

RIVERS IN THE AIR

Curious Play of the Winds in the Yosemite Valley.

EBB AND FLOW WITH THE SUN

These Air Currents or Air Falls Are So Regular That They May Almost Be Timed—Mirror Lake and the Spray Combs at Bridal Veil Falls.

Did you know there are air falls in the atmosphere just as real and apparent as are the waterfalls you have so often viewed with admiration and delight because of their natural beauty? In the famed Yosemite valley the most interesting feature is, to the scientist perhaps, its winds.

The winds there are seldom more than light zephyrs, moody and capricious to the ordinary tourist, but when rightly understood one of the wonders of the valley. These interesting facts are told by Professor F. E. Matthes of the United States geological survey in the Sierra Club Bulletin.

In no other place in the entire world perhaps are the air currents more systematic and regular than in the Yosemite valley, he says. In the first place, the sun naturally heats the ground more rapidly than it does the air. Thus every hillside basking in the sun becomes a heat radiator and gradually warms the air above it, so that the air, becoming lighter, begins to rise.

But under these conditions the air does not rise vertically because the air directly over it is still cool and is pressing downward. Therefore up the sides of the warm slope the heated air makes its way. That is why the tourist making his way up the mountain slope with the sun on his back finds his own dust traveling upward with him in a choking cloud.

But on coming down the same trail, when the face of the slope is in the shadow, the dust ever descends with the traveler in the same irritating cloud. When the face of the mountain is in the shade the air is cooling from the face of the slope and is pressing its way down into the valley.

Just as soon as the sun leaves the slope of the mountain the earth begins to lose its heat by radiation and in a very short time is really cooler than the air. The layer of air next the face of the hillside chills by contact with the earth and, becoming heavier as it condenses, begins to press down along the slope. Thus there are normally the warm up draft on the sunny slope and the cold down draft on the side in the shadow. In a windless region like the Yosemite this rule may be depended upon at almost any time.

But in the Yosemite, with its bold cliff topography, these upward and downward air currents are somewhat interrupted. On every sunny slope bold cliffs create shadows, and consequently there are downward air currents or local breezes daily at regular hours as the shadows come and go.

Glacier Point is one place in particular in which Professor Matthes says this shadowy effect on the air currents may readily be tested by casting small bits of paper into the air. As the afternoon wears on and the shadows in the valley gather the cold draft in the hills pours downward, forming the valley like a great river and flowing on to the plains below. Every side canyon and valley sends its re-enforcements, like the tributaries of a great river, to this general air current flowing onward to the plain.

With the return of the morning sun the earth at the tops of the hills is warmed and the downward current in the air is suspended. The up draft soon begins as the sun shines into the valleys. The air currents are so regular that they may almost be timed.

Few realize, says the author of the paper, that it is on these reversing air currents that one of the chief attractions of the Yosemite depends. Mirror lake, to be viewed at its best, must be seen in the early dawn, when the reflections are most perfect.

The lake is stillest and its surface most mirror-like when the cold night currents have ceased and the uprising day currents of air have not yet begun. Yet unless one is punctual he will miss the chief beauty of the place, for this perfect stillness is as brief as the turn of the tide.

In the evening and during the night, when the down draft of air from the mountain sides is strong, the stream of cool air pressing down the slope plunges over cliffs, just as water is seen to fall from similar heights. On either the Yosemite falls or the Nevada falls trails this air fall curiosity is readily encountered in the evening.

During the daytime, on the other hand, the air rises vertically along the cliffs and up into the hanging valleys, taking part of the spray from the falls along with it. A pretty example of the air carrying the spray from the fall upward may be seen at Bridal Veil falls, where two little combs of spray, one on each side of the stream, steadily curve upward over the brink. As soon as the sun is off the cliff these spray combs cease to exist.

An Attraction.
"I hear your new minister is very efficient."
"Oh, yes."
"How about his wife? Is she doing anything to bring people to church?"
"Indeed she is! Wears a different gown every Sunday."—Washington Herald.

Gossip is a beast of prey that does not wait for the death of the creature it devours.—George Meredith.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Work has begun in earnest on construction of the Oregon Electric road between Junction City and the Willamette river near Harrisburg.

The senate public buildings committee has reported favorably bills authorizing a public building at Corvallis to cost \$109,000 and one at Klamath Falls, at \$112,000.

That a woman may act as postmaster in Oregon at the age of 18 years is the substance of an opinion furnished by Attorney General Crawford to the postoffice department at Washington.

The Klamath Development company has been incorporated to amalgamate several interests heretofore not included in it. The corporation now controls interests said to aggregate \$50,000,000.

Owing to the inability of a number of prominent educators to be in Salem March 12, the date for the conference proposed by the Oregon State Federation of Labor committee has been changed to April 2.

