

MOTHER NATURE'S FLYING MACHINE

Long-Range Bombers Have Nothing on the Arctic Tern

Washington, Nov. 2 (AP)—Mother Nature has taken no part in the B-36 controversy, but she could say a thing or two about it if she wished.

The air force people boast of the B-36's range—a little more than 10,000 miles. But Mother Nature has had a little half-pound flying machine, the Arctic Tern, which makes two 11,000-mile flights a year—not non-stop, but even so that's some flying. The bird summers in the Arctic

and winters in the Antarctic.

Its seasonal migration, which is going on right now, is the longest of any bird. Arctic terns from Alaska and other western parts of North America fly directly south. But those who summer in Eastern North America make a mysterious side-trip to Europe and Africa before heading for the South Pole.

You practically never find an Arctic Tern on the Atlantic coast of North America south of northern Massachusetts.

One theory about this side-trip is that the Arctic Tern's ancestors came from Europe. So before they take up their winter residence in the Antarctic, they make a sentimental journey home. They fly east across the Atlantic towards Scotland or France, then sail south along the western coast of Europe and Africa.

People have known practically nothing about the trail of the tern until the past 20 years or so. It was known that they turned up seasonally in the Arctic and Antarctic, but the course they took was not understood until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began banding the birds, in cooperation with similar foreign agencies.

Numbered anklets are fastened to the birds, and a record is kept of where the banding took place. About 7,848 Arctic terns have been banded. And 10 or 12 of them have been recovered at long distances, in Europe or Africa. One of the birds which had been banded in 1929 was recovered in 1946.

Arctic terns don't fly non-stop.

They are water fowl, so they can snooze or feed on the ocean. From the record of one banding, it was learned that a tern took three months to fly from Labrador to Southeast Africa.

They are relatively slow, cruise at from 30 to 35 miles per hour. They seem to fly rather low in flocks at an altitude of about 100 feet.

They are the size of a small gull, with long wings and a long, forked tail. They are pure white underneath and pearl gray on top. Their feet and bills are red, and the top of their head is black—looks like a little derby hat.

They are great lovers. When the male is courting, he brings food to the female, presenting it to her with a playful little ceremony. While she is brooding the eggs, he continues to feed her—and keeps up the same little courtship ceremony.

Arctic terns lay their eggs near the North Pole, on small sandy islands or in the snow on the ice pack.

Scientists can only guess at the reasons for their long migrations. It might be a matter of food supply. Or daylight saving. Or a combination of both.

At any rate, moving from pole to pole, where they get almost 24 hours of daylight in mid-summer and mid-winter, they probably see more of the sun than any other creature.



His Hobby Is Junk—Carving Chinese junks is the hobby of Hollywood film actor Milburn Morante. He makes them from sugar pine. Sails are made of silk then varnished.

Norblad Scores Denfeld Ouster

Portland, Nov. 2 (AP)—Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore) said here yesterday the house armed services committee may reopen hearings when congress reconvenes.

He said the dismissal of Adm. Louis Denfeld might be taken up, but he said he doubted anything could come of the situation which he called a "damned shame."

The Oregon representative, a member of the committee that heard naval, air force and army officers on unification disputes, doubted the hearings harmed national security. This had been charged in some Washington circles because of the publicity given the testimony.

Norblad said, however, that removal of Adm. Denfeld from his previous job was "contrary to the promises" made by civilian chiefs of the military services. He said the committee sought to get honest opinions from military leaders without the opinions being cleared through department heads.

"I'm afraid," he said, "it may lapse right back to where it was before. High officers will be afraid to speak honest opinions in fear of reprisals."

To Check Drifting Sand in Siuslaw

Portland, Nov. 2 (AP)—A project to keep shifting dune sand from blowing into the Siuslaw river, creating navigation and drainage problems, was reported today.

Under an agreement announced by Daniel L. Goldy, regional director of the bureau of land management, public lands at the mouth of the Siuslaw river will be planted to beach grass, Scotch broom and other grasses.

Others cooperating are the Siuslaw state soil conservation district, Lane county, the federal soil conservation service, the forest service and the port of Florence port commission.

Goldy said this is the first cooperative project of its kind the bureau has entered into in the Pacific northwest and might set a pattern on conservation projects on public lands.

Woodsmen in swampy countries drink the sap flowing from a broken grapevine instead of water.

DEEP IN MOSLEM AREA

Nile Sands Believed Hiding Story of Ancient Christians

Khartoum, Sudan (AP)—The unwritten story of an ancient Christian civilization in Africa may be buried beneath the desert sands around Karima and Dongola, on the banks of the Nile.

Disturbed only by the hooves of occasional gazelle, this wilderness is believed to conceal the history of a people who populated the area thickly until 1340 A.D.

The people built cities, had their own particular culture and kept an outpost of Christendom flourishing in the depths of the Moslem-controlled Middle East for nearly 800 years.

An amateur archeologist has set out with camels and Sudanese bearers to survey the area at his own expense. He is Terence Gray, a wealthy Irishman, resident of the south of France.

His purpose is to collect as many "clues" as possible about this civilization and then to report to P. L. Shinnie, archeology commissioner for the Sudan government.

Gray's finds, though not sensational, have convinced Shinnie that a full-scale scientific expedition should be sent out to the Karima area.

"It will fill in a blank chapter of history if such an expedition is financed," Shinnie said.

If the expedition is not sent, it is likely that the "blank chapter" never will be written. The Egyptian government is almost certain to start construction of a new dam in the locality soon, and the site of Shinnie's proposed investigations will be flooded by the waters of the Nile.

