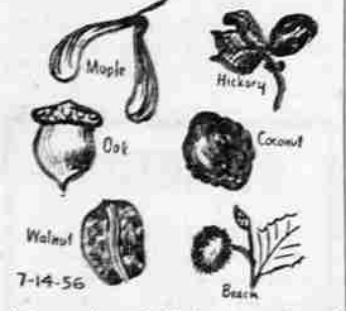


Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Ever wondered how the earth clothed itself, even to the remotest island outposts?
A splendid example is cited in *The Wonders of Seeds* by a fellow news writer, Alfred Stefferd: 73 years ago the jungle island of Krakatoa in the East Indies blew its top — literally lifting 216 square miles of rock into the air. All of the island was destroyed except one moun-



tain peak and that was covered with a thick layer of smoking ashes from deep within the earth. Trees, shrubs, small plants and animals were wiped out; for the time, all was lifeless. And the nearest land-life was 25 miles distant, across the ocean.

Nine months later, a French botanist visited the island. Careful searching yielded only one sign of life—a lone spider busily spinning a web. (Many spiders' young can be carried into the air and balloon long distances on filaments they exude.) All else was lifeless.

Three years later, a Dutch botanist visited the island. He found many seashore plants along the coast; further inland, ferns and grasses. Ten years later, another scientist found the island well clothed with beefwood trees, orchids, coconut trees and wild sugar cane.

How did the plants get to this isolated island to reclothe it so quickly?

Four ways—by birds, wind, water and animals plus in this instance, humans.

Wind Carried Spores
The wind carried the very tiny fern spores which are so light that even a gentle air can carry them a hundred miles and more. The orchid seeds, too, were carried by the wind. Although true seeds and slightly larger than the fern spores, they are yet so small that it takes 8,000,000 or so to weigh one ounce! But however small, each one is capable of producing a beautiful self-sustaining wonderfully colored flower!

Through the countless ages, many other plants have perfected even more complicated methods of riding the air currents: maples, ashes, and elms have developed winged fruits; dandelions, lettuce and many thistles have perfected parachutes; and cotton have grown long silky hairs which enable them to fly; and plants like the ground-cherry have enclosed their seeds in paper-thin cases with air in them to act as balloons and help them move through the air.

As for denuded Krakatoa's seashore plants, such as coconuts, they took the water route. (Some coconuts from the Seychelles Islands, largest of all seeds, exceed 40 pounds each.) Protected by thick husks and hard seed coats, coconuts can float for weeks on end. Finally cast ashore by waves and moistened by rain water and dew, they sprout. And again, thanks to a miraculous provision, these seeds can sprout and grow without being covered with soil.

Many other fruits and seeds are lighter than water, too, and float easily. It is not unusual for large rivers to carry seeds from one end of the continent almost to the other—but a more frequent means is by the tiny rivulets following a heavy rain.

Next, birds brought seeds to Krakatoa. Quite likely among the first were papaya and fig—their hard seeds are so constructed that the flesh can be digested while the seeds remain impervious to the powerful digestive acids of the bird's stomach. In fact, some seeds are helped toward germination by being in birds' stomachs.

Sprout Where Dropped
With some birds, like blackbirds, horned larks, and pheasants, some seeds pass through the birds' bodies and sprout where they are dropped; with others, like robins, crows, waxwings, and bluebirds, the fleshy

fruit's soft pulp is digested and the hard seeds passed; a few like the jays, woodpeckers and titmice often carry large seeds away and store them, like acorns, and either forget their hoards or die before they eat them and the seeds sprout; a few birds die with the seeds in their bodies and the seeds then germinate; and finally, some seeds stick to the feet, legs and feathers of birds, like ducks and geese who may have floating seeds on their feathers when they rise from the water and walk or fly to another place.

Finally, man brought his own fruit trees to Krakatoa where they grew for a time—but before they could get underway, the natural jungle crowded them out. However, in other areas man usually carries his starchy food plants with him, food such as wheat, corn, rice, potatoes, radishes, and other plants. Thereby, although he seldom thinks of it in that way, nature has duped man to help her disperse her seeds all over the world.

Although the methods of seed dispersal in Krakatoa were limited to these four, nature has not two other means: she has made seeds which hang on to passers-by—seeds with needles, barbs and burrs that cling to animals. And she has perfected seeds that can be broadcast by the plants themselves—such as violets, touch-me-nots, pansy and witch-hazel. All of these shoot their seeds out of pods. Not very far, true, but far enough to give them a better chance to grow. And in millions of years, yard by yard they can and do cross continents.

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Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the readers who send me the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune.