The office of state architect, created by the present state board, effected a saving of \$8650 for the state in the course of its first year's business, according to a statement prepared by State Architect Knighton.

Marion county Democrats in mass meeting adopted a resolution favoring the abolishment of the office of county recorder, declaring it to be a useless appendage in county government and therefore a needless expense.

Charles A. Barrett, who recently made a sensational confession to Governor West as to the bullion robbery on the steamer Humboldt in 1916, was paroled by the governor and turned over to the United States government.

The first cougar to fall in the war of extermination in Umatilla county declared against predatory beasts by the state game authorities and local sheepmen was a female weighing 150 pounds and measuring seven feet from tip to tip.

Senator Chamberlain has introduced a bill reciting that no action to forfeit the title given by the Central Pacific railroad for lands in the Astoria-McMinnville grant shall be valid unless instituted within 90 days after passage of the proposed act.

The trout streams of the state will be thrown open to fishermen of Oregon April 1. The open season for salmon in the Willamette river also begins on that date. The season for steelheads is now on in the Willamette and Columbia rivers, but catches are light.

Governor West has announced the appointment of Dr. W. H. Lytle, Pendleton; Dr. S. B. Foster, Portland; and Dr. Robert E. Hunt, La Grande, as members of the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Board. The appointees will hold office until July 20, 1915, the appointments being for four years.

Holding that the land was more valuable for agricultural purposes than for its mineral, the secretary of the interior has forwarded a decision to Roseburg in which he sustains the findings of the general land office and the Roseburg land office in the contest case instituted by A. H. Howard against Frederick Cook.

With \$459,416 outstanding warrants against the general fund marked "not paid for want of funds," and with only \$13,498 now in the fund, the state again finds itself confronted by the problem of paying interest on large sums of money owing as a result of the present system of segregating and keeping idle various funds.

Plans and maps of the dam and canal known as the north canal diversion in connection with the Central Oregon Irrigation company's Carey act project near Bend have been filed with the state engineer for his approval. The dam and short feeder canal comprise an important key to the entire project, much of which is already under irrigation.

The fight of the Baker lumber mill interests, backed by the Baker commercial club, to prevent the Sumpter Valley railroad company, which is also interested in the lumber business in Baker, from putting other mills out of business by refusing to haul logs from the timber districts has been carried to the state railroad commission in a complaint filed by the Baker commercial club.

The interstate commerce commission has begun further inquiry into Southern Pacific freight rates between California and Oregon points. At a previous hearing the carriers sought to justify the present rates, but the commission was not satisfied and ordered the production of further testimony. The commercial interests are represented by W. R. Wheeler of San Francisco and E. M. Cousins of Portland.

Answering several questions propounded to him with relation to the short weight law in the state by Dairy and Food Commissioner Bailey, Attorney General Crawford, among other things, gives it as his opinion that under the law, not only dealers who sell short weight California butter are subject to prosecution, but also agents who solicit for California manufacturers, and who have nothing more to do with the transaction than to take the order.

SCHOOL BENEFIT FOR BALL TEAM NETS \$90

The minstrel show given at the school house for the benefit of the school ball team last Friday was a great success and netted the boys something like \$90 with which they will purchase uniforms and other paraphernalia for the coming season.

The show itself was great and a credit to the school. About 400 people attended it and all were highly pleased. Those deserving of special mention were: Lance Manning as a Jew, Frank Wright as a Dutchman, Opal Hall soloist, and the teachers, the Misses Eade, Shinn and Francis Smith.

DEATH OF PROMINENT LATOURELL WOMAN

Mrs. Ida Kristina Westlund, of Latourell Falls, Oregon, who died March 8th, 1912, was born in Berget Smoland, Sweden September 22, 1872 age 39 years, 5 months and 15 days. Deceased came to this country about 10 years ago and was married to Ole Westlund, of this place. There was born to the union two children, one daughter and one son, and is survived by two step-sons and husband, and also a sister of Seattle Wash., Mrs. Hilda Smith and an Aunt of Forest Grove, Oregon, Mrs. J. A. Peterson, and one brother and mother of her birth place in Sweden.

Swedish papers will please copy.

BASEBALL DANCE HERE MARCH 23

A baseball dance will be given under the auspices of the Second Team of this place at the Grange Hall, Saturday eve, March 23. All kinds of good things are in store for those who attend and if it happens that you don't dance come out and "root" for you will have all kinds of fun. Shashall's orchestra will furnish the music. Tickets only 50c.

The Scorpion's Fainting Fit.

