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SAFE PLACES IN HEAVY STORMS

Skyscrapers Recognized as Good Place to Be When Lightning Flashes Play Around.

Here's good news for skyscraper folk. The safest place in a thunderstorm is a steel frame building. That is, it's the safest place accessible to most of us. There might be a slight margin in favor of an underground cave or a compartment completely enveloped in metal network. But a modern office building, hotel or department store comes pretty near making its skyscraper lightning proof.

Not that lightning never strikes such a building. Indeed, it often shatters some modern skyscraper on its side. But there have been thunderstorms in New York which have littered downtown streets with such wreckage.

But the modern buildings themselves are such good conductors that when they are struck the people inside them never know it. Through their steel skeletons the electric fluid speeds harmlessly on its shortest possible path to the earth.

More, the skyscraper actually plays a beneficial part in a thunderstorm, says Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, chief consulting engineer of the General Electric company, since they tend to relieve by "silent discharges" the tension existing at such times between earth and sky.

If you are lightning shy, Dr. Steinmetz's conclusions will encourage you. At the same time he offers a few words of warning. While the sporting odds, based on lightning fatality statistics, are about 240,000 to 1 against any particular person being killed by lightning, it's just as well to notice where you're standing while a thunderstorm is raging.

It might not be healthy, for instance, to take up your station in a direct line between two good-sized metal objects, such as a steam radiator and an iron safe, or between either of them and a rain spout running up the side of the house. That would be a reckless invitation to some flash of lightning, either direct or indirect, to do its worst to you. For lightning prefers metal conductors on its journey to the ground and would rather leap from one metal body to another than take a direct course through nonconducting substances.

A place of special danger," says Steinmetz, "is directly beneath a hanging lamp or globe suspended from the ceiling by a chain. Lightning may follow the chain to its end and then jump off. The place where a wire clothesline enters a house may also be a danger spot, although I think this has been overemphasized.

Golf fans will be relieved to learn that the metal pieces on their clubs are too insignificant to attract the majestic attentions of a lightning stroke. Golfers caught in a thunderstorm have been known to fall in a panic and throw away their clubs, but their fears are pronounced groundless.

The behavior of lightning under various conditions has been studied systematically by Steinmetz, who was dubbed "lightning tamer" when he succeeded in producing artificial lightning in his laboratory.

"If you glory in a thunderstorm as I do, you will want to stand at a window or on the front porch and watch it," he said. "And there you will be just about as safe as anywhere else. For all the lightning flashes generated by a violent summer storm, less than 1 per cent strike the earth. The rest are confined to the sky that breeds them. Your chances of being bitten by a mad dog are probably greater than the chance that you will be struck dead by lightning. Only about 200 persons are killed by lightning in this country every year."

As for the human rabbits who seek "protection" in a thunderstorm by retreating to themselves in feather beds, the lightning expert has nothing but mild ridicule for them.

Priority of Sailing Vessel.

An ancient law of the sea held the big White Star liner *Homer* at her pier for nearly an hour, the other day, after the starting signal had sounded, and the old salts of the harbor front were greatly interested and excited. A little Nova Scotia schooner, with enough lumber aboard to make several boxes of matches, had elected to save towing fees and come into the harbor under sail, writes the New York even- ing correspondent of the *Commercial Times* Star. The wind veered to an unfavorable quarter just as the schooner was off the White Star pier, and it was necessary for the little vessel to tack for 20 minutes before she could give the big vessel a clear course. Meanwhile, the *Homer*, with thousands of passengers aboard and a cargo worth millions, was stuck at her moorings. The old and enduring law of the sea is that a sailing vessel moving without a tug, has the right of way at all times over any steamship.

Wooden Ships Live Long.

Wooden ships, notwithstanding the perils they encounter, usually outlast their builders. In the mercantile marine are a number of ships which have passed the century mark. The *True Love*, launched in England in 1704, is still afloat. The *Two Brothers*, built at Plymouth, England, in 1788, and the *Good Intent*, which took the water two years later, are still in actual service.

Robby Talk.

When you talk about your hobby, don't talk longer than five minutes about it. After five minutes, Robby talk becomes foolish.—Archibald Globe.

PELICAN RATED NAUGHTY BIRD

Excitement is rife in the wild animal community of the Yellowstone National park since the scandal about Mr. Pelican received public attention. The ducks are quacking about it, the squirrels are chattering it and the bobcats are scattering it broadcast in their shrill voices.

Throughout all the whispers and nudges of neighbors as he passes, Mr. Pelican maintains his stately mien, seemingly unconscious of the filth of the multitude. His actions would indicate he still holds his valued place in the community.

His trouble started with the charge by Prof. Harry B. Ward, head of the department of zoology of the University of Illinois, that he is a "trout hog" and violator of all the tenets of good sportsmanship. Proof of these charges probably will mean that Mr. Pelican will become an outcast with everyone's door closed to him and everyone's hand against him.

Professor Ward is conducting an exhaustive investigation for the federal bureau of fisheries at Lake Yellowstone in Yellowstone National park as to the relationship between the pelican and the trout supply. His investigation, which has been progressing several weeks, will continue through the present season.

