

Clouds Require Incredible Power

Those who think that man's latest scientific inventions, including the most powerful nuclear bombs now existent, have made a mockery of Nature's power, would be impressed with a recent group of statistics published by a weather expert. The statistics show that the power needed to lift the water which falls in a normal summer thunderstorm, over an area of only a few miles, is of staggering proportions. Likewise, the force often exhibited by the wind, in various storms, compares quite overwhelmingly with the force unleashed by an atomic explosion.

WATCHING A cumulus cloud build up into a cumulonimbus, i.e., a thunderhead, in the summer, one cannot help but be impressed by the magnificent power involved in this display of aerial power. The power derives directly from the heat of the sun.

The sun's rays fall upon the earth, and heat the land. Because hot air rises, the warmed earth sends a thermal aloft, and as this warm air rises it is cooled. Every cloud is the result of some cooling. As the

warm air rises it is cooled and forms a cloud at the exact moment when the moisture contained in the air turns from invisible particles to visible particles—condensation.

THIS PROCESS continues until a huge cloud is built up, with millions of gallons of water contained therein, which it unleashes at the appropriate moment. Such an explosion, as one might call it, is far more impressive and far more powerful, in a sense, than an atomic bomb. Were this power directed toward other purposes, it would be far more devastating than the effects of an atom bomb.

All of which should prove to us that our Creator has wisely provided that the tremendous power of nature, and the forces of weather in the atmosphere, be directed toward good, and not evil. There is a lesson for mankind in this thought, and we hope that the comparative puny forces of man, including the hydrogen bomb, are put to constructive, and not destructive, uses.

Is This Good Exchange Culture?

The State Department, it has been revealed, paid a modern dance group \$275,000 in salaries and gave it cocktail parties which cost the taxpayers some \$1,800,000. This was the information given Congress recently by J. F. Magdanz. Oddly enough, this sort of nonsense has been going on for years. The idea behind the whole bamboozle is, of course, to give other countries an idea of how we live—or to exchange our culture with that of other countries. It is a close question whether we have gained anything in re-

cent years by exchanging culture with foreign nations.

CERTAIN TOURS, and certain artists, have made good impressions, but others have made bad impressions, and too much of our American cultural exchange has been on the level of rock 'n' roll and jazz. Many Europeans, especially, are repelled by the modern American jazz, or New York city stuff, or hillbilly music, and the thousands of dollars plunked out by taxpayers, and spent by the State Department, brings us little or no benefit.

Certainly there is no lack of general information related to most of the problems that confront elective and appointive officials in Washington, D.C. What really is lacking is easy to catalogue: "personal COURAGE, coupled with an honest endeavor to SERVE the people with minimum regard for partisan politics. (Of course, more interest and help from the average citizen would do much to improve the situation.)"

He was such a devotee of exaggeration that he never called a spade a spade—instead, he'd rate it as a steam shovel.

Tougher to Build These Days



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Evening Post

Wood Lily Grows At Edge of Forest

The wood lily is one of the few red flowers in our northern clime.

You scribe first learned to know and love this plant along the dry fire-breaks of the Higgins Lake state forest. Here, set against the deep green pines, it makes an unexpected splash of color.

On a recent trip following Lake Shore drive from Potoskey to Wilderness park we saw this flower over and over again along the roadside and bordering the edge of the woods where some sun filters through.

THE ABOVE flower is our northern wood lily, *Lilium Philadelphicum*. The species frequently seen in our more southern range is *L. Canadense*. In moist meadows, I have seen the latter grow to a height of six feet. Its smaller orange flowers with their recurved petals are arranged in several circular rows at the top of the stem where as many as 12 blossoms appear on a single plant.

L. Philadelphicum prefers the acid soil of our sandy and gravelly north woods. Like the more southern cousin its leaves are arranged in symmetrical whorls. Seldom taller than three feet, it is crowned by one or two large upright flowers with six petal-like sepals, purple spotted. Each of these tapers to a long claw at the point where it is joined to the stem, making an unusual "cutwork" effect as the sun shines through the glowing cup.

THE SIX stamens hang heavy with pollen but occupy an inferior position below the sticky stigma of the pistil. This arrangement tells us that the flower depends upon an outside pollinating agent such as a bee which is attracted by the nectar and the bright color of the bloom.

Perhaps no flower family shows as much variety and contrast as does the Liliaceae. Among its members are some 3,000 species, worldwide in their distribution. Some are herbaceous plants including our exquisite garden lilies and tulips together with such wild flowers as trillium, Solomon's seal and adder's tongue. Also represented are the well known vegetable parsnips, wild leek, onion and garlic.

In sharp contrast is the bark's grace of our western parks and such harsh shrubs and trees as yucca, desert candles and the Joshua tree.

OUR present day flowers date back to the distant world of some 60 million years ago. To the scientist they bear in face and form the evidence of their past history, for plants even more than animals must solve the problems of existence by adjustments to their environment.

