TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

Fox and mink ranchers and trappers are greatly interested in the trend of prices for this season. An article by Sam Gottesfeld on this subject gives the picture below as seen by a New York expert . . . . "Despite generally lower prices on the new season's American raw fur crop, activity in the market here is getting off to a slower than normal start. In recent weeks, the major cause has been the economic slump of the industry which has made most manufacturers rather apathetic about buying skins now. In addition, the trappers and skin collectors themselves are largely dissatisfied, with the prices the trade is willing to pay. The fur dressing shutdown beginnng this week has contributed further to the dull activity. Dealers and makers alike are in no mood to pay cash on the line for skins which cannot be dressed and dyed, and readied for quick turnover."

"This is the general picture of the present state of the raw skin market as outlined by leading raw fur handlers in the market here. Opening prices stack up about as follows, according to the consensus: Wild mink levels range from about 15 to 25 per cent under a year ago; muskrat prices are averaging an estimated 30 per cent below last year; and raccoon prices are slightly easier to 10 per cent less than the 1952 opening. Lower levels for ranch and mutation mink are also indicated by a few private sales concluded in the market in recent weeks. **Wild Mink:** Country prices are currently figured at around an average of $21 or $22 for Minnesotas. Mentioned is a country asking price of $27 for males and $17 for females in an assortment averaging 25 per cent twos. Country asking prices are said to be $24 and $14 for Northern Wisconsins and $23 and $13 for Southern Wisconsins. These levels are said to be about 20 to 25 per cent under last year."

"**Muskrat:** The country is asking about 90 to 95 cents for 70-20-10 assortments of Wisconsin rats. This compares to about $1.30 a year ago for similar assortments. Wisconsin rats have been sold by dealers here at $1.10 to $1.15 for large and extra large; 62½ to 65 cents for medium and small; 60 cents for damaged and 30 cents for kits. This is said to be close to 30 per cent less than last year. New England rats have been sold in the market at about $1.40 for large and extra large and 70-75 cents for medium small and damaged. **Raccoon:** Less of a price decline appears indicated for shearing coons. New York varitites have been sold in the market at $2.75, which is about 5 per cent less than a year ago. Minnesota raccoon country prices are quoted at about $3.75 to $4 in the grease, and about $6 for extra large and large, scraped. Finer sections of raccoon are reported bringing about the same price as last year, while poorer sections are cheaper than the 1952 opening.

"**Ranch-Raised Mink:** Some fairly good pastels have been sold in the market at $35 for males and $19 for females, which is about 15 per cent under last year. A mediocre lot of Connecticut standard ranch mink has been sold at $15.50 for males and $10 for females— a decline of approximately 10 per cent. At this point, these are the only furs making any sort of impression in the market here. Other wild furs, which have been relatively unimportant in recent years, appear to be heading for more snubbing than ever this season. The main reason, other than lack of interest in the market, it the refusal of trappers to work for low prices.

"One raw fur handler here explained that some extra large and large American oppossum has been sold at a 33 cents average. Deducting about 10 cents for scraping, 1 cent for the dealers' profit, another percentage for the collector's profit, the trapper winds up with about 10 to 15 cents a skin, this source said. Therefore, except in States where a bounty is paid for trapping, trappers won't go after this fur bearer, particularly when employment is available in other industries, it was explained. Similar situations for such items as skunk and red fox, it is said, make it extremely unlikely that much of this season. One report was that these furs will enter the market some of the Western States, like Utah, for example, might contribute less muskrats this year—again because of the low price situation.

"The fur dressing shutdown has already injected new problems into the raw fur industry, problems that could become serious if the work stoppage should become lengthy. This was one example. 'We were in the process of selling some fresh muskrats to a manufacturer,' one dealer said. 'He asked to make payment on Jan. 2 We balked not because we doubted the firm's reliability but because we didn't want to have loans outstanding. He agreed to pay cash. Then the dressing shutdown came, and the firm backed out. Finally we had to agree to accept Jan. 2 payment

Here is the result of the Edmonton, Alta., sale . . . ."Edmonton Standard ranch and mutation mink declined from 10 to 20 per cent at the opening sale of Edmonton Fur Sales, Ltd., here yesterday. Price comparisons are made to the December, 1952, sale. The auction house reported standard ranch mink as 88 per cent sold, with better type males declining 15 per cent, and cheaper males and all females off 10 per cent. Extra dark and dark males ranged from $20 to $24.50; females from $11 to $12. Ordinary males brought $15 to $17, and females, $9 to $10.50. Pastels were 90 per cent sold, declining 20 per cent. Males, medium and light colors, brought $23 to $28; females, $14 to $15. Dark type and off-color pastel males ranged from $15 to $20, and females from $11 to $12. Platinums declined 10 per cent, with the turnover reported as 85 per cent. Medium clear colors brought $20 to $24 for males, and $14 to $15 for females. Dark and off-color males were $15 to $18; females, $10 to $12. Muskrat, beaver, lynx and marten received very limited interest, and were mostly withdrawn.