The archeology commissioner has drawn up a detailed plan for a large expedition, armed with equipment for digging deep enough to fold back the desert from the remains of temples and burial grounds which he feels certain lie under the sands.

It is believed that the Christian population of this extinct nation were Nubians. They were converted by missionaries of Greek extraction who were sent by the Empress Theodora of Constantinople, in 540 A.D.

Theodora was at one time a harlot dancing girl, but became a devout and active Christian after her marriage to the emperor, Constantine, or Byzantium, was at that time the capital of the eastern half of the split Roman empire.

It is amazing, Shinnie said, to realize that, while the western world was besieged by the forces of uncivilized barbarians Theodora's missionaries were able to reach the Sudan and found the Christian community.

The Christian civilization is believed to have been finally overrun in the middle of the 14th century by Moslem forces from the north.

No massacres are known to have taken place, and the reason for the gradual degeneration

WHY ARE STINGS FATAL?

Girl Student Wins Master's Degree for Wasp Stings

Waco, Tex. (AP)—Carol McCall rounded up more than 3,000 wasps and even went so far as to persuade a lot of them to sting her.

It was for the sake of science, and the master's degree in biology which Baylor university subsequently awarded her.

Miss McCall set out to determine why wasp stings sometimes result in death.

Most people, she found, need have no fear of a wasp sting.

But there have been, in 1949, several deaths in Texas caused by wasp venom and Miss McCall wondered why.

She has yet to find the answer, except in the vague sense that "allergy to wasp venom" might be it. And how to determine if you are allergic without actually being stung?

"It's a mere theory, but I suspect that if you are allergic to pollen, food proteins or other factors, the odds favor your being allergic to wasp venom," she said.

"And the reaction will be even more severe if the stinger reaches into the veins of the allergic person, allowing the venom to circulate quickly throughout the body."

In her research, Miss McCall exposed herself to possible severe reaction by extracting venom from wasps and injecting it into her own veins.

Besides allergy, she raised another possible factor by studying circumstances of death that resulted from wasp stings.

A Marine, home on leave, was hunting when he was fatally stung.

A farmer was pitching hay, and a young boy was romping in the yard at his home when wasps killed them.

"Perhaps over-exertion, or fatigue, plays a part in severity of the reaction," she said.

Farmer Amputates Own Right Hand

Newcastle, Ind., Nov. 2 (AP)—Charles, Rothrock, 65-year-old farmer, amputated his own right hand with a picket knife after it became caught in a corn picking machine Monday.

Rothrock's wife lost both her legs in the same corn picker in 1942.

Rothrock, after freeing himself, ran a quarter of a mile to the home of a brother and was taken to a hospital. His condition was reported fair.

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Rothrock's wife, Clara, pulled into the machine so years ago when her legs caught in its blades. Both legs were amputated.

After her husband had been taken to the hospital, Mrs. Rothrock said: "Lots of people had the worst luck than we do."

Dutoit Heads Club

Sunnyside—New officers elected for the Sunnyside Community club are president, Raymond Dutoit; vice president, Ed Deger; chairman of executive committee, Margaret Neunschwander. Other members, Geo. Veall, Isabel Barnett, Irv. Bunse.

Birth rates in 1948 were 10 to ten percent lower than 1947, according to the Britannica Book of the Year.

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Wedding Ring Sought by Veep

St. Louis, Nov. 2 (AP)—Vice President Barkley still hasn't found the kind of wedding ring he wants for his bride-to-be.

Barkley and Mrs. Carleton S. Hadley, 38, who announced their marriage date Sunday, shopped for a ring yesterday. But they were unable to find just what they wanted.

The wedding date is Nov. 18. Barkley said he planned to be "floating around this area between now and the wedding."

"I might be in St. Louis over next week-end," he added. "I'll be in Chicago next Monday giving a speech. Also I plan to spend some time in Kentucky."

After the wedding, the "Veep" and his bride will move to Barkley's home near Paducah, Ky. The place is known as "The Angles."

Forest Fires Under Control

(By United Press)

A thousand weary volunteers slowed a forest fire sweeping through California's San Fernando valley like a blazing "tidal wave" today and woodland blazes in South Dakota and Wisconsin also were battled under control.

Fire fighters from the Los Angeles area battled on a 10-mile front to save five San Fernando communities from flames which started Monday in Box canyon, scene of a similar fire two years ago.

On another fire front, relief crews prepared to take over the job of stemming flames which destroyed two ranch buildings and threatened others on Battle mountain, near Hot Springs, S. D.

Meanwhile, backfires built by volunteers workers halted the second forest fire to strike Wisconsin's Marathon county in two days. The blaze ravaged 2,000 acres in the southern part of the county near Wausau. Another burned over 400 acres last Saturday.

Fighters in California were hampered by a 90-degree temperatures and low humidity, both encouraging to spread of the San Fernando fire.

Also, the flames were fanned by shifting gusts of winds, touching 40 miles an hour, as they spread over 10,000 acres of the valley.

One observer said the intruding flames looked like "a tidal wave of fire."

Plan Dedication of Big Tillamook Dairy

Tillamook, Nov. 2 (AP)—Dairy farmers of the Tillamook County Creamery association will celebrate the 60th anniversary of commercial cheese production in the state Friday by dedicating a \$1,500,000 plant here.

The operation is one of the nation's most modern dairy production plants. It will add to the facilities used by the association's 800 dairy herds.

The plant will process grade A milk as well as cheese. The association is the largest cheddar cheese manufacturer in the west.

It is believed that the petrified forest of Arizona was once covered by a sea at which time the tissue of the trees was replaced by stone.



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