

ZOOLOGY

Wicked Wildcat Reported At Large in Florida

Observer Describes Rare Visitor as Looking Like an "Everlasting Big Tomcat of Sort of Mingly Color"

A DANGEROUS saboteur is reported at large in the woods of northern Florida, that nobody seems to be particularly anxious to track down. Dogs least of all, for the marauder has no respect at all for dogs and would as soon kill them as look at them.

Said saboteur is a tropical American wildcat, known variously as jaguarundi, teyra and makya. It is a moderately frequent animal in Mexico and adjacent parts of Texas, rare in Louisiana, and until its tracks began to be seen recently in northern Florida had been un-

FOR AIR COMMANDOS

Now gliders that steal up on the enemy quietly in the night can make their getaway safely with the aid of a plane which picks them up in full flight. The official photographs of the Army Air Forces shown on this and the facing page, demonstrate the new technique. At left is shown a plane flying over pick-up device at 100 miles per hour. The glider is on the ground in the background. The next picture shows the moment of contact between the airplane's pick-up hook and the rope to the glider. On the facing page, the glider is already in the air. A special device protects airplane and glider against the shock of the sudden pick-up.

known from this state. It has now been definitely identified by the Florida State Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish as the jaguarundi.

For a cat, the animal is a rather odd looking night prowler. Its legs are short and stout, its tail more than half its total over-all length of five feet when fully grown, its body long, arched and slender. One observer says that at a distance it might be taken for an oversized otter. Another describes it rather vaguely as "an indiscriminate sort of varmint like an everlasting big tomcat with sawed-off legs and a sort of mingly color."

Its color is almost as variable as a domestic fireside mouser. It may be pale, tawny, brownish, mixed gray and black, or wholly black.

Farmers in West Florida are acquainted at least with the depredations of the jaguarundi. They call it the "dog killer". But it kills chickens, goats, pigs and newborn calves as well as dogs. Its everyday fare, however, probably consists of the smaller wild mammals, ground-loving birds, reptiles and insects.

Few have seen the jaguarundi. Its habits are nocturnal. But even in the daytime it manages to conceal its movements pretty successfully. It can at-

tain amazing speed, running with its belly close to the ground. It can slink through the driest brush or crackling dead palmetto leaves as silently as a snake. It can squeeze itself under a fallen tree as flat as a Johnny-cake, or disappear down a hole whose circumference seems hardly greater than that of the tip of its tail.

William F. Jacobs of the Florida Forest and Park Service has received reports of its appearance in the Highland Hammock State Park near Sebring but has never seen one himself.

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INVENTION

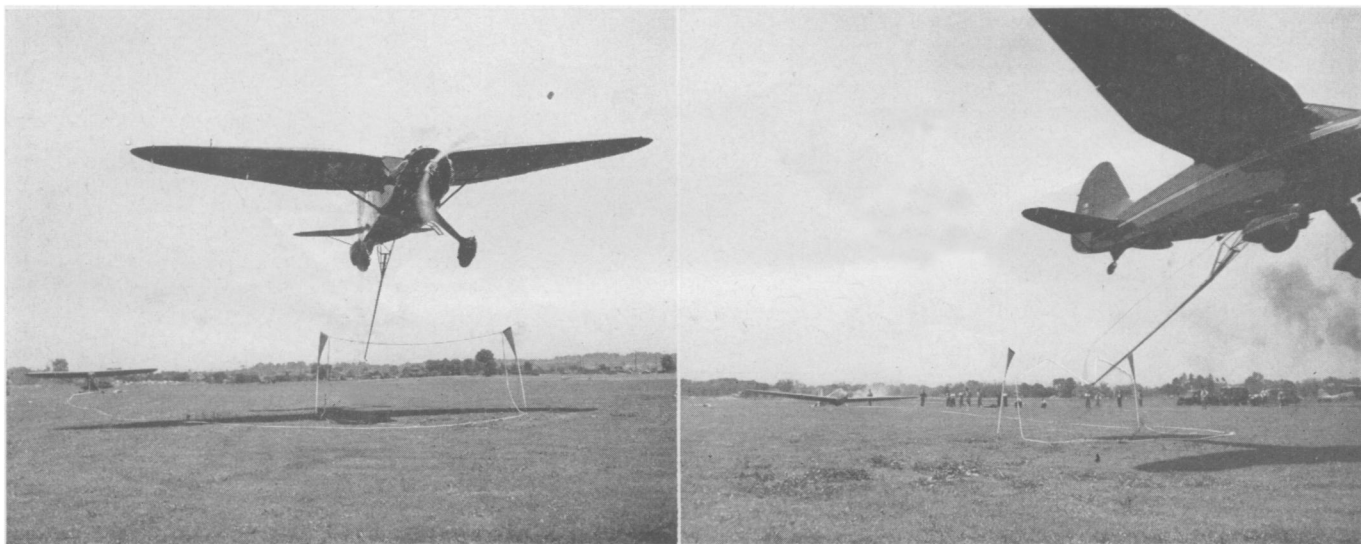
British Inventors Patent New "Turtle-Back" Hangar

