

WILDLIFE  
**NATURE  
 RAMBLINGS**  
*by Frank Thone*



Meeting the Mammals

► OUR HABITUAL haste often interferes with the formation of interesting friendships. We rush about our respective immediate businesses, seeing most other people as mere flashes or blurs, if we see them at all. Only when something beyond our control, like an accident or an illness, imposes the necessity for at least a momentary pause do we begin to learn what worthwhile folk there are among our hitherto neglected neighbors. We rediscover what our forebears knew, in days when the world moved at a more pedestrian pace and people had time to be neighborly.

Something of the same kind is true of our relations with our quieter neighbors, too, the four-footed folk in fur or hair that we know collectively as the wild mammals. Most of us never get to see them, except possibly a few scared fugitives jumping for their very lives, because for a generation we Americans have spent most of our outdoor time rushing along the road at what used to be called express-train speed. Now that war shortages have stopped most motor travel, and slowed the rest down to no more than a reasonable gallop, we have a more or less enforced opportunity to learn that the world has other inhabitants than our own high-speed selves, and even to cultivate their acquaintance if we so desire.

This approach-on-foot is recommended by Victor H. Cahalane, in the introduction to his new book, *Meeting the Mammals* (Macmillan, \$1.75). Mr. Cahalane, who is in charge of the section on National Park wildlife of the federal Fish and Wildlife Service, has had many years of experience as a kind of official host or liaison officer, in getting visitors

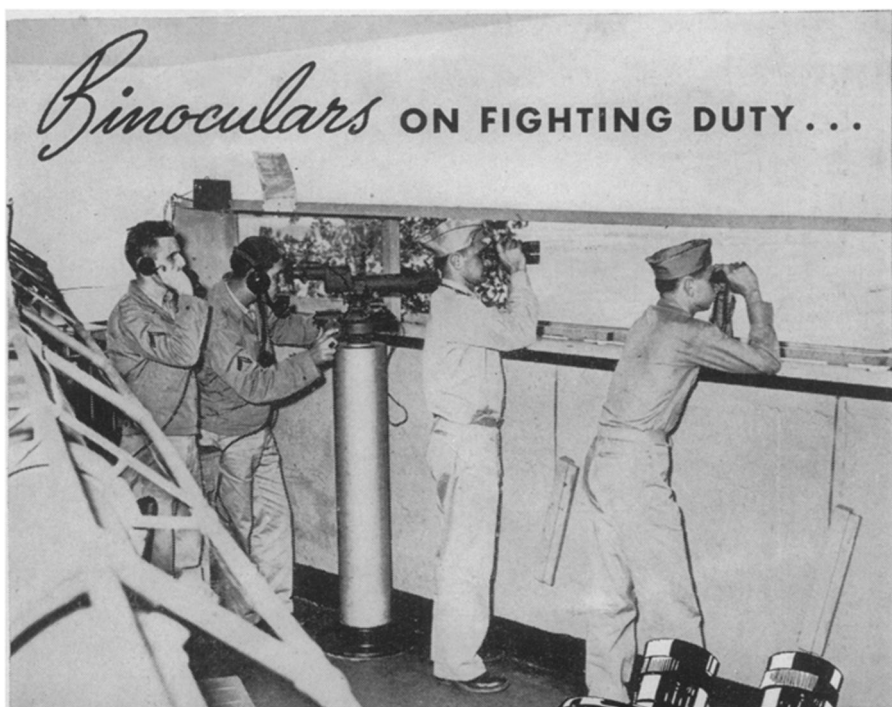
to our national parks acquainted with the animals.

Go on foot, he advises, preferably early in the morning or late in the afternoon. If you are unable to hike and must drive, drive very slowly—away under the recommended 35-mile limit. But unless you are infirm and unable to leave the car, get out and walk quietly for at least short distances in likely-looking woodlands and meadows, pausing often and standing or sitting perfectly still, using your eyes and ears but not your tongue. Let the mammals do the talking; you'll

be surprised how communicative some of them are. Carry a good pair of binoculars if possible.

Don't expect or attempt to get close enough to indulge the apparently universal human impulse to pat heads or scratch ears. Most of our fellow-mammals are not as gregarious as our species; they do not like back-slapping.

Too great familiarity often is even dangerous, Mr. Cahalane warns. The so-called hold-up bears in the national parks, he says, are really nothing but beggar bears. They have come to expect

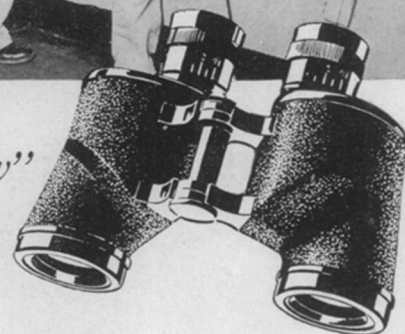


"She doesn't answer . . .  
 Fire a shot across her bow"



If the ship fails to answer the shell fired across her bow, huge guns in the harbor protection system will take more drastic action. Such decisions must be based on clear, sharp images unmistakable of the incoming ship. That's why these men use Bausch & Lomb Binoculars—the finest "eyes" provided to any of the world's fighting forces.

