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CRACKED CORN \$2.20  
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Best Quality 4c Roll.  
7 Rolls for 25c.

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Red Head Matches  
10c Box

## CLARK'S BEANS

Large Size ..... 23c can  
Smaller Sizes, 10c, 13c.  
With or Without Tomato Sauce.

## BORDEN'S MILK

St. Charles, tall ... 14c.  
St. Charles, medium 12c.  
Eagle ..... 23c.

## LAMP CHIMNEYS

Large Size ..... 13c.  
2 for 25c.  
Medium Size ..... 12c.  
Small Size ..... 10c.

## LANTERN CHIMNEYS

Short or Tall, 12c each.

## SOME GOOD 25C. BARGAINS

5 lbs. BAKING SODA ..... 25c.  
1 PK. COARSE SALT ..... 25c.  
6 lbs. WASHING SODA ..... 25c.  
7 Rolls TOILET PAPER ..... 25c.  
5 lbs. ROLLED OATS ..... 25c.

# YERXA GROCERY CO.

2 STORES

York St. Queen St.

## NORTHERN SKUNKS SPORT THE FINEST FUR; LITTLE ANIMAL MAKES WAR ON THE INSECTS

Most States have laws protecting skunks by a close season. Such laws were passed in response to the wishes of farmers who recognize the usefulness of these animals in destroying noxious insects and to the demands of persons interested in conserving the fur resources of the country.

The common large skunks, notes the United States biological survey, are restricted wholly to North America. They range northward to Nova Scotia, the Hudson Bay country and to British Columbia, and southward through the greater part of Mexico to Guatemala. The number of species recognized as nine, with eight sub species or geographic races. Fifteen of the forms occur within the United States. In general, the more northern forms have the finer fur, but in the fur trade the pelts are graded according to the amount of white in the pelage.

In Four Grades.

In the best grade, No. 1, are placed those in which there is no white or in which the white areas do not extend much beyond the head and neck of the animal. No. 2 skins or "short stripes," are those in which the white area does not extend beyond the middle of the body. No. 3 skins have long narrow stripes, while No. 4 are broad striped. The skins are further graded in price according to the locality from which they were obtained.

Northern skins are more valuable because the pelage is finer, and the black color more intense than those from Southern localities. The pelage of the little spotted skunks, commonly called "civet cats," is not so valuable because it is smaller and contains so much white.

Skunks are mainly terrestrial. The little spotted skunks occasionally climb trees in search of food, but the larger forms apparently do not climb unless driven to do so. None of the skunks swim unless forced into deep water, but they all are fond of bathing in shallow ponds or streams. While they often dig dens in ordinary soils, they much prefer to use natural cavities in rocks or burrows dug by other animals, such as the fox, badger or woodchuck.

Skunks Dens Shallow.

When skunks dig their own dens they are seldom very long or deep. They go down below the ordinary frost line and after making a short lateral gallery they end in a rounded chamber containing the nest, which is a bed of leaves or grass.

In northern latitudes skunks lie housed in their dens during the coldest part of winter, but in mild weather they move about freely in search of food. Usually a considerable number occupy the same den, possibly members of a single family of the preceding summer. As many as twenty have been captured at one time from a single den in winter. Skunks are mainly nocturnal, but when not harassed by enemies they often shun in broad daylight. They usually come out about sunset and spend the summer twilight in catching grasshoppers and beetles by springing upon them with the fore feet as the insects rise from the ground in flight. After dark the skunk depends upon its senses of smell and hearing to locate its prey. It digs many beetles and their larvae from the ground, leaving the surface thickly pitted with small conical holes where the insects were obtained.

Skunks breed usually once a year. The larger skunk mate early in spring and the young, numbering from six to twelve in a litter, are born in May. They are blind and nearly hairless at birth and do not open their eyes until about three or four weeks old. Soon after this they begin to follow the mother about and continue with her until almost fully grown. The breeding habits of the civet cat differ little from those of the larger skunk.

Has Bad Name.

The belief that skunks feed mainly upon birds and birds' eggs is so general that statements to the contrary are often challenged. While the animals occasionally eat wild birds and poultry, the evidence is overwhelmingly favorable to skunks, and proves that on the whole they are beneficial. The chief indictment against the skunk is that it destroys poultry, and cases of serious losses due to the animal are occasionally reported.

