

GROUNDHOG DAY



MR. ARCTOMYS MONAX

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

IT'S almost time now for a little animal to decide for us if we are to have six weeks more of winter or if spring is near at hand. For February 2 is Groundhog day and, according to a belief held by many persons, what Mr. Arctomys Monax (that's what the scientists call the groundhog) does on that day will be prophetic of weather conditions for the next six weeks. If Mr. Monax comes out of his hole on that day and sees his shadow, then he will return to his hole and six weeks more of winter must be endured. If, however, the sun doesn't shine that day, we can expect an early spring.

Now, the joker in all this business is this: regardless of what the groundhog does on February 2 and whether the sun is shining or not when he comes out of his hole, we shall have six more weeks of winter, anyway. For officially winter does not end until the spring equinox on March 21 and from February 2 to March 21, it's all of six weeks—and then some. More than that, scientists tell us that there's no dependence to be placed upon the groundhog as a weather prophet. Government weather records for the last 50 years show that he has missed it much more frequently than he has hit it.

But regardless of what the scientists say, there are many people who more than half believe the truth of the Groundhog day superstition. The reason is that this superstition is rooted in traditions almost as old as the human race. Certainly it goes back before the beginning of the Christian era and the modern tradition is another of those queer combinations of heathen and Christian beliefs. One inspiration for it, probably, was the spring festival in honor of Ceres, the Roman earth goddess of abundant crops, who was known as Demeter by the Greeks.

One day, so runs the myth, her daughter, Persephone, was plucking flowers when she saw a narcissus of great beauty. As she reached out her hand to touch it it sprang into life as Hades, King of the Dead, in a golden chariot.

The hated monarch bore her away, screaming, to his dark palace underground. The abduction was noted by Helios, the Sun, and by Hekate, who told the grief-stricken mother when she abandoned her duties and the society of the gods to look for Persephone. She refused to let the earth produce until her daughter returned unharmed. Barrenness and mildew wasted the fields.

At last Zeus, who had arranged for the wedding of Persephone to the powerful but unpopular Lord of the Dead, sent his messenger to return her to her mother. Because she had eaten a pomegranate seed given her by Hades she was doomed to spend the dark months of winter with him, but in planting and harvest time she belonged to the sunny fields and fruit-laden groves of her mother.

Somewhat the essential idea of this myth is found in the beliefs associated with Candlemas day, the name given

Nor is groundhog more than half correct. It's true, also, that he lives for the most part in the ground but he is not a hog, nor remotely related to the hog. Like those other porcine misnamed animals, the porcupine and the guinea pig, he is a rodent and is related to the squirrels and the rabbits.

It is highly unlikely that whether the sky be bright or cloudy on Candlemas day the groundhog bothers to come up to look for his highly important shadow, at least north of the Mason-Dixon line. He is a very sound sleeper, and snoozes the winter away in his burrow, rolled up in a compact ball with his nose tucked into his tummy. If you find his home and dig him out he will not awaken, for the sleep of hibernation is much more deathlike than ordinary slumber, and a hibernating animal will stand the roughest kind of treatment without showing any signs of life.

Even when he does come out, with the real return of spring and plenty of green stuff to eat, the groundhog is still a sleepy-head. He has no other waking occupation except eating, fighting occasionally, and taking care of his family during the breeding period, so that he has plenty of leisure time on his hands in summer. He spends that in sleep, too.

The groundhog is not a beauty. He is from 15 to 18 inches tall and his coat is blackish or grizzled above and chestnut-red below. His form is thick and his head broad and flat. He has a bushy tail and his legs are too short to make him handsome.

The groundhog digs burrows deep into the ground when on the plains, or when he can find a hill he will burrow into the side of it. He also views as a favorable site for his home a large rock under which he may dig. His burrow slants upward to keep out water.

The groundhog is a vegetarian with a strong preference for alfalfa and clover. That does much to damage his reputation with farmers, who annually lose thousands of dollars because of his taste.

In the southern mountains, where he is known as the whistle-pig, he is all the more resented when on February 2 sleet finds the unstopped cracks in a log cabin and unseasonable chill penetrates the cornhusk bed with its scant covers. But the violence that overtakes him there is due to his liking for the bark of tender young apple trees and garden stender.

However, despite all that the scientists may say about Mr. Arctomys Monax—that he is not really the animal that his common names indicate and that he has nothing whatever to do with deciding the question of "Can spring be far behind?"—the belief in the Groundhog day tradition is pretty likely to persist indefinitely and on or about February 2 we can expect to see such newspaper stories as the following:

Dodge City, Kan.—I give up. There must be something to it. So declared J. L. Hayes, Dodge City, as he wonderingly watched his groundhog playing about his yard in the bright sunlight this morning. The little animal had dug his way from his den, where he had remained since November 27 last, and was roaming about. "I never believed in that gag," he said, "but what is it? Is it a man to think now? I hid all my calendars, and that groundhog hadn't seen one. I swear. How did he know this was the second of February? This is the first day he has been out since November 27, when he hibernated."