Garden Notes

By C. B. CORDY
County Extension
Agent for Horticulture

Soil fungi are responsible for the deterioration of roots on many of our common garden plants. When root systems are affected by these fungus rots they turn black and are no longer effective in absorbing moisture and nutrients. Because of this poor root system severely affected plants generally are rather easily pulled from the ground. Strawberries, raspberries, and asters are some of the plants which are most commonly affected by these root rots.

One of the characteristics of plants affected with root rots is that they make a normal growth in the spring and then as the first hot days of summer strike them the old growth yellows and loses its vigor, the blossoms or fruit that are being produced will remain small in size. With herbaceous plants such as asters the plants will wilt overnight and fail to recover.

Control Measures
As the diseases develop in the soil control measures are difficult because it is so difficult to penetrate the soil. Soil fumigation is the only cure and this is frequently ineffective because of the ease with which the area is reinfected from nearby areas.

Growing resistant plants is the best prevention and even then a certain percentage of the resistant plants will be attacked. Some of our large trees are also affected. The Catalpa will frequently have one or two wilted branches appear and while this wilting occurs in the top of the tree the cause of the trouble is in the roots. A similar trouble affects cedars but this disease attacks the roots and crown of the plant and results in a dieing from the bottom part upward.

In addition to these root rot troubles we are this year experiencing considerable loss from the excess moisture last year. This loss is just now showing up in many of the trees with most of the complaints coming in about the black locust. In the case of trees affected with excess water last winter the only treatment that could be given them now is to give them very careful watering at this time so that the remaining root system would have the best possible chance of nourishing the tree.

Unpaid Library Fines Estimated at \$1,000; Notices Being Mailed

The amount of money owed to the Medford Public library in unpaid "late" fines for books was estimated as well over \$1,000 by Librarian Miss Helen Webster last week.

She said the library is in the process of sending out "reminders" to patrons of the amounts owned. While most of

them are small, she said, in some cases they amount to as much as \$10 to \$15.

Library patrons who have borrowed books and then, through inadvertence, failed to return them, also are being sent reminder notices, she reported, as are those who have returned books which were damaged.

For Fairness

"This is certainly not a 'get tough' policy," Miss Webster stated. "But in fairness to all our patrons, and to the taxpayers who support the library, we feel as we must make an attempt to secure payment of the amounts due," she added.

Mrs. Marjorie Shepler, head of the circulation department, with the assistance of Mrs. Wilma Eubanks and Mrs. Marjorie Haley, is mailing out the statements to all borrowers whose records are not "clear."

The project is in preparation for a modernized system of registration, using mechanical book-chargers, which will get underway early in the fall. New library cards will be issued to all borrowers eventually, and will have inset embossed metal plates, similar to the familiar "charge-a-plates" used by many department stores and gasoline retailers.

Must Be Paid

All fees and fines must be paid before one of the new cards can be issued, Miss Webster said, and books will not be checked out to anyone who has unpaid fines or missing books outstanding.

The librarian explained that fines are not levied primarily for revenue, but to insure the fairest use of library materials, and their punctual return for the use of other readers. However, all fines and fees collected are deposited with the city treasurer, and are available for library use as a budgeted "expected income" item during the following fiscal year. This amount has been estimated at more than \$2,500 for the coming year, and Miss Webster pointed out that it is a major income item, as well as the fairest method libraries have yet found for the protection of all their patrons and a guarantee of faster service.

News About Books From the Library

A surprising number of stories of famous theatrical personalities have been published in recent years.

A theatrical biography by a husband is Richard Aldrich's book, "Gertrude Lawrence as Mrs. A." This is the story of two real, engaging people and the often gay, sometimes tempestuous, but always exciting life they led together. Ethel Barrymore recalls her long life in the theater in "Memories," while the story of Katherine Cornell is told in "Curtain Going Up!" by Gladys Malvern.

Movie Personalities

Biographies of a number of well-known movie actors and actresses have also appeared. "Sunshine and Shadow," is the title selected by Mary Pickford for her autobiography. In it she tells the intensely moving and personal story of her life. John Bainbridge's "Garbo" is the story of the famous and hysterical actress, "The Oliviers," by Felix Barker, is the life story of actor Sir Laurence Olivier and his actress-wife, Vivien Leigh. This authorized biography traces the rise to fame of these two people sincerely dedicated to their art, to their profession, and to one another. In "Orchids and Salami," the youngest Gabor sister, Eva, tells of her life in Hungary and her experiences in adapting herself to American life and publicity.

Radio and TV

Radio and television comedians are also represented among the new biographies. "Treadmill to Oblivion," recalls the late Fred Allen's long years on radio. Another amusing autobiography is "Have Tux, Will Travel," a breezy, crackling story of Bob Hope's life. Hedda Hopper is a potent force in Hollywood today, and in "From Under My Hat," she breezily describes her scoops and shenanigans.

