

Rainmaker and Associates Disclaim Responsibility For East's Wet Weekends

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
Washington — (U.P.) — You can stop blaming rainmaker Irving Langmuir for those wet weekends we've been having.

Dr. Langmuir hasn't been in the rainmaking business for nearly a year, now, so the blame isn't his.

A while back Langmuir said out in Tucson, Ariz., that when he and his associates seeded clouds in the west on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, it rained in the east on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

A lot of people, reading what Langmuir said, wished fervently that he and his cloud-seeders would pack up their dry ice and crawl into a deep-freeze or something.

Project Ended in '51
What the dispatches did not note is the fact that the cloud-seeding project Langmuir was talking about came to an end in July, 1951. The seeding he did was part of Project Cirrus, supported by the Army and the Office of Naval Research.

Langmuir's theory stems from seeding carried out periodically from December, 1949, to last July. He contends that his once-a-week seeding in New Mexico caused seven-day rain cycles in this half of the country.

The weather bureau thinks he's wrong and has told him, citing its reasons. But many persons figured he might be right and, believing he was still messing with the weather, complained to their congressmen.

Wants Dry Week Ends

Sen. Blair Moody (D-Mich.) demanded on Saturday that Defense Secretary Robert A. Lovett make Langmuir change his timing so the senator's Michigan constituents could have some dry week ends.

As a matter of fact, Langmuir did change his seeding days once while the project was still going on. According to his way of thinking, the change should have been reflected by a shift in rainy days in the east. Dr. Harry Wexler, chief of the weather bureau's Scientific Services division, said this was the "acid test" of Langmuir's seven-day cycle theory.

Analyzed More Data
But, said Wexler, "We analyzed a lot more data than Langmuir had access to and we could find no evidence of the shift."

It is true, Wexler said, that in the 18 months of Langmuir's seeding experiments seven-day rain cycles did show up at times in the east.

But such cycles "are by no means unusual" and, he added, study of records going back 40 to 50 years show they have occurred frequently in the past, "long before cloud-seeding ever was thought of."

One thing is certain: You can't blame Langmuir for this spring's spoiled picnics. He hasn't been testing his theories this year.

Draft Board Rules Against Bible Quote

Greenville, S. C. — (U.P.) — A 20-year-old newly-married youth called on the Bible in appealing his 1-A draft classification before the selective service board here.

The husband in requesting reclassification, cited the fifth verse from the 24th chapter of Deuteronomy which reads: "When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business, but he shall be free at home one year and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken."

The board refused to grant the request on the grounds that selective service laws must take precedence.

17,278 Oregonians In Traffic Court During 5 Months

Salem — (U.P.) — Driving violations of Oregon motorists kept file clerks and typists in the state drivers license division busy in the first five months of this year, officials have reported.

In that time, the division recorded 17,278 traffic violation convictions on driving records of Oregonians. The figure exceeds that for the similar period last year by nearly 2000.

Spots Trouble-Makers
Keeping tabs on traffic convictions makes it possible for license officials to spot potential highway trouble-makers, the division said. If a driver becomes what is known as a "repeater," his driver's license may be suspended.

May convictions alone totaled 3762, a figure surpassed to date only by the 4721 convictions reported in March.

232 Licenses Suspended
During May the secretary of state's department suspended 232 licenses after court convictions of driving while drunk, and 20 for reckless driving.

Other reasons for suspension last month included: violation of the basic rule, 11; hit and run, 4; failure to yield right of way, 2; and driving record too many accidents or violations, 5.

TRAIN HAS BIRTHDAY

Chicago (U.P.) — Individual birthday cakes were served to about 500 passengers of the Illinois Central's Panama Limited as the train celebrated its 10th anniversary as a streamliner. The railroad said that the train, which runs between Chicago and New Orleans, has run about 7,000,000 miles on 7,306 trips.



ALY'S NEXT?—Lilliana Zafferani, 17-year-old stenographer of Milan, Italy, told newsmen that Aly Khan proposed to her and "I am going to say yes." She said the prince wants to marry her after he and Rita Hayworth are divorced.

Family Argument Ends in Shooting Of Portland Man

Portland — (U.P.) — Melvin Evans, 51, was jailed on a murder charge Saturday after admitting shooting his 28-year-old stepson with a rifle at the height of a family argument.

The victim, Roy Baker, died at Good Samaritan hospital following the shooting in the family's duplex apartment. Baker's mother, Mrs. Elmer Evans, 45, and her cousin, Mrs. Stella Jackson, 44, Klamath Falls, were held as material witnesses.

Police said Baker entered the apartment early Saturday and apparently was upbraided by Mrs. Evans for his drinking and indifference toward contributing to support of the family. The mother said he struck her several times as his anger mounted and she obtained a rifle from a cabinet.

Evans had awakened by that time and wrestled the rifle from his wife and stepson.

Evans ordered Baker from the house, but the stepson — who wore a hook in place of his right hand which was amputated a year ago — was quoted as saying, "I'll knock your head off with this hook."

The stepfather fired the rifle at pointblank range.

Aosta, Italy — (U.P.) — Four persons were killed here Monday by a landslide which threatened to cause a flood in the Bi-naz valley near the Swiss border.

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