

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Weather is a constant concern of everyone. Want to add to your store of weatherlore?

The basic ingredient of weather is atmosphere . . . where there is none, there is no weather. On the moon, for example, where there is no atmosphere there is no wind, no storm, no rain and no snow.

Heat, of course, is the spoon that mixes the atmosphere to make weather. Our primary source of heat is the sun, a gigantic atomic furnace. It bombards us with 126 trillion horsepower of energy every second, on the second, year in and year out. Yet vast as this energy is, it is but a half of one billionth part of the sun's total output. Most of the rest goes up the flue—lost in space, only tiny traces of it reaching other planets.

Average Weather
Because in average weather, the sky is overcast 52 per cent of the time—much of this energy is reflected back into space. A typical cloud reflects 75 per cent of the sunlight striking it. Hence, on overcast days only one-fourth of the sun's energy hits the ground.

Of the amount that comes through, snow reflects 75 per cent—which partly accounts for the cold of our Polar regions. Dense forests, absorb about 95 per cent.

Lacking atmosphere to trap the heat, the moon's surface temperature reaches 214 degrees Fahrenheit during its two-week-long day; and it drops to 238 degrees below zero during the long lunar night. A differential of 452 degrees!

Contains Water
The air always contains water—in greater or lesser amounts.

When it is warm—say 86 degrees Fahrenheit, the air can hold almost six-and-a-half times as much water as when it is at freezing temperatures, 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Each day, lakes, streams, oceans and plants send up a steady stream of vapor weighing millions of tons. In fact, one apple tree may send up seven tons of water during its six-months growing

season. With the earth's gravity working on this water, why doesn't it fall? Simply because the water droplets or ice crystals are so exceedingly tiny. The air currents move and lift these tiny droplets so that the downward pull of gravity is overcome.

In comparison, dust particles which are visible in a shaft of sunlight are much larger than water droplets and they fall. The average size of the cloud droplet is one 1/2500th of an inch in diameter—so small that it would take 16 hours to fall half a mile in perfectly still air. Only when the droplet grows to a diameter of ten times as large, to 1/250 inch or larger can it fall from the cloud.

Average Raindrop
In comparison, the average raindrop contains a million times as much water as a tiny cloud droplet. Making big ones out of small ones—"coalescing" the droplets—causes rain, snow, hail and sleet.

Unlike rain, dew does not fall. It is water vapor that condenses on solid surface such as the "sweat" outside of a glass of cold water on a hot day. Frost is like dew—only it occurs at temperatures below freezing, the water vapor changing directly into small, fine frost crystals.

Although lakes and ponds store a great deal of fresh water, a vastly greater amount is stored as snow and ice in snow on mountains, in glaciers and in our tremendous polar ice caps. In fact, thanks to Greenland and Antarctica, one out of every ten square miles of the earth's land area is ice-capped.

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Mae West Says Magazine 'Done Her Wrong' in Story

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Hollywood Writer
Hollywood — Mae West, the sexiest siren of her generation, says Confidential magazine "done her wrong" in printing a story linking her with the late prize fighter Chalky Wright.

Mae, still buxom and platinum-curl, tabbed the magazine's yarn, "Mae West's Open Door Policy," an outright lie.

"There wouldn't be any question about it if Chalky Wright were still alive," she said in a soft voice. "Before he died,

Chalky told me he didn't say any of the things they printed."

A Drowning Victim
Wright drowned in his bathtub two weeks ago.

The siren of the 30s went on to say that she hired the former featherweight champion as a chauffeur because she needed protection from extortionists.

"And the story that one of my chauffeurs once knocked me out and threw me into a car was ridiculous," she laughed. "Anyone who did that would never have lived to talk about it."

Busy writing her autobiography, Mae is planning to return to the footlights this winter—either on Broadway or in a new TV show. Meanwhile, she lives in quiet luxury at her beach home in Santa Monica.

"I haven't been subpoenaed by either side in this case," she said. "So I won't have to take the stand. This is the first time anything like this has ever happened to me."

Mae could have jolted her memory back 15 years to the time when she was in the midst

of a sensational court trial. In the summer of 1942 the razzle, dazzle "come up and see me sometime" gal admitted she had been married—after keeping the fact a secret for 31 years.

During her heyday—when Mae was a Jayne Mansfield, Marilyn Monroe and Mamie Van Doren rolled into one—she regularly denied she'd ever been married.

Frank Wallace in 1911
After a long legal battle she finally admitted she'd said "I do" with song and dance man

Frank Wallace in 1911. It created a minor sensation.

The actress who made the quip, "Peel me a grape" a national phrase, isn't overly upset by Confidential's story about her. She shrugs it off as easily as she once shrugged into her famous white fur capes.

"Most people who read the magazine don't believe what's printed," she said. "And it's always nice to think about how many people never read Confidential at all."

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OUT OF THE WOODS

by JIM STEVENS

World's Fair Design . . .

A regional leader of the architectural profession is John Stewart Detlie, a founding father of the Seattle Civic Arts commission, nationally known designer, and a world's fair dreamer and planner.

Detlie is a leader in the planning for an international exposition at Seattle, with Washington State authority and financing, for 1960. He is cooperating with the planners for an Oregon World's Fair, to celebrate a century of statehood, in 1959. The prospect is for the grandest displays of wood in its 5,000 uses that mankind has ever witnessed.

John Detlie says "It is no wonder that wood . . . a result of living growth, born in the same organic world as man and part of the small calm flow of time that threads the life of humanity, has such a deep meaning for us . . ."

The Universal Material . . .
And so John Detlie and other western members of the American Institute of Architects form a mighty vanguard of forces in design of the Pacific Northwest's present projects for international expositions.

Detlie says, "Buildings have sprouted in urban centers, constructed of glass, steel, light metal extrusions, plastics, designed in a brittle geometry usually confined solely to variations of the right angle. As our urban commercial, industrial and institutional life is subjected more and more to this dictatorial expression of rigidity, the necessity for some humanistic and sympathetic material becomes increasingly evident.

"Such a material is wood . . . The annual rings of wood become the grain of lumber, the

patterns and markings of its surface, of infinite variety, each particle unique, a special creation. While the machine imprints its hypnotic monotony on everything it touches, the Creator of living wood reveals the cosmic variation in every fiber . . ."

The Westerner . . .

John Detlie speaks with a genuine western voice in the architecture of his place and time. He was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, December 23, 1908. He was educated at the University of Alabama and the University of Pennsylvania. His schooling in architectural design was completed under the famous Albert Kahn. He saw war service as a lieutenant colonel of engineers through the years 1942-46. Then he became a partner in the Seattle architectural firm of Young Richardson and Carlton. His own work on schools, churches and university buildings won national awards from the American Institute of Architects.

Active in the Seattle chapter of AIA, Detlie served as secretary and vice president for two years and was the chapter's president in 1954. The firm of Detlie and Peck was formed in 1956.

So runs one man's story in the profession that is vital and basic in every important American building program, from family home to international exposition.

John Detlie concludes: "While the 'international school' architects were over-stressing metal, glass and plastics, some of us knew all along that there would be a resurgence in the intelligent and sympathetic use of wood. That time is here, and now."



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