

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Of the many kinds of bad weather, fog invariably gives us more trouble particularly during this month of November. Against it man has been able to do next to nothing; it grounds his air armada, immobilizes his ships, ties up automobile traffic and kills more motorists than any other weather hazard.

Yet fog has its blessings—in a cool night it may quickly deposit five tons of refreshing moisture on a single parched acre.

Between the fog near the cloud floating on high, there is essentially no difference; both consist of moisture suspended in air. Mainly, it is produced in two ways—the evaporation of warm water into cold air and by cooling warm moist air with a resulting condensation of vapor.

Generally fog appears most readily at night and beneath a star-bright sky, for when no clouds are overhead the ground cools more quickly. But when daytime fog develops, usually it is accompanied by an overcast sky and a drizzle which resists the sun's "burning it off."

Although fog can occur almost any day of the year—provided the air is heavy with moisture and the nights are cool, clear and practically calm—it is likely to

be most troublesome in fall and winter. Of these seasons—the November fogs seem to be the most concentrated and dense in the fog-prone spots of valley bottoms, mountaintops, hilltops and cold-water lee shores.

Sun Loses Strength
The prevalence of November fogs is due to the sun having lost much of its strength—now sunny days are growing shorter and frosty night longer. With it, the

air is colder and more sensitive to slight changes in moisture—and it takes only a few degrees drop or a slight addition of moisture to have the fog boil up. And, too, as chilly nights grow longer, the still-lying air has a greater opportunity to cool to the dew point and build up a thicker layer—and of course the deeper it becomes, the smaller the chances of its daytime dispersal by the sun—the fog being a poor conductor of heat.

The amount of moisture which a fog can deposit during a night is considerable; during almost rainless summers in Southern California, as much as 0.05 inches of water have been deposited. This is 5.65 tons of water to the acre or 3,161 tons to the square mile—certainly the equivalent of a moderate shower. In fact, it takes only 20 such nights to equal one inch of rainfall.

On Peru's coast where rainfall is negligible, plants grow luxuriantly during several months of the year, moistened only by the

moisture from drifting fog or clouds caught by trees and bushes and then shed upon the ground. Measuring this "fog-grip" on Table Mountain in South Africa, it was found that the deposit from the driving clouds of the southeast trade winds during the dry summer season was 16 times greater than the rainfall which fell during the same period! Some South Atlantic islands, such as Ascension, get their water supply mainly from the moisture caught from passing clouds and fog by plants growing at the lofty summits of the mountains.

This same fog drip also accounts for the once-mysterious dew-ponds of the hilltops in southern England which provide an unending supply of water even when wells and springs in the valleys below dry up. These ponds are fed to a great extent by fog from the ocean caught up by the shrubs and grasses around the borders and dripped into the ponds, drop by drop.

As another benefit which I have witnessed in the Pacific northwest upon several occasions fog has drifted in from the Pacific and put out forest fires which had been burning fiercely for days. And as a preventative of fires, the moisture deposited by the fogs does much to keep up the humidity of the duff on the forest floor.

By making a proper study of the nature of fog, the home builder can apply this knowledge with profit to the selection of his homestead. A difference of only 200 feet up a hillside may make a great difference in living comfort, in the health of the family, and the expense of running a home. By selecting the foot of a hill for a site, the chances are you will be cooler during the summer nights than your neighbor who may live only 200 feet higher up—because cool air always drains into the lowest-lying ground. But because of this count on having late frosts in the spring and early frosts in the fall. As well, your climate will be damper and your home will be cloaked in fog when your neighbor will be in



DRYING tears after obtaining divorce from Composer Hoagy Carmichael, Mrs. Ruth Carmichael, 41, greets friend outside of Santa Monica superior court. (International)

the clear. And after sunrise while your neighbor's house will be warmed by the sun, your's will still be shrouded in cold, damp fog. The result may be sinus trouble for you and your family, and frequent coats of paint for your home's heavily weathered exterior, to say nothing of the greater sum of your winter fuel bill.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Two bulletins from Geneva:
1. Russia has proposed that the major powers immediately renounce the use of atomic weapons as an initial step toward working out world disarmament.

2. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov has rejected President Eisenhower's proposal for American-Soviet mutual aerial inspection (of military installations, munitions plants, etc.)

THAT is to say:

Russia—aware that we have atomic superiority—wants to do away with atomic weapons as the first step toward world disarmament.

Then— She refuses to permit us to FLY OVER RUSSIA TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT SHE IS DISARMING.

THAT, I'd say, is what is commonly referred to as "playing both ends against the middle."

SO MUCH for world affairs.

Let's turn now to politics. Here are two bulletins:
1. Democratic Representative Michael Kirwan of Ohio says the results of Tuesday's off-year election indicate that the Democratic party will boost its house majority by more than 30 seats.

