## **ODDS** ON ODDITIES

## **Gun-toting Animals Predominate** In Roundup of Freak Accidents

It used to be news when a man bit a dog. But in 1946 a dog shot a woman.

And that's not all. A kangaroo shot a man. So did a rabbit. A deer took a gun away from a hunter. A fish chased a fisherman off the road by sheezing in his face. A bee, a goose, a grasshopper, a mouse and a turtle got into the act, each in its own quaint way. And an ice cube knocked

All this, and more, was turned up by National Safety council in its annual roundum of al roundup of odd accidents. And if you haven't already begun uspect that things were a little wacky in the year just past, read

The Ice Cometh.

Miss Jeannette Esslinger was standing on the sidewalk in St. Louis when an ice cube fell out of a hotel w. It hit her squarely on the head and knocked her colder than the ice cube. At the hospital they treated her with-an ice pack!

Alice Martin, 52, and Emily Hauser, 66, were zipping along the streets of Des Moines, Iowa, on a



motor scooter one day, having a very fine time indeed, when what d loom up ahead but a corner. scooted adventurously ound it, the scooter unceremoni-sty upset, depositing both ladies on the pavement with considerable force and little dignity. Sympathetic friends suggested the scooters trade in their vehicle for an automobile -or, if youth must have its fling, a kiddle car.

Really Burning Up.

As Margaret Standring was walk-ing along the street in downtown Philadelphia, she was understandably bewildered when two women and a man suddenly began beating ber on the head. She was burned up a little at this. But not as much as if they hadn't. For the not-so-cold fact was that Miss Standring was on fire. A cigarette, tossed from a nearby building, had landed in her hair. No other cigarette can make this statement!

Now, about the dog that shot the woman. It happened in Baltimore as Mrs. Ruth Patterson was enjoying a bath. Her police pup, Toby, spied a gun on the washstand, put paw to pistol and let Mrs. Patter-



son have it right in the bathtubor more precisely, right in the hand. In Fresno, Calif., Leonard Guraro, 21, was completing what he hoped had been a satisfactory test for a driver's license. As he sly parked the car he stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake. The car leaped the curb window of an office — the office of the examiner who was giving Gurare the driving test. License denied.

When the alarm rang in a Houston fire station this summer, Fire-man J. H. Skeeters threw on his clothes and leaped for the quickexit pole. He missed and landed nk on the first floor 20 feet below—all 200 pounds of him. Sure, it was a false alarm.

In Fairmount City, Mo., fire started in an auto from a short circuit, but thoughtfully set off the horn and nded its own alarm.

Equally as obliging was a blaze that started in a tavern at Hugo, Okla., burned off the cap of a hydrant, released a stream of water and drowned itself.



understandable was strange case of the kangaroo that shot the man. This happened in Australia when Arthur Crosbie shot a kangaroo through the hind legs and it fell on its back. Crosbie reloaded the rifle and put the butt on the kangaroo's neck to pin it down. The kangaroo reached up, twined a forepaw around the trigger and shot Crosbie through the arm.

Prompted by the same motive of self preservation, a rabbit that lived just outside Louisville, Ky., resent-ed the activities of William Humphrey, a 16-year-old hunter. He stuck out a paw from Humphrey's game bag, pulled the trigger of Humph-rey's gun and shot him through the foot. Humphrey now carries a rabbit's foot for luck when he goes hunting. Guess what rabbit!

Edward M. Brown of Beverly Hills, Calif., saw active service in both the European and Asiatic the-aters without a scratch. He de-cided to relax by going hunting. A companion shot a goose, It plum-meted down, struck Brown smack in the chest, knocked him flat, and inflicted injuries that kept him in the hospital 45 days.

Many a bee has caused a traffic accident, but a super-busy one in Hammond, Ind., cracked up three autos by merely stinging the driver of one of the cars. The driver, Walter Sohl, drove into another car, which then cracked into a third many which then cracked into a third many third then care the care that the which then crashed into a third ma-

He Gets Buck Fever.

Back in the meatless days Del Halstead licked his chops as he drew a sight on a big buck deer near Buckhorn station, Calif. Just as he released the safety catch on his rifle, he was hit from behind and sent sprawling. Another buck had



bounded out of a thicket and landed. ala the marines, in the nick of time. Halstead not only lost his gun-he

Same Old Story.

Put a mouse and a woman in the same car and something has to give. So when Mrs. Orson Rheingold of Albany, N. Y., found she was sharing her car with a travaling field mouse, she just did what came naturally. The car smacked into a pole and the field mouse returned to the field.

