shooting eye for regular hunting, too. A running mouse at 30 or 40 feet presents as sporty a target as a fast-winged bird or a running jackrabbit. You have to take into consideration such items as light fixtures, glass jars of jelly and fruits, mirrors, windows and other objects that would be damaged if hit. You also have to watch out for ricochets which can be dangerous. Some of these pellets guns really pack a wallop.

As you get into the swing of things and if the supply of mice holds out, you'll find yourself switching to a pistol, the gas operated ones are handiest, as being sportier for the short shots, reserving the rifle for the corner shots or when you need a fine bead while shooting into the shadow under the workbench.

When the mice become wary, as they do after a time, especially the grey and white "house" mice, you can try your hand at setting up an adequate bait that will still afford sportsmanlike shooting. No fun in just putting a chunk of cheese out in the open and taking sniping shots for minutes and BB guns. But you can build a maze with the bait at the center that will afford you difficult shots as the little beast threads his way past sticks and other items on his way to the bait.

Head shots are best, sure killers with an adequate rifle or handgun. Spine shot anchor 'em where they are. But a mouse has a surprising amount of vitality and can pack a lot of lead. Wood rats, when you get an occasional crack at one, prove to be as phlegmatic as an old billy goat when it comes to taking lead.

On top of the shooting end of it, it gives a man a wonderful chance to catch up on his thinking. Since movement will scare any mouse, no matter how bold, you have to compose yourself in patience and endure the stiffness that comes with sitting too long in one position. At such times thinking is a good distraction to take your mind off your aching backside. And since a basement is a quiet place it is conducive to thinking. You can unravel all kinds of problems, make decisions and rehearse your tomorrow's speech to the boss. All in privacy and quiet.

Yep, I heartily recommend it. It may, in fact, be the only answer to the growing menace of television. Try it some time and see.

Fossils

By KEN McLEOD

Few people actually realize the importance of sundry "old" bone fragments of which are to be found about every fossil locality but when these bone fragments are associated with human remains and artifacts the bones may become exceedingly significant.

However, and here again caution must be observed because the evidence may be accidental and the products of man may actually belong to a period many years later than the period of the animals. One of the best illustrations of this fact was to be found in Lower Klamath Lake.

In the present Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, a short distance south of the present state line road and now covered by water of one of the refuge units, exists the site of one of Klamath Basin's fossil deposits. This site, so far as I know was never thoroughly explored by any competent fossil student.

We know of its existence back in the dry thirties when hunted Indian artifacts in the area and picked up arrow points from among the fossilized bones of several strange creatures. The fact that the fossil remains and the artifacts were found together, however, did not indicate that the period of man and the period of animals were coincident.

The fossils were weathering out of a volcanic tuff that composed that part of the valley floor and the artifacts had trickled down from the surface of a higher elevation due to wind erosion of the old mud beds that formed the bottom of Lower Klamath Lake.

The bones coming out of the rock met the artifacts coming down from above at the wind swept surface of the bed of volcanic ash that had created there the appearance of the presence of man when these fossil animals roamed the Klamath Plains.

To one seeking to show great antiquity of man in the Klamath region the evidence as it appeared could be taken as a matter of fact with no questions asked as to the origin of the fossil bones. It has been situations such as this that have caused much controversy over the age of man in America and every such find of human artifacts among the fossil animals has been challenged upon this same point. This same challenge came in the case of the discovery of the Folsom points in New Mexico in association with the bones of a fossil buffalo.

In looking back upon our experience on Lower Klamath we begin to realize that perhaps not all the artifacts found among the fossil bones may have come from above as we assumed at the time but some may have come from the same horizon as did the animal material, in fact, the actual presence of the bones themselves might have been due to human design rather than due to some design of nature. It has been stated that "there are sermons in stone," but how few of us are equipped to read these sermons of nature? There may have been a really important story before our eyes but we did not see it.

The fact we cannot take anything for granted in nature is ably illustrated in an example I might draw from the experience of one of the paleontologists at the University of California. A farmer in the Pit River country wrote a letter to the department at Berkeley saying that he had found a strange fossil bone on his ranch and described it as a round bone, 12 inches long, tapered in a point from the broken end section which was six inches in diameter. He thought the whole animal was in place and wondered if they were interested.

The professor sighed, "another elephant," for the description of the fossil exactly like a find of a section of elephant tusk. Fossil elephants as far as the department was concerned were a "dime a dozen."

So the professor wrote back saying that what the farmer had discovered was the remains of one of the fossil elephants and he was sorry he could not come and visit the location as they were just then overstocked with elephant remains, perhaps some other institution might be interested.