It is an interesting fact that the skunk is called "polecat" because of its supposed tendencies to destroy poultry. The "pole" in "polecat," like the word "poultry," is derived from the French word "poule," meaning hen or chicken.

In many instances of alleged depredations by skunks, it is probable, says the Government, that minks or weasels were the actual culprits and that skunks merely shared in the plunder by eating the dead poultry.

When a farmer loses fowls and does

not see the animal killing them he is often likely to mistake its identity. The common skunk cannot climb to a roost and would kill only birds found on the ground. Minks and weasels are expert climbers and are far more bloodthirsty. It is a characteristic of the weasel to kill many victims when they are within reach. It makes a small but deep incision in the neck or under the wing of a fowl and takes the blood as long as it flows freely. It then attacks and kills another and another victim until satisfied. Minks also kill a number of chickens at one visit to the coop, eating only the heads. A skunk, on the contrary, usually takes only one fowl at a time and eats of it until satisfied. Having once, however, acquired a taste for chicken, a skunk will return to the poultry yard night after night for a fresh victim. Of course the individual skunk that learns to kill and eat chickens should be destroyed.

Feeds Mainly on Insects.

The skunk feeds mainly upon insects and its economic status is determined by the fact that it kills many noxious insects. The early settlers of America were acquainted with the European fitchet weasel and promptly applied its common name "polecat" to the skunk on account of its odor. The polecat of Europe is far more destructive to poultry and game than are skunks. Its bad reputation was transferred with the name, and circumstances have been unfavorable for a reversal of opinion.

They feed mostly at night when their habits cannot be observed and few persons have undertaken to dissect their stomachs. The public is extremely slow to give up prejudices of long standing, as those against hawks, owls, snakes and skunks. Consequently the usefulness of these creatures must be proved over and over before their needless and indiscriminate slaughter can be checked or adequate laws for their protection enacted.

The skunk stands second in importance among the fur animals of the United States, the total value of the animal catch being exceeded only in the case of the muskrat. The mink is third in value. Most of the skunk skins have been marketed in London, but their use is increasing in this country. The flesh of the skunk is sometimes used for food. It was a common article of diet among the Indians as well as among the early trappers.

Often Tamed as Pets.

Although skunks were often tamed and kept as pets or for destroying rats and mice, no attempt to raise them for their fur seems to have been made until late in the '80s. About that time there was a large foreign demand for the pelts and close trapping had led to a scarcity of black skunks. The feasibility of developing a strain of black animals by selective breeding was considered and many experiments in skunk farming were undertaken. Falling prices and other hindrances soon caused breeders to abandon their attempts. One firm in Pennsylvania spent \$25,000 in lands and equipment in an unsuccessful venture in skunk raising.

The high prices that have prevailed in the last few years have led to renewed discussion of the subject, and at present many are trying to produce this kind of fur by raising the animals. Some have been quite successful. On the whole, there are good reasons for believing that profitable industry can be developed.

Skunks are not so wild as most of the musteline family, and their miscellaneous diet permits a good deal of latitude in feeding, whereas the marten and the mink require a diet almost exclusively of meat. The problem of providing pens is also less complicated in the case of the skunk. The odor of the skunk may be entirely disregarded; but if the breeder prefers to do so, he can remove the scent glands and have his animals as harmless as cats.

HELPFUL HINT.

Old Bill Brown the incorrigible had finally succumbed to the pleas of the new pastor and promised to be at church the following Sunday. When that day came however the minister found Bill starting forth on a fishing trip.

"Dear dear," sighed the reverend. "I wonder what I'll have to say to you to get you to start going to our services?"

"Wal," replied Bill, somewhat conscience stricken. "I've always wanted to do something for ye; ye know that parson. Tell you what—I'll think over yer question for yer, and mebbe I can give ye an idee."