2. Republican Representative Richard Simpson of Pennsylvania, after reading the results of Tuesday's election, says the GOP will pick up 32 seats in next year's general election, enabling it to regain control of the house of representatives.

It's a difference of opinion that makes horse races.

ANOTHER bulletin:
A former White House physician, Dr. Ross McIntire, describes as "unseemly" what he terms "efforts by politicians to shove President Eisenhower into a decision on whether to run again."

He adds: "I'm sure he has been getting the best advice from his doctors, and when the time comes for him to decide he will make up his own mind on the matter."

(Dr. McIntire was for 12 years personal physician to the late President Roosevelt.)

ASSUMING that GOP politicians are trying to "shove President Eisenhower into a decision to run again," even if it kills him, why are they doing so?

The answer is simple. They want to ride back into office on Ike's coattails.

DOES that mean that Republican politicians are inherently conscienceless and will stop at nothing, whereas Democratic politicians are pure and blameless and can do no wrong?

Nope! If Ike were a Democrat, the Democratic politicians would be crowding him just as hard to run again so that they could ride into office on his coattails. Politicians are politicians.

Crew Rescued From Tuna Fishing Boat

Portland, Ore.—(U.P.)—The 13-man crew of the Ocean Pride, a 128-foot tuna clipper, was safely removed by a Coast Guard cutter Friday night shortly before the boat sank in heavy seas.

The fishing vessel asked for aid early Friday when it developed engine trouble while fighting winds of up to 45 miles an hour about 30 miles off Cape Lookout on the Oregon coast.

Shortly before 6 p.m. (PST) the vessel sent an SOS. The Coast Guard cutter Yacona was already en route and arrived on the scene about 40 minutes later. The cutter was unable to get a line aboard the stricken vessel and the Ocean Pride went down about 8:30 p.m.

The crew of the Ocean Pride was returned to Astoria, Ore., by the Yacona.

Officials Schedule Accreditation Meeting

Spokane — (U.P.)—The Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools will conduct a three-day school accreditation meeting here beginning Monday.

Some 200 persons from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and northern California are expected to attend. Standards for accredited schools will be reviewed.

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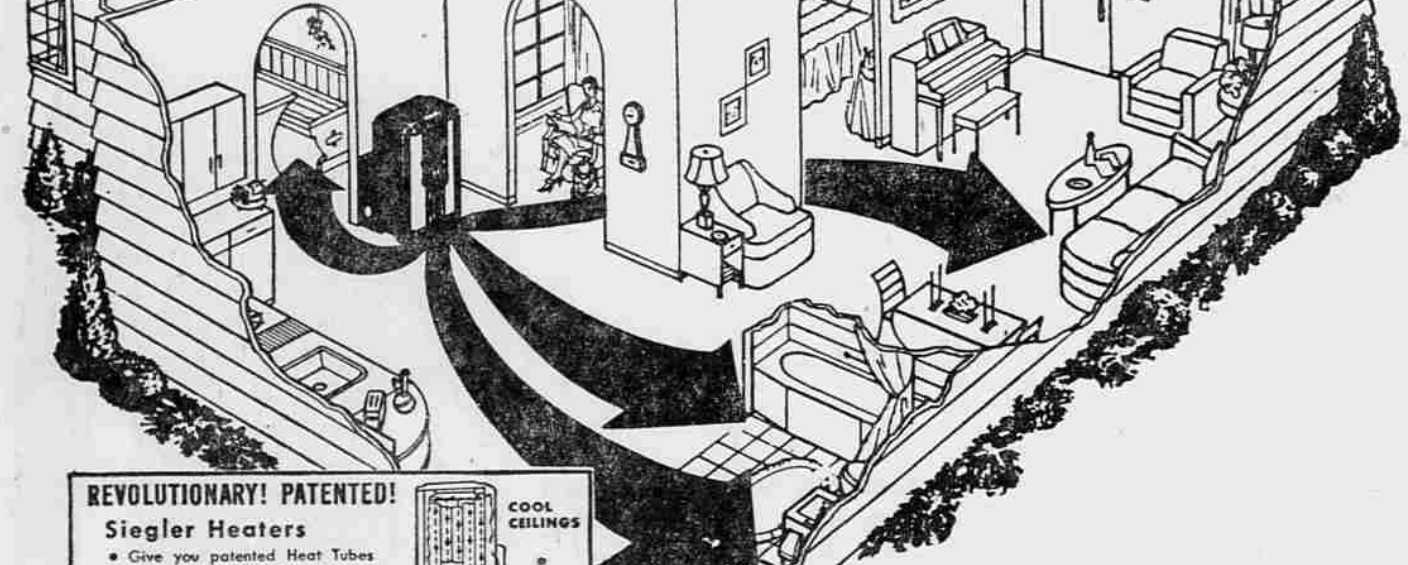
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