It is believed they had their beginnings in such simple forms as the buttercups. These in turn gave rise to three major lines represented by the lilies, roses and geraniums. The lilies became the ancestors of two other lines represented by our present day highly specialized orchids and grasses.

From the above three major offshoots have developed the diverse tribes of our modern flowering plants. And so it is that on a summer's day in wood lily may stand regal and glowing on the border of the forest floor.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

"That men have climbed the Matterhorn and Mt. McKinley means little," says James Ramsay Ullman. "That they should want to climb them and try to climb them means everything. For it is the ultimate wisdom of the mountains that man is never more a man than when he is striving for what is beyond his grasp, and that there is no conquest worth winning save that over his own weakness and fear."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Before leaving on vacation last week, I stopped by Birmingham City Clerk Irene Hanley's office to sign up for an absentee voter's ballot—like a good voter should.

Didn't take me long to fill out the application or the ballot.

But it seems like our Michigan election commissions are trying to discourage the absent voter bit.

Why else do they put such lousy-tasting glue on the flap of the return envelope? Ugh!

Who says we fellows don't give our wives enough credit?
To see just how much we do give 'em, just total up our monthly bills!

Couple weeks back I commented on the search which still continues in Cass lake

Suburban Sentiment

SQUEEZE PLAY

Our one car garage holds old ladders and rakes,
A wagon, two bikes and some bundles of stakes;
A two car garage would be better by far—
With luck we might even have room for a car.

—Corinne R. Abatt

for the plane of Berkeleyite Robert Angove. (His amphibian flying machine sank unexpectedly—and still unexplainedly—more than a month ago.)

I mentioned that two things possibly may have happened to carry the plane away from the spot it sank. (It still hasn't been located by skin divers.)

THE TWO POSSIBILITIES: the flying boat planed down through the water just like it would glide through the air. Or that it contained enough air so it had equalized with the water pressure and might be floating submerged below the surface.

I now have left the first possibility. Retired engineer Harry E. Fromm, 432 Yarmouth, Bloomfield Village, just exploded the second possibility.

"Nothing can stay between the surface and the bottom unless it keeps in motion," Fromm said. He ought to know—he has worked for years on submarines, for 18 years with Chrysler Corp. for whom he designed its first marine engine.

HE EXPLAINED A SUBMARINE stays below the surface by using its diving planes and its motors.

"If it stopped, it would float to the surface. If it went below a certain point, water pressure would take it right to the bottom," he emphasized.

Okay, Okay! Just shows what happens because I elected to take American literature instead of physics at Birmingham high school.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
August 7, 1908

"In Pontiac when a man wants whiskey he goes into a drug store and pretends he is suffering from an attack of ague. They call it shaking for the drinks."

"A large number took in the races. Just how many were taken in by the races is hard to tell, because the fellows who bet on the wrong horse have nothing to say."

"All democrats who wish to vote for the nomination of a democratic governor at the coming primary, are requested to call at the Eccentric office, or Shain's drug store

and sign a petition to this effect. Call before Tuesday next or miss your chance."

30 YEARS AGO
August 9, 1928

"Harry L. Wallace, commissioner of the Williams Store, of Bloomfield Hills village today are investigating the plans for the protection of the Hills road in the commission meeting Tuesday evening."

"Bids for paving of Woodward avenue in Birmingham are to be received at the highway office in Plymouth, Aug. 23, according to announcement today by Luther D. Allen, member of the Oakland County road commission. It is expected they will be opened at the time of receipt."

15 YEARS AGO
August 4, 1943

"Officers were called to Quanton Lake shortly after noon Saturday where several boys were swimming in their birthday suits; however, when officers arrived they found the boys' garments. Now that Quanton Lake is public, owned, there appears to be no law against anyone swimming there. It would be interesting to know the latest bacteria count."

"We heard a story—perhaps it's old—but we'll tell it anyway. A man was talking with a little boy and his father, saying 'and I suppose now, that when you grow up, you want to be president.' To up, you the boy's father replied, 'Him President? What's the matter with Roosevelt?'"

Attresses Kick Actors In The Pants

Actors don't wish each other "lucky" for fear the wish will reverse itself. Opening nights they dance on another on stage with a boot in the pants, not a pat on the back. They wish each other broken arms and legs, prattling into the pit. Perverse fate then will treat them well!

Fear of tempting fate has been man's ever since he plodded prehistoric forests in solitary ignominy—dreaded even to admit he existed lest some violent force, real or supernatural, strike him down. (Copyright 1956, John Emery Ent.)

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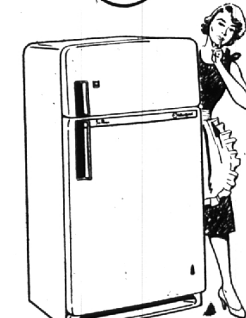
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- Trucks
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