Because this is only one of thousands of situations where binoculars can best deliver the facts, the tremendously increased production of Bausch & Lomb Binoculars cannot fill all the needs. The Navy urges every owner of a 6x30 or 7x50 Bausch & Lomb Binocular to turn his glass over to the Naval Observatory,



Washington, D. C., for active war duty. Ship it, carefully packed, with your name and address on a tag attached to the glass. Do it today—the Navy needs this fine precision instrument now.

**BAUSCH & LOMB**

OPTICAL CO. ROCHESTER, N. Y.



ESTABLISHED 1853

AN AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION PRODUCING OPTICAL GLASS AND INSTRUMENTS  
 FOR MILITARY USE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INDUSTRY AND EYESIGHT CORRECTION

alms from every person who lets them approach, and when food is not forthcoming they try to find it in their natural way—which means with their claws. They are not vicious, but they are stupid, and the injuries they may inflict in their blundering greediness are no less painful than if they were intended.

*Science News Letter, September 11, 1943*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## Science Books for Blind Developed by Westinghouse

➤ SCIENCE BOOKS for the blind are being developed by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company through cooperation of its research staff and school service department. An experimental Braille edition of the first booklet has been printed and distributed to 85 schools for the blind throughout the United States.

Children at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, who acted as judges, were enthusiastic because it put science on the level of their everyday experience, B. S. Joice, superintendent of the school stated.

Braille editions of other booklets are now being considered for distribution. The project developed from the Little Science Series, a group of booklets on subjects ranging from microscopic life to the planets of our solar system, which have been already distributed in the ink-print edition to about 600,000 junior and senior high school students.

*Science News Letter, September 11, 1943*

Freight canoes 22 feet long are used in northern Canada's brush country.



## MILITARY SCIENCE

# Pattern for Invasion

**Air Forces officer believes invasions should start only when pre-invasion strategic bombing has acted to reduce the cost in casualties to a minimum.**

➤ PRECISION bombing will set the pattern for invasions and reduce United Nations casualties in the final stages of the war, Brig. Gen. E. P. Sorensen, assistant chief of the Army Air Forces Staff Intelligence, declares. (*Mechanical Engineering, August*)

Larger ground forces and very high casualties would be the price of neglecting strategic bombing, he states in support of a scientific program of selecting industrial targets.

"Invasion should start when to delay longer would waste effort, but when its cost has been reduced to a minimum," Gen. Sorensen suggests, outlining four phases of pre-invasion bombing.

The first shallow penetrations are primarily aimed at reducing air-defense power of the enemy, hitting aircraft factories and flying fields along with other targets on the schedule. Little or no effect from such attacks is seen in the front lines.

When the enemy is no longer able to increase his defenses and when a steadily growing bomber force can withstand the losses of deeper penetration, the second phase is entered. After this period the internal decay of the enemy will be well under way, but production is normally so far ahead of war use, Gen. Sorensen points out, that only isolated evidences of shortages will be noticeable.

Even during this period there would be little lowering of the ground-force requirements and losses in case of invasion.

Getting down to knocking out the heart of enemy production capacity is the third phase—daily headlines telling of

a chemical plant shattered, a synthetic oil plant in flames.

Gen. Sorensen likens the Air-Force's pin-pointing of enemy vitals to "a skillful surgeon removing a tumor from a vital organ. But in this case, the work is to create the cancer in the enemy vitals—to cause the internal decay—eventually leaving but a shell similar to a pie crust which crumbles away when pushed even gently."

Invasion started during this period would require much less force and experience much less loss, but if time permits it should not be attempted while there are prospects of further reducing the forces required and losses to be expected, Gen. Sorensen maintains.

The last phase of the bombing program starts when the initial destruction of selected vitals has been completed and the cleaning-up process has started, with special attention to production units that may have been rebuilt from the ruins.

"We hope and fully expect," declares Gen. Sorensen, "to prevent most of the enormous losses which would be suffered on our side without this bombing, a saving beside which the most severe air losses will be infinitesimal."

*Science News Letter, September 11, 1943*

## ● RADIO

Saturday, Sept. 18, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Miss Margaret Patterson, secretary of the Science Clubs of America, will discuss the plans of Science Clubs for developing scientific talent and ability among science students.

## LETTER SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

To Science News Letter, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Start  1 year, \$5  
 Renew my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for  2 years, \$8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

(No extra postage to anywhere in the world)

SCIENCE NEWS