"You can't blame it on me; that groundhog dug out on his own initiative. Look at him. It is six weeks more of winter, sure. That groundhog has convinced me there is something in the old superstition."

Or it may be a "believe it or not" item such as the following:

Mr. Hayes brought the groundhog to Dodge City from Squaw Lake Park. Two years ago to test the old superstition. Last February 2 the animal emerged from his hole at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, remained in the sunlight about twenty minutes and then re-entered his den, piling dirt in the opening until it was completely closed. Frank Nollner tells this one: A man back in Iowa says he is a firm believer in the groundhog theory. The man was out cutting wood on groundhog day and took off his coat and put it on a log. When he came to get his coat it was gone. He looked everywhere, but could not find it. Six weeks later he was cutting wood in the same place. He happened to look around and saw a groundhog come out of his hole and put his coat on the log where he had found it six weeks previous. Now you tell me—Glen Elder (Kan.) Sentinel.

That invitation is repeated by the writer of this article, and if you can tell a better one, he will incorporate it in his Groundhog day article next year!

Wasted

It was near the end of a long story The hardfaced man was giving them gems of wisdom picked from the ample experiences of his own hectic life.

"Free yourselves," he said, "from the vile clutches of the tobacco habit. It is easily done. Well I remember the day I gave up smoking. I was standing at a street corner, just about to light a Perfecto, when I

said to myself, 'Johnston, you're a fool to smoke; throw away that cigar!' And I did, and I've never smoked since."

"Say, mister," interrupted a man who had just come in, "you haven't a mind to tell a fellow where you throw that cigar, have you?"—London Tit-Bits.

Early Currency Laws

The circulation of foreign money was so general throughout the United States for 25 years approximately after

the adoption of the dollar as our unit of exchange that it was a vital element in the circulation. Congress recognized this great need by enacting a number of laws regulating foreign coins and making them legal tender. Finally congress on February 21, 1830, enacted a law repealing former acts which had made foreign money a currency or legal tender.

Fewer hairpins and combs were manufactured in the United States in 1927 than in 1925.

SENATORS BLOCK KELLOGG TREATY

Group Demands Reservation; Prohibition Fund Increased; House Will Reapportion.

Washington, D. C.—Renewed pressure from the White House failed to break the deadlock in the senate on the Kellogg anti-war treaty row and the group demanding an interpretative declaration on the pact decided late Sunday to hold out against any agreement setting an hour to vote on its ratification.

Apparently concerned over the circulation recently of a round-robin petition by those seeking an interpretative declaration of American rights under the treaty, President Coolidge summoned in Senator Bingham, republican of Connecticut, who was passing the petition around.

Coolidge Opposes Reservation. The president made known his desire that no manner of reservation accompany American ratification of the treaty engineered by his secretary of state. He considers a report of the foreign relations committee declaring that the treaty does not affect America's right of self-defense and does not infringe upon the Monroe doctrine, which is asked by the petition, would be tantamount to a reservation.

\$25,000,000 Voted for Prohibition. Without solicitation by the administration the senate appropriations committee voted to treble the fund for enforcement of prohibition. It approved a proposal to increase the dry alcoholism by \$25,000,000, which would be added to the \$13,500,000 already appropriated.

The increase, if accepted, would provide for prosecution of the dry laws, the highest figure ever made available in the history of the Volstead act.

Before voting on the proposal, however, the senate intends to wait for a report from the prohibition bureau as to just how this money would be spent, and several wets in the senate have indicated that they will not oppose the increase if, in their judgment, the funds are allocated properly.

House Votes Reapportionment. After ignoring for almost ten years the constitutional mandate to reapportion its membership, the house passed the Fenn bill to prescribe a method by which its seats shall be allotted among the states after the next census in 1930 if congress should fail to act at that time.

The measure was passed after a motion to send it back to committee had failed by a vote of 226 to 134. This ended a struggle which has seen somewhat similar bills beaten four times in the last six years.

HIGHWAY BUILDERS MEET

Labor-Saving Devices Displayed in Varied Exhibit.

Cleveland, O.—The annual exposition of the American Road Builders' association opened here Tuesday, revealing, officials of the association say, that more progress was made in the United States last year in labor-saving construction and maintenance devices for highways and bridges than during any previous five-year period. The exposition would be sufficient to fill 500 freight cars with equipment and materials for road making. Heavy road rollers, concrete mixers, graders and virtually every other machine that enters into road work was on display.

More than 30,000 people, including engineers, officials and contractors, were in attendance at the exposition.