The flock of pelicans that live and breed on Lake Yellowstone numbers about 400. They "summer" aristocratically at the lake, feasting on the best the land affords, from spring until September, then go to their winter resorts along the Gulf of Mexico.

The bird diets almost exclusively on fish, and, so far as the Yellowstone and other Rocky mountain lakes and streams are concerned, this makes it exclusively on trout. He estimates that the 400 pelicans consume more trout than are taken during an entire season by sportsmen.

The pelican is no respecter of size limits or open seasons, Professor Ward charges. He declared he had seen a platoon of 30 pelicans ranged across a stream in regular formation, preying on the trout as they swam up to spawn. Hitherto the stream had yielded trout eggs for the millions, but hatchery men this year could gather only a fraction of the normal amount.

The fact is granted that Mr. Pelican's home life is above reproach. He is a good provider, a good husband and father and is strictly monogamous. For the 300 birds in the lake flock, there are just 200 nests, one for each couple and one mate for each bird. There are no "triangles" in the Yellowstone "400."

If further investigations justify it, Professor Ward will ask the federal government to bar the pelican as summer visitors from the park.

Meteors.

Meteors, ordinarily become visible at a height of 100 miles above the earth, but are generally observed before reaching 25 miles from the surface. About one-third of the number of elemental substances which go to make up the earth's crust are found as constituents of meteors, among these being iron, sulphur, sodium, calcium, chlorine, carbon, etc. Usually the bulk is stone, but often there is a mixture of some metal iron, and in a few instances iron predominates. A meteor falling through the air is accompanied by a peculiar sound and frequently it explodes after striking the earth. Those which strike the earth comprise only a small proportion of the total number that fall. Meteors always seem to be falling downward because when they come within range of the earth's attraction they are drawn toward it and are set adrift by friction with the atmosphere. Individual particles of a meteoric stream are too small to be seen with most telescopes, as they move in an interplanetary space, and it is only when they approach earth and become luminous that we are aware of their existence.

Ten Largest States.

The ten largest states in respect to area are: Texas, California, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah.

Bridal Superstitions.

No bride will ever make her own wedding cake, if she desires to avoid misfortune, but if she cuts the first slice, good fortune is assured. If a raveling is found on the bridegroom's suit, another girl loves him, while if his tie becomes awry, it is a sign that he loves another girl.

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Marquisettes. Popular material for curtains. Plain top edge or novelty open double border, white or beige. 30 to 40 inches wide. YARD 17c

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Radiant Cretonnes. The new 36-inch fabric in a range of splendid designs for the popular Cretonne Print Dressing; also shown in designs for drapery purposes and comforter coverings. YARD 19c

Drapery Cretonnes. Attractive designs and rich color combinations. Splendid quality at a low price. YARD 17c

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FARM PROBLEMS ON DISCUSSION

(Special to The Observer—) OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CORVALLIS, Oct. 9.—County agents, specialists and leaders of the extension service, and heads of college and station departments will meet in conference October 23 to 26, announced Paul V. Marz, director of extension. The conference will plan and adopt all county projects for the next year and date up the specialists for work in the various counties for the period covered. Eighteen projects will be planned, to be carried out by committees. Half of the projects deal with problems of the farm home, rural organization, marketing, accounts and farm business and the other half with farm operations. Animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, farm crops, farm management, grasshopper and rodent control, horticulture, marketing, clothing and home water supply 23 to 26, announced Paul V. Marz, director of extension.

main lines of organized extension work.

"Mrs. Grundy."

"Mrs. Grundy" was the name of a lady in Thomas Morton's "Speed the Plow," a play written in 1708. Like Dickens' Mrs. Harris she was not a real character in the play, but every body in the play who tried to do anything that was not proper was told that "Mrs. Grundy" wouldn't like it. The expression is generally used to mean the power of other people's ideas of what is right and proper to control our own actions.

First Christian King of Europe. Lucius, a legendary king of Britain, is by a Vatican manuscript, accorded the honor of being the first Christian king in Europe. Profane historians have failed to locate him. He asked Pope Eleutherius in 182 A. D. to baptize him. This was done and he went on a proselyting tour in France which ended in martyrdom.

Jeanie Gets a Shave



On each side of the head of Jeanie, a shave is shaved regularly by George. The shave is a new shave. The shave is a new shave. The shave is a new shave.

Only 3 Days to wait for the picture worth waiting a year for.



Norma Talmadge in "Smilin' Through"

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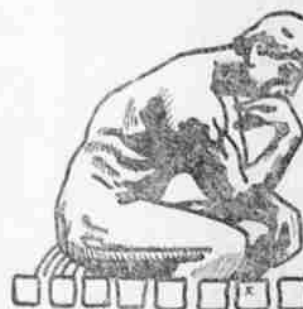
LAST DAY

Does Cave-man pay? Is it true of girls that

They Like 'Em Rough
VIOLA DANA

in this picture shows whether they do or not
A HARRY BEAUMONT Production
Comedy, "LEANED AND DRY"
Two-Reel Comedy

When you talk about your hobby, don't talk longer than five minutes about it. After five minutes, Robby talk becomes foolish.—Archibald Globe.



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Crystal White Soap Chips, 2 lbs.	.25
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Concord Grapes, basket	.39
Ground Cherries, fresh shipment, 5-lb. box	.35

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