This made the farmer mad and he writes back "why you crazy old codger, I know elephants, this is a cow critter the bone is hollow." Well, the professor left him immediately, "why didn't you say so in the first place!"

The result was the discovery of one of the finest fossil skulls of the Giant Bison which once roamed this region and is one of the most cherished fossil items of the department of paleontology. From this skull a beautiful reconstruction of the head of this famous bison was made by a noted sculptor and if you saw the exhibit of the University of California at the World's Fair on Treasure Island, the first item to greet you as you entered the university exhibit room was this reconstruction of the head of the giant bison from our Pit River country.

No find therefore can be dismissed as not being of interest, or not having something to tell those who have the willingness to stop and read the story. Old and well explored sites are continually bringing forth new bits of evidence of the past and new sites become spots of thrilling discovery.

Advantages

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Curbside comments of a pavement Plato: After he reaches an age where he forgets the ecstasy of making and throwing a snowball, the average man often grumbles, "What good is winter?"

Winter has more critics than the income tax. This is unfair to one of the finest seasons of the year. Every season has its own particular virtues, and winter confers upon mankind major blessings.

Your farmer knows the full value of winter. His snowfalls provide him the water his crop will need next spring. He can reach into a full barrel and pull out an apple a day to keep the doctor away. His labors are fewer, and he has time to write those long, long letters to his congressman on what is wrong with the country. He is in semi-hibernation himself, and if his pigs and cows would just hibernate, too, he could write even longer letters.

It is the city dweller and the suburbanite who disparage winter most because they understand it least. The housewife complains because she gets her feet wet wading through slush on her daily pilgrimage to the supermarket. The husband groans because he has to put tire chains on his motor car or die a path through the snow that blocks his garage door.

But these are minor miseries in comparison to the pleasures that winter offers.

Why yearn to flee to the southern ports of the sun. Why indeed! The south is for the birds. But the birds go south only through necessity, not desire. If birds had homes with central heating and could patronize a good, well-stocked grocery store, do you think they'd be crazy enough to wear out their feathers flying all the way to Mexico every year? Not likely.

The ungrateful people who crit-

ize winter do so because they simply don't know a good thing when they have it. They don't know how to get the most out of it. Here are a few advantages of winter:

You won't be bitten by a snake or a mosquito and no chigger will tunnel into you.

You won't catch poison ivy or a sunburn.

You don't have to go on picnics or eat a steak burned to death on an outdoor grill.

There is less Sunday driving.

You go out less, and learn to discover anew the fun you can find in your own home by your own hearth.

But above all winter makes you slow down the tempo of your living. Nature, the great psychiatrist, invented winter as a period of rest for all its creatures worn out by the wear and tear of summer's violence.

Eternal summer is no boon to man, not if life itself is the greatest boon. People live longer in Nebraska, which knows winter, than in a torrid Brazilian city, which knows as we assume at the time but some may have come from the same horizon as did the animal material, in fact, the actual presence of the bones themselves might have been due to human design rather than due to some design of nature. It has been stated that "there are sermons in stone," but how few of us are equipped to read these sermons of nature? There may have been a really important story before our eyes but we did not see it.

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New Offense

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—A few dates and statements out of the life of Secretary of State Dulles offer some insights into his ideas about foreign policy and his handling of it.

In April 1952, after watching the Truman administration for seven years advised various means for blocking Soviet expansion — such as foreign aid and military alliances — Dulles said:

"The United States was too much on the 'defensive' when it should have taken the initiative; it was 'dancing to whatever tune' the Russians played; and 'most of our actions have been reactions to Soviet Communist actions.'"

Since he became secretary of state in 1953 he has followed in a general way the broad policies of former President Truman: a continuation of foreign aid and even more military aid. It is perhaps the only way. No one in authority has advocated another.

Last Nov. 29 Dulles told a news conference the United States "very distinctly" had the initiative in the Middle East. He said: "I believe what we are doing (in the Middle East) is of incomparably greater importance and significance than these tentative proposals the Soviets are making."

After this expression of confidence the secretary said the United States was not going to be drawn into an attempt to match every offer of economic aid the Soviets may make to the Middle East and Asia.

On Dec. 29 — by this time the visits of Soviet leaders to the Middle East and Asia were being considered a propaganda success, at least — Dulles made it known the administration wanted to step up its aid to the Middle East.

And President Eisenhower — although there has been congressional opposition to continuing and prolonging foreign aid — said in his Jan. 5 State of the Union message his administration wanted to set up a 10-year foreign aid program.

