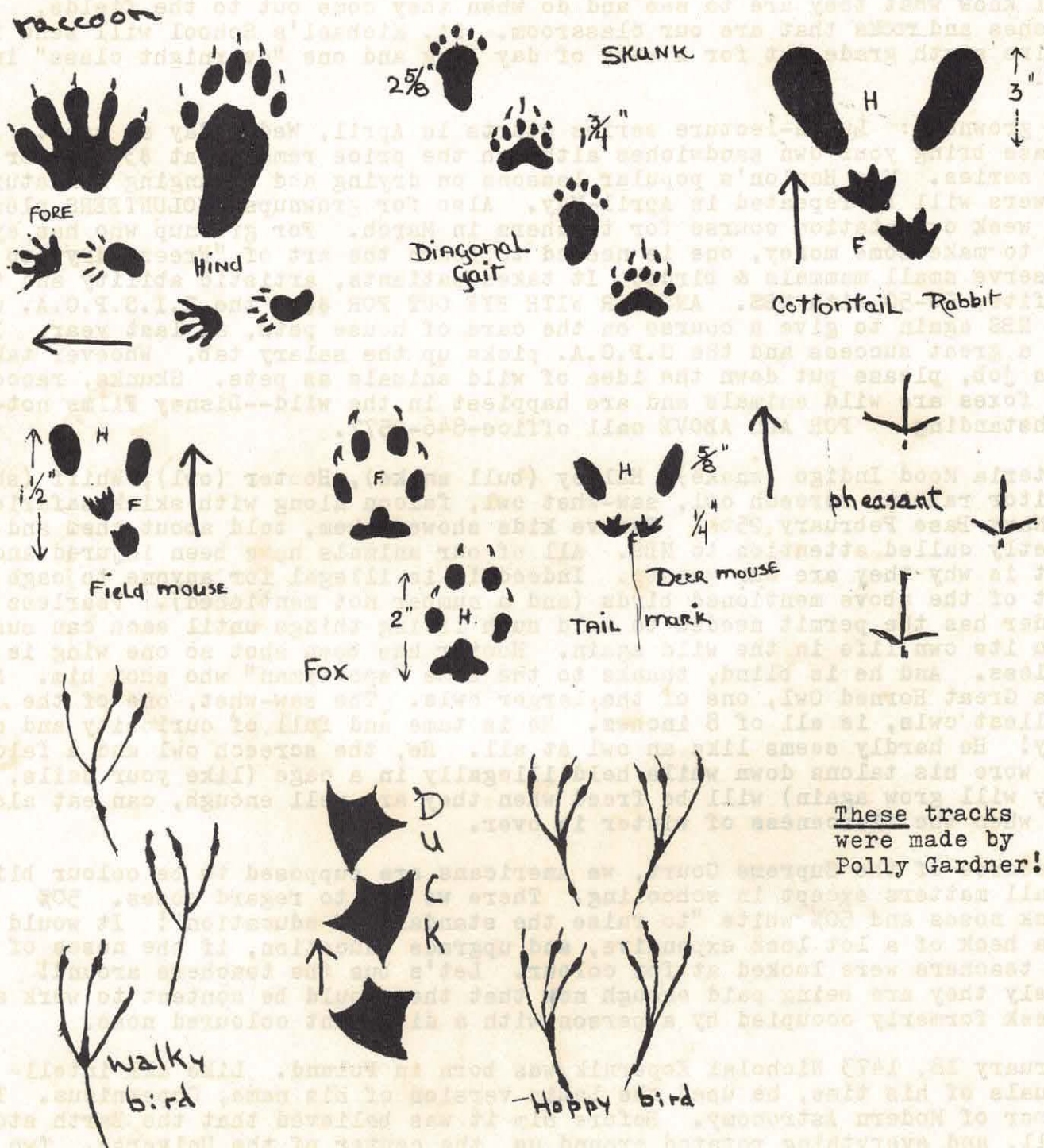


It has snowed this winter in Miami and Rome, but it has scarcely powdered the Sanctuary--just enough for one imaginative member to ski the Trails! Skis leave interesting tracks - not hard to figure what sort of a creature leaves a track 6' X 4". Although there's no snow to watch the tracks in, there's always mud. How good are you at identifying the different tracks left by some of the creatures of the NBS? Below are some to test yourself.



These tracks
were made by
Polly Gardner!

Hats off to the Editors of "Norman's Secrets", a newsletter for the Summer Day Campers. It was full of winter projects for the young, a crossword puzzle and some interesting facts about the Sanctuary. We don't see these kids

(they call themselves that!) between summers. Too busy with school. It's a good idea to keep them in touch with the place they enjoyed so much in the summer. From what has been heard from the Kids, they enjoyed the letter.

The students of Middletown High asked last year for a course in agriculture. This year they have it. The place is the Sanctuary. They meet 3 times a week. Fearless Leader has prepared programs to be shown on closed circuit TV to the public schools in Newport. These are orientation courses so the kids will know what they are to see and do when they come out to the fields, marshes and rocks that are our classroom. St. Michael's School will send its entire sixth grade out for a week of day long and one "overnight class" in May.

