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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 10, 1930.

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LAST GROUNDHOG DAY

The popularity of the Groundhog Day superstition seems to grow from year to year. Seldom if ever have the newspapers given so much space to the subject as they did on and about February 2, 1930.

Some of the news related to the alleged performances of real groundhogs. At the New York Zoo, in the Bronx, one of these animals was brought forth from his den at noon before a gathering of Boy Scouts, news photographers and movie operators, thrust into a hole in the ground, and partly buried under a shovelful of earth. He promptly emerged, and though the sun was shining brightly, refused to go back for the traditional six weeks' nap.

Groundhog Day fell this year on Sunday, and the newspaper magazine/ sections contained some write-ups appropriate to the occasion. One story, for example, told about the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge of Quarryville, Pa., which is said to assemble in full regalia on the second of each February and observe the behavior of the local groundhogs. The fame of this organization dates from a description published in the American Magazine of November, 1927.

The United States Department of Agriculture boomed the groundhog myth by issuing a special Groundhog Day press release, telling of the recent marked increase in the groundhog population of the northeastern states.

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