

Ecologists are forever telling us about obscure forms of wildlife that face the threat of becoming extinct. Of course, few of us ever saw any of these creatures, so it's a little hard to get upset over the fact that they may all disappear in the next hundred years or so. But much closer to home, familiar species that have played a memorable part in our lives are vanishing rapidly, with no publicity at all. We'll miss them when they're gone. And just to help you remember to tell your grandchildren that you saw them, MAD presents

A PARTING LOOK AT OUR

TRULY ENDANG

THE APRON BREASTED CORNER GROCER



This amiable creature is best known for his quaint habits of nesting in small, shabby store buildings, chirping out greetings to each customer by name, and adding up figures in pencil on brown paper bags. He traditionally relies on his industrious mate and broom-pushing offspring to help him eke out an existence. Now, the docile and harmless breed faces total extinction at the merciless hands of two giant predators, the Self-Service Price Slasher and the Multi-Aisled Trading Stamp Giver.

THE FLEET FOOTED SCATBACK



This tiny creature, seldom weighing more than 160 pounds and with a wingspread of only a little more than 5½ feet, is now encountered on only the most remote college gridirons. Once abounding at major universities, and even among professional teams in populous areas, the small, catlike ground gainer has been forced to flee after suffering frequent murderous attacks by its newest natural enemy, the big Zone Defending Ox.

THE LEATHER LUNGED KNIFE SHARPENER



This doomed specimen employs an obsolete means of locomotion known as walking to propel himself and his equipment from place to place. Knife Sharpeners once moved in flocks with a number of similar species that are now extinct, most notably the Itinerant Piano Tuner, the Pedestrian Cantaloupe Peddler and the Creaky Waggoned Rag Picker. The imminent disappearance of the Knife Sharpener is attributed by most ecologists to the invention of Hamburger Helper, which hardly ever requires slicing.

THE RUG BEATING DOMESTIC HOUSE CLEANER



Specimens of this industrious variety of Ample Bosomed Day Worker were once readily available for as little as a dollar an hour plus carfare. Today, they are seldom found on the market at any price. It is believed that many examples of this endangered species may have migrated in mass to college campuses, where they assumed new identities as Holy Terror House Mothers and University Health Service Needle Injectors.

THE SPITBALLING WORKHORSE



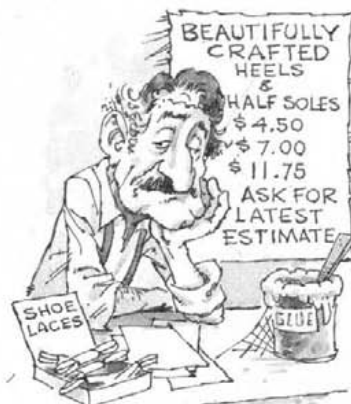
This tobacco chomping beast is best remembered as an every-other-day starter for the St. Louis Browns and Boston Braves, who aren't remembered at all. Once thought to have been rendered extinct by such newly bred species as the Wild Throwing Bonus Baby and the Late Inning Bullpen Wonder, the Workhorse can still be found on rare occasion in the Northwest League and other wilderness areas. Though he habitually wins 25 games a season, he is no longer corralled by the major leagues, due to the fact that he also habitually loses forty games during a season.

THE TOUSLE HEADED KITE FLYER



Ancient documents from the Pre-TV era tell us that these noisy little fellows were once common on the vacant lots of America. (Other ancient documents tell us that vacant lots were also once common in America.) Occasional Tousle Headed Kite Flyers may still be seen on windy Saturday mornings, but the few remaining specimens are now confined to parks and other public wildlife sanctuaries. Any further increase in the price of the nickel kite above the present \$1.98 level could result in the total extermination of this frisky breed.

THE EXPERT NEIGHBORHOOD SHOEMAKER



Displaying such pathetic characteristics as pride of craftsmanship and love of fine leather, this defenseless creature has now been virtually wiped out by such natural catastrophes as Galloping Inflation and Burgeoning Mediocrity. The few remaining examples of the species can soon expect to be trumped into total extinction by shoes made of synthetic calfskin, synthetic suede as well as heels made from synthetic synthetics.

THE REMINISCING WORLD WAR II VETERAN



This heavy jowled figure can still be spotted on occasion, lumbering through the night to join other members of his herd at a favorite watering hole. There, the Reminiscing Vet happily details the latest news of his personal triumphs in Sicily in 1943. Though not violent by nature, he is quite capable of boring his colleagues to death. World War II Vets still abound in all areas. However, fewer of the vociferously reminiscing variety now exist, probably because most men of fifty have matured enough to realize that what they did when they were 19 wasn't even very interesting at the time.

FRED SPECIES

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THE LATE EVENING URBAN STROLLER



Few endangered species have been as subject to such widespread wanton destruction as this harmless nocturnal being. Once plentiful on city streets (with or without canine companion), the ranks of the Late Evening Urban Stroller have been decimated by the breed's two natural enemies, the Shiv Wielding Doorway Mugger and the Over-Zealous Prowl Car Rider. Many naturalists contend that mortality rates among the Urban Strollers are exceeded only by those of an even more endangered species, the Post-Midnight Park Bench Neck.

THE VASELINE HAired TANGO INSTRUCTOR



Once thought to be a member of the slithering *Gigolo Americanus* species, this twinkle-toed little chap is now deemed as harmless as his female counterpart, the Bleached Blonde Fox Trot Teacher. Both currently face extinction because today's popular dance steps can all be self-taught, merely by jumping up and down on a hot waffle iron in bare feet. The few remaining Vaseline Haired Tango Instructors are easily identified by their frayed cuffs, their tendency to draw flies and their swooping gracefulness in executing the "dip."

THE SABBATH KEEPING CHURCH GOER



Huge flocks of these immaculately groomed specimens once scurried to their communal gathering places for such quaint religious occasions as Choir Practice, Prayer Meeting and Christmas. Though the breed remains rather plentiful in some areas, it has all but vanished in others. This is most apparent in the State of California, where televised pro football games begin at 10 A.M. Pacific Time. Studies also reveal that the disappearance of the Church Goer has been accompanied by a population surge among a less desirable species, the Sunday Morning Golf Duffer.