

'Ideal Flower' For U. S. Found

Developed After 46 Years' Work by Burbank Kin In California.

SAN FRANCISCO.—After 46 years of searching and hybridizing of flowers, David Burpee, cousin of the late Luther Burbank, believes he has at last developed the "ideal American flower."

Burpee, whose flower ranch is in Santa Barbara county, comes from a long line of flower experts. Besides his relationship to the late Luther Burbank, his father also was a distinguished hybridist.

"I was only 15," he said, "when my father offered me a prize of \$1,000 if I would develop a yellow sweet pea. I never earned that \$1,000, but my work along that line started me in my search for a flower that would survive the heat and cold of all parts of the United States and have at the same time sufficient beauty to make it the country's ideal flower."

It's the Marigold.

It was 30 years later, he said, that he finally found it.

"It was the marigold, but it took years and years of further search and hybridizing to perfect it to what I wanted. In the first place, it had many serious disadvantages, the most serious of which was its odor. This, I discovered, came from little oil sacks on the under side of the leaves."

Burpee then began a world-wide search for a marigold that did not have this disagreeable scent. This was carried on for several years, and finally abandoned.

"Within a month after I quit my search," Burpee said, "I received a letter from a missionary in China who had discovered an odorless marigold. I had him rush me some seeds and planted them at once on my California ranch."

The first flower was small and was sterile. But there was no odor. "In the next one, however, a mutation occurred and produced a flower with female reproductive parts, but no male parts," he said.

Crossed With French Flower.

"I then conceived the idea of crossing the French marigold—a small red flower with male reproductive parts only—with the large African marigold, which was yellow."

"This was done by planting a five-acre field in alternate rows of French and African marigolds and then putting 600,000 bees in the field."

The result, Burpee said, is a beautiful red and gold hybrid. They have been flown across the Atlantic to see if they would stand the change of temperatures and climate with complete success, and he is confident that he now has the ideal flower that will thrive in all parts of the United States.

Daring New York Youths End Long Canoe Voyage

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA.—Richard Slobodin, 24, and Robert Fuller, 27, two New York "city slickers" who made an amazing 6,000-mile trek by canoe from New York to Alaska, can lay potent claims to any existing long-distance water-hitch-hiking records.

Slobodin, an anthropological student, revealed he and Fuller, a sculptor, had "thumbed" rides on other vessels over lengthy portions of their 13-month trip.

"We paddled along thousands of miles," said Slobodin, "but our progress was helped by lifts on yachts, steamships, scows and barges."

Over one portion of their cruise, which took them up the Hudson river, through the Erie canal and the Great Lakes and through northern waters, their canoe was towed by a Syrian trader's scow from Fort Smith to Great Slave lake, Slobodin recounted. He and Fuller served as members of the scow's crew.

Once the two reversed the procedure and took a passenger, a gold miner bound for Yellowknife, down the Athabasca river with them in the canoe.

Sumatra Finch Found; Long Believed Extinct

PHILADELPHIA.—A species of finch, which was believed extinct as result of a Sumatra volcanic eruption in 1902, has been added to the collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

The yellow throated, brown-bodied bird was discovered by members of the party of George W. Vanderbilt, millionaire explorer, and named "Serinus Estherae Vanderbilt."

College Men Win From Co-ed Rivals at Bridge

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—Men, it seems, are better players than women, according to a University of Minnesota bridge tourney, where men players carried off all top honors at duplicate contract.

Co-eds attributed their complete rout at the hands of the male players to "too much talking at sorority bridge parties, which spoils our game." The men students said they played less frequently but made more a science of it.

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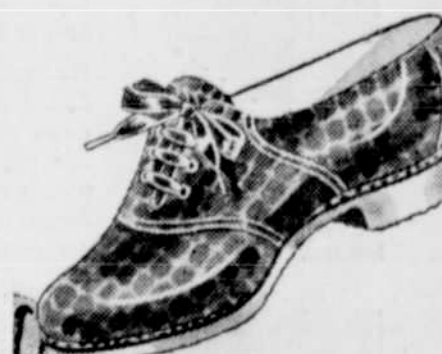
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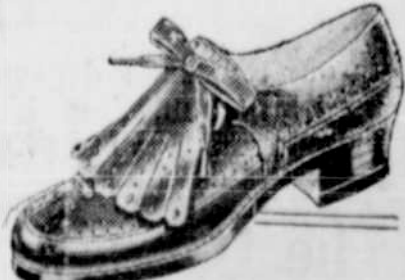
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