Allocations by markets of the half billion francs French credit or the import of raw furs from O. E. E. C. countries as previously reported, are expected to be as follows: '(values in millions of French francs): England 387 millions; Italy 55; Norway 21; Belgium 20; Denmark 4; Sweden 4; Switzerland 4; Germany 2; Holland 2; Austria and Portugal half a million francs each. The French National Fur Federation hs protested as inadequate the allocations made for the purchase of skins from the Scandinavian countries named

MORELL REAR C. W. L.

The November meeting of the St. Lawrence C.W.L. was held at the home of Mrs. Eugene Sinnott Mrs. Joseph Walsh presided and opened the meeting with prayer.

A letter from the Provincial president was read, also a letter from Mrs. Cudmore re First Aid Course, and it was decided to hold one as soon as possible.

$5 was voted for the children of Korea. Each member offered to bring a donation for the Social Welfare to next meeting. Mrs. Chester McCarthy invited the members to her home for the next meeting.

The meeting closed with prayer.

* * *

The December meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Chester McCarthy with a good attendance.

Letters from conveners were read. $5 was voted to send to Missionaries of Mary and $2 to T. B. League.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. J.C. McCarthy, members to bring articles for auction.

Did you know that in Oxfordshire is a tiny hamlet called Christmas Common? Or that a tiny village near Flexford, in Surrey, is called Christmaspie?

FEATURES

POULTRY FEEDER . . . An expensive feeder can be made from a dishpan and a little heavy wire. Fix the wire around the pan as shown above. It will keep poultry from climbing into the pan and upsetting it. Top of the guard can be a handle.

Burgess Bedtime

(Continued from page 22)

He was heading for a certain favorite tree when he spied his young cousin. A crafty look crept over his face. He headed straight for the young fox, who was already running because of the dog. He was the faster runner. Gray Fox didn't even try to catch up with him. All he did was to follow Young Too-Smart, running just where he did. Then, when the chance came, he leaped up among the low-growing branches of a hemlock tree and climbed up a little way. There he kept perfectly still while that dog, baying joyously, kept on with his nose filled with warm fox scent. But now it was Young Too-Smart he was chasing instead of Cousin Gray.

Contract Bridge

(Continued from page 22)

and two clubs, for a trick short of contract.

The establishment of the diamond suit in such a deal as this is not difficult ,but few players understand the points involved. It is vital for South to play low from dummy on his first diamond lead, to force East to accept the first trick in the suit (or make only one trick). Later, South leads his second diamond and of course puts up an honor. East can now take his ace or hold up; another diamond lead from dummy knocks out his last stopper while the spade entry remains.

The crux is to keep East, who may well hold A-J-x or A-10-x, from ducking the first diamond lead, thereby immobilizing dummy's long suit.

WARNED AGAINST REDS

SEOUL, Korea, (Reuters) — A general alert to prepare for increased Communist guerrilla activity has been sent to all South Korean police and anti-guerrilla military units, national police announced Wednesday following a flare-up Monday night in the year-long struggle with guerrilla bands in the Mt. Chiri area of southwest Korea.

Attention Hog Producers

During both Christmas and New Year's weeks our hog loading schedule will be changed in some districts as follows:

Agent	District	Loading Day Changed From
Gordon Robertson	Elmira	Tuesday to Monday
C. C. Pratt & Sons	St. Peters - Souris	Tuesday to Monday
Sid McLean	Montague	Thursday to Wednesday
Norman McKenzie	Cardigan	Thursday to Wednesday
Borden Bagnall	Hunter River	Thursday to Wednesday
Les McDowell	Fredericton	Thursday to Wednesday
Elmer Wigmore	Bradalbane	Thursday to Wednesday
Nelson Simpson	Cavendish	Thursday to Wednesday
McEwen & Caseley	Kensington & Summerside	Thursday to Wednesday

In all the above districts we shall return to our regular loading schedule with week commencing January 3rd.

CANADA PACKERS LIMITED

CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

TIP OF THE WEEK

FROM YOUR MASTER DEALERS

Charlottetown	L. J. Rossiter
Summerside	Prince Edward Island Fur Pool Ltd.
O'Leary	H. B. Willis Inc.
French River	Arthur A. Campbell
Central Bedeque	Dunk River Dairying Co.
Albany	L. D. McLeod & Sons
Victoria	L. D. McLeod & Sons
Stanley Bridge	Reid's Feed Service
Wheatley River	Preston Rackham
Morell	Dingwell & Rossiter
Kilmuir	McGowan's Ltd.
Murray River	D. M. McKinnon
Brookfield	Cruwys Bros.
Mount Stewart	Clark's Feed Service

TIP NO. 17

If mixing your own pig grower, make it more palatable by adding Master Molastock Feed. This feed is high in molasses and easy to mix.

