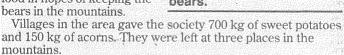
## Hungry bears given plenty of acorns

A group in Wakayama Prefecture placed 850 kilograms of food in the mountains around Shimizu recently to feed hungry bears—so the hears wouldn't invade resi-

dential areas The bears' natural food. nuts, is in short supply this year because of a long hot summer. The nut vield is said to be only 10% that of a normal vear, and bears have been descending from the mountains and rooting around for food in villages like Shimizu. Mivama and Ryujin.

Fearing the bears might harm people or pets, the Kii Region Wild Animal Protection imal protection group in Friendship Society put out the food in hopes of keeping the



The society said that while some people have complained that feeding the bears could have the negative effect of encouraging them to remain in the area, the program was implemented in the belief that it is important for people to learn to live in harmony with wild animals.



ASAHI SHIMBUN

Food is collected by an an-Wakayama to feed starving hears