All of these books are available from the Medford Public library or any branch of the Jackson County library system.

Two excellent new books on home decorating—"The Complete Book of Home Decorating" and "Modern Home Decorating"—have been added to the library. Many other helpful books

Civil Service Announces Correction Officer Exam

The civil service commission has issued a new examination announcement for a male correctional officer in federal penitentiary and correctional institutions throughout the United States.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Chester Silliman in the U. S. Post Office building in Medford.

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On The Side

By E. V. DURLING
(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, Men were deceivers ever One foot in sea and one on shore To see thing constant never. Then sigh not so, but let them go And be you blithe and bonny Converting all your sighs of woe Into, hey, nonny, nonny. —Shakespeare.

From the European tourist front come many reports of record-breaking high hotel and restaurant prices. Such prices are strictly for the uninformed and uninitiated. They prevail in what are generally referred to as "tourist traps." The experienced traveler knows how to avoid these bankroll wreckers. For example, take the French Riviera. There are hotels in Monaco where you can get a comfortable room for less than \$2 a night. Also restaurants where you can dine well for less than a dollar. In Monaco, these places are on the Rue Des Oliviers. There are equally inexpensive places in Nice and Cannes. So, if you want to see Nice, Cannes and the church in Monaco where Grace Kelly was married before you die, don't be scared off by reports of prohibitive prices. There are many inexpensive ways of getting to Europe and also a number of places where moderate prices still prevail.

Asking
Queries from clients. Q. Marlene Dietrich is now as slender and as well formed as when I saw her in the film titled "The Blue Angel" nearly 25 years ago. How does she do it? What is her diet? A. Marlene is one of those fortunate people who neither has to diet nor exercise to keep well streamlined. She eats anything and plenty of it. One of her favorite side dishes is mashed potatoes and gravy.

Ideal Bill
How much of a vaudeville fan were you in the yesteryear? How do you think the present day variety shows on television compare with "big time" vaudeville of the past? Have you ever figured out an "ideal vaudeville bill"? What follows is Joe Laurie's idea of a perfect vaudeville bill:

1. Joe Jackson—trick cyclist
2. Doyle and Dixon—dancers
3. Will Rogers
4. Nora Bayes and Jack worth
5. Burns & Allen
6. Imhof, Conn and Corinne
7. Smith and Dale
8. Wills, West and McGinty (The comedy builders)

Over There
In Great Britain purses won in Greyhound races are tax free. All money won in wagering on such races is also tax free. No tax is collected on money won betting on horse races. The huge amounts won in football pools are also tax free. No wonder Great Britain has become a nation of gamblers.

Stogie Department
The only town in the United States named after Ireland's patron saint is St. Patrick, Mo. That's what I said. Now a subscriber, demanding a carefully wrapped stogie be sent to him by return mail, points out that in New Mexico there is a town named San Patricio. How about this? Do you think I lose the stogie?

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, a newspaper editor, a women's page editor and two newspaper writers. These consult with clergymen of all faiths and denominations. All letters are held in complete confidence.

J. R.—My wife is driving our daughter to satisfy her own ambitions.
Mrs. J. R.—He is holding her back.

J. R.—We have two rather talented daughters. They are both musically inclined and we have given them lessons since early childhood. The older girl, Marie has somewhat more natural ability than her sister, but Kay is the harder worker. I think that they could each achieve about equal modest success on the stage or as teachers.

My wife, who is a frustrated opera singer, has always believed that Marie has a great gift. She recently took her to a famous teacher who coddled her in this opinion and offered to take Marie on and to train her for opera.

I know my daughter and I know that she just doesn't have it in her to put in the work that is required. My wife is just driving Marie to satisfy her own ambitions and they are both headed for heartbreak.

Mrs. J. R.—The truth is that my husband does not want Marie to get ahead of Kay. Marie is prettier and has more personality than Kay and my husband has always tried to hold Marie back so that she will not outshine Kay too much. Kay is a greater favorite of his.

The Council: Mrs. J. R. is probably being unfair when she accuses her husband of playing favorites with his daughters. He is probably rightfully concerned about the welfare of his talented and less flashy daughter.

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Western Thrift Mgr. Wayne Welly presents Mrs. R. M. Elrod with the KASHBOX check for \$400.00 and the Western Thrift merchandise award as KMED Program Director Norm Oberst interviews the lucky winner.

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| MRS. ALLEN SMITH | \$380.00 | MRS. J. R. WOOD | \$500.00 |
| MRS. HARRY HAMILTON | \$224.00 | MRS. OLIVE FOUNTAIN | \$592.00 |
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