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Strange But True

By F. E. MacArthur

The record of the growth of tree rings has been used to determine the age of ruins of early Indian villages in Texas by comparing the growth rings of pieces of wood found among the ruins with the known records. These growth rings are sometimes called the "fingerprints of time."

Peat is made up of the decomposed remains of plants accumulated over many years in bogs in cool and damp climates. Our Island climate would seem to be ideal for producing high grade peat, though for some unknown reason Island peat does not measure up to the high standard of Irish peat. This is strange considering that the peat bogs of our province contain the mosses and plants, etc., necessary to the formation of such cheap fuel.

The maidenhair tree, last relic of an ancient race, was wiped out in Europe by the ice age. It lingered on in the Orient to be preserved in the beautiful temple gardens.

The two giant ice caps, the Greenland ice cap and the Antarctic ice cap, are of great thickness—8000 feet in Greenland and 9000 feet in the Antarctic. This vast accumulation of ice actually pushed the rocks down to a depth of about 1600 feet. This downward movement of solid matter may account for the coal seams lying so far under the bosom of the earth, and strange but true, parts of Canada neighboring Greenland are still rising.

A single volcanic eruption has been known to form a layer on the ground surrounding it, from 20 to 100 feet thick; repeated eruptions may increase this to thousands of feet, thus forming a plateau. The outpouring of molten rock stretched from Northern Ireland to Iceland and Greenland. Think of it! Continents are believed to be formed in times of great volcanic activity by convection currents in the earth's molten interior piling up the rocks of the crust.

The wings of the Flying Lizards consist of folds of skin stretched between the forearms, with their elongated little fingers and the legs. As in larger birds, the big bones are filled with air to give buoyancy.

It is a curious fact that more rain falls on the side of a mountain towards the prevailing winds and a rain shadow develops on the farther side of the mountains.

The melon-sized fruit of the Breadfruit tree is a staple food in Malaya and the Pacific Islands.

The chia plant is one of the oldest plants in the New World. It seems to have ranked in popularity with staples like Maize, cacao and chili and was grown in the floating gardens of the Aztecs, for the sake of the nutritious seeds of a beautiful flavor. It was among the gifts offered by the Indians to their white visitors; and archaeologists, digging in ancient graves in Southern California, have turned up deposits of the seed left as viaticum of departed souls, which attest the antiquity of its use within the limits of the U.S.A. Even today Mexico shops sell chia as part of their stock in trade.

Some of the present day Indians of Southern California, mix chia meal with wheat flour, imparting to the latter a delicious nut-like flavor. Made into gruel, chia is soothing even to inflamed digestive organs. The Indians gathered the crop in baskets and threshed out the seeds by using the paddles of their canoes. But the Mexican farmers cut, thresh, and winnow it like flax or wheat.

It is interesting to note that Wild Rice grows in every state of the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains, and also in China and Japan and Canadian territory bordering on the Great Lakes.

The food value of wild rice is high and compares very favorably with its cousin, the cultivated rice. Mr. Jenks reports a wilderness soup made of wild rice and blueberries that sounds as if it ought to be a good dish here in the Garden of the Gulf.

The great yellow pond lily of British Columbia produces a globular seed which, when dried, will keep indefinitely. They are prepared for table use by tossing 'em about in frying pan over a hot fire until they crack open after the manner of popcorn, which they resemble in taste.

We are told that the association between flowers and insects began in primitive flowers, thus linking the evolution of plants and insects. It was from this association that our present day flowers have developed form, color and perfume. Many flowers with their nectar held deeply in long narrow corolla-tubes rely on butterflies for cross pollination. The length of the insect's tongue equals that of the corolla-tube and ranges up to 11 inches in some tropical flowers. The simplest living creatures in the present-day world are found among the bacteria and the blue-green water weeds or algae known by the simple name of seaweed. These minute globule of living matter may be viewed only by means of a powerful lens.

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BURGESS BEDTIME

(Continued from Page 10)

many of the smaller folk in rears and fur.

Wee Bunny wandered here and there. At long last he came to the edge of the Green Forest. On the Green Meadows there were no friendly trees, only the friendly grass. Here at the edge of the Green Forest were bushes growing just outside where the tall trees grew. He didn't venture far into the Green Forest, but remained close to the edge. There he found an old log lying on the ground. It was hollow, but the hollow was not very big, just big enough for a small Rabbit to crouch in comfortably. It was a splendid place in which to keep out of sight. It was a splendid place in which to sleep. It was a splendid place in which to feel safe.

One morning he heard a new voice. It wasn't a pleasant voice. It sounded as if someone was in a bad temper. It was a scolding voice. Wee Bunny crept to the entrance of the old log and peeked out. At first, he couldn't see anyone. Then

someone ran down the trunk of the tree and stopped, head down, clinging to the trunk a few feet above ground. He was dressed in red; even his tail was red. Wee Bunny wondered how in the world he could stay on that tree head down. Why didn't he fall off? He didn't. He was just as much at home on that tree as Wee Bunny was on the ground. He was too small to be afraid of. Anyway, that is what Wee Bunny thought.

CRAPAUD W. I.

The September meeting of Crapaud Women's Institute opened with the Club Women's Creed, with the president in charge. Roll call was answered by six members. The minutes were read and approved.

The recent redecoration of the school under the direction of the Institute was discussed. The interior of both rooms had been cleaned and re-painted in beautiful yet practical color schemes, and some carpenter work was done as well. The cost of this amounted to \$140, and is being paid in full by the W. I.

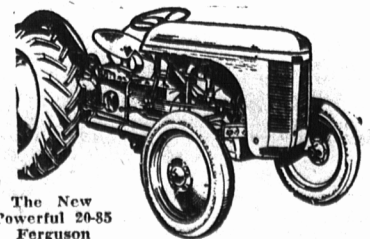
A discussion re the fiddlers' contest followed, which it is hoped will become an annual event. It was decided to sell ice cream as sundae. Prizes were to be donated to the winners by the Institute. Mrs. Maurice MacDonald was to be asked to play for the dance following, each member to help with lunch and sale of cakes. The sick committee reported calls had been made. The new sick committee is Ruth Wood and Florence MacDonald. There was no report from the school committee, as school had only recently opened.

Amy Howatt thanked the Institute for flowers and cards sent during her recent illness.

The Dental Clinic was reported in operation with Crapaud as centre. This service offered complete dental care to Grade I children.

It was reported that the piano which was then under repair in town, was ready to be returned. Collection was taken and the meeting adjourned.

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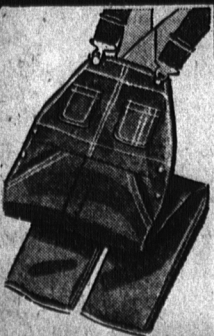
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