A "TURTLE-BACK" hangar, that can be set up quickly and as rapidly and easily concealed from enemy air observation, is the product of two English inventors, W. C. Inman of London and G. R. Dawbarn of Woking, and is protected by U. S. patent 2,292,078.

Framework of the hangar consists of a series of wide, arching ribs, coming down flush with the ground at the ends. When covered with any suitable roofing material, this forms a vaulted structure, the main body of the building. For pursuit planes and other small craft, the ribs can be built of trussed wooden members; for larger planes construction would be of metal.

The blending of the sides with the earth eliminates telltale shadows at the sides. Similar shadow elimination is accomplished by closing the ends with gradual slopes of canvas or other material.

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MEDICINE

Predicts Cure For Cancer Will Be Found Before Cause

Results of Recent Research on Chemical Cures May Be of Far-Reaching Significance, Report Predicts

THE CURE of cancer will be achieved before the cause is discovered, Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads, director of Memorial Hospital, predicts in the hospital's biennium report.

Search for a chemical cure for the disease, consequently, is being carried on at Memorial at the same time that investigations into the cause of cancer are made. No chemical cure has been found yet, Dr. Rhoads emphasizes, but a method has been devised for testing in the test tube the poisoning effects on the cancer cell of various chemical compounds. So far, some 70 different compounds have been tested.

"A type of chemical has been found," Dr. Rhoads reports, "which in the test tube appears to interfere with the health of one type of cancer cell of man, that found in cancer of the breast, and in the same concentration not to interfere with the well-being of any normal organ tissue so far tested. The chemicals which have this preferential anti-cancer effect are characterized by a common structure.

"The results may have a far-reaching significance. They prove apparently that there is a real difference between cancer cells and normal cells in their sensitivity

to certain types of chemicals. The cancer is more sensitive and can be killed by compounds which do not kill the normal tissue. This observation alone is sufficient justification for the intensive continuation of the experiments."

Dr. Rhoads is not yet ready to disclose the name of the type of chemical found to have this preferential anti-cancer effect because the studies have not yet gone far enough to justify considering it as a cancer cure.

Surgical cures of breast cancer in the primary operable stage have been achieved in 51% of all cases and in 75.5% of cases of the most favorable type (with no extension of cancer from the original focus), Memorial Hospital reports show. These cures represent patients alive and well five years after the operation.

Attempts to find a cure for cancer by starvation of the cancer cell are being made. Preliminary steps, now under way, consist in studies of the diet requirements of cancer and normal cells.

Delving into the cause of cancer, Memorial chemists, with the help of Harvard University, are engaged on the gigantic task of searching for cancer-causing chemicals in the kidney excretions of patients. Certain classes of chemi-

cals, not unlike naturally occurring body chemicals such as the sex hormones, are known to be capable of causing cancer. Scientists believe that a defect in body chemistry may result in the cancer-chemicals being formed from the natural ones. If so, they should be present in the excretions of cancer patients but not of normal patients.

The difficulty of searching for them may be understood from the fact that the chemist who first described the chemical structure of the male hormones was able to isolate from thousands of gallons of kidney excretions about as much of the hormone chemical as could be placed on the tip of a pencil.

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ASTRONOMY

Blackout Eliminates Puzzling Spectral Lines

THE BLACKOUT or dimout brings some compensations that may not be apparent to non-scientists. Not long ago Dr. Edwin P. Hubble, Mt. Wilson Observatory astronomer, in discussing the kind of universe we live in as determined from observations of the very faint and distant stars with the giant 100-inch Mt. Wilson telescope, told of strange spectral lines in the star light that were very puzzling. After much trouble it was finally discovered the source of this light was the neon signs of Los Angeles reflected from the ocean into the sky and the telescope. Presumably, thanks to the war's dimming of the signs, any photographs taken now will have less such earthly interference.

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