One of the principal events was a meeting of pan-American delegates to discuss the progress made on the construction of the pan-American highway between Ottawa, Ontario and Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

State Prohibition Agents Arrest 1268.

Salem, Or.—A total of 1268 arrests for liquor law violations, resulting in fines aggregating \$154,845.50 and jail sentences aggregating 26,772 days, were made by agents of the state prohibition department during 1928, according to the report of George Alexander, state prohibition commissioner, filed with Governor Patterson. The report shows that during the year 32 automobiles used in the transportation of liquor were confiscated, 180 stills were seized and destroyed and 15,878 gallons of liquor and 96,243 gallons of mash destroyed.

Ship's Cargo Very Slippery.

New York.—Fifty tons of live eels were aboard the liner Deutschland when she sailed recently. They will be used in restocking the Baltic sea on the German coast. The eels, more than 50,000 strong, were transported in 12 huge vats on the forward deck.

Forest Grove, Or. Hit by \$65,000 Blaze.

Forest Grove, Or.—Fire causing an estimated loss of \$65,000 destroyed three buildings, a large quantity of wheat, stock feed, three trucks and two automobiles and menaced the business section of this city early Sunday.

MRS. ETTA MILLER



Mrs. Etta May Miller of Lansing, Mich., who was sentenced to life imprisonment after being convicted for the fourth time of violating the prohibition law.

NORRIS' CHURCH IS AGAIN DESTROYED

Fort Worth, Tex.—Fire believed to have been of incendiary origin destroyed the First Baptist church here of which the Rev. J. Frank Norris, noted fundamentalist leader and reform crusader, is pastor. A four-story brick Sunday school building and gymnasium adjoining the church also burned. Loss to the buildings, which church officials said were insured, was estimated at between \$200,000 and \$400,000.

Investigators, searching the ruins for clues as to the origin of the fire, reported uncovering evidences of incendiarism.

A thorough investigation of all circumstances surrounding the blaze will be conducted, the district attorney said.

Dr. Norris, who has had a stormy career here, was in Austin when informed of the fire and returned.

The original First Baptist church of which Dr. Norris also was the pastor, burned in 1912. He was charged with arson and perjury at the time, but was acquitted after sensational trials.

5200 PILOTS GET LICENSES

Thirty-four Women Hold License to Pilot Airplanes.

Washington, D. C.—On the first day of the year 5200 persons held authority from the commerce department to pilot airplanes, and 34 of them were women.

Of the total 2927 of the pilots held transport licenses, the highest grade of certificate for a civilian aviator, allowing them to engage in interstate commerce; 1165 were authorized to drive private machines and 532 were limited commercial pilots, two of the women ranked as transport pilots.

In the distribution of licenses among states, California had 894 and New York 472. Other states with more than 100 licensed pilots were Illinois, 228; Maryland, 249; Pennsylvania, 235; Ohio, 228; Texas, 215; Missouri, 178; District of Columbia, 165; Virginia, 117; Massachusetts, 109, and Wisconsin, 101.

Prime Minister's Office Stoned.

London.—An unemployed man, who had walked to London from Yorkshire, was arrested for throwing a stone at the door of No. 10 Downing street, official home of Great Britain's prime minister.

\$76,375 Loot Obtained by Robbers.

Chicago.—Two outlaws robbed six occupants of a taxicab of \$76,375 in jewels and furs, then ordered their victims out of the cab and escaped.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, hard white, \$1.49; soft white, western spring, \$1.17; hard winter, northern spring, \$1.13; western red, \$1.14½.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$22.50@23 ton; valley timothy, \$17@17.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21.50@22; clover, \$17@17.50; oat, \$16@17; oats and vetch hay, \$18@18.50.

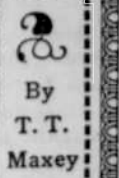
Butterfat—49@51c.
Eggs—Ranch, 30@34c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$11@12.
Hogs—Medium to choice, \$8.00@9.25.

Lambs—Good to choice, \$13@14.
Seattle
Wheat—Soft white, western white, \$1.18; hard winter, \$1.14; western red, northern spring, bulk Montana No. 1, \$1.13; bluestem, \$1.50.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$22; timothy, \$23.
Butterfat—52c.
Eggs—Ranch, 35@37c.
Cattle—Prime steers, \$11.50@12.
Hogs—Prime, \$9.50@9.65.
Lambs—Choice, \$11.50@12.

Spokane
Hogs—Good and choice, \$9.35
Cattle—Good, \$11@12.

NEARBY AND YONDER



The Majestic Columbia

BORN a Canadian, in a mountain lake formed by the melting snows which trickle down from the Purcell mountains in British Columbia, the great waterway of our Pacific northwest—the majestic Columbia—starts off in a northerly direction, changes its mind suddenly, makes a great U-shaped bend, flows south across the International boundary line and becomes an American. Winding its way south, thence swerving west, it accommodates itself as a separating line between Washington and Oregon and, 1,400 miles from its source, near the little city of Astoria, which claims to have been the first American settlement on our Pacific coast, loses itself in the Pacific ocean, carrying with it the drainage of an empire comprising a quarter of a million square miles.