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MASTER BALANCED FEEDS for ALL CLASSES OF POULTRY FARM LIVE STOCK FUR BEARING ANIMALS & DOGS

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THE BRIGHTEST FLOOR WAX EVER MADE

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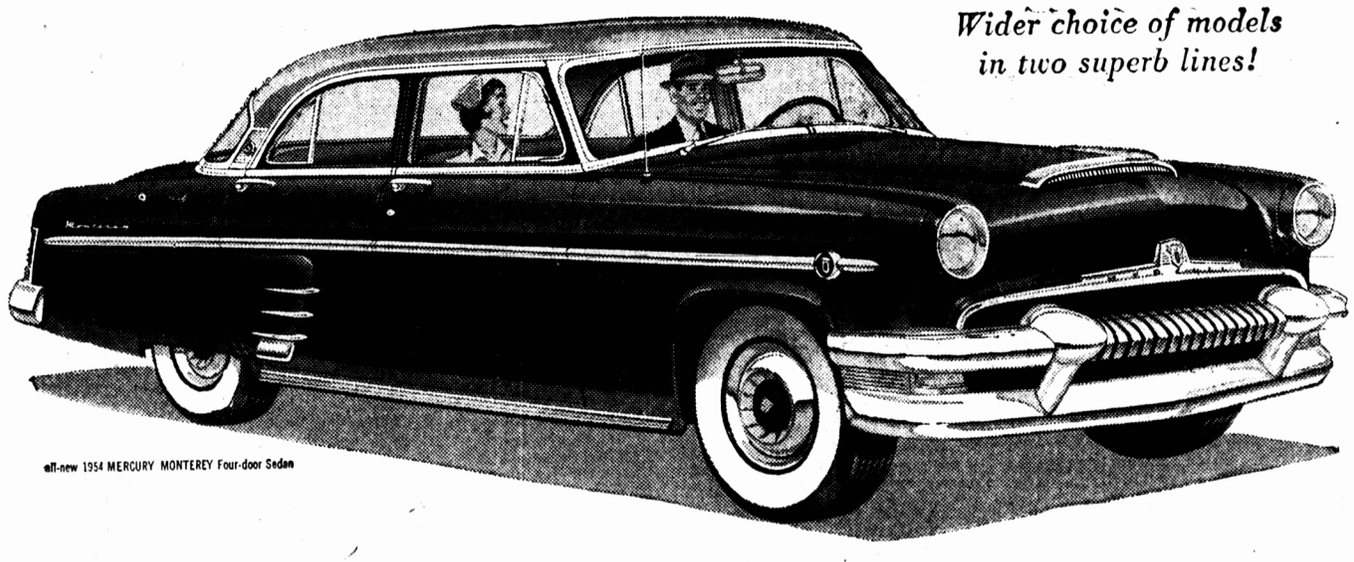
new in style... new in power... new in ride

Wider choice of models in two superb lines!

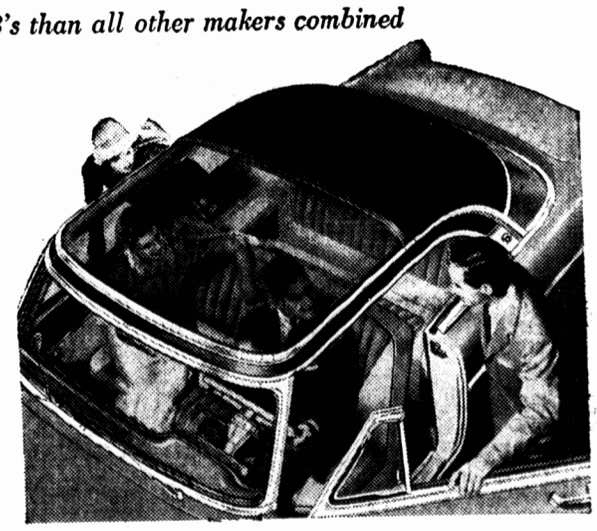


all-new 1954 MERCURY MONTEREY Four-door Sedan

completely new 161 hp. V-8 overhead valve ENGINE

Canada's newest V-8... by the builder of more V-8's than all other makers combined

It's here! The big, long, low-to-the-road Mercury for '54, with a completely new 161 Hp. Overhead Valve V-8 Engine of advanced design. Here's smoother, more flexible power—a safer margin of power for surging acceleration, for hill-climbing, for more "go" in mud and snow, for better all-round performance. Here's all-new Ball-joint Front Suspension, introducing you to brand-new road-hugging stability on the curves—and an even smoother ride. And here's a new, wider range of Mercury models in two superb lines : : : four magnificently luxurious Monterey models, newest fashion cars of the day . . ; dramatically beautiful Custom models... with new interior elegance, rich upholstery and appointments that challenge you to compare. New '54 Mercury travels with almost unbelievable *quietness*. You ride so silently you can praise it in a whisper and be heard! Arrange to road test the '54 Mercury for the driving thrill of your life!



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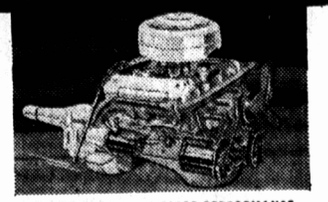

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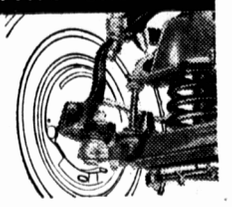

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Never before such a safe, road-hugging ride! With this advanced-design suspension unit, Mercury takes curves with astonishing ease—gives far better control and stability when cornering . . . the most comfortable ride on any road. For proof, road test it!

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