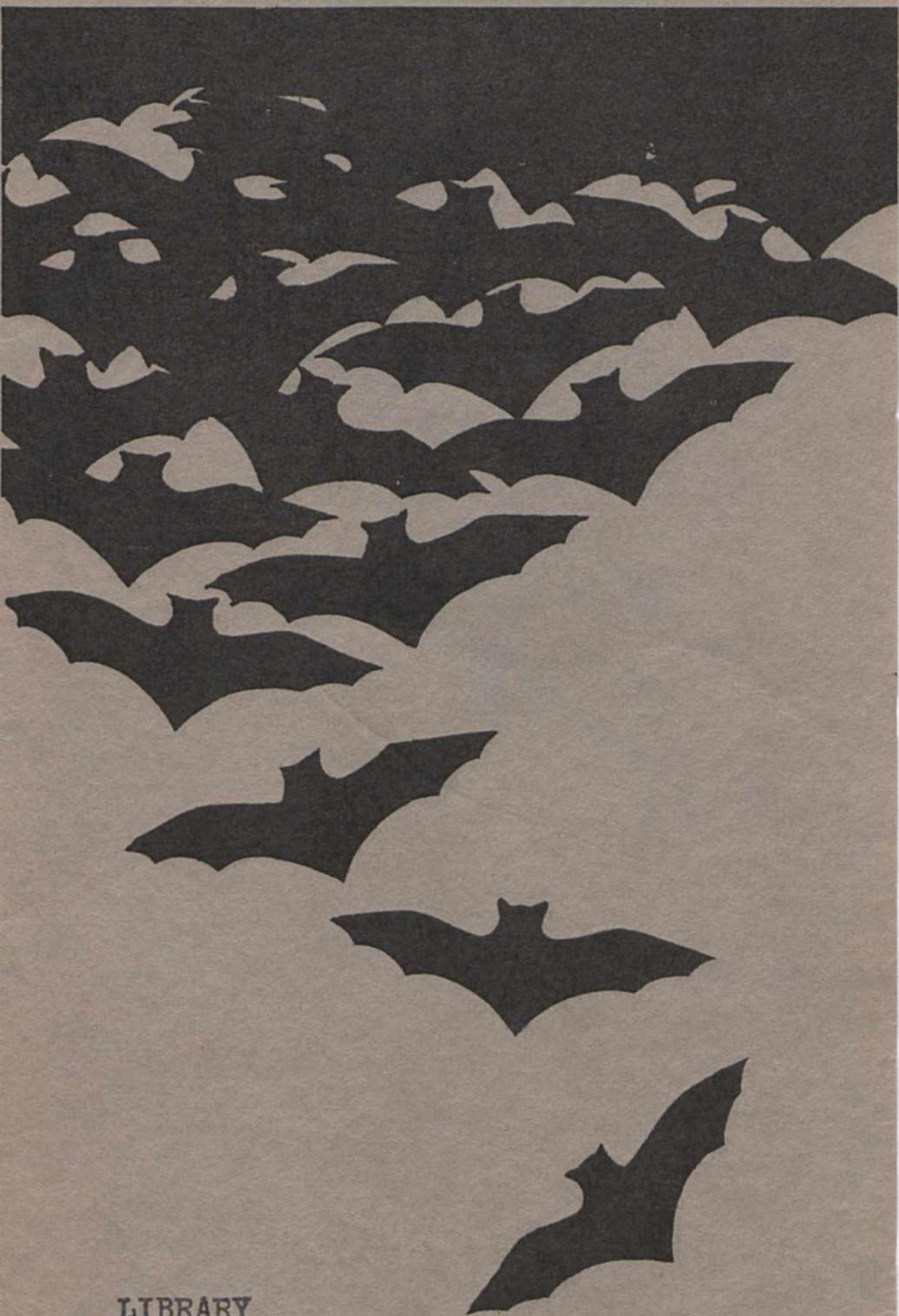


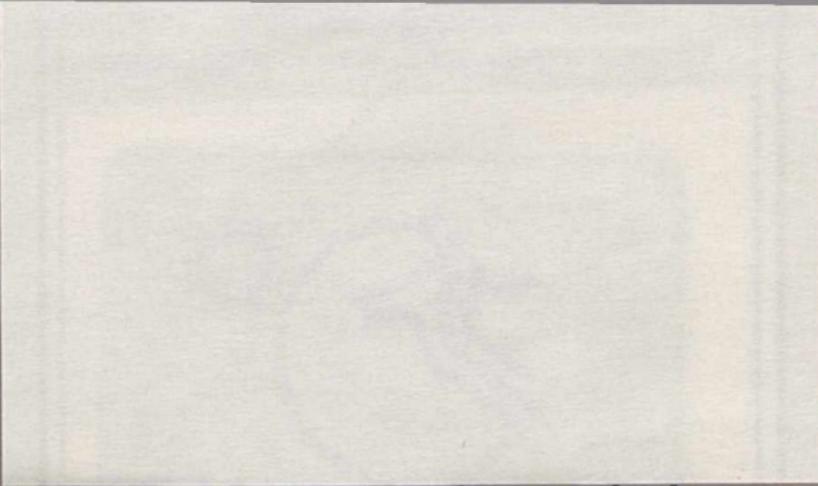
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BATS



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and animals; if one attacks, it is apt to be rabid. Bloodsucking (vampire) bats dwell in South and Central America, but are not thought to inhabit the U.S. One was recently caught in Texas, however.

Rabid bats may sometimes be found lying on the ground, apparently sick or dead. Never pick them up without heavy gloves or other protection; they might still be able to bite.

Caves where bats make their homes are particularly dangerous areas. Recent research indicates that rabies virus may be airborne. People working in or exploring caves may become infected even without bites.

OTHER BAT CAVE DANGERS

HISTOPLASMOSIS, a fungus disease that usually affects the respiratory system, can be contracted in bat caves. The fungus thrives on the dusty bat droppings as do other fungi causing barber's itch, athlete's foot, and ringworm.

HOW TO BAT-PROOF A BUILDING

BECAUSE they eat insects and therefore help in pest control, bats are useful, but they should be kept away from houses, barns, and other buildings.

To bat-proof a house, all openings in walls, roofs, and floors larger than three-eighths of an inch in diameter should be closed and roosts on the outside eliminated.

When a building is infested, all bat entrances but a few *main entrances* should initially be shut. After four days the bats will become accustomed to leaving by these few open *doors* and one evening when they fly out, these holes should also be closed. The building must then be watched for bats for the next few days to make sure all are gone.

Bat-proofing should be done in the early spring or fall, because during other times of the year, young bats may accumulate on the ground near roosts or be trapped inside a building and die.

USEFUL REPELLENTS

MOTH FLAKES, or crushed moth balls, and bird and rodent repellents may be sprinkled around in areas where bats roost. Glass fiber insulation blown into spaces occupied by bats will also drive out unwelcome boarders.

BAT KILLING, EVEN WHEN SAFE AND LEGAL, IS UNWISE, BECAUSE BATS HELP CONTROL INSECTS.

IN CASE A BAT BITES

Get in touch with a physician, a veterinarian, or your local or State public health department. If the bat that has done the biting can be caught or killed, it should be kept for examination by an expert. Capturing a live bat should be done very carefully to avoid more bites. Even if the bat is dead, it should be handled only with gloves.

Scrub any bite thoroughly with soapy water or detergent. As soon as possible the victim should see a physician, who will decide whether or not it is necessary to begin treatment to prevent rabies.

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