Gustav Riebow of Milwaukee is a kindly man. So when he and his wife found a turtle in their back yard, they put it in a box on the front seat of their car and started to take it to a nice homey place in the country. The turtle, confused or just plain ungrateful, slipped out of the box, crawled up Riebow's leg and bit him good and hard. Riebow turned turtle and so did the car-

After that, anything must seem dull. But the case of Pete Bird of Shelbyville, Ky., may be worth recording. When a mere boy, Bird was chopping a log on a farm when a chip flew up and struck him in the eye, bringing a cataract and blindness. In 1946—just 42 years later — Bird again was chopping wood. Again a chip flew up and hit him in the eye, tearing the cataract loose and restoring sight.

Then there was the case of the sultry pocketbook. It belonged to Miss Janice Peterson of New York City, who traced smoke to a drawer in her office desk and found a cigarette lighter in her purse had flicked on. "And it hardly ever

works when you want it to," she

A \$50,000 boom hit the rural community of Plymouth, Wis., when 16-year-old Robert Marth shot at a sparrow perched on a farm wagon, missed the sparrow, hit the wagon and set off its 1,300-pound load of dynamite. Casualties—650 windows, wagon and 1 sparrow.

Don't We All?

Stanley Szot of East Chicago, Ind., entered the dentist's office with a toothache and left with a headache. As the dentist reached for the forceps, lightning struck the office building and a hunk of plaster from the ceiling conked Szot on the head, where the novocain hadn't reached.

Three-year-old Ernest Liedemann of Chicago tumbled into the Chicago river from a bridge high above. As he hit the water, his clothing caught on a nail that pro-truded from the piling and held his head above water until he was res-

Close runner-up for fall fashions was Abraham Wilson of New York. As Wilson was lowering a couch from a four-story shaftway in a warehouse, he tripped in the rigging and he and the couch plunged downward. He caught up with the couch as they passed the third floor. The force of the impact wedged the couch against the shaft wall, where surprised workers found Wilson curled up cozily.

Another Fish Yarn. Most fantastic of all, perhaps, is the celebrated case of the sneezing



James Mantakes of La Ore., caught the salmon, tossed it in the rear of his car and started for home to show the folks. As the car chugged along, desert dust blew into the salmon's gills, and it sneezed. Yes, it did.

This startled Mantakes. He glanced back, saw nothing but a fish and shrugged off the sound. Another sneeze. Mantakes whirled around, this time to see an angry salmon on the back of the seat, glaring balefully at him with bloodshot eyes. As if that weren't enough, a grasshopper chose that moment to come flying in through the window. The salmon abandoned Mantakes, lunged at the grasshopper, missed and fell back in the lap of the now thoroughly disorgan-

Mantakes gave himself over entirely to subduing the salmon. The car went crashing off the road. The twice more-and succumbed.

Victims of All Ages.

Youngest victim of an odd accident in 1946 undoubtedly was a baby girl who was shot before she was born. Her mother, Mrs. Arthur Laughton, was shot in a hunting accident at Winthrop, Me., and the baby was born prematurely, a bullet wound in her left thigh.

When most people were desper-ately trying to find auto tires, Stanley Yanick of Chicago just stood still on the sidewalk and one came rolling right up to him. Unfortunately, it had a wheel attached, and it flattened him. The tire was the wrong size anyway.

When Mrs. Ralph Gilmore of Phil-



coming in on her radio, she hurried across the room to turn up the volume, tripped on a rug and fell, suffering minor injuries. The program Mrs. Gilmore fell for? A broadcast on home hazards by Na-



Broadway Stardust:

The fountain pen firm which in troduced the under-water pen soon will bring out an under-water per-fume so you will smell sweet while swimming. Greatest invention since soap. . . . Bess Myerson (Miss America of 1945) is organizing a 21-piece all-girl band. They will follow Tex Beneke's crew at the 400 in January. for some of the wealthiest people in the world, is in a tizzy with excitement about the identity of the 20 locals who voted Communist. Some of the millionaires there are suspected. . . Lindy's raised its excellent coffee a nickel per cup. Multiply that nickel by the over 50,000 patrons weekly and get dizzy. . . . How night club concessionaires get rich: The recent half-cent per pack rise in cigarettes prompted concessionaire Ellis to tilt his price a jitney per pack.

Midtown Vignette: Blanche Yurka, a fine actress, got her first stage assignment in ages recently, and therein lies this paragraph. . . Blanche wear-ied of playing frowzy character roles in the films and returned to Broadway open to offers. . . . None came—until Eve Wygod (owner of a beauty parlor) per-suaded La Yurka to let herself be glamourized. . . . So wot? . . . When showmen saw the "new" Yurka they became en-But the role she got—is that of a "progressive" German wom-an—mit oudt glammer!

