

**Boss Cites
Erosion's Toll**

**Eventual Threat
Seen to Food Supply**

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The toll taken by erosion in the West has been taking from the supply of productive soil left little more than a thin layer of topsoil to meet the needs of the population, H. H. Bennett, soil conservation chief, said today.

The commendable progress made in such projects as the Washita Valley, Okla., soil control program, Bennett said, still remains to be done.

"We have not caught up with the rate of soil loss by erosion in the country as a whole," he said in reply to questions by Rep. Birmingham (D-Okla.) in a transcript recorded program for broadcast in Oklahoma.

Not Finished

Conservation has been compared up to the maintenance and improvement stage on about 21 1/2 percent of the farmland needing attention, he declared.

Part of the conservation work that has been done has been important, he explained. Conservation work is a continuous task until the basic conservation measures have all been applied to the land, he asserted. He added, it must be maintained and improved.

Expanding

Agriculture productive capacity is being expanded because of improved farming practices. But, he continued, if the land is not protected, the nation cannot indefinitely produce enough to maintain the good standard of living now enjoyed.

He said it would be difficult to set any exact time when the soil might run short in land.

In order to produce needed crops and other essentials, he said, the remaining productive land must be safeguarded by soil conservation measures.

Boy Sought

WALLA WALLA — (AP) — One boy volunteer pressed a search Saturday for 14-year-old Eric Eastman, missing in the Blue Mountains after finding evidence that the boy had left Boy Scout markers.

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Scientists Trap Cloud Storms To Study for Weather Effects

SOCCORO, N. M.—(AP)—Scientists are bringing thunderstorms back alive to watch them sputter in a test tube.

With that start, Dr. E. J. Workman hopes to learn how to tame lightning and possibly stop hailstorms.

The president of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, probably best known for his research on the proximity fuse, is a pioneer of scientific rainmaking. He began his study of thunderstorms in the late 30s with a fellow physicist, R. E. Wolfer, while they were at New Mexico University.

Among other things, they found lightning is caused by freezing of glaze ice in a cloud. The experiments have been carried further by workman and Stephen E. Reynolds at the thunderstorm laboratory.

They found that when ice freezes, a difference of as much as 290 volts can be measured between the ice and water not yet turned solid.

Impurities in rainwater—there is no such thing as pure water—tear the water molecules apart. One part of the molecule gets a positive electrical charge, the other part has a negative charge. When these charged molecules are frozen, the charge builds up as the ice mass grows, and boom—you've got lightning!

But this was learned in the lab. To test their theory, Workman and his colleagues flew a B-17 into the business end of a thunderstorm.

The plane was struck and the scientists were happy. They collected cloud samples—a mixture of supercooled water, snow and hail.

Supercooled water, they explain, is water that is below the freezing point but not frozen because it has no crystals to form ice around.

One day, after bringing their thunderstorm down to earth, the scientists were going through a routine experiment. Suddenly the laboratory looked like Alaska in December, scene of a miniature blizzard.

Checking, they discovered that there was some ammonia in the air from an earlier experiment. Purposely they released more ammonia gas, and presto, another blizzard.

Apparently, the ammonia calmed the lightning and caused snow instead. Reynolds theorized that if there were enough ammonia in a cloud, lightning might be eliminated altogether. The theory is being pursued.

One thing is known: There is more ammonia in the air over wooded areas than over the desert of New Mexico. This possibly is the reason there is more rainfall over such areas than over the desert.

One reason silver iodide has been used in cloud seeding is that like ammonia, it gives the air something to latch on to and give off moisture—when it's used correctly.

The Signal Corps, cooperating in the experiments, is furnishing an airplane for use in gathering further data. But so far there hasn't been the right kind of thunderstorm in this area to allow extensive field work.

Such results as have been obtained, however, indicate that electricity is generated whenever moisture is released from a cloud. Workman and Company, under Signal Corps sponsorship, are continuing research in this direction. But the scientists caution:

POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD

TACOMA—(AP)—A Bronze Star for bravery in action was presented posthumously to Cpl. Everett L. Elmore of Carlton, Ore., at ceremonies at Fort Lewis Saturday. The award was received by his father, George L. Elmore.

DON'T forget Jaycee-stiles Rummage Sale at 31 W. 7th, Oct. 23.

"With all the interest in rain for arid regions, we do not yet know enough about nature's devices to apply weather engineering to the atmosphere. We need to know more of the things one finds out by being curious about nature."

If being curious about nature is all it takes, Workman should find out. He went one step farther than Benjamin Franklin, who started it all with his kite 194 years ago. Workman went up with the kite and brought the lightning back.

