

ODDS ON ODDITIES**Gun-toting Animals Predominate In Roundup of Freak Accidents***WNU Features*

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 sneezing 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 a woman cold.

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

The Ice Cometh.

Miss Jeannette Esslinger was standing on the sidewalk in St. Louis when an ice cube fell out of a hotel window. 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 seemed to loom up ahead but a corner. As they scooted adventurously around it, the scooter unceremoniously 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 kiddie car.

Really Burning Up.

As Margaret Stranding was walking along the street in downtown Philadelphia, she was understandably bewildered when two women and a man suddenly began beating her 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 Stranding 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. Patterson



bounced out of a thicket and landed, ala the marines, in the nick of time. Halstead not only lost his gun—he also lost two bucks!

Same Old Story. Put a mouse and a woman in the same car and something has to go. So when Mrs. Orson Rheingold of Albany, N. Y., found she was sharing her car with a traveling 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—via a tree.

Chips Pay Off. 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 moaned.

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, 1 wagon and 1 sparrow.

Don't We All?

Stanley Sztot 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 Sztot 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 protruded from the piling and held his head above water until he was rescued.

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

salmon. James Mantakes of La Grande, 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.

He Gets Buck Fever.

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 disorganized driver.

Mantakes gave himself over entirely to subduing the salmon. The car went crashing off the road. The salmon sneezed spitefully once or 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.

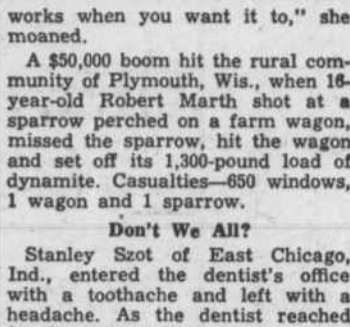
When most people were desperately trying to find auto tires, Stanley Yanick of Chicago just stood still on the sidewalk and one came rolling right up to him. Unfortunately, it had a wheel attached, and it flattened him. The tire was the wrong size anyway.

When Mrs. Ralph Gilmore of Philadelphia heard a certain program

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 National Safety Council!

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Midtown Vignette: Blanche Yurka, a fine actress, got her first stage assignment in ages recently, and therein lies this paragraph. . . . Blanche wearied 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) persuaded La Yurka to let herself be glamorized. . . . So wot? . . . When showmen saw the "new" Yurka they became entranced and goose-pimpily. . . . But the role she got—is that of a "progressive" German woman—mit outd glammer!



The other night in the House of Dixon the swelldic Joe Mooney quartet started playing its humorous arrangement of "Just a Gigolo." . . . A pleasant-looking 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 lounge room until the song ended. . . . When he returned, his companion teased him about his self-consciousness. . . . "But 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 into French and was banned! . . . 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 "profiles" under the title of "Prisonalities." . . . Philip Wylie's "Generation of Vipers" book, four years old, still sells 1,000 copies a week, via boosters. His next will be called "An Essay on Morals."

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**Broadway Stardust:**

The fountain pen firm which introduced the under-water pen soon will bring out an under-water perfume 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. . . . Greenwich (Conn.), home burg 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.

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.

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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS**U. N. Moves for Disarmament; World Co-ops to Expand Trade; Solons Kill Occupation Quiz**

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Pleading "not guilty" at arraignment on allied charges of mass murders in medical experiments, Dr. Herta Oberhauser and 22 other German doctors face war crimes trials at Nuernberg.

U. N.: Move to Disarm

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

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

Continuing to dominate the disarmament spotlight, Russia then proposed the creation of an international 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 facilitate exchange of goods between 85,000,000 co-op members from 31 countries.

Formed by the International Co-operative alliance, the new undertaking not only calls for the ex-

In contrast to the U. S., where the co-operative movement is primarily agricultural, European co-ops embrace a variety of enterprises. Co-operatives 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., embracing 4,000 local societies owned by 1,300,000 members, has been making volume purchases of refrigerators, radios and household appliances from private industry for resale to co-op patrons.

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

ARMY: Buck Occupation Quiz

Acting upon the urgings of Secretary 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 Germany.

The Democratic majority acted even after George Meader, committee 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 recurring reports of the disorderly con-

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 processors and householders scrambled 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 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 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 market and shortages for poor people. . . ."

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 restore economic balance, Wherry asserted, the French must pare payrolls, reduce military expenditures 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 headlines, the organization was said to have been perfected to allow for an extended membership drive. At present, Amvets claims 100,000 members. Elec-

**Ray Sawyer: Commands Amvets**

tion of a moderate, Ray Sawyer of Washington, D. C., as national commander was indicative of the middle-of-the-road attitude taken by the organization in an effort to attract both liberals and conservatives. While shunning controversial questions at the recent convention, the Amvets called for establishment of a department of veterans' affairs in the Presidential cabinet.

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 international conference to take place in the fall of 1947.

As the delegates in London sweated over their labors, a recommendation for full employment emerged as one of the No. 1 accomplishments of the parley. Recognizing the inter-relationships of nations in economic affairs, the conferees agreed that all countries are responsible not only to their own 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 trade balance, the creditor country was given discretion to determine what steps to take to even out the exchange.