For grownups: Lunch-lecture series starts in April, Wednesday at noon. Please bring your own sandwiches although the price remains at \$3. per or \$10. for series. Mrs Hanlon's popular lessons on drying and arranging miniature flowers will be repeated in April-May. Also for grownups: VOLUNTEERS please! A 2 week orientation course for teachers in March. For grownup who has eye out to make some money, one is needed to learn the art of "Freeze-dry" to preserve small mammals & birds. It takes patients, artistic ability and time. Profits, 50-50 with NBS. ANOTHER WITH EYE OUT FOR \$\$ - the R.I.S.P.C.A. wants the NBS again to give a course on the care of house pets, as last year. It was a great success and the S.P.C.A. picks up the salary tab. Whoever takes this job, please put down the idea of wild animals as pets. Skunks, raccoons and foxes are wild animals and are happiest in the wild--Disney Films notwithstanding. FOR ALL ABOVE call office-846-2577.

✓ Wisteria Mood Indigo (snake), Halsey (bull snake), Hooter (owl), Whiff (skunk) visitor rabbit, screech owl, saw-whet owl, falcon along with skink safaried to Navy Base February 25th. Twelve kids showed them, told about them and quietly called attention to NBS. All of our animals have been injured and that is why they are our guests. Indeed it is illegal for anyone to cage most of the above mentioned birds (and a number not mentioned). Fearless Leader has the permit needed to hold such living things until each can sustain its own life in the wild again. Hooter has been shot so one wing is useless. And he is blind, thanks to the same "sportsman" who shot him. He is a Great Horned Owl, one of the larger owls. The saw-whet, one of the smallest owls, is all of 8 inches. He is tame and full of curiosity and so tiny! He hardly seems like an owl at all. He, the screech owl and a falcon who wore his talons down while held illegally in a cage (like your nails, they will grow again) will be freed when they are well enough, can eat alone, and when the fierceness of winter is over.

By decree of the Supreme Court, we Americans are supposed to be colour blind in all matters except in schooling. There we are to regard noses. 50% black noses and 50% white "to raise the standard of education"! It would be a heck of a lot less expensive, and upgrade education, if the noses of the teachers were looked at for colour. Let's bus the teachers around! Surely they are being paid enough now that they would be content to work at a desk formerly occupied by a person with a different coloured nose.

✓ February 18, 1473 Nicholai Kopernik was born in Poland. Like all intellectuals of his time, he used the Latin version of his name, Copernicus. The Father of Modern Astronomy. Before him it was believed that the Earth stood still, and everything rotated around us, the center of the Universe. Two hundred years later the Roman Catholic Church allowed his findings to be taught publicly. Like Galileo, he too had a rough time getting his revolutionary ideas accepted.

When the Mennonites came to USA from Crimea in the 1870's, they brought with them seed stock of hard red winter wheat. It is a major crop in the world's market places today. Kansas plans a centennial celebration in 1974. They say with some justification, "Should the need arise, Kansas can feed the World". Thanks to the Mennonites.

The Audubon Report of February 1973 tells of a growing population among monk parakeets since a cage full of them broke at an airport in 1969. The article tells of their relatives in South America who are fruit eaters. Old time bird books of the 19th Century tell us that the monks were regular visitors to these climes, migrating from the continent south of the U.S. They were a noisy, pesty, fruit eating, flocking bird. The new monks sighted at feeders in Conn. this year are seed eaters. If you spot these blue-grey birds at your feeders, for Pete's sake, call the Sanctuary.

"Future Shock" tells us that there is now a fabric that is silky soft when the weather is warm, and will rise up as a wooly fabric to trap the body's warmth, when it is cold--like bird feathers. They are hoping to produce a fabric that "will heal itself as bark heals itself if a tree is injured". Bark only appears to "heal itself". Like our skin, bark is of itself, dead. The healing comes from the living tree. So unless our future clothes are to grow on us, from whence will come the ability to heal? We already have layers of dead skin, and from under the skin comes the ability to heal ourselves. Somehow the idea of clothes growing on one's back is repulsive,-- just now, dear Mr. Galileo Copernicus.

From time to time, a new kind of a trip comes to attention. A few years ago it was "Wagons West", where for a not inconsiderable sum of money one could board a Wagon Train and trail across Utah and Wyoming, much as pioneers did. A few changes have been made in the makeup of the Train--a wagon with showers added, and chuckwagon full of steaks and beer. A few uncertainties have been removed--they know where they are and where they are going; no hostile Indians etc. But aside from little things like that, the trip is essentially one which allows the city dweller to see the land, smell the air and feel like a pioneer. Another trip is growing. First of all you have to get to Sault Ste Marie, Ont. (The Soo) where Lakes Superior & Huron meet. There, for \$10. you take a ride on the Algoma R.R. to Hearst, Ont. through some of the most beautiful scenery this continent has to offer. A rugged breakfast is served after the trip starts at 8:00 and costs \$1.55, lunch \$1.95. The train meanders 286 miles stopping here and there, then meanders back to the Soo. In the primitive beauty of the forest one sees the creatures who live there at peace with the little Railroad, the settlers and the few skiers who want to get off to explore. In the fall they run a "Colour Trip" for foliage. They expect to carry 76,000 people this year -- usually they carry only lumber, iron ore, pulpwood, and an occasional settler.

Remember Project ID. Safeguard the items in your home against the robbers who will take them, if you're not IDed. It is a very simple operation to ID your possessions. Go to your local police station before robbers see there is no warning decal on your door.

Don't throw away your potted Easter plants..... the Sanctuary would love to have them for its garden.