Indian tribes are said to have suspected the existence of a great stream coming down off the continental divide towards the Pacific in this northern region, but apparently it remained for the captain of a Boston trading vessel to discover it in 1790. It obligingly provides moisture which has transformed barren lands into blossoming orchards of renown and near Wallula meets up with the Oregon trail over which rumbled the covered wagons of the pioneers.

The outstanding feature which has made this river far famed, however, is its spectacular 50-mile-long gorge, where it flows down a mighty corridor between a row of oddly-shaped peaks on one side and a palisaded, basaltic wall, over which massive water falls drape their filmy forms on the other, producing one of the most strangely beautiful passageways ever sculptured by the hand of nature.

Roving Ice Boxes

WISE old Nature so arranged matters that every section of the country has a natural harvesting season for its particular crop. The plan worked fine and everybody was happy for many centuries. Then it was discovered that owing to different climatic conditions home products were grown elsewhere at other seasons, but that they could not be satisfactorily transported and marketed before spoilage set in.

To tell American genius that it can't have a thing acts as a signal to set to work to find a way to obtain it. And so, inventive genius got into action, solved the vexing problem and contributed the railroad refrigerator car, which is nothing more or less than a huge ice box on wheels, for the welfare of the nation. Now, always it is seldom indeed that one sees a long freight train which does not contain one or more of these lowly refrigerators. And so it is that we have fresh fruits and vegetables whenever we want them, no matter where we live—oranges from Florida, apples from Washington, peaches from Georgia, garden truck from Texas, meats from Packington, and so on.

An army of many thousands of these roving ice boxes is on duty, day and night, year in and year out, maintaining a national distribution of table delicacies, providing a service which it would be well nigh impossible to do without and which has been the means of creating untold happiness and increasing public health.

The Marine Band

PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS, in 1798, approved a bill which created the Marine corps. This corps included a musical division which has since developed into what we now know as the United States Marine band—often referred to as "The President's Own" band.

Philadelphia was the original headquarters of the corps, because that city was the capital of the nation at that time. The capital and the band were moved to Washington in 1800, ever since which this most ancient of military bands has played an enviable role in the life of our national capital.

This band has played at the White House reception every New Year's day since 1801; it played at the first inaugural ball on March 4, 1809, and at practically every inaugural ball since that time; it played at the White House on September 6, 1825, when General Lafayette was the nation's guest and was present when Lincoln made his historic Gettysburg speech; it played at the first egg-rolling contest on the White House lawn, at the White House weddings of Nellie Grant and Alice Roosevelt and at the funerals of Presidents Taylor, Lincoln McKinley and Harding. Every President save Washington has heard its music.

The versatility of this world-famous organization is unusual. At a grand concert in 1924, it appeared as a symphony orchestra in the first part and as a military band in the second part.

That "the music of a nation expresses its soul," it "interprets its history, its religion, its patriotism and its social customs, as do few single mediums," has been most aptly illustrated by the United States Marine band.

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SAME PRESCRIPTION HE WROTE IN 1892

When Dr. Caldwell started to practice medicine, back in 1875, the needs for a laxative were not as great as today. People lived normal lives, ate plain, wholesome food, and got plenty of fresh air. But even that early there were drastic physics and purges for the relief of constipation which Dr. Caldwell did not believe were good for human beings. The prescription for constipation that he used early in his practice, and which he put in drug stores in 1892 under the name of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, is a liquid vegetable remedy, intended for women, children and elderly people, and they need just such a mild, safe bowel stimulant.

This prescription has proven its worth and is now the largest selling liquid laxative. It has won the confidence of people who needed it to get relief from headaches, biliousness, distention, indigestion, loss of appetite and sleep, bad breath, dyspepsia, colds, fevers. At your druggist, or write "Syrup Pepsin," Dept. BB, Monticello, Illinois, for free trial bottle.

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Help is Offered

and is freely given to every nervous, delicate woman, by Dr. Pierce's Clinic in Buffalo, N.Y., for confidential medical advice. No charge for this service. Obtain Dr. Pierce's Prescription now, in liquid or tablet form, from your druggist or send 10c to Dr. Pierce at above address, for trial package of tablets. One woman writes:

"I was greatly rundown in health, my nerves were bad, my back bothered me and I got so weak and dragged out that I did not feel like doing anything—wrote to all and rest all the time, but after taking a few bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription I was feeling fine, my nerves were good and my strength came back."—Mrs. Minnie Craft, 425 So. 25th St., Salem, Ore.

Have you ever tried Dr. Pierce's Pellets for the stomach and bowels?

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