## NAGGED 42 YEARS THEN KILLED WIFE

Camden, N. J., Oct. 14—Forty-two years of nagging, married life, was too much for Benjamin Wallace, 75 years old, and yesterday he "got mad" and killed his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Wallace, aged 65, with a chair, according to a confession made to police. "She nagged me", he told police. If I didn't hang my clothes up. She nagged me for dropping ashes on the floor and for taking too much sugar in my coffee. She used to nag me for wearing dirty shoes and tracking up the floor and carpet. She didn't like it when I wore my old clothes but they were mine and why shouldn't I wear them.

Wallace, bald except for a fringe of white hair, stooped from years of labor in a glass factory and remarkably placid in face and manner, called at a local Methodist church where his son Clarence, is superintendent of the Sunday school, to notify him of the crime.

"You'd better come home quick," he said to his son, stamping heavily up the platform where the latter stood with a hymn book in his hand, "Mother's pretty sick."

As soon as he could, Clarence, who at the age of 41, is a grandfather, dismissed the children and went to his father's home where he found his mother dying. Parts of a broomsick and broken chair lay near by.

## BLIGHT HAS ATTACKED THE CHESTNUT TREES

Cincinnati, Oct. 14—The chestnut blight threatens to destroy every chestnut tree in the Appalachian Forest Experimental Station at Asheville, N. C. before the Appalachian Logging Congress here.

"A terrible blight, the chestnut blight is spreading irresistibly over the Appalachian Mountain forest region," said Frothingham.

"It has already killed millions of chestnut trees and it will kill millions more, until virtually every chestnut tree has been wiped out."

"The best thing to be done is to chop down the good remaining chestnut trees, worth millions of dollars, use them and permit nature to grow other kinds of trees in their places."

Frothingham said that every effort to check the ravages of the blight had been in vain.

## SAILOR'S FOUR WORD WILL PUT ON AN EGG

London, Oct. 14—When is a will not a will? Whether the answer is "when it is an egg," is a problem for which all the solemn machinery of the Probate Court here has been set in motion to solve. The will is that of a sailor, who shortly before his death at sea inscribed on a blow shell of a hen's egg four, "Mag, everything I possess."

The egg is in custody at Somerset House, while learned briefs are being prepared for and against the will's validity.

"Of course Brown's boy is brighter than mine," insists White.

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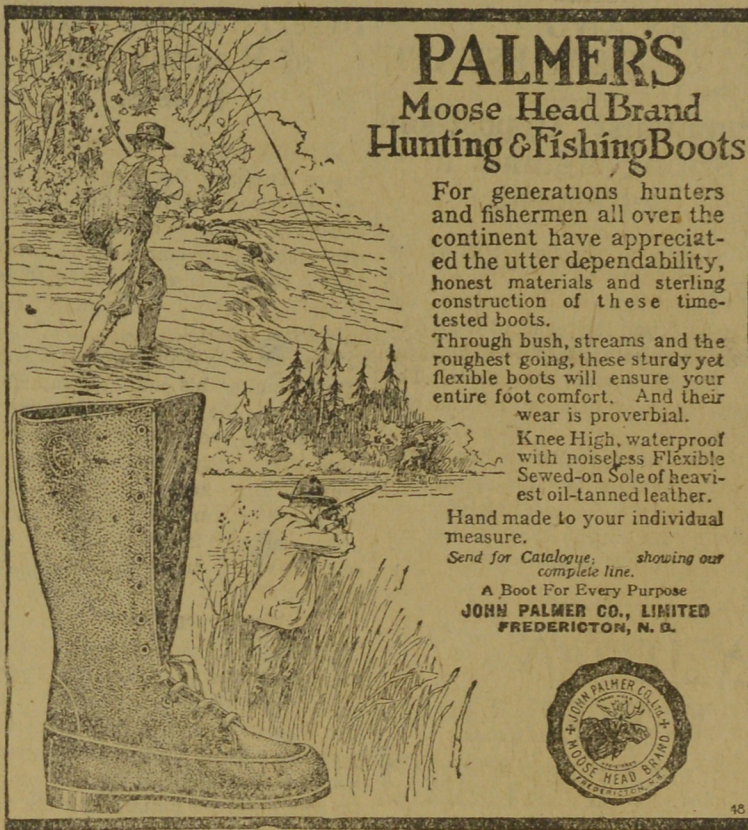
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