The scorpion that is placed in the center of a ring of coals does not commit suicide by stinging himself to death as has been claimed. In lands where the scorpion abounds it is a regular pastime among countrymen to ring a scorpion with fire and watch him commit, as is believed, the happy dispatch. Nevertheless the scorpion has the last laugh and not the spectator. The scorpion, though an inhabitant of torrid regions, is so delicately organized that a very slight increase above the normal temperature produces a condition in him analogous to a fainting fit. Driven desperate by the heat, he lashes his tail wildly, giving the impression that he is plunging his sting into his own body. Then he falls motionless. As a presumably dead scorpion has no further interest for the spectators, he is usually left where he has fallen, and after the fire has died down he recovers and crawls away.—Harper's.

A Novel Trap.

A short time ago a hunter found in a patch of woods in Connecticut eleven large blacksnakes tied up in hard knots and stone dead. Two telegraph wires ran through the woods overhead, and a few days before there had been a heavy blast set off in a quarry near by. This broke down the wires and started a colony of blacksnakes from their slumbers in a neighboring ledge. One of the wires was crossed in a distant city by a trolley wire, and hence the broken wires which lay near the snakes' den made a death trap. When the snakes came to the wires trailing on the ground one after another crossed over them, touching the ends of both wires at the same time. They thus "short circuited" them and received a shock which caused death. Immediately upon being shocked each snake curled up in a hard knot, thus opening the circuit and setting the trap again.

Life in Virginia in 1648.

In the old days in this country farming and manufacturing were carried on together to a very large extent. A letter written from Virginia in 1648 gives the following picture of life on the plantation of a certain Captain Matthews, a leading citizen of the colony: "He hath a fine house and all things answerable to it. He sows yearly store of hemp and flax and causes it to be spun. He keeps weavers and hath a tan house, causes leather to be dressed, hath eight shoemakers employed in their trade, hath forty negro servants and brings them up to trades in his house. He yearly sows abundance of wheat, barley, etc. The wheat he selleth at 4 shillings the bushel. He kills store of beeves and sells them to victual the ships when they come thither. He hath abundance of kine, a brave dairy, swine great store and poultry."

The Barking Wolf.

The prairie wolf, the coyote of the Mexicans, is the American representative of the old world jackal. It is thirty-six to forty inches long, with a tall measuring sixteen to eighteen inches. Its color is usually a yellowish gray on the back and sides, with black cloudings. The under parts and inside of limbs are of a dirty white tint. The cry is a sort of snapping bark, and for this reason the animal is known as the barking wolf. It lives and breeds in burrows and has its young in April, often ten at a time. It hunts in packs and is very fleet.

A POPULAR ROUGH CAST BUNGALOW.

Design 951, by Glenn L. Saxton, Architect, Minneapolis, Minn.



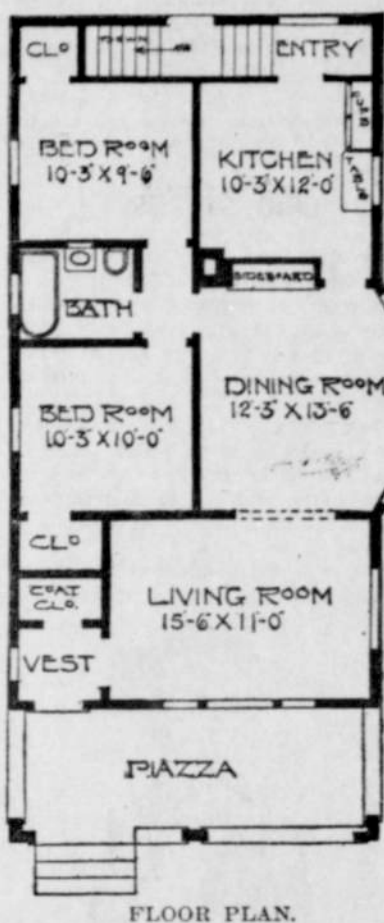
© by Glenn L. Saxton.

PERSPECTIVE VIEW—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

People who have lived in flat buildings will appreciate the convenience of this plan of having all the rooms on one floor. This plan has been built a number of times and has proved a very popular home, being well arranged and economical to build. Full basement under entire house; first story nine feet. There could be one room finished in the attic by putting in a stairway from the closet in the rear of the back bedroom running up over the stairs going to the basement. Finish throughout in red oak or birch with maple floors. Size, 22 by 42 feet.

Can be built for \$1,800, exclusive of heating and plumbing.

Upon receipt of \$1 the publisher of this paper will supply a copy of Saxton's book of plans entitled "American Dwellings." The book contains 254 new and up to date designs of cottages, bungalows and residences costing from \$1,000 to \$8,000.



FLOOR PLAN.

SEE—
C. P. McGREW
for
Plumbing & Gas Fitting
JOSEPH GETTING
for
Electric Wiring & Fixtures
SHOP GRAYS CROSSING
Wireman's Phone Tabor 1515 Plumber's Phone Tabor 1587

Neal Swetland
WOOD SAWING
Prompt Attention and the Best of Work : : : :
HOME PHONE 3511 TABOR 1028

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