Cure of alcoholism isn't as simple as the movies make out. Many such sanitariums around H'wood now charge as high as \$100 daily. . . . For a little number called "Mother Wore Tights," Betty Grable wears mink tights-mink, not pink. . . . Realty experts are amused at the 10 per cent raise (the newspapers are giving them) when rent controls die—they expect the average tilt to be at least 20. May go as tall as 60. . . D. Smart, the mag publisher, will offer Elliott Roosevelt \$20,000 for "a good interview" when he returns from Moscow. Elliott is cleaning up a mint, mainly because he became "good copy" following all those press attacks on him for over a year . . . Street Scene: Sec'y of State Byrnes saving a woman from being hit by a bus at 50th and Madison.

The other night in the House of Dixon the swellodic Joe Moo-ney quartet started playing its humorous arrangement of "Just a Gigolo." . . . A pleasant-looking young chap (sitting with an ing young chap (sitting with an older woman at the ringside) became uncomfortable as Mooney started singing the special lyrics directly at him. . . . As the laughter grew, the fellow squirmed. . . . He excused himself and beat a hasty retreat to the lower proof. the lounge room until the song ended. . . . When he returned, his companion teased him about he was singing it right at me,"
he remarked, "and everyone
was laughing." . . . "My dear,"
the woman replied, patting his
hand, "Joe Mooney was singing
directly at your imagination.
You see, Joe is blind."

The Intelligentsia: Henry Miller's novel, "Tropic of Capricorn," (banned in the U. S.) has been one of France's (English-language) best sellers. It recently was translated Tom Costain, author of "The Black Rose," a click, has finished a new one, due in March, "Money Man." "Contact," Nebraska penitentiary's publication, features "pro-files" under the title of "Prisonalities." . . . Philip Wylie's "Genera-tion of Vipers" book, four years old, still sells 1,000 copies a week, via boosters. His next will be called "An Essay on Morals."

The few times H. S. T. does the few times is, S. I. does something right he doesn't tell the country about it. Recently, frinstance, he's alleged to have received a scorching letter from a newly elected big shot, screaming against raising the immigration bars.

Immigration bars.

The President supposedly replied: "Unless you happen to be an American Indian your attitude is stupid. Applied retroactively, you could never have been born here, since your forbears wouldn't have been able to emigrate from their foreign birthplaces."

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS-U. N. Moves for Disarmament; World Co-ops to Expand Trade;

Solons Kill Occupation Quiz Released by Western Newspaper Union.

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U. N.:

Move to Disarm.

The war-weary old world seemed headed for substantial disarmament as Russia took the lead in the Unit-ed Nations to force a reduction in

In the first U. N. step toward disarmament, members agreed to re-port on the strength of their armed forces at home and abroad by Jan-uary 1. Originally, the Reds had asked that the report be confined to the number of Allied troops on for-eign soil, but the U. S. and Britain were quick to call for count of forces at home as well.

Continuing to dominate the dis-armament spotlight, Russia then proposed the creation of an inter-national commission to supervise disarmament, reversing previous Soviet objections to such control. Favor for the proposal, however, was qualified by misapprehension over the Russian provision that such an international commission would be subject to the veto power of the security council.

WORLD CO-OPS: Trade Program

Growth of co-operatives as a force in world trade was illustrated with the organization of the International Trading agency in London to facili-tate exchange of goods between 85,-000,000 co-op members from 31

Formed by the International Cooperative alliance, the new under-taking not only calls for the ex-

In contrast to the U. S., where the gricultural, European co-ops en brace a variety of enterprises. Co-op-eratives conduct 40 per cent of business and industry in Sweden, 25 per cent of food stores in Great Britain and 2,000 retail establishments and 1,500 warehouses in Denmark.

change of commodities and goods produced by the co-ops themselves but also the distribution of privately manufactured items through co-op agencies. In the U. S., the National Co-operatives, Inc., embrac-ing 4,000 local societies owned by 1,300,000 members, has been making volume purchases of refrigerators, radios and household appli-ances from private industry for resale to co-op patrons.

With war-stricken countries short of currency for the purchase of for-eign goods, the international agency hopes to develop trade on an exchange basis.

ARMY:

**Buck Occupation Quiz** 

Acting upon the urgings of Secre-tary of State Byrnes and Senators Vandenberg and Connally, his foreign policy advisers, the senate war investigating committee killed the projected inquiry into the conduct of U. S. occupation forces in Ger-

The Democratic majority acted even after George Meader, commit-tee counsel, had sharply criticized the war and state departments for occupation irregularities following a month long study of conditions in the reich. There have been recur-ring reports of the disorderly con-

duct of U. S. troops, widespread black market activities of military and civilian personnel, and economic chaos occasioned by political differ-

doctors face war crimes trials at Nuernberg.

ences among the major powers.
With German civilians already looking askance at U. S. troops, military authorities have opposed an official inquiry for fear of losing further face in the reich and among the other occupying nations. As the governing force in the American zone and the pivot of the western allies in Europe, the U. S. must command the respect of both the van-quished and Russia.

