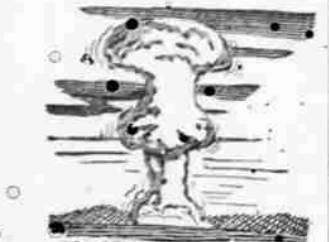


Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Can the H-bombs change the weather?
Since the super-bomb tests by the U.S., Russia, and Great Britain have taken place many people have become increasingly uneasy about the excessive hot spells, cold spells, rain, drought, blizzards, hurricanes and tornadoes. Most weathermen have poo-pooed the idea saying that such aberrations of the weather have always occurred.

Last Friday this column carried a piece about Dr. Irving Bengelsdorf's copyrighted thought-provoking article in the Saturday Review pointing out



the possibility — not the established fact — that the radio-active debris carried in the atmosphere from H-bomb tests might possibly trigger-off evolving weather phenomena or exacerbate the normal proportions of an existing storm.

Within two days of the Soviet explosion of an H-bomb, November 10, 1955, in Siberia — the length of time it might take a jet-stream to carry the fallout debris to our West Coast — our West Coast was hit by unseasonable cold weather and that succeeded thereafter, Buffalo, N.Y. had its worst November snowstorm in history; Scandinavia had extreme blizzards and heavy snows blanketed the west of England while 60-mile winds lashed Oregon and California with winds up to 110-miles an hour atop Mt. Tamalpais, within a dozen miles of San Francisco — and about five miles from the North.

Shortly thereafter all West Coast flights to Hawaii were canceled — an unprecedented situation. This was followed by unusually heavy rains and disastrous floods. On the east coast, the weather went into a below-zero lag and Atlantic skippers reported the worst seas in memory.

Opinion of Degree
With this "unusual weather," Dr. Bengelsdorf points out that

its singularity was one of degree rather than one of abnormality. This "unusual" weather was then followed by a series of weather reversals: a large section of the U.S., including the Great Plains region, suffered soil-moisture deficiency — many areas receiving less than 10 per cent of their customary precipitation in snow and rain; Canada, in turn, received extremely heavy snowfalls. Such weather reversals were duplicated in Europe — blizzards raged from Scandinavia to Turkey, and for 26 days frigid Siberian winds blew in from the east moving the air opposite from its normal flow.

Although some weathermen point out that these "reversals" have been building up during the past four years, Dr. Bengelsdorf states that during these four years more and larger nuclear devices have been exploded by the U.S., the Soviet Union and Great Britain.

Cloud-Seeding Cited
Drawing a parallel with Dr. Irving Langmuir's cloud-seeding experiments, some meteorologists have conceded that chain reactions set off by the cloud seeding could influence the formation of severe storms — not just locally, but long distances away! And if sowing ice-crystals (or ice-like silver iodide) can do this . . .

He goes on to say: "Just what sets up storms is not precisely known . . . but many scientists are convinced that only a subtle variant is necessary to generate the first breath of a hurricane's life . . ."

"In the prevailing condition of our ignorance," he sums up, "categorical pronouncements are not in order. Even if the chances of nuclear bomb effects on the weather are extremely small, the human and economic stakes are high enough to merit a serious and mature consideration."

What happens to the weather will affect everyone on earth. (Next Friday, Jan. 4, we'll discuss what weathermen believe the influence of the H-bomb has upon our weather. E.B.) (Copyright, 1955, by Eugene Burns)

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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 reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure.

Building Industry Laborers Get Boost

Portland — (UP) — A 10-cent-per hour increase for laborers in the building industry will go into effect Jan. 1 under terms of a two-year contract negotiated last week.

Some 8000 building laborers in Oregon will be affected by the increase.

Provision for the increase is made in contracts with two associations of the Associated General Contractors, the Portland Home Builders Association, Concrete Contractors Association

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, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Actor Ordered To Pay Child Support

Hollywood — (UP) — Actor Jess Barker, former husband of Susan Hayward, has been ordered to pay \$50 monthly support of a year-old child born out of wedlock to actress Yvonne Doughty.

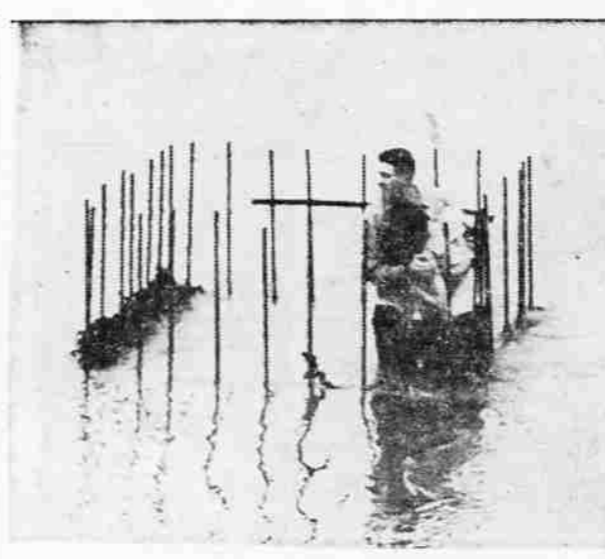
Superior Judge Walter H. Gidmar Thursday ruled in a paternity suit that Barker fathered Miss Doughty's daughter, Morgana Ruth.

The close of the two-day trial was highlighted by an outburst from the actress. She shouted at Barker, "I hate you, I hate you."

Miss Doughty testified that she met Barker in 1954 and became intimate with him on their second date when his divorce was pending from Miss Hayward. She said she was "his girl friend" until she told him she was going to have a baby.

and others in the construction industry.
The base pay scale will range from \$2.35 to \$2.75 per hour.

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SUICIDE THWARTED—Concrete and steel piling in the Cumberland River at Nashville, Tenn., affords temporary haven for Jack Knox III and the young mother he rescued after she plunged into the muddy water with her infant daughter in a suicide attempt. Knox also rescued the child.

Portland, Vancouver Milk Prices Hiked

Portland — (UP) — Milk prices increased 8 cents on each half-gallon paper carton in Vancouver, Wash., yesterday as Portland suppliers sought to end a price war and pave the way for a price increase in the Portland market.

Portland milk firms jumped the price from 34 cents to 43 cents to end a six-month spree of price cutting in the city across the Columbia river. Producers said they were hopeful of a 1-cent increase in Portland milk

prices for 191-gallon containers by mid-January.
The prices were first cut in Vancouver last June when suppliers, sought to meet the competition offered by gallon jug milk at 68 cents a gallon.

GAS
Palestine, Ill. — (UP) — When Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Walk became ill, a doctor's diagnosis recommended checking the gas piping in their home. Two large leaks were found.

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 - reg. to 49.95 **29⁰⁰**
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