

NATURE NOW

Hibernation Mystery Puzzles Naturalists

By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccestric

Now in the still cold of winter, many animals have entered a long sleep called "hibernation." Breathing and heartbeat are all but extinguished and the bodily functions are reduced to a kind of stupor that is akin to death.

Most of the hibernating animals hibernate. The woodchuck is typical of this group. In early fall he eats enough extra clover and grass to cover his body with a thick layer of fat stored just under the skin. This is his food supply for the hibernating period.

He then selects a site, preferably on the hillside of a farm, where he digs a slanting burrow 10 to 25 feet long and two or three feet below the surface.

This structure slopes sharply upward and then up close to ground level where it ends in a chamber of sufficient size to be comfortable. Sometimes several tunnels, three to five feet long, branch out from this hole, one of which may end in an outside entrance, or back door, which can be used as an escape if necessary.

ON A DAY in October the ground hog or woodchuck "hops-up" for the winter. Legend says he emerges Feb. 2, on Ground Hog day, to make a weather observation. If he sees his shadow, he will return to his burrow for another six weeks' sleep.

The fact is that he may leave his burrow briefly at this time often to seek a mate, but he returns to it until late March or early April. Each species has its own particular pattern for the hibernating period. Rats, however, like the record for long hibernation. They may be inactive for a period of seven months. Ground squirrels, raccoons and beavers are lighter sleepers and often may revive for several days during mild weather.

SOMETIMES THE bear hibernates under a hollow log or tree or even on the top of a sand dune under a heavy blanket of snow. The cub is born during this period. They are so small as to weigh only 8 to 18 ounces. They spend the early months of their lives securely hidden while their mother is in this dormant state. The skunk, too, is an intermittent sleeper but only the female hibernates.

After gorging themselves all through the autumn, most mammals prepare for their long sleep with a period of fasting when the body is cleared of all waste products. Then they curl up in their winter quarters and as breathing

and heartbeat are gradually slowed, body temperatures drop to a few degrees above freezing.

THE HIBERNATING temperature of the ground squirrel has been recorded at a low of 35.6 degrees. The temperature of animals that hibernate intermittently never reaches such a low point and that of the bat who usually "hangs up" in a cave is seldom lower than 50 degrees.

When the first warm days of spring awaken the sleepers, they emerge and after a period of several days, during which the body is gradually restored to its normal functions, they begin to repair the ravages of their long fast. By this time the body may have lost as much as one-third of its weight.

Many other life forms, besides the mammals, rely on some form of hibernation to carry them through the rigors of winter. In the case of bumblebees, for instance, and wasps only the fertile female survives to hibernate in rotten log or crevice of bark.

NO ONE KNOWS of a certainty all the factors involved in hibernation. It is not entirely a matter of escaping low temperatures or a lack of food supply, for among the many mammals living under similar conditions and with apparent hibernating characteristics one will hibernate while another will remain active.

Our squirrel, for instance, will be about this time all winter while his close relative, the chipmunk, hibernates. Sufficient to say that each species is obeying an urge called "instinct," which, although it is little understood, determines in a large measure the daily pattern of animal behavior.

Graduated From NCO School, In Germany

Army Pvt. Bernard C. Bonds, Jr., whose father is in the U. S. Army, lives at 139 Cranbrook Cross, Bloomfield Village, recently graduated from the 199th Infantry Regiment's Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy at Gablingen, Germany.

Pvt. Bonds, assigned to the 199th Regiment's Company K, as a mortar platoon sergeant, arrived in Europe in August, 1952.

Birmingham Business Has National Scope

There's safety in signs, at least in those designed, produced and distributed nationally by Larry Howe, well-known Birminghamite, who in the past four years has developed the idea into a business of national scope.

As of today it affects the lives and welfare of hundreds of thousands of industrial dollars in the prevention of lost time due to accidents in some 300 industrial plants from coast to coast.

The L. C. Howe Safety Service, with offices in the National Bank Building, is not a far-flung organization. It is a tight little family enterprise with Mrs. Howe sharing the responsibility and success of the firm.

In it are created the safety ideas and the means of expediting them which have resulted in the establishment of a uniquely successful enterprise.

MOREOVER, it is essentially a Birmingham business, is locally initiated activity which seeks other than local markets and forms an important part of the growing commercial segment of the city.

According to Howe, his is not a sign business but a safety service with such impact upon the economy of plant safety as to have immediately secured a place for itself in the safety planning of the nation's leading industries.

It consists of the application of modern display and advertising

OC Republicans Map 63rd Annual Lincoln Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Wilson of Beach road will lead the reception committee for the Oakland County Lincoln club's annual banquet on Feb. 12.

The highlight of this 63rd annual observance will be a speech by the Republican Senator from Utah, Wallace F. Bennett. Sen. Bennett is a member of the Senate banking and currency committee and chairman of its sub-committee on small business. He is also a member of the Senate finance committee.

The program, to be held at Lincoln Junior high school, Pontiac, at 6:30 p.m., will also mark the election of new directors of the club.

Other committee members are from Davisburg, Royal Oak, Pontiac, Holly, Oxford, Farmington, Huntington Woods and Rochester.

The members of the Republican Women's Federation of Oakland county will have a tea at the Walden hotel during the afternoon.

Serving In Far East

Navy Ensign John F. Foley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Foley, 885 Madison, is serving in the Far East on the staff of Rear Admiral Apollo Soucek, USN, Commander Carrier Division Three. Division Three is directing the activities of the ships of its command against the Communists along the East coast of North Korea.



MR. AND MRS. LAWRENCE C. HOWE
Combine talents for industrial safety

SPECIAL PURCHASE! Popular Cotton-Diamond HOSE For MEN

89¢ 3 pair
regularly 1.25 pair 2.50

Soft spun cotton for comfort, unshrinkable washability and long-lasting fast colors. Four-color diamond patterns on grounds of Navy, Silver, Camel, Wine, Powder Blue, or Brown. You'll want several pair at this low price. Sizes 10 1/2-13.

MEN'S WEAR STREET LEVEL

Jacobson's
BIRMINGHAM

PARKING AREA FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE

Jacobson's
BIRMINGHAM

NYLONS

so exquisitely feminine... so flawlessly fitted...

Because your legs deserve the best in stockings—you wear Belle-Sharmeer. And every time you smooth them on you know of their fit! No sagging. No bagging. And joy of joys—no crooked seams. For seams stay straight in Belle-Sharmeer legging. Try them—soon.

brev (purple edge) for small or slender legs. Sizes 8 to 10 1/2
modite (green edge) for average leg length. Sizes 10 1/2 to 11
duchess (red edge) for tall, longer legs. Sizes 11 1/2 to 13 1/2
classic (plain edge) for longer legs. Sizes 11 1/2 to 13 1/2

BELLE-SHARMEER
leg-size stockings

1.35
WALKING SHEER
3 pair 3.95

1.65
BUSINESS SHEER
3 pair 4.75

1.95
ULTRA SHEER
3 pair 5.65

tiny, tall or in-between... there's a

Perma-lift

girdle in the perfect length for you

Perma-lift's white leno-elastic girdle, with a zipper, is proportioned in four lengths... one of which is designed especially for you. And, the exclusive Magic Inset eliminates poking, pinching, rolling over or wrinkling. Have one of our trained corsetiers fit you in the proper length Perma-lift, and enjoy the difference correct fit makes.

13", 14" and 15" lengths
8.50
16" length
8.95

INTIMATE APPAREL
PARKING LEVEL



Jacobson's
BIRMINGHAM