The Sour Notes

MONTREAL — (AP) — A speaker at the Notre Dame Community Council, discussing the train whistle nuisance, said some residents of the district suspect that some of the "unnecessary tooting" may simply be signals such as one train engineer telling a pal down the line that he won \$10 in the poker game the night before. He said they communicated by a sort of Morse code.

Skeleton Clues To Be Studied

DALLAS, Ore.—(AP)—A skeleton in a shallow grave near the railway station at Valsetz may answer a 40-year-old question: What happened to A. K. Handy? Coroner Paul Billman said he would ask the state crime laboratory at Portland to study the bones, unearthed from where they had lain for, apparently, many years. A resident of the area said Indians never went into that area, after a white beaver was sighted there. The only known missing person was A. K. Handy who went hunting and didn't come back.

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Voters Okay Medford Airport Work Bonds

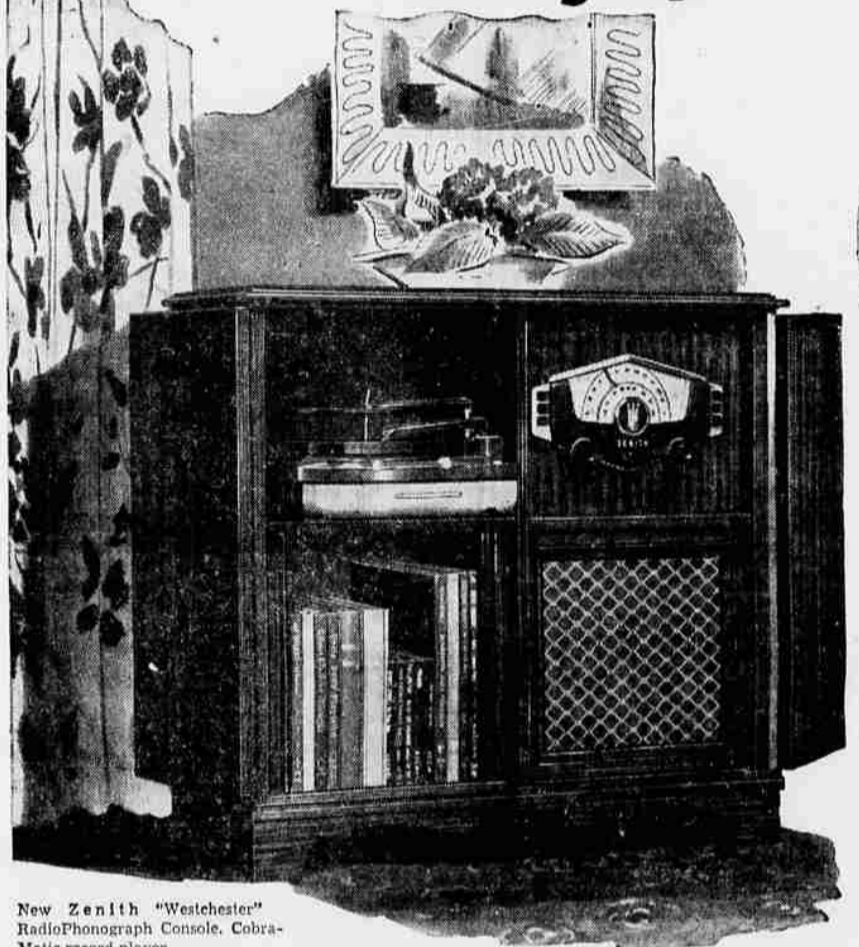
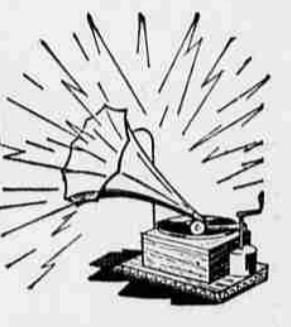
MEDFORD — (AP) — Medford voters Friday, by a vote of 1210 to 202, authorized the city to issue \$250,000 worth of general obligation bonds which will be used for improvement and repairs to the Medford Airport.

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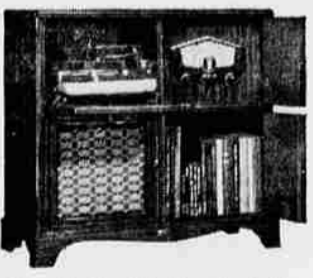
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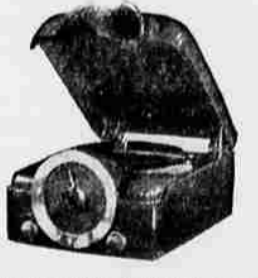
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