



IN EVERY
DEPARTMENT
At Your Friendly
Big 'Y'!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Earth Hit With 100 Lightning Bolts Each Second

Chicago, (Science Service)—A hundred lightning bolts bombard the earth every second of the day, each bolt containing millions of volts and from 1,000 to 340,000 amperes of current.

In the U.S. alone lightning kills some 600 persons annually, injures about 1,500 others and causes more than \$100,000,000 property damage, according to the Lightning Protection Institute here.

All states have electrical storms, though some more often and some more severe than others. The average number for any given area is about 40 storms a year. There are from 40 to 80 lightning strikes a year within the average square mile in this country.

Although there is still no known method for preventing lightning, there are ways to protect against it. Gigantic Spark

Lightning is a gigantic spark resulting from the surge of electrical charges rushing to meet their opposites. This interchange may be from cloud to cloud or from cloud to earth. The average lightning bolt is composed of 20 separate charges in rapid succession. The average lightning stroke is about 4,000 feet long.

In general, a tall object is more likely to be hit by lightning than a low one. Positive electrical ground charges congregate in tall objects in order to be as close as possible for an explosive meeting with their negative opposites found in storm clouds.

A house in an open area is more likely to be hit than a house closely surrounded by taller structures because a "cone of protection" is provided by the highest object. This cone theory holds that an object will shield an area within a radius of one to two times the height of the object.

Grounding Systems
Lightning rods and grounding systems properly designed and installed will protect a house from lightning damage. These safeguards escort a lightning bolt into the ground or dissipate it into the air.

The average TV antenna, even though grounded and with a lightning arrester, does not offer protection to the house proper. It is neither grounded with a sufficient-sized conductor nor does it provide enough paths to earth to function as an efficient lightning rod.

The most dangerous places to be in a lightning storm are on a golf course, in a boat, in the water swimming, atop a hill, at the beach, under an isolated tree, near a wire fence or overhead wires, and riding a bike, tractor, horse or farm machinery.

Safest Places
The safest places are in buildings protected with lightning rods, steel-framed buildings and inside closed cars.

If outside, seek protection in a ravine, ditch or cave, or lie flat on the ground so that you are not the tallest object in the immediate area. If indoors in an unprotected building, keep away from doorways, open windows, metal objects, the fireplace, the sink, the telephone and the television set.

Lightning, which can strike twice in the same place, is as likely to strike wood or masonry as it is steel.

Boy in Nashville Is More Than Boy

Nashville, Ga. — (UPI)—"Come on, Boy!" snapped Arnold Ray as he waved a piece of bacon rind tied to the end of a long stick.

"Boy" is anything but a boy. In fact, he's a mean-looking, one-eyed alligator eight feet long owned by Lonnie Lewis, who found him by the side of the road three years ago and keeps him as a pet.

Ray's job is to feed Boy, of whom he says: "He's about as tame as alligators can get, which isn't quite tame enough to get too close. He knows when it's feeding time, and he knows my call."

Ray said the critter "will come from as far away as he can hear me" to be fed. Just then, two massive jaws clamped on the food and the gator slowly slipped into the cool water of the lake.

"He always goes back in the water to eat it," said Ray. He beckoned again and Boy came up for more food. But the alligator "won't eat in the wintertime," his feeder said. "I got him to eat a little piece of mullet last October, and from then until March, he wouldn't touch a thing."

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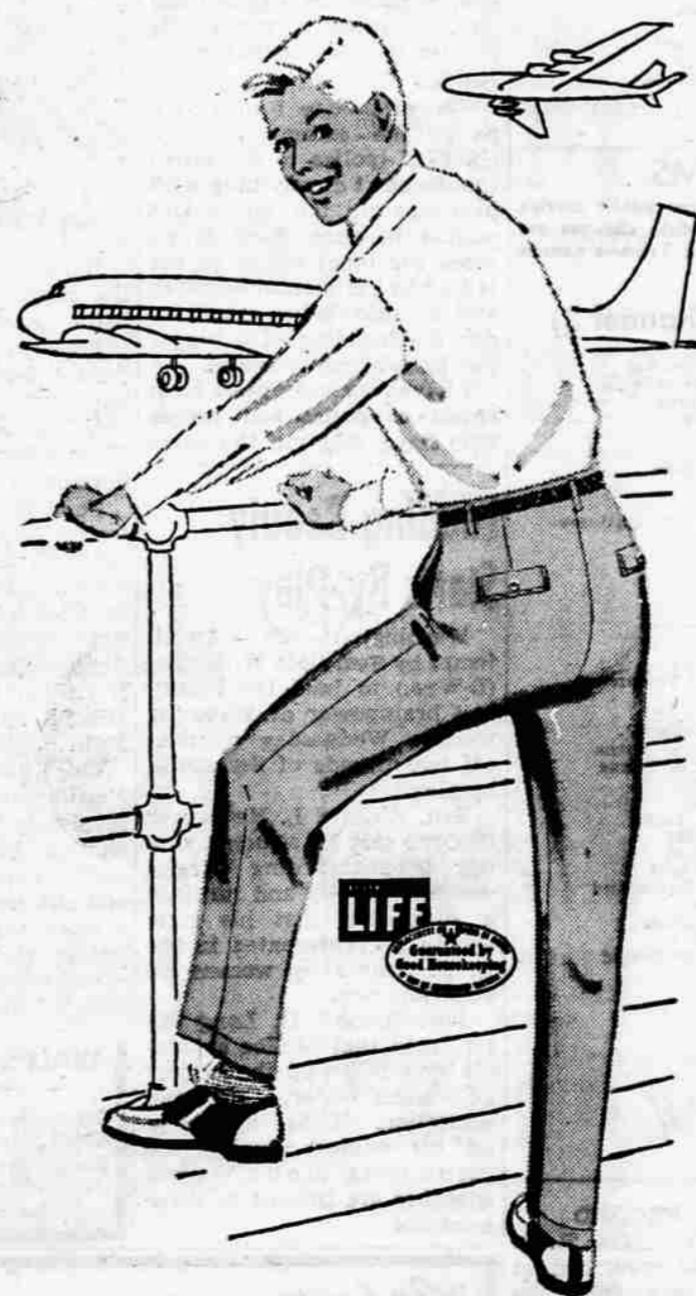
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