Then yesterday Dulles, with Eisenhower's approval, called on the nation to "wake up" to all the implications facing this country in its struggle to keep the backward countries from Russia by economic help.

It wasn't the call so much that was unusual as the way in which it was made.

Dulles and his State Department have responsibility for making foreign policy. But Dulles said he and Eisenhower had approved a statement prepared by the American delegation to the United Nations.

This statement informed the country the Russians have shifted their tactics and that defeat in competing with them in helping underdeveloped countries economically might cost this country the cold war.

Why Dulles had not long before this called on the country to "wake up" or why the warning had to be thought up by the U.N. delegation instead of the State Department isn't clear.

A Lot Of Good

By CHARLES M. McCANN

United Press Staff Correspondent

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles can do a lot of good when he visits Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India in March.

The visit, in fact, may prove to be one of the most important Dulles has made in some time.

First, he should be able to clear up completely the misunderstanding over his recent reference to Portugal's "provinces" in the Far East, including Goa on the Indian coast.

Secondly, he should be able to offset some of the propaganda which Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin and Communist Party Chief Nikita S. Khrushchev dished out so lavishly on their visit to Nehru.

Dulles may be able to convince Nehru that solid American aid is of more value to India than Communist big talk.

Finally, Dulles will be able to discuss intimately the issues outstanding between the United States and Communist China.

The visit might even result in some initiative by Nehru to ease tensions in the Far East. He is anti-Communist in his political philosophy but he is friendly with Chinese Red leaders Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-Lai. He is a

Quotes

By UNITED PRESS

LONDON—Sir Winston Churchill on Benjamin Franklin's experiments with electricity: "Do not think they could be done now on the grounds they would be dangerous to human life."

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Marty Marion, manager of the Chicago White Sox, on the city's snapping and popping static electricity caused by the record dry spell: "When the kids are leaving for school in the morning they naturally want to kiss mother and dad goodbye. We found those smacks were pretty startling when we got sparks with them. So now they touch us on the shoulder first. That uncharges them."

MOSCOW — The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia on the performance of the American folk opera "Foggy and Beau": "Our American guests showed original art understandable by people of all countries."

Rat Parasites

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

Rats carry diseases which can be acquired by human beings. Rats sometimes attack people, particularly infants and the aged. Rats destroy a great deal of food and cause enormous property damage.

There are probably more rats in North America than there are people.

Rats can live in almost any climate and eat everything that human beings do, as well as other things. They have many similarities to man and can adapt themselves much better to change and disaster than we can. At present, they are almost certainly the most dangerous enemies of mankind, other than ourselves.

Rats carry many diseases of man and animals, including plague (the black death of the Middle Ages), typhus or jail fever, rat bite fever, and Weil's disease.

Plague is a constant danger because it is present in rats in many parts of the world. Plague never actually kills the rats themselves; when this happens the rat flea, which harbors the germ causing plague, leaves the dead rat's body and seeks the nearest alternate host, which may be and often is a human being.

Several years ago, a study was made of attacks on human beings by rats in Baltimore. Records were obtained of nearly 100 persons who had been bitten so badly by rats that they had to go to a hospital for treatment. This same report recorded studies which suggested that rats relish human blood and that the reason they bite people is that they are hungry.

The amount of injury which rats do and their burden on our economy is almost past belief. Several years ago, it was calculated that the damage done by rats in Washington and Baltimore alone was between \$400,000 and \$700,000 each year respectively. This represents an average loss of \$1.27 a year per person.

Lately, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has listed some of the more destructive activities of rats. They eat corn during growth and in cribs, and a single rat can eat from 40 to 50 pounds of corn a year. The rat is the greatest enemy of poultry. Rats destroy wild birds, ducks, woodcocks and song birds. They attack bulbs, seeds and plants.

There seems no doubt that rats should be hunted mercilessly on all fronts. They are rivals of mankind and may beat us out in the long run.

Cable Break Stops Service

SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—Telephone and teletype service between California and the Pacific Northwest failed last night, apparently because of a break in the coaxial cable between Sacramento, Calif., and Portland, Ore.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company rushed a crew of men to the Marysville-Yuba City, Calif., area where the trouble was believed to lie.

"So far, they're still looking," a PT&T spokesman said.

The area was the scene of disastrous flood during Christmas week that interrupted telephone service then. No new floods were reported in the area today.

The break took place about 10:30 p.m. last night, cutting off telephone service and silencing teletypes in press association offices for about two hours.