TEXAS:

Landlords Sit Down

No rental property owner herself but a Gold Star mother who lost a son over Germany, Mrs. Frank Morris of Dallas took over com-mand of a landlords' sit down in Texas to abolish rent control and restore owners' rights to manage their own holdings.

As 3,000 dwelling units in Dallas remained empty because of land-lords' refusal to let them and vets walked the city's streets in search of housing, Mrs. Morris termed rent control a violation of tradi-

tional American rights.

Two World War I vets were in the forefront of the landlords' movement. Abed with heart trouble resulting from German shell-fire in 1918, Joe H. Blann held one fiveroom cottage and 18 flats vacant after OPA had obtained a \$289 judgment against him in a price squab-ble. Bemedaled Capt. John R. Lowery kept 63 apartments empty because he charged owners possessed no control over destructive tenants.

SURPLUS GOODS: Raps Return

Demanding the institution of business-like policies in disposal of surplus war material, Sen. Harry Byrd

(Dem., Va.) dis-closed that a study of the senate-house

committee on re-

duction of non-es-sential federal ex-

penditures showed

that the govern-

ment was realizing

mestic sales and

about a fifth on for-

eign transactions.

only a third on do



Senator Byrd

that much of the goods primarily designed for war complete loss, Byrd said, the fact remains that many items are being sold at prices far below what they command on the open mar-

Up to September 30, over 5 billion dollars in surplus material had been disposed of for less than 2 billion dollars in this country, Byrd said. As of August 31, sales expenses totaled over 268 million dollars, of which 92 million was disbursed in salaries, 16½ million in advertising and 5 million in translations. lion in travel.

Of the 1.4 billion sold overseas under supervision of the state depart-ment, 1.3 billions worth was dis-posed of for less than 300 million and the rest was abandoned, given away or scrapped.

SUGAR:

Urge Control

Continuation of sugar controls and encouragement of increased production of the commodity in the U. S., Europe and Philippines were recommended by the sugar committee of the food industry council to assure industrial and domestic users of adequate supplies in 1947.

Lifting of controls in the face of heavy demands both at home and abroad would lead to sharp price increases and severe shortages as

abroad would lead to sharp price in-creases and severe shortages as processors and householders scram-bled for the limited supplies, the council declared. By judiciously controlling stocks, however, it should be possible to increase allotments to industrial and domestic users. With the government boosting guarantee payments by \$1 a ton

guarantee payments by \$1 a ton over the average price of \$14.50 for 1946, the council predicted a substantial increase in sugar beet output in the U. S. in 1947.

FRANCE:

Friendly Advice

On tour of Europe to investigate distribution of American shipments of meats, fats and oils, Senator Wherry (Rep., Neb.) offered the French people some good old Republican advice for pulling themselves out of postwar doldrums.

Said the senator: "The Republican party meadate in the ILS. is

can party mandate in the U.S. is to slash expenditures and balance the budget. . . . The same job faces the French to break the vicious circle of price controls, black mar-ket and shortages for poor peo-

With heavy government outlays resulting in an excess of money over consumer goods, French producers have lost confidence in the franc, Wherry said. Because of the declining value of paper money, farmers have withheld commodities from the market and thus reduced their own demand for other products. To re-store economic balance, Wherry as-serted, the French must pare pay-rolls, reduce military expenditures rolls, reduce military exper and encourage enterprise with an equitable tax system.

**Amvets Oil Machine** 

While the second annual convention of American Veterans of World War II in St. Louis, Mo., made no national head-lines, the organization was said to have been perfected to al-low for an extended member-ship drive. At present, Amvets claims 100,000 members. Elec-



Ray Sawyer: Commands Amvets

tion of a moderate, Ray Saw-yer of Washington, D. C., as national commander was indi-cative of the middle-of-the-road attitude taken by the organiza tion in an effort to attract both liberals and conservatives. While shunning controversial questions at the recent con-vention, the Amvets called for establishment of a department of veterans' affairs in the Presi-

WORLD TRADE:

Draw Blueprint

Representatives of 18 countries - except Russia - have been meeting in London with the signal task of drawing up a blueprint for world trade to be considered at an inter-national conference to take place in the fall of 1947.

As the delegates in London sweated over their labors, a recom-mendation for full employment emerged as one of the No. 1 complishments of the parley. Recognizing the inter-relationships of nations in economic affairs, the con-ferees agreed that all countries are responsible not only to their own people but to all others to maintain

people but to all others to maintain purchasing power and a high demand for consumer goods.

Methods for working out this principle were left to individual countries. In cases where one nation was selling more to another and thereby developing an unfavorable tradebalance, the creditor country was given discretion to determine what steps to take to even out the exchange.