Now She Shops "Cash and Carry"

Without Painful Backache

Nagging backache, headache, or muscular aches and pains may come on with nervous tension, emotional upset or day to day stress and strain. And folk who eat and drink unwisely sometimes suffer mild bladder irritation... with that restless, uncomfortable feeling... If you are miserable and worn out because of these discomforts, Don's Pills often help by their pain relieving action, by their soothing and bladder irritation, and by their mild diuretic action through the kidneys — tending to increase the output of the 1 1/2 pints of kidney fluid.

If nagging backache makes you feel dragged-out, miserable, with restless, sleepless nights, and if you have been unable to get some happy relief millions have enjoyed for years, try Don's Pills today! They are safe and save money. Get Don's Pills today!

They'll Do It Every Time



THEN COMES IT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AND HE WISHES MONDAY WOULD HURRY UP AND ROLL AROUND



Strikebound Papers May Start Work

DETROIT (AP)—The possibility that Detroit's three strikebound newspapers would resume publication Monday rose today after leaders of three striking unions said they would recommend acceptance of management's latest contract proposals.

The city's three metropolitan dailies — the Free Press, News and the Times — have been shut down since Dec. 1.

The striking unions — stereotypers, mailers and printers — scheduled Saturday membership meetings to vote on the publishers' crease on 12-month contracts expiring Nov. 30. The new proposal reportedly contains an option to renew the pact for another year at that time with an additional \$2.75 boost.

Most observers said chances were bright that publication would resume Monday.

The publishers also are negotiating contracts with the photoengravers, teamsters and Newspaper Guild, none of which is on strike, but whose contracts have expired.

A usually reliable source, who declined use of his name, said he believed that barring some last minute hitch, these three unions would also come to an agreement this weekend.

The Free Press contract with the Guild expired Nov. 15 and has been continued on a day-to-day basis during negotiations. The Detroit Times-Guild contract runs until Jan. 2 and is responsible only on wage issues.

The Guild represents editorial and office workers at the Free

Press and Times. It represents only maintenance workers at the News.

Typical of the demands made by the striking unions, was that of the stereotypers, who originally asked a \$10 weekly pay hike, plus an additional work crew or extra pay for handling color printing. They also asked extra pay for work done on material prepared for use in newspapers subsequent to the day on which the work was done.

The color and advance copy issues were turned over to a joint management-union study committee for decision later.

People Read SPOT ADS — you are.

Federal Wheat Program Seen

WASHINGTON (AP)—A wheat growers spokesman said Wednesday the administration "might go along" if support develops in Congress for a two-price plan for wheat.

"Agriculture Department officials say they want to work with us on some of the details of our proposal," Herbert Hughes of Imperial, Neb., said.

"Secretary (of Agriculture) Benson says he has an open mind on the matter and I feel that he might not oppose our plan if we can build up sentiment on the (capitol) Hill," said Hughes, vice president of the National Wheat Growers Assn.

Hughes was among wheat growers called here last week by Secretary Benson to get their views on wheat legislation.

Chief recommendation of the group called for 100 per cent of parity payments for all wheat used in this country for human consumption with wheat used for other purposes and exported to be sold at whatever price it would bring.

Astoria's Sliding Mountain Stops

ASTORIA (AP)—Despite recent heavy rainfall, Astoria's sliding hillsides remains stable, city officials report.

There has been no major damage on Coxcomb Hill since the Irving avenue slide of last month which broke the foundations on several homes.

Breaks in water mains, plugged sewers and minor mud slides have been reported in various points throughout the town, however.

Pest Control To Be Heard

ROSEBURG (AP)—Health and sanitation officials from throughout Oregon are expected to discuss establishment of a mosquito control research station near here when they convene here Friday.

Try Reiersen, Douglas County sanitarian in charge of mosquito control, said Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, has requested that the station be set up.

L. S. Miller, former county sanitarian and now state health department vector control director, said unique problems exist in the Pacific Northwest lumbering belt.

So far, no definite method of control of mosquitoes has been found in their breeding places on pig ponds and old decks, present in virtually every community in the Northwest.

Several methods have been tried and several counties and the state have been cooperating in an attempt to come up with a conclusive method.

A particular problem is the presence of breeding places in the cold decks built by many mills during the summer for log supplies during winter when bad weather slows logging activities.

Bark chinks up pools between stacked logs within the decks. Spring rains and fire-preventative sprinkling of the logs during summer months keep the pools of water filled even during the driest weather.

Spraying chemicals into the interior of the decks, which may contain logs 40 feet or longer, has been a puzzle on a large-scale basis.

Erickson and the state Board of Health have been urging the U. S. Public Health Service to set up a two-year field study.